16. EKUMENISITEIT EN OWERHEID
16. ECUMENICITY AND AUTHORITIES

16.1 RAPPORT DEPUTATE EKUMENISITEIT – OWERHEID (Art 166)

16.1 REPORT DEPUTIES ECUMENICITY – AUTHORITIES (Art 166)

A. Ds LM Floor stel die Rapport.
Rev. LM Floor tables the Report.
B. Die Rapport word staande die Sinode afgehandel.
The Report is concluded while the Synod is in session.

C. **RAPPORT / REPORT**

1. Opdrag	**1. Mandate**
3.2 Die Sinode wys weer Deputate aan met die volgende opdrag:	3.2 The Synod is to appoint Deputies with the instruction to:
3.2.1 om namens die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika die nodige skakeling met die Regering van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika te onderhou.	3.2.1 maintain the necessary contact with the Government of the Republic of South Africa, on behalf of the Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika.
3.2.2 om te skakel met organe van die burgerlike samelewing waar getuienis of samewerking bevorderlik sal wees vir kerk en koninkryk in Suid-Afrika.	3.2.2 liaise with organisations in civil society with which witnessing or cooperation would be beneficial to the church and Kingdom in South Africa.
3.2.3 om kerke van die GKSA by te staan in hulle skakeling met die owerhede op die verskillende vlakke, insluitend politieke partye waar nodig.	3.2.3 support the churches of the GKSA in their interaction with the authorities on different levels and political parties, where necessary.
3.2.4 om voort te gaan om openbare getuienis te lewer en skakeling met die owerhede te doen via die Tussen Kerklike Raad en ander kerke en ekumeniese liggame waarvan die GKSA deel is.	3.2.4 continue offering public testimony and interact with the authorities via the Inter-church Council and other churches and ecumenical bodies with which the GKSA is associated.
3.2.5 om wetgewing en die uitvoering daarvan te monitor en indien nodig, in die lig van die Skrif, Belydenis, Kerkorde, Sinodebesluite en Gereformeerde etiek op die mees effektiewe wyse daarop kommentaar lewer.	3.2.5 monitor legislation and its implementation and, if necessary, offer comment effectively in reference to Scripture, the Confessions, Church Order, Synod decisions and Reformed ethics.
3.2.6 om, wanneer nodig, in gesprek te tree met die onafhanklike meganismes wat die Grondwet bied ter ondersteuning van die grondwetlike demokrasie soos bv. die Openbare Beskermer, die Kommissie vir Bevordering en Beskerming van die Regte van Kultuur, Godsdiens en Taalgemeenskappe en die Menseregte-kommissie.	3.2.6 enter into discussion, when necessary, with the independent mechanisms the Constitution provides in support of constitutional democracy such as the Public Protector and the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities of the Human Rights Commission.
3.2.7 om, waar nodig, met ander Deputategroepe te skakel sodat gekoördineerd gewerk kan word met betrekking tot gesprek en kommentaar na die owerheid. Ander Deputate van die GKSA	3.2.7 liaise, where necessary, with other Deputy groups to coordinate discussion and commentary with the authorities (other Deputies of the GKSA must first contact the

