

16.6 RAPPORT 5 – DEPUTATE EKUMENISITEIT BINNELANDS – ORDEREËLINGS (Artt 44, 45)

16.6 REPORT 5 – DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY INLAND – STANDING ORDER (Arts 44, 45)

- A. Prof H Goede stel die Rapport.
Prof H Goede tables the Report.
- B. Die Rapport word staande die Sinode afgehandel.
The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. RAPPORT / REPORT

<p>1. Ordereëlings</p> <p>1.1 <i>Opdrag (Acta 2015:153, 3.3.2)</i></p> <p>1.1.1 Die te benoeme Deputate kry opdrag tot die opstel van Ordereëlings wat plaaslike gemeentes in staat moet stel en moet kan begelei in hulle plaaslike kontakte en samewerking voordat daar nog enige nasionale landelike eenwording kan plaasvind.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Vir kennisname</u></p> <p>1.2.1 Sinode 1967 het die herstel van die eenheid van die kerk as ekumeniese roeping bevestig (Acta 1967:365, d).</p> <p>1.2.2 Die kerklike weg om hierdie ekumeniese roeping uit te leef is via amptelike broederlike samesprekinge met ander kerke via Deputate kragtens KO, art 49 (Acta 1967:365-367, d3, d5).</p> <p>1.2.3 Tog kan die amp van die gelowige nie in vergeet word wanneer hierdie ekumeniese roeping uitgeleef word nie (Acta 1967:366-367, d4).</p> <p>1.2.4 Daarmee saam kan en behoort plaaslike kerke ook hierdie ekumeniese roeping uit te leef, maar dan met besef dat die doel van die gesprekke wat plaasvind nie die eenwording van enkele plaaslike kerke van verskillende kerkgemeenskappe is nie, maar wel van die kerkgemeenskappe in geheel met mekaar (Acta 1985:677, 2.3.1.3.b).</p> <p>1.2.5 Binne hierdie prinsipiële konteks is daar deur die jare al verskeie oproepe aan plaaslike kerke gerig om ook die ekumeniese roeping tot herstel van die eenheid van die kerk, plaaslik uit te leef.</p> <p>1.2.6 Hierdie oproepe is in meerdere of mindere mate deur die plaaslike</p>	<p>1. Standing Orders</p> <p>1.1 <i>Mandate (Acta 2015:153, 3.3.2)</i></p> <p>1.1.1 The to be appointed Deputies are mandated to draft order arrangements that must enable local congregations and guide them in their local contacts and co-operation prior to any national unity.</p> <p>1.2 <u>To be noted</u></p> <p>1.2.1 Synod 1967 confirmed the restoration of the unity of the church as ecumenical calling (Acta 1967:365, d).</p> <p>1.2.2 The ecclesiastical manner to realise this ecumenical calling is via official brotherly discussions with other churches via Deputies according to CO, art 49 (Acta 1967:365-367, d3, d5).</p> <p>1.2.3 Yet the office of the believer cannot be forgotten when this ecumenical calling is realised (Acta 1967:366-367, §d4).</p> <p>1.2.4 In addition, local churches can and should also realise this ecumenical calling, but then with the realisation that the purpose of the discussions taking place is not unity among a few local churches from different church denominations but indeed unity among the church denominations in their entirety (Acta 1985:677, 2.3.1.3.b).</p> <p>1.2.5 Within the principle framework numerous appeals have been addressed to local churches to also realise the ecumenical calling to restore the unity of the church locally.</p> <p>1.2.6 These appeals have to a greater or lesser extent been realised by the local</p>
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<p>kerke uitgeleef, met die gevolg dat byvoorbeeld binne die gesprek tussen die VGKSA en GKSA vyf kerke (twee van VGKSA en drie van GKSA) in die Pretoria-Moot area daadwerklik vordering gemaak het met die herstel van die eenheid van die kerk (Acta 2015:153, 3.2.4-3.2.9).</p> <p>1.2.7 Hierdie praktiese situasie het daartoe aanleiding gegee dat Sinode 2015 die Deputate die opdrag gegee het om Ordereelings voor te berei wat in alle ekumeniese verhoudinge plaaslike gemeentes sal begelei in hulle plaaslike kontakte en samewerking.</p> <p>Besluit: Punte 1.1 tot 1.2.7 kennis geneem.</p> <p>1.2.8 Die Deputate het aanvanklik in oorleg met afgevaardigdes van die vyf kerke in die Pretoria-Moot area 'n <i>Ordereëling</i> daargestel wat reeds deur die kerke gebruik kon word. Hierdie <i>Ordereëling</i> is verfyn en word nou aan die Sinode voorgelê vir goedkeuring.