

**11.5 BESKRYWINGSPUNT VAN STREEKSINODE VRYSTAAT EN KWAZULU-NATAL RAKENDE DIE ONDERSOEK NA DIE AGENDA EN VERGADERINGSWYSE VAN DIE ALGEMENE SINODE (Artt 196, 296)**

**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 (Arts 196, 296)**

- A. Beskrywingspunte 11.5 en 11.6 word saam hanteer.  
Both Points of description 11.5 and 11.6 is handled together.
- B. Ds AJ Burger stel Beskrywingspunt 11.5.  
Rev AJ Burger tables Point of description 11.5.
- C. Ds HS Coetzee stel Beskrywingspunt 11.6.  
Rev HS Coetzee tables Point of description 11.6.
- D. **Besluit:** Dat die Beskrywingspunte na ad hoc kommissie 1 verwys word met die opdrag om die Sinode te adviseer of aan die Beskrywingspunte gevolg gegee moet word.  
**Decision:** That the Points of description is referred to ad hoc commission 1 with the mandate to advise the Synod if the Points of descriptions should be carried or not.
- E. Dr DJ de Kock rapporteer namens ad hoc kommissie 1.  
Dr DJ de Kock reports on behalf of ad hoc commission 1.

**F. BESKRYWINGSPUNT / POINT OF DESCRIPTION**

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| <p><b>1. Voorstel</b><br/>Dat Deputate aangewys word om ondersoek in te stel en daadwerklike voorstelle te maak aan die volgende Algemene Sinode sodat:</p> <p>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</p> <p>1.2 tegnologie en werksyuses beter benut kan word om die tyd van vergadering meer effektief beskikbaar te maak vir sake wat gesamentlike besinning in onderlinge teenwoordigheid noodsaak.</p> <p>1.3 Om in die algemeen indringend te kyk na 'n meer vaartbelynde werksyuse 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.</p> <p><b>2. Motivering</b><br/>Dat die Agenda van die Algemene Sinode besonder baie sake bevat is nie te bevraagteken nie.<br/>Die totale tyd wat beskikbaar is vir die Sinodesitting word beperk deur verskeie praktiese sake soos koste, beskikbaarheid van akkommodasie, reisafstande</p> | <p><b>1. Proposal</b><br/>That Deputies be appointed to investigate and make concrete proposals to the next General Synod so that:</p> <p>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</p> <p>1.2 technology and working methods be better utilized to make the time of meeting more efficiently available for matters that require mutual reflection.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>2. Motivation</b><br/>It is not a question that the Agenda of the General Synod contains a lot of matters.<br/><br/>The total time available for the Synod meeting is limited through various practical issues such as cost, availability of accommodation, travel distances and</p> |
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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 afgevaardigdes 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 verteen-

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 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

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| <p>woordig word deur twee afgevaardigdes deur elke Klassis.</p> <p>So 'n verkleinde ledevergadering (27 of 54 lede) sou in die week voor die Algemene Sinode kon vergader, of selfs geruime tyd daarvoor.</p> <p>Sonder om die regs aanspreeklikheid van die verkleinde ledevergadering in gedrang te bring, sou 'n werkswyse gevestig kon word waar die lede besluit dat veranderinge aan die Reglement van die Administratiewe Buro (en slegs dit) deur verteenwoordigers wat afgevaardig is na die Algemene Sinode goedgekeur moet word.</p> <p>Die enigste tyd wat derhalwe in die Algemene Sinode aan die Administratiewe Buro gewy moet word, sou wysigings aan die Reglement behels.</p> <p>'n Verdere voorbeeld sou kon wees dat sake van administratiewe of operationele 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 besluit het; of andersins 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.</p> | <p>delegates by each Classis.</p> <p>Such reduced membership meeting (27 or 54 members) could meet in the week prior to the General Synod, or even, some time before.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The only time that the General Synod has to spend time on the Administrative Bureau would be to consider changes to its Regulations (Rules of Operation).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>3. Aanbeveling</b><br/>Daar word aanbeveel dat die Algemene Sinode 2018 GOEDKEUR dat Studie-deputate aangewys word met opdrag soos vervat in 1 hierbo.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>3. Recommendation</b><br/>It is recommended that the General Synod 2018 APPROVES to appoint Deputies with the assignment indicated in 1 above.</p> |
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#### G. RAPPORT VAN AD HOC KOMMISSIE 1 / REPORT OF AD HOC COMMISSION 1