moet eers met hierdie Deputate skakel alvorens hulle in gesprek tree of kommentaar lewer.	Deputies Authorities before entering into discussion or offering comment).
3.2.8 om die GKSA te verteenwoordig by die Ad-hoc komitee wat aanvanklik op die beskerming van Eiendomsreg gefokus het.	3.2.8 represent the GKSA at the Ad-hoc committee that initially focused on the protection of property rights.
3.2.9 om die GKSA te verteenwoordig op die Raad vir Godsdiensregte en Vryhede.	3.2.9 represent the GKSA on the Council for Religious Freedoms and Rights.
3.2.10 om, in oorleg met die Deputate vir Diakonale Sake die GKSA te verteenwoordig by gesprekke en ontmoetings met die Motsepe Stigting.	3.2.10 represent the GKSA at meetings with the Motsepe Foundation, in consultation with the Deputies Diaconal Affairs.
3.2.11 om met verteenwoordigers van die Departement Binnelandse Sake te skakel ten einde die logistieke probleme met betrekking tot die registrasie van huwelike uit te skakel.	3.2.11 contact the representatives of the Department of Home Affairs to eliminate the logistical problems related to the registration of marriages.
3.2.12 om saam met ander godsdienste oor sake van gemeenskaplike belang getuienis te lewer, met dienverstande met nougesette inagneming van die beginsels en riglyne wat die Sinode van 2012 goedgekeur het.	3.2.12 testify on matters of common interest with other religions, in line with the principles and guidelines approved by Synod 2012.
Besluit: Kennis geneem.	**Decision: Noted.**
2. Sake waarvan die Sinode kennis neem	**2. Matters that the Synod takes note of**
2.1 *Spesifieke terugvoer oor uitvoering van opdrag*	2.1 *Specific feedback on execution of the mandate*
2.1.1 <u>Skakeling met regering</u> Daar is voor die Mei 2019 verkiesing ‘n openlike verklaring gestuur aan die media en kerke waarin ‘n versoek gerig is aan die regering vir ‘n vrye, regverdige en vreedsame verkiesing. Die openlike verklaring het veral die saak van rassepolarisasie aangespreek wat gebruik word om sekere partye se agendas te bevorder. Daar was ‘n gesprek tussen die president en kerkleiers by die Atterbury teater in Pretoria. Die volgende bekommernisse is onder sy aandag gebring: Die situasie van anargie in die land, korrupsie wat steeds ‘n probleem is op alle vlakke van regering, onteiening van grond sonder vergoeding en die regering se ekonomiese beleid om werkskepping te bevorder. Die indruk is geskep dat die president ernstig is om die situasie in die land te v erbeter. Sedert die aanvang van die Coronavirus pandemie is daar verskeie kere met die regering geskakel om duidelikheid te verkry	2.1.1 <u>Contact with the government</u> Before the May 2019 elections, an open statement was sent to the media and churches calling on the government for a free, fair and peaceful election. In particular, the open statement addressed the issue of racial polarization used to promote certain parties' agendas. There was a discussion between the president and church leaders at the Atterbury Theater in Pretoria. The following concerns were brought to his attention: The situation of anarchy in the country, corruption that is still a problem at all levels of government, expropriation of land without compensation and government's economic policy to promote job creation. The impression was created that the president is serious about improving the situation in the country. Since the beginning of the Corona virus pandemic, the government has been contacted several times to clarify how the lockdown measures

hoe die inperkingsmaatreëls die GKSA raak. Daar is deurentyd met die kerke gekorrespondeer via Dr Wymie du Plessis se e-poslyste. Daar is ook by verskeie geleenthede aan die regering en op verskeie mediaplatforms getuienis gelewer. Daar is ook deur ‘n paar gemeentes skrywes gerig aan die Deputate. Oor die algemeen was die terugvoer baie positief. In enkele gevalle het die Kerkrade met die Deputate verskil op enkele punte, wat in korrespondensie hanteer is. Daar is verder ‘n skrywe gerig aan die gemeentes oor die psigologiese impak van die Covid-19 op die inwoners van Suid-Afrika. Hierdie skrywe is ook gerig as getuienis aan die regering. Lidmate van die GKSA het groot waardering vir die werk van die Deputate uitgespreek in die krisistyd.	are affecting the GKSA. Correspondence were sent several times to the churches via Dr Wymie du Plessis's email lists. Testimony was also given to the government on several occasions and on various media platforms. Letters were also sent to the Deputies by a few congregations. Overall, the feedback has been very positive. And in some cases the church councils disagreed with the Deputies on some points, which were dealt with in correspondence. A letter was further send to the congregations about the psychological impact of the Covid-19 on the inhabitants of South Africa. This letter was also addressed as witness to the government. Members of the GKSA expressed great appreciation for the work of the Deputies in these times of crisis.
2.1.2 <u>Skakeling met burgerlike organisasies</u> Solidariteit het ‘n gesprek gehad met Gereformeerde predikante van Pretoria in Mei 2019. Daar was ongeveer 30 predikante. Die gesprek het goed gegaan en heelwat inligting is met die predikante gedeel. Die Deputate het ‘n gesprek gehad met TLU SA. Die volgende kwessies is bespreek: Plaasveiligheid en plaasmoorde, onteiening van grond en droogtehulp. Samewerking waar moontlik is aangebied.	2.1.2 <u>Liaise with organisations in civil society</u> Solidariteit had a conversation with Reformed ministers of Pretoria in May 2019. There were about 30 ministers. The conversation went well and a lot of information was shared with the ministers. The Deputies had a discussion with TAU SA. The following issues were discussed: Farm security and farm murders, land expropriation and drought relief. Cooperation where possible was offered.
2.1.3 <u>Plaaslike kerke bystaan</u> Die Deputate het die kerke in Kaapstad bygestaan om ‘n persverklaring vry te stel wat getuig teen die geweld in die Mitchellsplein omgewing. Die Deputate het ook die pogings ondersteun om die situasie op te los en daarvoor voorbidding gedoen. Solidariteit het verskeie kere fondse beskikbaar gestel vir studiehulp aan Gereformeerde bruin studente. Die gemeente op die Kaapse Vlakte is as NPO geregistreer, sodat fondse binne die NPO geadministreer kan word.	2.1.3 <u>Support local churches</u> Deputies assisted the churches in Cape Town to release a press release attesting to the violence in the Mitchell Square area. The Deputies also supported the efforts to resolve the situation and interceded for it. Solidarity provided funds on several occasions for study assistance to Reformed coloured students. The congregation in the Cape Flats was registered as NPO, so funds can be administered within the NPO.