</p> <p>1.2.9 Die Ordereëling lui soos volg: *****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ORDEREËLINGS OM PLAASLIKE KERKE TE BEGELEI IN PLAASLIKE KONTAK EN SAMEWERKING</p> <p>DOEL</p> <p>1 Gesprekke tussen kerke gerig op kerkeenheid vind nie net op nasionale vlak via Deputate van die Algemene Sinode plaas nie, maar kan ook op streeks- en plaaslike vlak plaasvind. Daarom word hierdie Ordereelings daargestel om sulke gesprekke te fasiliteer en te koördineer, en moontlike konflikte te voorkom.</p> <p>2 Hierdie Ordereelings geld wanneer daar nie op nasionale vlak reeds ooreengekom is hoe plaaslike kerke van die onderskeie kerkverbande in hul verhouding met mekaar kan groei en saam met mekaar kan leef nie.</p> <p>3 Hierdie Ordereelings geld wanneer plaaslike kerke van die onderskeie kerkverbande daadwerklik in hul verhouding met mekaar wil groei en saam met mekaar wil leef en nie wanneer daar net <i>ad hoc</i>-geleenthede van saamleef met mekaar is nie.</p> <p>VERTREK PUNTE</p> <p>Die volgende vertrekpunte word deur die kerke betrokke onderskryf:</p> <p>4 Ons bely op grond van die Skrif en ons belydenis die eenheid en katolesiteit van die liggaam van Christus, en streef dit na "...</p>	<p>churches with the result that for example within the discussion between the VGKSA and GKSA five churches (two from VGKSA and three from GKSA) in the Pretoria-Moot area actively made progress in the restoration of the unity of the church (Acta 2015:153, 3.2.4-3.2.9).</p> <p>1.2.7 This practical situation lead to Synod 2015 mandating the Deputies to draft Standing Orders that will guide local congregations in all ecumenical relations in the context of their local contacts and cooperation.</p> <p>Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.2.7 noted.</p> <p>1.2.8 The Deputies initially drafted Standing Orders in consultation with representatives of the five churches in the Pretoria-Moot area which could already be used by the churches. These Standing orders were refined and are now tabled before Synod for approval.</p> <p>1.2.9 The Standing Orders read as follows: *****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STANDING ORDERS TO GUIDE LOCAL CHURCHES IN LOCAL CONTACT AND COOPERATION PURPOSE</p> <p>1 Discussions between churches aimed at church unity do not only occur at national level via the Deputies of the General Synod, but can also occur at regional and local level. Thus these Standing Orders are created to facilitate and coordinate such discussions, and prevent possible conflicts.</p> <p>2 These Standing Orders apply when there is no agreement on national level with regard to how local churches from the respective church denominations can grow in their relationship and can live close to one another.</p> <p>3 These Standing Orders apply when local churches of the respective church denominations actively want to grow in their relationship and want to live close to one another, and not when there are only <i>ad hoc</i> opportunities to live close to one another.</p> <p>POINTS OF DEPARTURE</p> <p>The following points of departure are endorsed by the churches involved:</p> <p>4 We confess based on Scripture and our confession the unity and catholicity of the body of Christ, and strive towards it "... so that the</p>
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<p>sodat die wêreld kan glo..." (Joh 17:21).</p> <p>5 Ons erken dat alle gesprekke, besluite en aksies met betrekking tot groter eenheid en samewerking alleen ten doel het om gehoorsaam te antwoord op die roeping tot eenheid deur ons Here Jesus Christus.</p> <p>6 Ons bely ten opsigte van ons roeping tot kerkeenheid:</p> <p>6.1 Ons Hemelse Vader, vir Wie ons afgesonder is en deur Wie ons leef, lei ons op die pad van kerklike eenheid en sy Naam word deur uitdrukking van eenheid verheerlik;</p> <p>6.2 Kerklike eenheid is nie iets wat ons in eie krag kan bewerk nie, maar vloei as kosbare gawe uit die versoeningswerk van die Seun voort. Alleen in sy krag kan ons die opdrag om die eenheid steeds meer te soek en te laat realiseer, gehoorsaam;</p> <p>6.3 Dit is die Gees alleen wat ons in die volle waarheid van sy Woord lei en daarom ook in die rykdom van eenheid wat die Vader vir ons deur sy Seun ontsluit het. Daarom stel ons ons gewillig onder leiding van die Heilige Gees.</p> <p>7 Ons verbind ons tot 'n groeiende verhouding, asook gesprekke oor en soeke na diepere sigbare uitleef van eenheid.</p> <p>8 Ons erken dat die plaaslike aard van ons groeiende verhouding beperk en onvolledig bly sonder nasionale eenheid en dat ons daarom voortdurend aangespoor word om so ver moontlik na nasionale eenheid te soek, terwyl ons begrip het vir die verskeidenheid van bedieningspatrone wat tussen kerke van 'n bepaalde kerkverband mag bestaan.