

19. Youth and Education

19.1 REPORT CATECHISM DEPUTIES (Artt 135, 136, 189)

- A. Rev BR Kingma tables the Report.
- B. **Decision:** Point 2 (decision-making) postponed.
- C. Rev PJ Nel reports on behalf of the Catechism Deputies.

D. REPORT

1. Matters that the Synod take note of

1.1 *Assignment:* Acta 2012:153-155.

- 1.1.1 The revision of the guides regarding the needs of congregations and children, as well as comments and continued study on the best methods.
- 1.1.2 Translate the guides fully into English.
- 1.1.3 The availability of more lessons, especially in the high school so that catechists can choose what to present.
- 1.1.4 The optimizing of the use of multimedia in education.
- 1.1.5 Continue with the co-operation with the CE- and Youth Deputies.
- 1.1.6 Establish the needs of the children from the previous Synod Midlands and Classis Capricorn on an ongoing basis, and to address the needs on request.

1.2 *Execution of the Assignment*

The Deputies report as follows:

- 1.2.1 During the last term, the Guides have all been revised. Editorial changes were made where necessary.
- 1.2.2 Since the last Synod, the following Guides were translated into English and are available:
 - Grade 1 – Workbook for children
 - Grade 1 – Guide for parents
 - Grade 1 – Guide for catechist
 - Grade 2 – Workbook for children
 - Grade 2 – Guide for parents
 - Grade 2 – Guide for catechist
 - Grade 3 – Workbook for children
- 1.2.3 Further translated Guides should be available by the beginning of 2015.
- 1.2.4 The Catechist Guide to basic Bible knowledge namely *Dieselfde God altyd aan die werk* has been revised for spelling and typing errors and lessons which were accidentally not included in the first edition, were rewritten. The necessary changes will be done for the next edition.
- 1.2.5 The number of lessons for high school learners has been extended as assigned by the Deputies. These lessons give the Catechist the option of addressing certain themes in more than one lesson, according to the needs and conditions.
- 1.2.6 The Deputies have been able to access the area of multimedia in die presentation of the lessons.

The Grade 3 guide has been revised so that the content of the particular lesson can be done by parent and child working together interactively on a computer. This medium is available on CD from the Administrative Bureau and is titled *Leer van My Kategese-werkboek Graad 3*.

The Grade 1 guide has been fully revised in the same manner as the Grade 3 guide. The Deputy is in the process of editing the revision for availability to churches. The use of multimedia in the presentation of lessons is a time-consuming and expensive process. Therefore the Deputies are systematically giving attention to the revision of the guides.

- 1.2.7 The Guide for children with special needs is currently available on CD. As it is very difficult to ascertain the demand for these guides, and the cost of printing only a small number is very high, these guides can be ordered from the Deputy.
- 1.2.8 A meeting was held with the CE and Youth Deputies. During the meeting, amongst other issues, the special equipping of the youth within the family, was emphasized.
- 1.2.9 The previous General Synod instructed the Deputies to investigate the needs of children from the former Midlands Synod and Classis Capricorn. In consultation and on the advice of the brethren of this church, it was decided that the existing English translation of manuals greatly meets their needs. The reason for this is that these children are largely taught in English in their schools and that the children feel a lot more at home in English education. The Deputies are also in a process of finding translators for the existing manuals for Grades 1-4 in Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho and Tswana for children being educated in their mother tongue.
- 1.2.10 Since the last Synod a need has emerged for manuals for children with visual impairment. A request was received for a manual Braille translation and printing. The Deputies are paying attention to this.
- 1.2.11 The guide for parents in which the necessity of commitment teaching, the necessary interaction between the catechist and the parents of these young, the needs of catechists in the different life stages and the methodology of the guides explained, is still available for churches.

Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.2.11 noted.

2. Matters that the Synod decide on

- 2.1 The Synod appoints Deputies again.
- 2.2 The Deputies for Catechism are assigned to:
 - 2.2.1 Continually update the guides in the light of the needs of the congregations and the children, the comments and the persistent study regarding the best method.
 - 2.2.2 To address the different needs of children with various barriers to learning and to provide manuals for such children in collaboration with institutions such as schools for children with learning barriers and other experts in the field.
 - 2.2.3 To examine the possibilities to teach by employing multimedia and to make the necessary guides available.

Decision: Point 2 (decision-making) postponed.

E. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

1. Execution of the Assignment

The Deputies report additionally as follows:

- 1.1 The Deputies have begun to compile a manual for high school children in which they will be guided over a number of years in the composition of a spiritual portfolio. All important issues in young people's growth in faith as well as his/her service, are addressed herein. This manual, however, will take time to complete.
- 1.2 The Deputies need expert members that can assist in translating/processing of catechism manuals in Tswana and Sesotho. Efforts to find suitable members for this purpose, was not successful.

- 1.3 The Deputies are also processing the guide on covenant teaching by parents into a course format so that congregations may use it more effectively.

Decision: Point 1 postponed.

F. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIONS

1. Matters that the Synod take note of

- 1.1 During the Synod, the Catechism Deputy held discussions with the delegates of non-Afrikaans and non-English speaking churches regarding their needs for catechetical teaching materials.
- 1.2 Uncertainty exists at the churches about which lesson material are available and about where it can be obtained.
- 1.3 The need was voiced to obtain catechetical lesson material in their various languages.

Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.3 noted.

2. Matters that the Synod decide on

- 2.1 That the Catechetical Deputy receives the task to provide non-Afrikaans and non-English speaking churches of all information regarding available lesson material and the acquisition thereof.
- 2.2 That the Synod requests these churches to be of help to the Deputy in the translation of existing manuals in their preferred languages or in the development of new material that will provide in their needs.

Decision: Points 2.1 and 2.2 approved.