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| <p><b>1. Opdrag</b><br/>1.1 Om die Sinode te adviseer <u>of</u> die Sinode en <u>hóé</u> die Sinode gevolg kan gee ten opsigte van die volgende twee Beskrywingspunte:<br/>1.1.1 Beskrywingspunt van Streeksinode Vrystaat en Kwazulu-Natal rakende die ondersoek na die Agenda en Vergaderingswyse van die Algemene Sinode (11.5).<br/>1.1.2 Beskrywingspunt van Streeksinode Noordwes – Optimale benutting van die GKSA se hulpbronne (11.6).<br/><b>Besluit: Punte 1.1 tot 1.1.2 kennis geneem.</b></p> <p><b>2. Sake waarvan die Sinode kennis neem</b><br/>2.1 Verskeie afgevaardigdes het met die Kommissie die saak kom bespreek.<br/>2.2 Albei Beskrywingspunte is deurgegaan en is gesamentlik deur die Kommissie gehanteer.<br/>2.3 Neem kennis van die inhoud van beide Beskrywingspunte.<br/><b>Besluit: Punte 2.1 tot 2.3 kennis geneem.</b></p> <p><b>3. Sake waaroor die Sinode besluit</b><br/>3.1 <i>Beskrywingspunt 11.5</i><br/>Dat daar nie aan pt 3 van die Beskrywingspunt, soos dit daar staan, gevolg gegee word nie, maar dat die saak direk na afloop van die huidige</p> | <p><b>1. Mandate</b><br/>1.1 To advise the Synod <u>if</u> and <u>how</u> the Synod can give effect with regard to the following two Points of description:<br/>1.1.1 Point of Description of Regional Synod Free State and KwaZulu Natal with regard to the inquiry to the Agenda and Meeting methodology of the General Synod (11.5).<br/>1.1.2 Point of Description of Regional Synod North West – optimal use of the GKSA's resources (11.6).<br/><b>Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.1.2 noted.</b></p> <p><b>2. Matters that the Synod take note of</b><br/>2.1 Several delegates discussed the matter with the Commission.<br/>2.2 Both of the Points of description was reviewed and was handled jointly by the Commission.<br/>2.3 Take note of the content of both Points of description.<br/><b>Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.3 noted.</b></p> <p><b>3. Matters that the Synod decide on</b><br/>3.1 <i>Point of description 11.5</i><br/>That no effect is given to pt 3 of the Point of description as it stands, but that the <u>matter is handled directly after the current Synod.</u></p> |
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| <p><u>Sinode</u> alreeds hanteer kan word.</p> <p><u>Motivering</u><br/>As gevolg van die finansiële las en tydsduur van die Sinode is die saak spoedeisend. Indien die huidige Sinode Deputate sou aanwys wat eers op Sinode 2021 rapporteer, sou hulle aanbevelings eers daarna geïmplementeer kan word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.2 <i>Beskrywingspunt 11.6</i><br/>Ten opsigte van Beskrywingspunt 11.6 word aanbeveel dat die Sinode kennis neem van pte 1–4.<br/>Ten opsigte van pt 5 beveel die Kommissie aan dat gevolg gegee word aan die Beskrywingspunt.</p> <p><u>Motivering</u><br/>Dit is uit die beredenering in die Beskrywingspunt duidelik dat die kerk se hulpbronne op 'n beter en meer verantwoordelike wyse bestuur kan word. Die huidige sinodale funksionering is baie duur en die Sinode se tydskedule maak dit baie moeilik vir jonger, ondernemende ouderlinge (onder andere onderwysers en sake-manne) om na die Sinode afgevaardig te kan word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3 <i>Aanbevelings ten opsigte van die manier waarop die Sinode aan die Beskrywingspunte gevolg kan gee</i></p> <p>3.3.1 Dat Deputate, met reg op koöptering, aangewys word om die sake in die twee ter saaklike Beskrywingspunte verder te ondersoek en te begin om dit in konsultasie met die Deputate Algemene Sinode waar moontlik te implementeer. Dit kan selfs na ander meerdere vergaderings deurgegee word om te implementeer.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.2 Dat die Deputate in konsultasie met die Deputate Algemene Sinode, die volgende Algemene Sinode sal reël wat in twee verskillende fases kan plaasvind nl 'n telematiese fase sowel as 'n verkorte fisiese sitting. Ten opsigte van die telematiese fase van die vergadering kan daar bv van Docenda se fasiliteite gebruik gemaak word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.3 Daar word aanbeveel dat die</p> | <p><u>Motivation</u><br/>The matter is urgent because of the financial burden and duration of the Synod. If the current Synod appointed Deputies to report on the Synod of 2021, their recommendations would only be implemented after that.