

**16.2 RAPPORT 1 – DEPUTATE EKUMENISITEIT BINNELANDS – OORKOEPELEND (Artt 24, 25, 303)**

**16.2 REPORT 1 – DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY INLAND – GENERAL (Arts 24, 25, 303)**

- A. Prof H Goede stel die Rapport.  
Prof H Goede tables the Report.
- B. Ds C Aucamp stel die Aanvullende Rapport.  
Rev C Aucamp tables the Supplementary Report.
- C. **Besluit:** Punt 4.2 van die Rapport word verwys na die Finansiële Kommissie.  
**Decision:** Point 4.2 of the Report referred to the Financial Commission.
- D. **Besluit:** Punt 5.2 word verwys na die Ordekommissie.  
**Decision:** Point 5.2 referred to the Order Commission.
- E. Dr EJ de Beer rapporteer namens die Finansiële Kommissie.  
Dr EJ de Beer reports on behalf of the Financial Commission.

**F. RAPPORT / REPORT**

<p><b>1. Vorige Sinodes se besluite wat opdragte van Deputate raak</b></p> <p>1.1 <u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>1.1.1 Die veelheid van kerke word aanvaar, maar nie om daarby te berus nie. Die eenheid van die kerk as mistieke liggaam van Christus is 'n werklikheid, maar die eenheid van die uitwendige kerk is 'n Goddelike eis en roeping. Hieruit vloei die roeping van die kerk voort om dit wat uitmekaar hou, broederlik met mekaar onder oë te sien om sodoende te bring in een kerkverband (Acta 1958:879-80, a.2.b).</p> <p>1.1.2 Die uiteindelijke eenheid van Gereformeerde Kerke moet "as ons dringendste en belangrikste ekumeniese roeping" gesien word (Acta 1970:69).</p> <p>1.1.3 Die doel van die ekumeniese gesprek is die uitdra van die universele evangelie waardeur alle kerke tot gehoorsaamheid aan die Woord van God en so tot een kerklike gemeenskap op grond van ooreenstemming van die leer opgeroep word (Acta 1994:195, 2.2.1.1; vgl 1967:366).</p> <p>1.1.4 Daar moet onderskei word tussen die roeping tot beleving van eenheid (kerke wat een in leer, diens en tug is) wat begrens is, en die roeping tot ekumenisiteit wat onbegrens is en wat tot alle kerke uitgaan en oproep tot gehoorsaamheid aan die Woord</p>	<p><b>1. Previous Synod decisions concerning Deputies' mandate</b></p> <p>1.1 <u>To be noted</u></p> <p>1.1.1 The multitude of churches is accepted, yet we are not resigned to the fact. The unity of the church as mystic body of Christ is a reality, but the unity of the visible church is a Godly command and calling. From this flows the calling of the church to deal with what keeps apart in a brotherly manner in order to bring together in one church denomination (Acta 1958:879-80, a.2.b).</p> <p>1.1.2 The eventual unity of Reformed Churches must be seen "as our most urgent and important ecumenical calling" (Acta 1970:69).</p> <p>1.1.3 The purpose of the ecumenical discussion is the spreading of the universal gospel through which all churches are called to obedience to the Word of God and as such to one ecumenical community on the basis of correspondence in doctrine (Acta 1994:195, 2.2.1.1; cf. 1967:366).</p> <p>1.1.4 Distinction must be made between the calling to experience unity (churches who are one in doctrine, service, and discipline) that is confined, and the calling to ecumenicity that is unconfined and that goes out to and calls all churches to obedience to the</p>