</p> <p>9 Ons verbind ons daarom tot die volgende:</p> <p>9.1 Ons spoor die onderskeie kerkverbande aan om die eenheid wat reeds bestaan, verdere gestalte te gee, as kerkverbande saam met mekaar in die volheid van Christus te groei en in sake saam te werk waardeur kragtiger getuieis en effektiwêre dienswerk gelewer kan word.</p> <p>9.2 Ons laat nie toe dat ons verbintenis tot 'n plaaslik-beperkte verbintenis tussen 'n paar plaaslike kerke ontwikkel, terwyl daar teenoor die meeste kerke in die res van die kerkverband 'n afkeur vir sodanige samewerking bestaan nie.</p> <p>9.3 Ons loop nie ons groeipad op ons eie nie, maar ken voortdurend die kerke wat saam met ons in die onderskeie kerkverbande leef.</p> <p>10 Ons verbind ons tot die leer in die kerke volgens die Woord van God soos opgeteken in die Heilige Skrif, en soos dit tot</p>	<p>world may believe..." (Joh 17:21).</p> <p>5 We acknowledge that all discussions, decisions, and actions with regard to greater unity and cooperation is solely aimed at answering obediently to the calling to unity by our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>6 We confess in respect of our calling to church unity:</p> <p>6.1 We believe that our Heavenly Father, for Whom we are put aside and through Whom we live, leads us on the path of ecclesiastical unity and that his Name is glorified through the expression of unity;</p> <p>6.2 Ecclesiastical unity is not something that we can bring about through our own powers, but that it is flows as a precious gift from the work of reconciliation of the Son. Solely in his power can we obey the command to always more and more seek the unity and let it be realised;</p> <p>6.3 It is solely the Spirit who leads us in the full truth of his Word and thus also in the riches of unity that the Father unlocked for us through his Son. Thus we willingly submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>7 We commit ourselves to a growing relationship, as well as discussions regarding and searches for deeper, visible manifestation of unity.</p> <p>8 We acknowledge that the local nature of our growing relationship remains limited and incomplete without national unity and that we are thus continuously motivated to seek national unity as far as it is possible, while we have a notion of the diversity of ministry patterns that may exist between churches in a certain church denomination.</p> <p>9 We thus commit ourselves to the following:</p> <p>9.1 We motivate the respective church denominations to further manifest the unity that already exist, to together grow as church denominations in the fullness of Christ, and to cooperate in matters through which more powerful witness and more effective service can be delivered.</p> <p>9.2 We do not allow our commitment to develop into a locally-limited commitment between a few local churches, while there exist a disapproval towards the majority of churches in the rest of the church denomination in regard to such cooperation.</p> <p>9.3 We do not walk on our path of growth alone, but continuously consult with the churches who live close to us in the respective church denominations.</p> <p>10 We commit ourselves to the doctrine of the churches as recorded in Holy Scripture, and as it is expressed in our common creedal</p>
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<p>uitdrukking kom in ons gemeenskaplike belydenisgrondslag:</p> <p>10.1 Die drie ekumeniese geloofsbelydenisse, naamlik die Apostolicum, Nicea en Athanasius waarin ons ons verbintenis aan die een, heilige, algemene en apostoliese kerk uitdruk; en</p> <p>10.2 Die Drie Formuliere van Eenheid, naamlik die Heidelbergse Kategismus, Nederlandse Geloofsbelydenis en Dordtse Leerreëls waarin ons ons verbintenis met die Gereformeerde tradisie uitdruk; of</p> <p>10.3 Ander aanvaarde reformatoriese belydenisskrifte.</p> <p>Daar bestaan dus diep geloofseenheid tussen die betrokke kerke.</p> <p>11 Ons onderneem om binne die raamwerk van die Gereformeerde belydenis en kerkregering met mekaar en ook onderling binne een kerkverband verskille wat die belydenis in gedrang kan bring, aan te spreek.</p>	<p>foundation:</p> <p>10.1 The three ecumenical confessions of faith, namely the Apostolic, Nicæan, and Athanasian Creeds, in which we express our commitment to the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church; and</p> <p>10.2 the three Formularies of Unity, namely the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and Canons of Dort, in which we express our commitment to the reformed tradition; or</p> <p>10.3 Other accepted reformatational Formularies of Unity.</p> <p>There thus exist a deep unity of faith between the churches involved.</p> <p>11 We undertake to address differences which compromise the confession with one another and also within the respective church denominations within the framework of the reformed confession and church polity.</p>