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.2 <i>Point of description 11.6</i><br/>With regard to Point of description 11.6 it is recommended that the Synod take note of pts 1-4.<br/>With regard to pt 5 the Commission recommends that effect is given to the Point of description.</p> <p><u>Motivation</u><br/>From the argumentation in the Point of description, it is clear that the resources of the church can be managed in a more responsible manner. The current synodal functioning is very expensive and the Synod's schedule makes it very difficult for younger, enterprising elders (inter alia teachers and businessmen) to be delegated to the Synod.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3 <i>Recommendations with regard to the way the Synod can give effect to Points of description.</i></p> <p>3.3.1 That Deputies, with the right to co-opting, be appointed to further investigate the matters in the two relevant Points of description, and to implement it in consultation with the Deputies General Synod where possible. It can even be given to other greater assemblies for implementation.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.2 That the Deputies, in consultation with the Deputies General Synod, will arrange the next General Synod to be held in two different phases namely: a telematic phase as well as a shortened physical meeting. With regards to the telematic phase of the meeting, an example could be to make use of the facilities of Docenda.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.3 It is recommended that the Deputies'</p> |
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| <p>Deputate se opdrag ook 'n bepaalde afhandelingsbevoegdheid sal insluit om al die belangrike aspekte soos die tyd, plek, frekwensie, die agenda en die finansiële aspekte asook die verskillende Streeksinodes se unieke omstandighede in berekening gebring sal kan word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.4 Die uitdagings wat albei die bogenoemde Beskrywingspunte uitgewys het, moet dan deur die Deputate op 'n verantwoordelike wyse aangespreek en so gou as moontlik geïmplementeer word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.5 Die Deputate moet deeglik onderskei tussen dit wat dadelik geïmplementeer kan word en wat eers tydens die eersvolgende Sinode in sitting gehanteer kan word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.6 Die aangewese Deputate kan by binne en buitelandse kerke, met wie ons in korrespondensie staan, gaan kers opsteek.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur (wysiging reeds aangebring – Deputate Handeling).</b></p> <p>3.3.7 Daar word ook aanbeveel dat 'n onafhanklike fasiliteerder deur die Deputate verkry sal word om die denkproses en die gesprek te fasiliteer. Dit moet gedoen word in die lig van ter saaklike kerkregtelike aspekte ('n borgskap om dit te betaal kan hiervoor gesoek word).</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.8 Die aangewese Deputate bepaal dan wat in die toekoms telematies hanteer kan word en wat op die verkorte fisiese sitting hanteer moet word. Die frekwensies van die vergaderings moet aangepas word. Dalk meer gereeld, maar baie korter. Net sake wat regtig noodsaaklik is, moet uiteindelik op die fisiese byeenkoms van die Algemene Sinode hanteer word. Op grond van KO, art 30 asook ander toepaslike artikels in die Kerkorde, kan die las op die Agenda van 'n Algemene Sinode heelwat verlig word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.9 Alle Deputate van meerdere vergaderings kan intussen versoek word</p> | <p>mandate also include a form of executive power for all the important aspects like the time, place, frequency, the agenda and the financial aspects as well as the unique circumstances of the different regional Synods to be considered.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.4 The challenges pointed out by both these Points of description, must be addressed by the Deputies in a responsible manner and be implemented as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.5 The Deputies must thoroughly distinguish between what can be implemented immediately and what can only be handled when the next Synod meets.