2.1.4 Saam met TKR en ander Ekumeniese liggame getuig	2.1.4 Witness with TKR and other Ecumenical bodies
2.1.4.1 Die Deputate het ‘n skrywe aan die kerke gestuur om hulle toeligting te gee oor hoe hulle aktuele sake rakende Art 9 van Grondwet moet hanteer, om hulleself in die toekoms teen onnodige blootstelling te beskerm. Kerke is ook ingelig oor die implikasies van die “South African Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill” (2018) vir Woordbediening. Kerke is gewys op die vrywaringsklousule vir bona fide godsdienste uitsprake wat kerke vrywaar.	2.1.4.1 The Deputies sent a letter to the churches to clarify how they should deal with current issues regarding Art 9 of the Constitution, in order to protect themselves from unnecessary exposure in the future. Churches have also been informed about the implications of the “South African Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill” (2018) for Word Ministry. Churches were reminded of the indemnity clause for bona fide religious statements that indemnify churches.
2.1.4.2 Getuienis saam met die NG kerk: Die NGK, NHK en GKSA het baie mooi saam getuig in die verlede. Dit het voorgekom of die NG kerk nie meer geneë was om saam met die GKSA te getuig nie. Die voorsitter het verskeie gesprekke met verteenwoordigers van hierdie NGK gehad. Dit situasie het weer verbeter.	2.1.4.2 Testimony with the Dutch Reformed Church: The Dutch Reformed Church, the Dutch Reformed Church and the GKSA have very well witnessed together in the past. It seemed that the Dutch Reformed Church was no longer inclined to testify with the GKSA. The chairman had several discussions with representatives of these churches. This situation has improved again.
2.1.4.3 SARK en Konvent: Die GKSA het waarnemerstatus by die SARK. Die voorsitter het die Deputate in kennis gestel indien daar sake was waarvan hulle moes kennis neem. Daar was ‘n vergadering van die SARK oor die onteiening van grond sonder vergoeding. Die vergadering het niks tot gevolg gehad nie. Die SARK het baie aandag gegee aan al die geweld in die land, veral geweld teen vroue en xenofobie. Hulle het in Augustus met die president ‘n gesprek gehad. Die Deputate het ook die geweld op die Kaapse Vlakte met hulle bespreek. Die Deputate oorweeg lidmaatskap by die SARK om meer invloed daar te hê. Die Konvent het nie saamgekom vanweë die pandemie nie, maar daar is weer pogings om die Konvent saam te roep.	2.1.4.3 SACC and Convent: The GKSA have observer status at the SACC. The chairperson informed the Deputies if there were any issues they should take note of. There was a meeting of the SACC on the expropriation of land without compensation. The meeting did not result in anything. The SARC paid close attention to all the violence in the country, especially violence against women and xenophobia. They had a meeting with the president in August. Deputies also discussed the violence on the Cape Flats with them. The Deputies are considering joining the SARC to have more influence there. The Convention did not come together because of the pandemic, but there are again attempts to convene the Convention.
2.1.4.4 Hofbeslissing oor besluit van NG kerk oor lidmate in selfde geslag verhoudings (besondere dienste,	2.1.4.4 Court decision on the decision of the Dutch Reformed Church on members of same-sex