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<p>van God en tot die onderlinge gemeenskap van gelowiges (Acta 1967:366).</p> <p>1.1.5 Met die eenheid van die kerk word nie eendersheid van plaaslike kerke bedoel nie. Daar sal noodwendig uiterlike verskille, bv in liturgie en bedieningsmetodes tussen plaaslike kerke in verskillende wêrelddele voorkom (Acta 1997:171, 2.1.1.4).</p> <p>1.1.6 Die ekumeniese roeping is dan gerig op “herstel van die eenheid van die kerk” (Acta 1967:365).</p> <p>1.1.7 In die uitlewing van die ekumeniese roeping gaan dit egter nie net om ‘n gesprek oor hoe kerkgemeenskappe sigbaar een kan word nie, maar ook oor profetiese getuienis vir die waarheid teen die leuen, asook oor samewerking in soverre daar ‘n gemeenskaplike taak is wat behartig moet word (Acta 1997:176, 3.2.1).</p> <p>1.1.8 Gesien in die lig daarvan dat die GKSA ‘n onbegrensde ekumeniese roeping het (Acta 1976:366) en die noodsaaklikheid van die profetiese roeping van die GKSA in Suid-Afrika baie groot is, is dit belangrik dat die GKSA (onder andere deur hierdie Deputate) insette en getuienis by godsdienstinstansies, waar onder die Suid-Afrikaanse Raad van Kerke en soortgelyke organisasies, sal lewer (Acta 1997:177, 3.2.3).</p> <p>1.2 <u>Vir besluitneming</u></p> <p>1.2.1 Die Sinode neem kennis.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 1.1.1 tot 1.1.8 kennis geneem.</b></p> <p><b>2. Algemene opdragte</b></p> <p>2.1 <i>Opdrag (Acta 2015:139, 2.3.1-2.3.5)</i></p> <p>2.1.1 Die Sinode wyse Deputate aan om gesprekke te voer met binnelandse kerkgemeenskappe binne die Gereformeerde tradisie met die oog op kerklike eenheid.</p> <p>2.1.2 Een van die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Owerheid word ter wille van die nodige skakeling op die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Binnelands benoem.</p> <p>2.1.3 Een van die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Buitelands word ter wille van die nodige skakeling op die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Binnelands benoem.</p> <p>2.1.4 Die te benoeme Deputate begin nuwe</p>	<p>Word of God and mutual fellowship of the believers (Acta 1967:366).</p> <p>1.1.5 Unity of the church does not mean uniformity of local churches. There will necessarily be outward difference, eg. in liturgy and methods of ministry between local churches in different parts of the world (Acta 1997:171, 2.1.1.4).</p> <p>1.1.6 The ecumenical calling is then directed at the “repair of the unity of the church” (Acta 1967:365).</p> <p>1.1.7 In the realisation of the ecumenical calling it does not only deal with the discussion on how church communities can visibly become one, but also prophetic witness for the truth against the lie, as well as co-operation in so far as there is a common task to be fulfilled (Acta 1997:176, 3.2.1).</p> <p>1.1.8 In the light thereof that the GKSA has an unconfined ecumenical calling (Acta 1976:366) and the great necessity of the prophetic calling of the GKSA in South Africa, it is important that the GKSA (amongst others through these Deputies) provide inputs and witnesses with religious organisations, amongst which are the South African Council of Churches and similar organisations (Acta 1997:177, 3.2.3).</p> <p>1.2 <u>To be decided</u></p> <p>1.2.1 The Synod notes point 1.</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.8 noted.</b></p> <p><b>2. General mandate</b></p> <p>2.1 <i>Mandate (Acta 2015:139, 2.3.1-2.3.5)</i></p> <p>2.1.1 The Synod appoints Deputies to hold discussions with inland church communities within the Reformed tradition with a view to ecumenical unity.</p> <p>2.1.2 One of the Deputies Ecumenicity Government is named as a Deputy Ecumenicity Inland in the interest of necessary liaison.</p> <p>2.1.3 One of the Deputies Ecumenicity Foreign is named as a Deputy Ecumenicity Inland in the interest of necessary liaison.</p> <p>2.1.4 The to be appointed Deputies start new</p>
