

23.13 REPORT OF THE DEPUTIES FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE *ALMANAK* (Art 145)

- A. Rev W Vogel tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

1. Mandate

See Acta 2012:443,3.1; 465, 466.

- 1.1 The *Almanak* will be published again and an editorial board has to be appointed (*If possible, the Editor should be one of the ministers from Potchefstroom*) with the assignment to: Publish the *Almanak* with daily devotionals.
- 1.2 The Deputies for Publication give effect to the need to publish the *Almanak* not only in Afrikaans, but also in other languages.
- 1.3 The Afrikaans or any other language publication may still be made electronically available to churches, who may distribute it themselves.
- 1.4 The Deputies for Publication must investigate if the daily devotionals can **also** be binded and sold in book form at book shops. That is apart from the *Almanak* which remains just as we know it. It can have a positive influence to get something from the Reformed Church on the selves of our shops in this way. The books with Daily Devotionals can even be translated into other languages, also black languages, to reach more people.

Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.4 noted.

2. Matters that the Synod take note of

- 2.1 The *Almanak* appeared annually.
 - 2.1.1 The *Almanak* appeared annually with daily devotionals. The Deputies want to report to Synod that the *Almanak* with daily devotionals was received very well in the church denomination and outside of it based on the correspondence received and in the humble opinion of the Deputies. The Deputies also want to give a word of special thanks to all the ministers that worked together in a special way to make a success of this publication.
 - 2.1.2 There was a request that the font size of the daily devotions should be increased (see Assignment 1.1). Each devotion was placed on a separate page so that the font size could be increased.
 - 2.1.3 The publication of daily devotionals for teenagers and young people who have finished school has been investigated. The book market is currently overwhelmed with publications aimed at teenagers and working young people. The Deputies decided to pay attention to this in the publication of daily devotionals in the *Almanak* by asking theological students to write a number of daily devotionals (see Assignment 1.2).
- 2.2 *Take a decision regarding the heaped up funds with consideration of the following recommendation from the Deputies:*
 - 2.2.1 The numbers of the *Almanak* was for 2013: 12 650 copies, for 2014 it was 12 500 and for 2015 a number of 10 000 is planned. Because the project is so blessed, the Deputies made a number of copies available to Reformed institutions such as homes for the elderly and children's homes. The impression that the Deputies have is that the Church Councils increasingly distribute the copies instead of the copies remaining undistributed.
- 2.3 The Deputies are grateful to report that a good profit can be shown after the three years as becomes clear from the Financial reports that have been made available to Synod. In the light of the financial situation the Deputies were able to keep the price of the *Almanak* low for the last two publications, something we are thankful for.

- 2.4 The Deputies' policy is to make all the information that is available from all of the Reformed Churches available in the *Almanak*. Unfortunately we have to report that the information is not complete. Everything is being done to get the correct information.
- 2.5 It is the policy of the Deputies to place tributes to all of the ministers who have died each year.
- 2.6 The Deputies from time to time places a complete list of "Churches and their ministers". Such a list has been placed in the 2015 edition of the *Almanak*.
- 2.7 The Deputies aims to improve the standard of the *Almanak* each year so that it can be an edition of which all members are proud. We want to thank several members and ministers for input and advice that they give to us after each publication in order to assist us.
- 2.8 *Die Ruit* is a column in each edition of the *Almanak* in which a great number of members participate. The Deputies thank dr Hennie van Wyk, who handles this column.
- 2.9 The *Almanak* was delivered to the Regional Synods every year for further distribution by the different churches. The Deputies also make use of mail for distant destinations that can not be reached by road easily.
- 2.10 The Deputies want to thank the advertisers who advertise in the *Almanak* to reduce the cost.
- 2.11 The Deputies want to thank the staff of the Administrative Bureau and especially srs Wymie du Plessis, Petro Kroeze and Joey Fourie for their input every year to make the *Almanak* possible.
- 2.12 We also want to thank Angie Mphata and Anna Leeuw for their help with the distribution of the *Almanak*.
- 2.13 The Deputies sent an e-mail to all churches in order to do a needs assessment regarding an "*Almanak*" in English and other languages. Feedback was received from five churches from which approximately 30 copies in English were given through as a needs assessment. Deputies decided not to follow this route as the cost of printing 30 copies was too high (see assignment 1.2).
- 2.14 The "*Almanak*" is available electronically on the GKSA website. Consideration is being given to make available an electronic version at a reduced price, such as with "*Die Kerkblad*". The "*Almanak*" has already been available electronically on the website for the past few years (see assignment 1.3).
- 2.15 The Deputies have had discussions with the CJBF deputies to have the Daily Devotionals of the "*Almanak*" published. Since 2009 a separate book with the devotionals of the "*Almanak*" has been published. The book did not sell and the CJBF deputies had to hand out the book free of charge. The "*Almanak*" Deputies will possibly again publish the Devotionals of the 2015 "*Almanak*" together with the CJBF deputies in a separate copy which can be used for Bible study (see assignment 1.4).

Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.15 noted.

3. Matters that the Synod decide on

- 3.1 The *Almanak* will be published again and an editorial board has to be appointed (*If possible, the Editor should be one of the ministers from Potchefstroom*) with the assignment to: Publish the *Almanak* with daily devotions.

Decision:

1. **Approved and noted that daily devotions are made available in bigger font on GKSA web page.**
2. **That the editorial board investigates to print every few years a book with daily devotions from the *Almanac* in English.**