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.6 The appointed Deputies may seek advise from domestic churches and abroad with whom we are in correspondence.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved (amendment already added – Deputies Acta).</b></p> <p>3.3.7 It is also recommended that the thought process of the Deputies be facilitated by an independent facilitator. It must be done in light of relevant Church Orderly aspects (sponsorship to pay for this may be sought).</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.8 The appointed Deputies determines what can be handled telematically in the future and what can be handled in the shorter physical sitting. The frequency of the meetings must be adapted. Maybe more often, but significantly shorter. Only matters of real importance, must be dealt with by a physical meeting of the General Synod. On the basis of CO, art 30 as well as other relevant articles in the Church Order, the burden on the Agenda of the General Synod may be significantly smaller.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.9 All the Deputies of greater meetings must be requested to do their work</p> |
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| <p>om hulle werk op 'n telematiese wyse te doen. Dit sal nou reeds duisende Rande bespaar.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.3.10 Dat, indien moontlik Deputate slegs een maal in die termyn van drie jaar 'n "gesig tot gesig"-vergadering sal hou. Die ander vergaderings moet elektronies gedoen word. Indien dit noodsaaklik is vir Deputate om meer as een "gesig tot gesig"-vergadering te hou, die Deputate dit in samewerking met die . Bestuur van die Administratiewe Buro sal besluit. Dat die Administratiewe Buro iemand uit die personeel sal aanwys wat verantwoordelik is om Deputate leiding te gee om die elektroniese vergaderings op die mees effektiewe en koste-effektiewe wyse te hou.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>3.4 <i>Prinsipiële uitgangspunte wat deur die betrokke Deputate in ag geneem behoort te word</i></p> <p>3.4.1 Die Deputate moet aanpassings maak op die basis van die Presbiteriale Kerkregeringstelsel soos geïnkorporeer in ons Kerkorde. Dit moet op so 'n wyse geskied dat sowel die selfstandigheid van die plaaslike kerk as die Gereformeerde ampsbegrip en ook die gesag van meerdere vergaderings nie in gedrang kom nie.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Kennis geneem.</b></p> <p>3.4.2 Die Deputate moet waak teen sowel Kollegialisme as Independentisme (maw daar mag geen gedagte ontstaan dat enkele persone alles beheer nie).</p> <p><b>Besluit: Kennis geneem.</b></p> | <p>telematically in the meantime. This can already save thousands of Rand.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.3.10 That if possible Deputies limit themselves to one face-to-face meeting in a 3-year term. The other meetings must be held electronically. If it is necessary for the Deputies to have more than one face-to-face meeting, the Deputies decide on it in cooperation with the Management of the Administrative Bureau. That the Administrative Bureau will appoint someone from the personnel who will be responsible for providing guidance to the Deputies on how to most effectively make use of electronic meetings in the most cost-effective way.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>3.4 <i>Fundamental points of departure to be considered by the relevant Deputies</i></p> <p>3.4.1 The Deputies must make changes on the basis of the Presbyterian Church Governance System as incorporated in our Church Order. It must be done in such a way that the independence of the local church as well as the authority of greater meetings not be jeopardized.</p> <p><b>Decision: Noted.</b></p> <p>3.4.2 The Deputies must guard against both Collegialism and Independentism (in other words, it must never look as if individuals control everything).</p> <p><b>Decision: Noted.</b></p> |
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