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<p>gesprekke binne die raamwerk van <i>ekumeniese kontak</i>, en sit reeds gekonstrueerde gesprekke voort binne die raamwerk van <i>ekumeniese bande</i> met die oog op <i>ekumeniese eenheid</i>.</p> <p>2.1.5 Die Sinode begroot vir alle koste rakende die werksaamhede van die Deputate, insluitend die verpligte jaargelde rakende die Konvent van Reformatoriese Kerke.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 2.1.1 tot 2.1.5 kennis geneem.</b></p> <p>2.2 <u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>2.2.1 Aan al die sake is deur die loop van die termyn aandag gee.</p> <p>2.2.2 Daar is tydens ekumeniese geleenthede met verteenwoordigers van verskeie kerkgemeenskappe informeel gesprek gevoer.</p> <p>2.2.3 In die komende jare kan hierdie informele gesprekke ontwikkel tot meer formele bilaterale en multilaterale gesprekke.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 2.2.1 tot 2.2.3 kennis geneem.</b></p> <p>2.3 <u>Vir besluitneming</u></p> <p>2.3.1 Die Sinode wyse Deputate aan om gesprekke te voer met binnelandse kerkgemeenskappe binne die Gereformeerde tradisie met die oog op kerklike eenheid.</p> <p>2.3.2 Een van die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Owerheid word ter wille van die nodige skakeling op die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Binnelands benoem.</p> <p>2.3.3 Een van die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Buitelands word ter wille van die nodige skakeling op die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Binnelands benoem.</p> <p>2.3.4 Die te benoeme Deputate begin nuwe gesprekke binne die raamwerk van <i>ekumeniese kontak</i>, en sit reeds gekonstrueerde gesprekke voort binne die raamwerk van <i>ekumeniese bande</i> met die oog op <i>ekumeniese eenheid</i>.</p> <p>2.3.5 Die Sinode begroot vir alle koste rakende die werksaamhede van die Deputate, insluitend die verpligte jaargelde rakende die Konvent van Reformatoriese Kerke.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 2.3.1 tot 2.3.5 goedgekeur.</b></p>	<p>discussions within the framework of van <i>ecumenical contact</i>, and continue previously structured discussions within the framework of <i>ecumenical ties</i> with a view to <i>ecumenical unity</i>.</p> <p>2.1.5 The Synod budgets for all costs concerning the activities of the Deputies, including the compulsory annual fees of the Convent for Reformatory Churches.</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 2.1.1 to 2.1.5 noted.</b></p> <p>2.2 <u>To be noted</u></p> <p>2.2.1 Attention was given to all these matters during the term.</p> <p>2.2.2 During ecumenical events informal discussions were held with representatives of numerous church communities.</p> <p>2.2.3 In the coming years these informal discussions can develop into more formal bilateral and multilateral discussions.</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 2.2.1 to 2.2.3 noted.</b></p> <p>2.3 <u>To be decided</u></p> <p>2.3.1 The Synod appoints Deputies to hold discussions with inland church communities within the Reformed tradition with a view to ecumenical unity.</p> <p>2.3.2 One of the Deputies Ecumenicity Government is named as a Deputy Ecumenicity Inland in the interest of necessary liaison.</p> <p>2.3.3 One of the Deputies Ecumenicity Foreign is named as a Deputy Ecumenicity Inland in the interest of necessary liaison.</p> <p>2.3.4 The to be appointed Deputies start new discussions within the framework of van <i>ecumenical contact</i>, and continue previously structured discussions within the framework of <i>ecumenical ties</i> with a view to <i>ecumenical unity</i>.</p> <p>2.3.5 The Synod budgets for all costs concerning the activities of the Deputies, including the compulsory annual fees of the Convent for Reformatory Churches.</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 2.3.1 to 2.3.5 approved.</b></p>
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**3. Ekumeniese kontak met Sinode Soutpansberg**