bevestiging van selfde geslag huwelike, ens.). Regter het beslis dat die NG Kerk se besluit om mense in selfde geslag verhoudings te verbied tot ampte in die betrokke geval in stryd was met die grondwet. Die Deputate het die hofuitspraak deeglik bestudeer en ook die standpunte van regskundiges ingewin. Daar is gevind dat die uitspraak slegs betrekking op die spesifieke geval van die NGK. Die eerste deel van die uitspraak handel oor die feit dat die NGK nie hulle eie prosedures gevolg het nie, en daar was die hofuitspraak inderdaad reg. Die tweede deel van uitspraak wat die grondwetlike aspekte raak is obiter. Die hof het ingegaan op grondwetlike aspekte omdat die twee partye (die NGK ook) versoek het dat die hof grondwetlike leiding moet gee. Die deel van die uitspraak is egter nie regsbindend nie, hoewel ander howe die uitspraak sou kon raadpleeg. Met die oog op die toekoms beveel die Deputate owerheid aan dat: • Kerke geskille onderling besleg. • Prosedurele geregtigheid in kerklike besluitneming nougeset gehandhaaf word. • Indien artikel 9(3) van die Grondwet ter sprake kom moet kerke in hulle besluite aantoon waarom hulle meen dat die diskriminasie ter sprake redelik en regverdigbaar is. Daar is ook ‘n skrywe opgestel om plaaslike kerke en meerdere vergaderings toeligting te gee oor hoe hulle aktuele sake rakende Art 9 van Grondwet moet hanteer, om hulleself in die toekoms teen onnodige blootstelling te beskerm.	relationships (special services, confirmation of same-sex marriages, etc.). Judge ruled that the DR Church decision to forbid people in same-sex relationships in the office is in this specific case contrary to the constitution. The Deputies thoroughly studied the court ruling and also sought the views of legal experts. It was found that the ruling only concerns the specific case of the DRC. The first part of the ruling deals with the fact that the DRC did not follow their own procedures, and the court ruling was indeed correct. The second part of the ruling that affects the constitutional aspects is obiter. The court approached constitutional aspects because the two parties (the DRC also) requested that the court provide constitutional guidance. However, that part of the ruling is not legally binding, although other courts could consult the ruling. With a view to the future, the Deputy authorities recommend that: • Churches settle disputes among themselves. • Procedural justice in ecclesiastical decision-making is strictly maintained. • If Article 9 (3) of the Constitution comes to light, churches must state in their decisions why they believe the discrimination at issue is reasonable and justifiable. A letter has also been prepared to elucidate local churches and larger meetings on how they should deal with current affairs regarding Art 9 of the Constitution, in order to protect themselves from unnecessary exposure in the future.
2.1.5 <u>Wetgewing moniteer en kommentaar lewer</u>	2.1.5 <u>Monitor legislation and offer comments</u>
2.1.5.1 Onteiening van grond sonder vergoeding: ‘n Vergadering is gehou op 29 Maart 2018 om insette te kry van verskeie kundiges vir ’n	2.1.5.1 Expropriating land without compensation: A meeting was held on March 29, 2018 to obtain input from various experts for a presentation to parliament on the

