

19.11 REPORT 3: DEPUTIES YOUTH CARE – GEE-JAAR (Art 166)

- A. Rev HC van Rooy tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

1. Mandate

Continuing with the Gee-jaar (Acta 2012:242, 2.2.1).

Decision: Noted.

2. Execution of the mandate

2.1 *Matters that the Synod take note of*

2.1.1 Gee-jaar 2012

2.1.1.1 Seven students registered for Gee-jaar 2012, of which six completed the year.

2.1.1.2 The following courses, outreach and community projects were presented with great success:

2.1.1.2.1 **God, the Word and discipleship** (Creation; The Word; The Fall; Salvation; Sanctification; Following Jesus: His suffering and death; Following Jesus every day).

2.1.1.2.2 **Discipleship** (Missionary perspectives; Evangelisation; the Great Instruction; How you see other).

2.1.1.2.3 **The Kingdom** (How do I see the church, being a church and my place in it?).

2.1.1.2.4 **Personal growth and counselling** (My own heartache and that of others).

2.1.1.2.5 **Youth ministry** (How can I become involved in my congregation's youth ministry?).

2.1.1.2.6 **Multimedia** (creativity classes with a choice between interior decorating, graphic design, website design, digital photography and DVD production).

2.1.1.2.7 **Life skills** (relationships, the opposite sex, time, leadership, responsibilities, dealing with change, entrepreneurship, conflict resolution and team dynamics).

2.1.1.2.8 **Parenting ministries** (not lectures, but a process over the course of the year).

2.1.1.2.9 **Fun and relaxation** (different events).

2.1.1.2.10 **Outreach and community service** (hiking tour in Magoebaskloof, Namibia Outreach, Griqualand West Camp, King's Children camps, Children of the Light Camps, Barkly East Camp, Cansa Relay, Rustenburg Ocean Camp, Hartklop@Aardklop, Israel tour, fundraisers).

2.1.1.3 Unfortunately, 2012 was the last time the Gee-jaar could be presented as a full-time service year, based in Potchefstroom. Despite significant marketing and real interest, 2013 did not produce enough applications to make it financially feasible. In mitigation, it has to be said that from verbal enquiries it would seem that the Dutch Reformed Church that has offered such a service year for ages, also had to cut down on their activities (and staff). It's most probably due to the bad economy.

2.1.2 Gee-jaar 2013-2014

2.1.2.1 The Deputies Youth Care, however, remains convinced that the lack of a Gee-jaar leaves somewhat of a void – not only in terms of a meaningful endeavour for high school graduates, but also for equipping them for service in the Kingdom and so in 2013 the Deputies started revising the format. It means, however, that the Gee-jaar will no longer be offered full-time in Potchefstroom, due to the high cost involved.

2.1.2.2 The Gee-jaar will be divided into three sections and students will only be able to apply for one of the sections. It is set out as follows:

2.1.2.2.1 *App-jaar* (training and application for youth workers and volunteers of congregations). The material will be provided in the form of a textbook, with the following themes:

Chapter	Authors
Composition of the church	
Bible knowledge: Old Testament	
Bible knowledge: New Testament	
Doctrine	
Prayer	
Church history	
Bible study techniques	
Discipleship	
Missionary work and Evangelisation	
Leadership	
Counselling	
Fun and Recreation	
Communication	
Conclusion	

- (a) The course will be presented telematically from the youth office, with the intent that students who opt for the App-year will be mentored by an elder/deacon/minister in his/her own congregation.
- (b) This course will focus on equipping youth leaders already active in a congregation.
- (c) The course will also be available in English, in consideration of the multicultural nature of the GKSA.
- (d) Proof of successful completion of the App-year will take the form of a portfolio that the Deputies Youth Care will evaluate.

2.1.2.2.2 Outreach year

- (a) This year focuses on missionary and evangelisation opportunities, in conjunction with the existing outreach initiatives of the GKSA.
- (b) Those who register for this year will also undergo the training for the youthworker course (App-year). The practical component of the course is then conducted during outreach activities.
- (c) Kruispad (Deputies for the Youth) will not be taking over the management of above, but only facilitate communication between the outreach congregation and the student.

2.1.2.2.3 Service year (a volunteer working at a particular congregation/missionary project for a year).

- (a) The service year is a composite of all the facets that the Gee-jaar was originally supposed to be, i.e. training, outreach and serviceableness. Its "giving" in a variety of ways, viz.:
 1. The congregation: gives accommodation (a guest family providing a safe place to live), mentoring and moral as well as financial support to the student for the year.
 2. The Gee-jaar student: gives a year for service in a congregation mainly as a youth worker, supporting youth worker, missionary worker or administrative assistant.

2.1.2.3 The development of the "new" Gee-jaar was already at quite an advanced stage, at the time of this Report. Before it can be marketed, the following must still be finalised:

- 2.1.2.3.1 Completion, composition and editing of the app-year textbook (already arranged with writers).
- 2.1.2.3.2 Gathering of relevant information on outreach initiatives among the GKSA congregations.

2.1.2.3.3 Identifying congregations where *Service-year* students can be accommodated.

2.1.2.3.4 Determining the financial aspects of the different options.

Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.1.2.3.4 noted.

3. Matters that the Synod decide on

3.1 The Deputies are to be instructed to finalise and implement the Gee-jaar (as set out in 2.1.2).

Decision: Point 3.1 approved.