3.1 *Opdrag (Acta 2015:142, 3)*

3.1.1 Sinode 2015 gee nie 'n spesifieke opdrag nie aan hierdie Deputate nie maar die Deputate (in die persoon van die Skriba) word wel in die goedgekeurde skrywe aan Sinode Soutpansberg as die kontakpunt met die GKSA aangedui.

**Besluit: Kennis geneem.**

3.2 Vir kennisname

3.2.1 Die Deputate het korrespondensie van Sinode Soutpansberg ontvang gedateer 6 Augustus 2015.

**3. Ecumenical contact with Synod Soutpansberg**

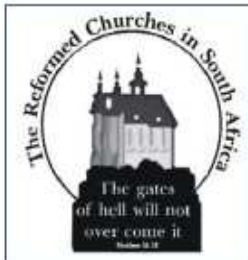
3.1 *Mandate (Acta 2015:142, 3)*

3.1.1 Synod 2015 does not give a specific mandate to these Deputies, but the Deputies (in the person of the Scribe) is indicated as the point of contact of the GKSA in the approved correspondence to Synod Soutpansberg.

**Decision Noted.**

3.2 To be noted

3.2.1 The Deputies received correspondence from Synod Soutpansberg dated 6 August 2015.



**SOUTPANSBERG GENERAL SYNOD**

of the Reformed Churches in South Africa

Deputies for Ecumenicity & Church Unity

P.O. Box 74, Sibasa, 0970, Limpopo Province

Contact No. 072 203 4152

E-mail: albertmuta@webmail.co.za

Fax number: 086 608 5186

06 August 2015

Dr Hennie Goede

I greet you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. How are you brother? I am quite well. As I have indicated in my first email that I want us to communicate on behalf of our Synods.

Our Synod in 2014 and also in 2015 mandated its Deputies of Ecumenicity & Church Unity (Art 48 CO) to enter into discussions with the representatives of your Synod (Potchefstroom) with a view to ensure a peaceful co-existence and exploring areas of possible partnerships or collaboration.

If possible we can start to prepare for our first meeting by proposing the agenda of our first meeting.

I hope you will assist me on this regard.

Kind regards

Dr Mutavhatsindi MA  
Cell No. 072 203 4152  
Fax No. 086 608 5186

<p>3.2.2 Die Deputate het 'n vergadering op 5 November 2015 byeengeroep om die korrespondensie te bespreek, en die volgende Deputategroepe is na die vergadering genooi (aanwesige Deputate word in hakies aangedui): Deputate Ekumenisiteit Buitelands (dr DG Breed), Deputate Regsaan-geleenthede Soutpansberg (prof A le R du Plooy), Deputate Finansiële Hulpbetoning Soutpansberg (drr EJ de Beer, PH Heystek).</p>	<p>3.2.2 The Deputies called a meeting on 5 November 2015 to discuss the correspondence, inviting the following deputy groups to the meeting (attending deputies indicated in brackets): Deputies Ecumenicity Abroad (dr DG Breed), Deputies Legal Matters Soutpansberg (prof A le R du Plooy), Deputies Financial Assistance Soutpansberg (drs EJ de Beer, PH Heystek).</p>
<p>3.2.3 Die vergadering besluit om soos volg op die brief te antwoord:</p>	<p>3.2.3 The meeting decides to answer the correspondence as follows:</p>



## Deputies Ecumenicity: Inland of the GKSA

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Deputies for Ecumenicity & Church Unity  
**SYNOD SOUTPANSBERG**  
 PO Box 74  
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By e-mail: [albertmuta@webmail.co.za](mailto:albertmuta@webmail.co.za)

2 February 2016

Dear dr Mutavhatsindi,

### **RE: YOUR CORRESPONDENCE DATED 5 AUGUST 2015**

As Deputies Ecumenicity Inland of the Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika we hereby acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 6 August 2015.

It is unclear from your correspondence whether you received the correspondence addressed to you by the General Synod of the GKSA dated 2 February 2015 (copy attached hereto), and whether you responded to such correspondence. In any event, we did not receive such a response. The problems expressed in the correspondence from our General Synod thus still remain namely that you do not correspond with us according to sound principles of reformed church polity, and that you do not recognise the official name of our denomination.