	voorlegging aan die parlement oor die voorgestelde verandering van Art. 25 van die Grondwet, met die oogmerk om grond te onteien sonder vergoeding. Die insette is genotuleer en ‘n strategie is bespreek vir die samestelling van die voorlegging. ‘n Deeglike voorlegging is voorberei en aan die parlement gestuur. Dit is ook aan die kerke versprei via Dr Wymie du Plessis se e-poslys. Die TLU het ook in hulle voorlegging gebruik gemaak van die voorlegging van die Deputate. Daar was oor die algemeen baie goeie terugvoer uit die gemeentes en ook uit verskeie ander oorde vir die voorlegging, asook oor *Die Kerkblad* artikel daaroor. Die Deputate het kennis geneem van die skrywe van die GK Durban oor lyfstraf in die huis, en sodanig aan hulle rapporteer. Daar is voorstelle om die “Promotion of Equality and the Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act” (PEPUDA) van 1996 te wysig. Die Deputate het self getuienis gelewer aan die regering, en het ook gemeentes en individue bygestaan om getuienis te lewer.		proposed change of Art. 25 of the Constitution, with the aim of expropriating land without compensation. The inputs were recorded and a strategy for the composition of the presentation was discussed. A thorough presentation was prepared and sent to Parliament. It was also distributed to the churches via Dr Wymie du Plessis's email list. The TAU also made use of the submissions of the Deputies in their submission. There was generally very good feedback from the congregations and also from several other places for the submission, as well as the article about it in *Die Kerkblad*. The Deputies took note of the letter from the GK Durban on corporal punishment in the home and reported as such to them. There are proposals to amend the 1996 Promotion of Equality and the Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA). The Deputies themselves testified to the government, and also assisted congregations and individuals to testify.
2.1.6	<u>Skakeling met onafhanklike meganismes (MRK, Art 185, ens)</u> Die skriba het ‘n vergadering gehad met dr Anton Knoetze, kommissaris op die kommissie vir bevordering en beskerming van die regte van kultuur, godsdiens en taalgemeenskappe (CRL kommissie – Grondwet Art 185). Hy het terugvoer gegee oor die belangrikste werksaamhede van die kommissie wat GKSA raak. Dr Knoetze is genooi na ‘n volgende vergadering van die Deputate owerheid. Daar is weer ‘n oorsig gegee oor die werksaamhede van die kommissie wat die GKSA raak. Daar is onder andere gesprek gevoer oor: Die goedkeuring van dagga vir privaat gebruik, verbod op lyfstraf in huise en skole, onteiening van grond sonder vergoeding en die impak daarvan op kerke, haatspraak, beskerming van Afrikaans in skole en	2.1.6	<u>Contact with independent mechanisms (HRC, Art 185, etc.)</u> The scribe had a meeting with dr Anton Knoetze, Commissioner on the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Culture, Religion and Language Communities (CRL commission – Constitution Art 185). He provided feedback on the main functions and actions of the commission affecting the GKSA. Dr Knoetze was invited to a next meeting of the Deputy authorities. An overview was again given of the activities of the commission affecting the GKSA. Discussions were among others on: The adoption of marijuana for private use, banning corporal punishment in homes and schools, expropriation of land without compensation and its impact on churches, hate speech, protection of

