

25. Evangelisation

25.1 REPORT MISSIONARY DEPUTIES (Art 172)

- A. The Report is deemed to have been tabled.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

C. REPORT

1. Mandate

Acta 2012:514-515.

Decision: Noted.

2. Matters that the Synod take note of

2.1 *Missionary Order*

2.1.1 The Deputies met on two occasions to ascertain the approach and scope to execute the assignment.

2.1.2 The Deputies also reflected on the principled foundation of our assignment and came to the conclusion that drawing up a mission order is in conflict with CO, art 30 and 46.

Motivation

2.1.2.1 Previous Synods, especially as in 1979, have for principled reasons decided to abandon the proposed CO, art 52 regarding a missionary order. The main reason was because mission is in principle a command to the local church(es), and does not operate at Synod level; also because church and mission activities may not be understood as dualistic, as if mission is something else than church work. The Point of Description and arguments in support of the establishment of a missionary order have not argued the principle, and did not demonstrate why the above principled grounding should be viewed as faulty and in contrast with CO, art 46.

2.1.2.2 In light of CO, art 30 the matter regarding a missionary order is thus completed, and the decisions are still valid, unless it could be indicated that it is fundamentally wrong.

2.1.2.3 The Point of Description operates with generalizations and pragmatic arguments, without showing and motivating why the establishment of a missionary order is principally essential and in order. The arguments adduced, could readily also be used to pragmatically make a case for the establishment of for example an ecumenical order (how to work together with churches in an ecumenical relationship), an order for compassion work (how churches can assist each other with this), etc.

2.1.2.4 The fact that missionary work in principle resides with local congregations, does not mean that local churches cannot also work together in this, e.g. by combining, or drafting memoranda of cooperation; BUT, this does not necessitate a missionary order, as if the initiative for missionary work goes out from and is coordinated nationally (from the general synod). What is needed, in such a practical way of cooperation, is good decisions, thorough agreements and the application of the articles of the Church Order that practically rule all ecclesiastical acts.

2.2 *Missionary database*

2.2.1 The Deputies co-opted br Paul Grobler to assist with the compilation of a missionary database to make the coordination of various projects easier.

2.2.2 A request was made to congregations to pass on information about missionary activities to the Deputies. Some congregations responded to the request and passed on valuable information.

2.2.3 Br Paul Grobler has already launched a project named Missionet which coordinates the compilation of a database and missionary projects. The website is <http://www.missionet.co.za/>. The information that has already been given to the Deputies can be passed on to Missionet.

Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.2.3 noted.

3. Matters that the Synod decide on

3.1 In light of the above motivation the establishment of a missionary order will not continue.

3.2 Missionary Deputies will not be appointed again.

3.3 Congregations that want to get involved can contact Missionet.

Decision: Points 3.1 to 3.3 not approved with the decision that the mandate (pt 1) be executed and that Deputies are named.