We want to enter into future discussions with you, but await your written response to the said correspondence dated 2 February 2015.

May the Lord bless you.

Yours faithfully



Prof Hennie Goede

Scribe Deputies Ecumenicity Inland of the GKSA

3.2.4 Die brief is aan Sinode Soutpansberg gestuur en die Skriba is telefonies ingelig dat die skrywe deur dr Albert Mutavhatsindi ontvang is.

3.2.5 Geen skriftelike of mondelinge reaksie op die brief is tot by finalisering van hierdie Rapport ontvang nie.

**Besluit: Punte 3.2.1 tot 3.2.5 kennis geneem.**

3.3 Vir besluitneming

3.3.1 Dat die te benoeme Deputate as punt van kontak verdere korrespondensie van Sinode Soutpansberg afwag.

**Besluit: Goedgekeur.**

#### 4. Nuwe opdrag: Kerklike Herdenkings

4.1 Vir kennisname

4.1.1 Die Deputate het tans geen mandaat om deel te hê aan die herdenking van historiese kerklike gebeure in samewerking met kerke met wie ons ekumeniese verhoudings het nie, of deur ekumeniese liggame of organisasies nie.

4.1.2 Hierdie gebrek aan 'n opdrag plaas sekere beperkings op die Deputate om by sodanige samewerking betrokke te wees byvoorbeeld die beskikbaarheid van fondse.

4.1.3 Binne die volgende termyn vind die herdenking van die Sinode van Dordrecht 1618-1619 plaas, en reëlings in verband hiermee is reeds aan die gang.

**Besluit: Punte 4.1.1 tot 4.1.3 kennis geneem.**

4.2 Vir besluitneming

4.2.1 Dat opdrag aan die te benoeme Deputate gegee word om voort-

3.2.4 The letter was sent to Synod Soutpansberg and the Scribe was telephonically informed that dr Albert Mutavhatsindi received it.

3.2.5 No written or oral reaction to the letter was received at completion of this Report.

**Decision: Points 3.2.1 to 3.2.5 noted.**

3.3 To be decided

3.3.1 That the to be appointed Deputies await further correspondence from Synod Soutpansberg as point of contact.

**Decision: Approved.**

#### 4. New mandate Ecclesiastical Anniversaries

4.1 To be noted

4.1.1 The Deputies currently have no mandate to take part in the anniversary of historic ecclesiastical events in co-operation with churches with whom we have ecumenical relations, or through ecumenical bodies or organisations.

4.1.2 This lack of a mandate places certain restraints on the Deputies to be involved in such co-operation for example the availability of funds.

4.1.3 During the next term the anniversary of the Synod of Dort 1618-1619 takes place and arrangements in this regard are already in progress.