	universiteite, moedertaal onderrig vir almal tot op laerskoolvlak, Christelike godsdienstige vakansiedae, self-regulering van godsdienste, Hoërskool Driehoek tragedie en impak op skole se bestuursliggame, ens. Uit hierdie vergadering het 'n *Kerkblad* artikel gespruit oor die gevare van daggagebruik, en ook 'n skrywe aan die kerke oor selfregulering van godsdienste. Daar is ook 'n opvolg gesprek gereël met lede van die CRL kommissie in Braamfontein. Verskeie van die onderwerpe hierbo genoem is met die kommissie bespreek. Prof Mosoma het 'n dokument met spesifieke voorstelle van die Deputate aangevra oor regulering van godsdienstige groepe, wat in die toekoms in aanmerking geneem kan word. Die Deputate het ook opgevolg oor die jongste hofuitspraak oor haatspraak en duidelikheid verkry, spesifiek met betrekking tot die prediking van verlossing deur Christus alleen.		Afrikaans in schools and universities, mother tongue education for all at primary school level, Christian religious holidays, self-regulation of religions, High school Triangle tragedy and impact on schools' governing bodies, etc. From this meeting, a *Kerkblad* article sprang on the dangers of marijuana use, and also a letter to the churches about self-regulation of religions. A follow-up discussion was also held with members of the CRL Commission in Braamfontein. Several of the topics mentioned above were discussed with the commission. Prof Mosoma requested a document with specific proposals from the Deputies on regulation of religious groups, which may be taken into account in the future. The Deputies also followed up on the latest court ruling on hate speech to get clarity, specifically regarding the preaching of salvation through Christ alone.
2.1.7	<u>Skakel met ander Deputate met oog op koördinasie</u> Die skriba het meermale skrywes gerig aan die ander Deputaatgroepe waarin ons ons samewerking met ander Deputaatgroepe aangebied het waar dit owerheidsake raak. Een van die Deputate vir Christelike onderwys is uitgenooi na 'n vergadering met die kommissaris op die kommissie vir bevordering en beskerming van die regte van kultuur, godsdiens en taalgemeenskappe (Grondwet Art. 185) om eerstehandse terugvoer te kry oor sake wat skole raak. Daar is met die Deputate Christelike onderwys geskakel rondom eksplisiete seksonderrig by skole wat deel vorm van die nuwe voorgestelde kurrikulum.	2.1.7	<u>Liaise with other Deputy groups to coordinate matters</u> The scribe has written on more than one occasion to the other Deputy groups in which we have offered our cooperation with other deputy groups where it concerns government matters. One of the Deputies for Christian education was invited to a meeting with a commissioner on the commission for the promotion and protection of the rights of culture, religion and linguistic communities (Constitution Art. 185) to get first-hand feedback on matters affecting schools. There was correspondence with the Deputies Christian education about explicit sex education at schools that form part of the new proposed curriculum.
2.1.8	<u>Verteenwoordiging by die Ad Hoc komitee vir eiendomsreg</u> Die Deputate het die veranderings wat gehou is bygewoon. Verskeie rolspelers, o.a. landbou organisasies, unies, werkgewers-	2.1.8	<u>Representation at the Ad Hoc committee on property rights</u> A meeting was held on 19 March 2018 at the TLU SA building, over the expropriation of land without compensation, and the motion of the

	organisasies, politieke partye (DA, Cope en FV+), die F.W. de Klerk stigting, Helen Suzman stigting, Afrikanerbond, ens. het die vergadering bygewoon. Oorsake en gevolge van onteiening sonder vergoeding en aksieplanne daarteen is bespreek. Die GKSA was die enigste kerk wat verteenwoordig was.		EFF in parliament to change Art. 25 of the Constitution. Various stakeholders, including agricultural organizations, unions, employers organisations, political parties (DA, Cope, VF+), The F.W. de Klerk Foundation, Helen Suzman Foundation etc. have attended the meeting. Causes and consequences of expropriation without compensation and action plans against it were discussed. The GKSA was the only church represented.
2.1.9	<u>Verteenwoordiging op die Raad vir Godsdienstige Regte en Vryhede</u> Die Raad funksioneer steeds. Hulle het ook ’n dokument opgestel oor die selfregulering van godsdienste. Die dokument is gestuur aan die Admin Buro. Die Deputate het aangebied om verdere insette te gee.	2.1.9	<u>Representation on The Council of Religious Rights and Freedoms</u> The Council is still functioning. They also compiled a document on the self-regulation of religions. The document was sent to the Admin Bureau. The Deputies offered to give further input to the Council.
2.1.10	<u>Verteenwoordig by Motsepe Stigting</u> Die Motsepe Stigting het R225 000 geskenk vir 2017/18. Van die skenking is R125 000 toegeken aan Docenda. Die fondse is aangewend vir behoeftige studente en werkskepping (bv. Talita Kumi). ’n Verslag oor die aanwending van die fondse is ontvang. R100 000 is toegeken aan die Boland bedieningsfonds. Hierdie fondse is aangewend vir beurse vir vaardigheidsontwikkeling vir die jeug op die Kaapse Vlakte. ‘n Verslag oor die aanwending van die fondse is ontvang. Die GKSA neem in lyn met die Sinode besluit van 2012 nie aan die jaarlikse biddag saam met ander gelowe, wat deur die Motsepe stigting gereël word, deel nie. Die Motsepe stigting het besluit om skenkings aan kerke te beperk tot kerke wat aan die dag van gebed deelneem. Gevolglik het die stigting nie weer fondse aan die GKSA toegeken nie. Daar bestaan egter steeds ‘n goeie verhouding tussen die Deputate en die Stigting, wat deelname aan gesprekke en byeenkomste oor sake in die land insluit. Sedert die begin van die Covid-beperkings het daar nog nie	2.1.10	<u>Representation at Motsepe Foundation</u> The Motsepe Foundation donated R225 000 for 2017/18. Of the donation R125 000 was awarded to Docenda. The funds were used for needy students and job creation (e.g. Talita Kumi). A report on the use of the funds was received. R100 000 was allocated to the Boland ministry fund. These funds were used for youth skills development bursaries on the Cape Flats. A report on the use of the funds was received. In line with the Synod's decision of 2012, the GKSA did not participate in the annual day of prayer with other faiths, which is organized by the Motsepe Foundation. The Motsepe Foundation has decided to limit donations to churches participating in the day of prayer. As a result, the foundation did not re-allocate funds to the GKSA. However, there is still a good relationship between the Deputies and the Foundation, which includes participation in discussions and meetings on issues in the country. Since the beginning of the Covid restrictions, no such gatherings have taken place.