<p>INHOUD VAN SAAMLEEF VAN KERKE</p>	<p>CONTENTS OF CHURCHES' LIVING CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER</p>
<p>12 Indien daar ten opsigte van bogenoemde vertrekpunte eenstemmigheid bestaan en ten opsigte van praktiese sake 'n ernstige en groeiende verbintenis bestaan, en daar sodanige plaaslike herkenning plaasvind, kan plaaslike kerke waar hulle geleenthede sien – volgens gebruike en besluite van die onderskeie kerkverbande – daadwerklik saam met mekaar leef.</p> <p>13 Hierdie saamleef is nie beperk tot nie, maar sluit wel die volgende in:</p> <p>13.1 Aanvaar mekaar se lidmate op grond van goeie getuienis van Kerkrade (attestate);</p> <p>13.2 Bring kinders van belydende lidmate onderling ten doop volgens die gebruik en onderhewig aan die goedkeuring van beide Kerkrade;</p> <p>13.3 Beleef volle tafelgemeenskap vir belydende lidmate op grond van goeie getuienis oor leer en lewe;</p> <p>13.4 Gee toegang tot mekaar se kansels deur leraars met bedieningsbevoegdheid onder toesig van die Kerkraad.</p> <p>13.5 Kom saam in gesamentlike eredienste soos en wanneer Kerkrade dit nodig ag.</p> <p>13.6 Lewer saam getuienis teenoor owerheid en gemeenskap;</p> <p>13.7 Is saam betrokke by plaaslike onderwyskwessies.</p> <p>13.8 Koördineer kerke se barmhartigheidswerk wat gesamentlik op gemeenskaplike terreine gedoen word.</p> <p>13.9 Soek saam na effektiewer wyses om saam</p>	<p>12 If there is concurrence in respect of the abovementioned points of departure and there exists in respect of practical matters a serious and growing commitment, and such local recognition occurs, local churches can where they see opportunities – according to customs and decisions of the respect church denominations – actively live close to one another.</p> <p>13 This living close to one another is not limited to, but does include the following:</p> <p>13.1 The acceptance of each other's members based on good testimony of church councils (attestations);</p> <p>13.2 Confessing member can mutually bring their children to be baptised according to the custom and subject to the approval of both Church Councils;</p> <p>13.3 Full table communion for confessing members based on good testimony regarding doctrine and lifestyle;</p> <p>13.4 Access to one another's pulpits by ministers with capacity to minister under supervision of the Church Council;</p> <p>13.5 Come together in joint worship services as and when Church Councils consider it necessary;</p> <p>13.6 Jointly witness towards government and society;</p> <p>13.7 Joint involvement in local educational issues;</p> <p>13.8 Coordinate the charitable work of the churches which is done jointly in common areas;</p> <p>13.9 Jointly search for more effective ways to be</p>

<p>by plaaslike ekumene betrokke te wees.</p> <p>PROSES Kerkrade van plaaslike kerk(e) binne die GKSA onderneem in hierdie proses die volgende:</p> <p>14 Gesprek(ke) word gevoer op die grondslag van die Skrif en Belydenisskrifte, met inagneming van besluite van meerdere vergaderings.</p> <p>15 Gesprek(ke) toon 'n historiese aanloop waarin die betrokke kerke na mekaar uitreik.</p> <p>16 Meerdere gesprekke word gevoer waarin metterdaad blyk dat daar 'n eenheid tussen die kerke bestaan ten opsigte van die vertrekpunte genoem hierbo.</p> <p>17 Die betrokke gemeente(s) word gereeld en behoorlik op hoogte gehou van verwikkelinge in sodanige gesprek(ke), en in besluitneming daarvoor geken. 'n Genoegsame aanduiding van eenstemmigheid in die gemeente – volgens die oordeel van die kerkraad – is nodig alvorens tot groter saamleef met mekaar oorgegaan kan word.</p> <p>18 Die Klassis(se) waaronder die gemeente(s) ressorteer, word op hoogte gehou van verwikkelinge in sodanige gesprek(ke) en advies word van die Klassis(se) gevra, ook tydens visitasie.