**Decision: Points 4.1.1 to 4.1.3 noted.**

4.2 To be decided

4.2.1 That the to be appointed Deputies are mandated to continuously give

<p>durend aan sodanige voorkomende herdenkings aan te skenk binne die GKSA se ekumeniese verhoudings.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p> <p>4.2.2 Dat fondse hiervoor begroot word.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur. Die begroting moet in oorleg met die Administratiewe Buro hanteer word.</b></p> <p><b>5. Versoek om vaartbelyning van KO, art 66 proses</b></p> <p>5.1 <u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>5.1.1 Die Deputate ontvang van tyd tot tyd versoeke via die Tussenkerklike Raad of van kerke met wie ons ekumeniese verhoudings het om deel te wees van dae van verootmoediging vir aktuele sake.</p> <p>5.1.2 Die proses in terme van KO, art 66 is tydsaam, en gevolglik is dit moeilik om vinnig met sulke versoeke te handel.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 5.1.1 en 5.1.2 kennis geneem.</b></p> <p>5.2 <u>Vir besluitneming</u></p> <p>5.2.1 Dat die Sinode staande die vergadering 'n Kommissie aanwys om die proses in terme van KO, art 66 te evalueer en aanbevelings daarvoor te maak in die lig van 5.1.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur. Verwys na Ordekommissie.</b></p> <p><b>6. Nuwe gesprekke</b></p> <p>6.1 <u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>6.1.1 Die Deputate het in 2015 skriftelik 'n versoek aan kerke gerig om inligting oor ekumeniese gesprekke op plaaslike vlak aan die Deputate deur te gee sodat nasionale gesprekke daaruit kan voortvloei.</p> <p>6.1.2 Die Deputate het reaksie van vyf Kerkrade ontvang maar daar was reeds nasionale gesprekke aan die gang.</p> <p>6.1.3 Die Deputate het in 2017 'n lys van kerke opgestel waarmee moontlik ekumenies in gesprek getree kan word.</p> <p>6.1.4 Sommige van hierdie gesprekke word opgevolg en daarvoor sal aanvullend gerapporteer word, indien nodig.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 6.1.1 tot 6.1.4 kennis</b></p>	<p>attention to such anniversaries as they occur within the GKSA's ecumenical relations.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p> <p>4.2.2 That funds are allocated for this purpose.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved. The budget must be handled in consultation with the Administrative Bureau.</b></p> <p><b>5. Request to streamline CO, art 66 procedure</b></p> <p>5.1 <u>To be noted</u></p> <p>5.1.1 The Deputies receive from time to time requests via the Tussenkerklike Raad (Interchurch Council) or from churches with whom we have ecumenical relations to participate in days of humiliation for current affairs.</p> <p>5.1.2 The procedure in terms of CO, art 66 is time-consuming, and consequently it is difficult to speedily deal with such requests.</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 noted.</b></p> <p>5.2 <u>To be decided</u></p> <p>5.2.1 That the Synod appoints a Commission during the meeting to evaluate the process in terms of CO, art 66 and to make recommendations in this regard in the light of point 5.1.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved. Referred to Order Commission.</b></p> <p><b>6. New discussions</b></p> <p>6.1 <u>To be noted</u></p> <p>6.1.1 The Deputies in 2015 requested the churches to provide information on ecumenical discussions at local level to the Deputies in order for national discussions to follow from these.</p> <p>6.1.2 The Deputies received information from five Church Councils but national discussions were already in progress.</p> <p>6.1.3 The Deputies in 2017 compiled a list of churches with whom we may possibly enter into ecumenical discussions.</p> <p>6.1.4 Some of these discussions are being pursued and we will report on these by way of supplement, if necessary.</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 6.1.1 to 6.1.2 noted.</b></p>
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<p><b>geneem.</b></p> <p>6.2 <i>Vir besluitneming</i></p> <p>6.2.1 Dat die te benoeme Deputate met sodanige gesprekke voortgaan.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</b></p>	<p>6.2 <i>To be decided</i></p> <p>6.2.1 That the to be appointed Deputies continue with such discussions.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved.</b></p>
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**G. AANVULLENDE RAPPORT / SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

<p><b>1. Algemeen</b></p> <p>1.1 <i>Vir kennisname</i></p> <p>1.1.1 Die Deputate beklemtoon die noodsaak dat Deputategroepe wat binne hulle mandaat met binnelandse kerkgemeenskappe skakel, dit in oorleg met die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Binnelands sal doen.</p> <p>1.1.2 Oor sake wat ekumenies van aard is maar buite hulle mandaat val, sal hierdie Deputate met die relevante Deputategroep(e) oorleg pleeg.</p> <p><b>Besluit: Punte 1.1.1 en 1.1.2 kennis geneem.</b></p>	<p><b>1. General</b></p> <p>1.1 <i>To be noted</i></p> <p>1.1.1 The Deputies emphasise the necessity for deputy groups who liaise with inland church communities within their mandate to do so in consultation with the Deputies Ecumenicity Inland.</p> <p>1.1.2 Regarding matters of an ecumenical nature which fall outside of their mandate, these Deputies will consult with the relevant Deputy group(s).</p> <p><b>Decision: Points 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 noted.</b></p>
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