sodanige byeenkomste plaasgevind nie.	
2.1.11 <u>Skakel met Binnelandse Sake oor huweliksregistrasies probleme</u> Die Deputate het verskeie kere met die Departement Binnelandse Sake geskakel om probleme wat GKSA predikante ondervind met huweliksregistrasies onder hulle aandag te bring. Die probleme met huweliksregistrasies is egter lokaal en nie oral oor Suid-Afrika nie.	2.1.11 <u>Contact Home Affairs on marriage registration issues</u> The Deputies contacted the Department of Home Affairs on several occasions to bring to their attention issues raised by GKSA ministers with marriage registrations. However, the problems with marriage registrations are local and not all over South Africa.
2.1.12 <u>Getuig saam met ander godsdienste in lyn met Sinode 2012 besluit</u> Geen formele getuienis is saam met ander godsdienste gedoen nie. Ander godsdienste het wel oor van dieselfde sake gesprek gevoer met die regering.	2.1.12 <u>Witness with other religions in line with Synod 2012 decision</u> No formal testimony was made with other religions. Other religions did however talk about the same issues with the government.
Besluit: Punte 2.1 tot 2.1.12 kennis geneem.	**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.1.12 noted.**
2.2 *Algemene opmerkings oor uitvoering van opdrag*	2.2 *General remarks on the execution of our mandate*
2.2.1 Die Deputate het deurgaans deur middel van die Gereformeerde Kerke se e-poslyste probeer om lidmate en Kerkrade op hoogte te hou van aksies en verklarings deur die Deputate Owerheid. Grootliks instemmende kommentaar is ontvang.	2.2.1 The Deputies endeavoured throughout, by means of the GKSA's email contact list, to keep members and Church Councils up to date with actions and statements made by the Deputies Authorities. Commentary received largely expressed agreement.
2.2.2 Die Deputate het van tyd tot tyd in Pretoria vergader, en die skriba, voorsitter en Deputate woonagtig in Pretoria het dit fisies bygewoon. Die res van die Deputate het meestal deur middel van telefoon konferensies ingeskakel. Sedert die uitbreek van die pandemie het die Deputate d.m.v. MS Teams vergader.	2.2.2 The Deputies met from time to time in Pretoria, and the secretary, chairman and Deputies residing in Pretoria physically attended. The rest of the Deputies mostly turned in through telephone conferences. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Deputies have met via MS teams.
Besluit: Punte 2.2 tot 2.2.2 kennis geneem.	**Decision: Points 2.2 to 2.2.2 noted.**
3. Sake waaroor die Sinode besluit <u>Aanbevelings</u>	**3. Matters that the Synod decides on** <u>Recommendations</u>
3.1 Die Sinode neem kennis van die werk van die Deputate.	3.1 The Synod is to take note of the work of the Deputies.
3.2 Die Sinode wys weer Deputate aan met die volgende opdrag:	3.2 The Synod is to appoint Deputies with the instruction to:
3.2.1 om namens die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika die nodige skakeling met die Regering van die	3.2.1 maintain the necessary contact with the Government of the Republic of