</p> <p>19 Die Klassis(se) waaronder die gemeente(s) ressorteer, se goedkeuring word spesifiek gevra wanneer kerke tot groter saamleef met mekaar wil oorgaan. Hierdie goedkeuring is gerig op:</p> <p>19.1 Bevestiging dat gesprekke plaasgevind en ooreenstemming bereik is rakende die vertrekpunte.</p> <p>19.2 Bevestiging dat redelike eenstemmigheid in gemeente(s) bestaan.</p> <p>20 Skriftelike advies word van die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Binnelands van die Algemene Sinode aangevra en sodanige advies word aan die gemeente(s) en Klassis(se) gekommunikeer.</p> <p>21 In gevalle waarvoor hierdie Ordereelings nie voorsiening maak nie, word skriftelike advies gevra van die Deputate Ekumenisiteit Binnelandse van die Algemene Sinode.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Besluit: Punte 1.2.8 en 1.2.9 goedgekeur (wysiging reeds aangebring – Deputate Handelinge).</p>	<p>involved in local ecumenical relations.</p> <p>PROCESS Church Councils of local church(es) within the GKSA undertake in this process the following:</p> <p>14 Discussion(s) are held on the basis of Scripture and Confession, taking into account decisions of greater meetings.</p> <p>15 Discussion(s) indicate a historical lead-up in which the churches involved reach out to one another.</p> <p>16 Greater discussions are held during which it transpires that there exist a unit between the churches in respect of the points of departure mentioned above.</p> <p>17 The congregation(s) involved are updated regularly and properly on developments in such discussion(s), and are consulted in decision-making in this regard. A sufficient indication of unanimity in the congregation is necessary before proceeding towards living closer to one another.</p> <p>18 The Classis(es) in which the congregation(s) reside, are updated on developments in such discussion(s) and advice is requested of the Classis(es), also during visitation.</p> <p>19 The discernment of the Classis(es) in which the congregation(s) reside, is specifically requested when churches want to proceed towards living closer to one another. This approval is directed at:</p> <p>19.1 Confirmation that discussions took place and unanimity was reached in respect of the points of departure.</p> <p>19.2 Confirmation that reasonable unanimity exist in the congregation(s).</p> <p>20 Written advice is requested of the Deputies Ecumenicity Inland of the General Synod and such advice is communicated to the congregation(s) and classis(es).</p> <p>21 In cases for which these Standing Orders do not provide, written advice is requested from the Deputies Ecumenicity Inland of the General Synod.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Decision: Points 1.2.8 and 1.2.9 approved (amendment already added – Deputies Acta).</p>
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D. AANVULLENDE RAPPORT / SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

<p>1. Ordereelings (Rapport 5, 1)</p> <p>1.1 <i>Vir kennisname</i></p> <p>1.1.1 Die Ordereelings soos aan die</p>	<p>1. Standing Orders (Report 5, 1)</p> <p>1.1 <i>To be noted</i></p> <p>1.1.1 The standing orders as tabled before</p>
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<p>Sinode voorgehou verskaf die be- gronding vir die bevordering van eku- meniese verhoudings tussen plaas- like kerke.</p> <p>1.1.2 Die Deputate het tydens Refo 500 die potensiaal van plaaslike ekumeniese verhoudings en samewerking beleef.</p> <p>Besluit: Punte 1.1.1 en 1.1.2 kennis geneem.</p> <p>1.2 <i>Vir besluitneming: Aanbevelings</i></p> <p>1.2.1 Dat die algemene opdrag van die te benoemde Deputate uitgebrei word om spesifiek die bevordering van ekumeniese verhoudings tussen plaaslike kerke in te sluit.</p> <p>Besluit: Goedgekeur.</p>	<p>Synod provide the foundation for the promotion of ecumenical relations between local churches.</p> <p>1.1.2 The Deputies experienced the potential of local ecumenical relations and co- operation during Refo 500.</p> <p>Decision: Points 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 noted.</p> <p>1.2 <i>To be decided: Recommendations</i></p> <p>1.2.1 That the general mandate of the to be named Deputies be extended to specifically include the promotion of ecumenical relations between local churches.</p> <p>Decision: Approved.</p>
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