13.8 BESKRYWINGSPUNT – SUIDELIKE STREEKSINODE RAKENDE DIE VERSORGING VAN EMERITI EN SUSTENTERING VAN KLEINER GEMEENTES (ART 29)

13.8 POINT OF DESCRIPTION – SOUTHERN REGIONAL SYNOD REGARDING THE CARE OF EMERITI AND SUSTENTATION OF SMALLER CONGREGATIONS (Art 29)

A. Ds JJ de Bruyn stel die Beskrywingspunt.
Rev. JJ de Bruyn tables the Point of Description.

B. Die Beskrywingspunt word staande die Sinode afgehandel.
The Point of Description is concluded while the Synod is in session.

C. **Besluit:** Daar word nie aan die Beskrywingspunt gevolg gegee nie.
Motivering:
Punt 1.1 is kragtens KO, art 30, onontvanklik aangesien mindere vergaderings die studiewerk wat versoek word, kon afhandel.
Punt 1.2 word reeds deur die Kommissie Effektiewe Sinodes hanteer.
Decision: The Point of Description is not accepted.
Motivation:
Point 1.1 is inadmissible according to CO, art 30, as minor assemblies could complete the study work requested.
Point 1.2 is already dealt with the Commission Effective Synods.

D. **BESKRYWINGSPUNT / POINT OF DESCRIPTION**

1. Voorstel Die Suidelike Streeksinode is van mening dat daar opnuut gekyk moet word na die befondsing vir die versorging van alle emeriti in besonder en die hef van ramings in die algemeen. Ons het twee voorstelle:	**1. Proposal** The Southern Regional Synod is of the opinion that the funding for the care of all emeriti in particular, and the levying of "ramings" in general, must be looked at afresh. We have two proposals:
1.1 *Verkoop van onderbenutte bates* Dat daar 'n Kommisie aangewys word om die verkoop van onderbenutte geboue in veral Potchefstroom te ondersoek. Die kerkverband beskik oor Sinodefasiliteite en kantoor-geriewe wat slegs gedeeltelik benut word. Die Suidelike Streeksinode is van mening dat hierdie fasiliteite eerder gehuur kan word (bv. by NWU) wanneer dit benodig sou word. Die Suidelike Streeksinode stel voor dat indien onderbenutte geboue verkoop word, die opbrengs vir die versorging van emeriti gebruik word.	1.1 *Sale of under-utilized assets* That a Commission be appointed to investigate the sale of under-utilised buildings in Potchefstroom in particular. The church of fellowship has Synod facilities and office facilities which are only partially used. The Southern Regional Synod is of the opinion that these facilities could instead be rented (e.g. from NWU) when needed. The Southern Regional Synod further proposes that should under-utilised buildings be sold, the proceeds should be applied to the care of emeriti.
1.2 *Besparingsmaatreëls* Dat 'n Kommissie aangewys word om ondersoek in te stel om meerdere vergaderings – insluitende die drie jarige Algemene Sinode – en Deputatevergaderings in die toekoms op elektroniese platvorm te vergader.	1.2 *Saving Measures* That a Commission be appointed to investigate the possibility for major assemblies – including the tri-annual General Synod – and Deputy meetings in future to held on an electronic platform.

2. Motivering 2.1 Daar word met kommer kennis geneem van die groot netto tekort in die Emeritaatsversorgingsfonds en ook die groot las op die Sustentasiefonds wat onvermydelik sal lei tot 'n vermindering in die uitbetaal van voordele aan emeriti en hulp aan kleinere gemeentes. Dit sal uiteraard die versorging van die emeriti nadelig raak, veral as in ag geneem word dat die verhoging in versorgingsbedrag per egpaar per maand die afgelope paar jaar nie met inflasie tred gehou het nie. Dit sal ook baie druk op plaaslike kleiner gemeentes plaas. Dit is egter onrealisties om te verwag dat die tekort in die versorging van emeriti aangevul kan word deur verhoogde ramingsinkomste vanaf gemeentes. Die betaal van ramings plaas reeds so 'n groot las op talle gemeentes dat hierdie gemeentes nie meer hulle verantwoordelikhede as sendende en evangeliserende gemeentes kan nakom nie. Die meeste gemeentes ervaar 'n afname in lidmatetal, en verder verander die demografie van gemeentes deurdat 'n toenemende aantal jongmense die kerkverband verlaat. Die ouerwordende lidmate sluit al hoe meer pensioenarisse in, wat vanweë tuimelende beleggings-markte onwaarskynlik verhogings in pensioene kan verwag, en kerkbydraes sal na verwagting ook afneem. Die gevolg kan wees dat nog meer gemeentes in gebreke gaan bly om ramings te betaal. 2.2 Die Suidelike Streeksinode neem met kommer kennis van die hoë kostes om meerdere vergaderings te reël en by te woon insluitende die driejarige Algemene Sinode. **3. Aanbeveling** Daar word aanbeveel dat die twee Kommissies aangewys word om die ondersoeke te doen soos vervat in 1 hierbo. Indien bogenoemde voorstelle realiseer, sal dit moontlik wees om die ramings wat	**2. Motivation** 2.1 With concern the large net deficit in the Emeritaat Care Fund is noted, also the large burden on the Sustentation Fund which will inevitably lead to a reduction in the payment of benefits to emeriti and aid to smaller congregations. This will obviously adversely affect the care of the emeriti, especially if it is taken into account that the increase in the care amount per couple per month has not kept pace with inflation over the past few years. This will also place more pressure on local smaller congregations. However, it is unrealistic to expect that the deficit in the care for emeriti can be supplemented by increasing the estimate amount payable by congregations. These payments already place such a great burden on many congregations that they can no longer fulfil their responsibilities as missionizing and evangelising congregations. Most congregations are experiencing a decline in membership, and the demographics of congregations are also changing as an increasing number of young people leave the church federation. The aging membership includes increasingly more pensioners, who are unlikely to expect increases in pensions due to tumbling investment markets, and church contributions are also expected to decline. The result may be that even more congregations will remain in default to pay the prescribed "ramings" due. 2.2 The Southern Regional Synod notes the high costs in organising and attending major assemblies including the tri-annual General Synod with concern. **3. Recommendation** It is recommended that the two Commissions will be appointed to conduct the investigations as mentioned in 1 above. If the above proposals materialise, it will be possible to reduce the "ramings"

gemeentes opgelê word te verminder. Meer gemeentes sal dan die betaal van ramings kan bekostig en die invloei van fondse behoort te stabiliseer. Aan die anderkant sal verdere verhogings in ramings daartoe lei dat ‘n toenemende aantal gemeentes in gebreke gaan bly om ramings te betaal.	imposed on congregations. More congregations will then be able to afford the payment of the “ramings” and the inflow of funds should stabilise. On the other hand, further increases of the “ramings” will lead to an increasing number of congregations defaulting on their payments.