	Republiek van Suid-Afrika te onderhou.		South Africa, on behalf of the Reformed Churches in South Africa.
3.2.2	om te skakel met organe van die burgerlike samelewing waar getuienis of samewerking bevorderlik sal wees vir kerk en koninkryk in Suid-Afrika.	3.2.2	liaise with organisations in civil society with which witnessing or cooperation would be beneficial to the church and Kingdom in South Africa.
3.2.3	om kerke van die GKSA by te staan in hulle skakeling met die owerhede op die verskillende vlakke, insluitend politieke partye waar nodig.	3.2.3	support the churches of the GKSA in their interaction with the authorities on different levels and political parties, where necessary.
3.2.4	om voort te gaan om openbare getuienis te lewer en skakeling met die owerhede te doen via die Tussen Kerklike Raad en ander kerke en ekumeniese liggame waarvan die GKSA deel is.	3.2.4	continue offering public testimony and interact with the authorities via the Inter-church Council and other churches and ecumenical bodies with which the GKSA is associated.
3.2.5	om wetgewing en die uitvoering daarvan te monitor en indien nodig, in die lig van die Skrif, Belydenis, Kerkorde, Sinodebesluite en Gereformeerde etiek op die mees effektiewe wyse daarop kommentaar lewer.	3.2.5	monitor legislation and its implementation and, if necessary, offer comment effectively in reference to Scripture, the Confessions, church order, synod decisions and Reformed ethics.
3.2.6	om, wanneer nodig, in gesprek te tree met die onafhanklike meganismes wat die Grondwet bied ter ondersteuning van die grondwetlike demokrasie soos bv die Openbare Beskermer, die Kommissie vir Bevordering en Beskerming van die Regte van Kultuur, Godsdiens en Taalgemeenskappe en die Menseregte-kommissie.	3.2.6	enter into discussion, when necessary, with the independent mechanisms the Constitution provides in support of constitutional democracy such as the Public Protector and the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities of the Human Rights Commission.
3.2.7	om, waar nodig, met ander Deputategroepe te skakel sodat gekoördineerd gewerk kan word met betrekking tot gesprek en kommentaar na die owerheid. Ander Deputate van die GKSA moet eers met hierdie Deputate skakel alvorens hulle in gesprek tree of kommentaar lewer.	3.2.7	liaise, where necessary, with other Deputy groups to coordinate discussion and commentary with the authorities (other Deputies of the GKSA must first contact the Deputies Authorities before entering into discussion or offering comment).
3.2.8	om die GKSA te verteenwoordig by die Ad-hoc komitee wat aanvanklik op die beskerming van Eiendomsreg gefokus het.	3.2.8	represent the GKSA at the Ad-hoc committee that initially focused on the protection of property rights.
3.2.9	om die GKSA te verteenwoordig op die Raad vir Godsdiensregte en Vryhede.	3.2.9	represent the GKSA on the Council for Religious Freedoms and Rights.
3.2.10	om, in oorleg met die Deputate vir Diakonale Sake die GKSA te verteenwoordig by gesprekke en ontmoetings met die Motsepe Stigting.	3.2.10	represent the GKSA at meetings with the Motsepe Foundation, in consultation with the Deputies Diaconal Affairs.

3.2.11 om met verteenwoordigers van die Departement Binnelandse Sake te skakel ten einde die logistieke probleme met betrekking tot die registrasie van huwelike uit te skakel.	3.2.11 contact the representatives of the Department of Home Affairs to eliminate the logistical problems related to the registration of marriages.
3.2.12 om saam met ander godsdienste oor sake van gemeenskaplike belang getuienis te lewer, met dienverstande met nougesette inagneming van die beginsels en riglyne wat die Sinode van 2012 goedgekeur het.	3.2.12 testify on matters of common interest with other religions, in line with the principles and guidelines approved by Synod 2012
Besluit: Punte 3.1 tot 3.2.12 goedgekeur.	**Decision: Points 3.1 to 3.2.12 approved.**