

16.10 REPORT 5: DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY ABROAD – CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA DESK (Art 50)

- A. Rev HS Coetzee tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

Deputy representing this desk: Dr HM Zwemstra.

1. Eglisee Reformee Confessante au Congo (ERCC)

Ecumenical Unity

For notice

1.1 *Mandate*

Ecumenical unity ties with the ERCC are to be upheld for the time being and further discussion on the relationship between the GKSA and ERCC is to be undertaken.

Decision: Noted.

1.2 *Execution of the mandate*

1.2.1 The ERCC invited the GKSA to send a delegate to their Synod. Dr HM Zwemstra attended this Synod in Likasi (approximately 120km north of Lubumbashi), from 7-10 August 2013.

1.2.2 Dr Zwemstra called on the ERCC, during his visit, to reach out to the URCC in a conciliatory manner.

1.2.3 It became clear during the ERCC's Synod that it wishes to be Reformed in confession and church governance.

1.2.4 The GKSA could play a conciliatory role between the ERCC and the URCC as well as make an important contribution in terms of theological training.

Decision: Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4 noted.

For decision making

1.3 *Recommendations*

1.3.1 Ecumenical unity with the ERCC is to be upheld.

1.3.2 Church unity is to be maintained and promoted through visitation by the Deputies and collaboration, where possible.

Decision: Points 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 approved.

2. United Reformed Church of Congo (URCC)

Ecumenical ties

For notice

2.1 *Mandate*

2.1.1 The Deputies are to attend the Synod of the URCC, if possible, and their request for ecumenical unity is to be considered.

2.1.2 The Synod is to express its gratitude towards the Reformed Church Potchefstroom Die Bult as well as all churches and individuals that contributed to the Congo Service Group's support of Congolese ministers.

Decision: Points 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 noted.

2.2 *Execution of the mandate*

2.2.1 The URCC invited a delegate of the GKSA to attend their first Synod. Dr HM Zwemstra attended this Synod in Kananga (approximately 1000 km north west of Lubumbashi) from 23-29 July.

2.2.2 Dr Zwemstra called on the URCC during his visit to reach out to the ERCC in a conciliatory manner.

2.2.3 It became clear during the Synod of the ERCC that it wishes to be Reformed in confession and church governance.

Decision: Points 2.2.1 to 2.2.3 noted.

For decision making

2.3 *Recommendations*

2.3.1 Ecumenical unity with the URCC is to be upheld.

2.3.2 Church unity is to be maintained and promoted through visitation by the Deputies and collaboration, where possible.

Decision: Points 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 approved.

3. Ivory Coast

Ecumenical contact

For notice

3.1 *Mandate*

The Deputies are to remain in contact with these churches.

3.2 *Execution of the mandate*

Meaningful ties could not as yet be established with Reformed Churches in the Ivory Coast.

Decision: Points 3.1 and 3.2 noted.

For decision making

3.3 *Recommendation*

In light of the failure to make contact, no further time or cost are to be spent on making contact with churches in the Ivory Coast.

Decision: Approved.