20.3 BESWAARSKRIF – DR HF VAN WYK TEEN DIE WOORD "INKOMPLEET" – BESLUIT VAN SINODE 1961 (Artt 24, 25, 115)

20.3 PETITION OF PROTEST – DR HF VAN WYK AGAINST THE WORD "INKOMPLEET" – DECISION OF SYNOD 1961 (Arts 24, 25, 115)

A. Dr HF van Wyk word geleentheid gegee om die Beswaarskrif te stel, maar is nie teenwoordig nie.
Dr HF van Wyk is given the opportunity to table the Gravamen but is not present.
B. Die voorsitter, ds P Venter, stel die Beswaarskrif.
The chairman, Rev. P Venter, tables the Petition of protest.
C. **Besluit:** Die Beswaarskrif word na Kommissie Beswaarskrifte 1 verwys.
Decision: The Petition of Protest is referred to Commission Gravamina 1.
D. Dr C Jooste rapporteer namens Kommissie Beswaarskrifte 1.
Dr C Jooste reports on behalf of Commission Gravamina 1.

E. **BESWAARSKRIF / PETITION OF PROTEST**

Hiermee wil ondergetekende beswaar aanteken teen die gebruik van die woord "inkompleet" in die besluit van Sinode 1961:126, punte 1.2 en 1.5.	The undersigned petition of protest is hereby lodged against the word "incomplete" in the decision of Synod 1961:126, points 1.2 and 1.5.
<u>Oorspronklike redaksie (ons kursivering):</u> A (2) Hulle is egter *inkomplete* lidmate en daarom kan die tug ook slegs *inkompleet* wees. B (2) Kerkrade sal die gewone prosedure van tug soos dit volgens die Kerkorde op belydende lidmate toegepas word, ook toepas op dooplidmate met inagneming van die *inkompleetheid* van hulle lidmaatskap.	<u>Original editing (our italics):</u> A (2) They are however *incomplete* members and therefore, the discipline can only ever be *incomplete*. B (2) Church Councils will follow the usual procedure of discipline followed for confirmed members, as per the Church Order, for baptised members with consideration of the *incompleteness* of their membership.
Beswaargrond 1 Alhoewel die bedoeling van hierdie woord duidelik kan wees – dat hulle lidmate is wat nie al die voorregte en verantwoordelikhede het as lidmate wat reeds belydenis van geloof afgelê het nie – bring hierdie begrip ook die idee tuis dat daar 'n minderwaardigheid en onvolmaaktheid is. In die Doopsformulier word aan die ouers gevra: *Ten eerste: Hoewel ons kinders in sondes ontvang en gebore en daarom aan allerhande ellende, ja, aan die verdoemenis self, onderworpe is, bely u nogtans dat hulle in Christus geheilig is en daarom as lidmate van sy gemeente behoort gedoop te wees?* Dit is duidelik dat die formulier kinders as lidmate in Christus sien: lidmate wat deel is van die liggaam van Christus en dus volwaardige lede van die kerk. Die gebruik van die woord is daarom strydig met die doopsformulier.	**Protest Ground 1** Although the intention of this word may be clear – that they are members who do not have the same privileges and responsibilities as members who have been confirmed – this word also creates the impression of inferiority and lack of perfection. In the form for baptism the parents are asked: *First: Do you acknowledge that although our children were conceived and born into sin and, therefore, subject to all manner of misery, even the condemnation of God, they are nevertheless sanctified in Christ and ought therefore to be baptised as members of His body?* It is clear that this form considers children to be members in Christ: members who are part of the body of Christ and therefore full-fledged members of the church. The use of the word "incomplete" is therefore in conflict with the form of baptism.

Beswaargrond 2 Die term "lidmaatskap" kan verkeerd geïnterpreteer word. Hierdie term is 'n algemene begrip wat in die sekulêre gebruik die betekenis inhou dat daar willekeurig by die kerk aangesluit kan word. Die hele leer van die uitverkiesing laat geen ruimte vir die eie-keuse om aan te sluit by die verbond nie. Dit sou Remonstrants wees. **Versoek** Ondergetekende versoek die Sinode om die besluit te wysig om soos volg te lees: A.2 Hulle is egter lidmate met beperkte voorregte en verantwoordelikhede en daarom kan die tug nie op dieselfde wyse geskied nie. B.2 Kerkrade sal die gewone prosedure van tug soos dit volgens die Kerkorde op belydende lidmate toegepas word, ook toepas op dooplidmate met inagneming van hulle beperkte voorregte en verantwoordelikhede.	**Protest Ground 2** The term "membership" could be misinterpreted. It is a term a general term that in the secular sense makes it sound as though joining the church is an arbitrary choice. The doctrine of election makes no room for personal choice in being part of the covenant – that would be remonstrant. **Request** The undersigned requests the Synod to amend the decision to read as follows: A.2 They are however members with limited privileges and responsibilities and therefore discipline cannot proceed in the same manner. B.2 Church councils will follow the usual procedure of discipline followed for confirmed members, as per the Church Order, for baptised members with consideration of their limited privileges and responsibilities.

F. **RAPPORT: KOMMISSIE BESWAARSKRIFTE 1 / REPORT: COMMISSION GRAVAMINA 1**

1. Opdrag Adviseer die Sinode op die meriete van die bbeswaarskrif. **Besluit: Kennis geneem.** **2. Sake waarvan die Sinode kennis neem** 2.1 *Inleidende opmerkings* 2.1.1 Die Kommissie beperk sy bespreking tot die gebruik van die woord inkompleet en beoordeel geensins die saak van tug oor dooplidmate nie. **Besluit: Kennis geneem.** 2.2 *Beswaargrond 1* 2.2.1 <u>Beredenering</u> Die beswaarde voer aan dat die gebruik van die woord inkompleet in stryd is met die status van die dooplidmaat in die doopsformulier. Hy wys op die doopsformulier wat aandui dat kinders as <u>lidmate</u> van die gemeente behoort gedoop te wees. Die woord inkompleet mag verstaan word as dat dooplidmate gesien word as minderwaardige onvolmaakte lidmate. **Besluit: Kennis geneem.**	**1. Mandate** Advise the Synod on the merits of the Gravamen. **Decision: Noted.** **2. Matters that Synod takes note of** 2.1 *Introductory remarks* 2.1.1 The Commission limits its discussion to the use of the word "inkompleet" (incomplete) and in no way assesses the matter of disciplining baptised members. **Decision: Noted.** 2.2 *Ground for Objection 1* 2.2.1 <u>Arguments</u> The aggrieved argues that the use of the word "inkompleet" conflicts with the status of the baptised member in the form for baptism. He points to the form for baptism which indicates that children be baptised as <u>members</u> of the congregation. The word "inkompleet" may be understood to mean that baptised members are seen as inferior or imperfect members. **Decision: Noted.**

2.2.2 Bevinding Die Kommissie oordeel dat die beswaarde wel aantoon dat die gebruik van die woord inkompleet in stryd is met die doopsformulier.	2.2.2 Finding The Commission judges that the respondent does show that the use of the word “inkompleet” conflicts with the form for baptism.
Besluit: Kennis geneem.	**Decision: Noted.**
2.2.3 Aanbeveling Beswaargrond 1 slaag.	2.2.3 Recommendation Grounds for objection 1 succeeds.
Besluit: Goedgekeur.	**Decision: Approved.**
2.3 *Beswaargrond 2*	2.3 *Ground for Objection 2*
2.3.1 Beredenering Die beswaarde voer aan dat die gebruik van die woord lidmaatskap verkeerd geïnterpreteer kan word, as Remonstrants. Die besluit van 1961 2.1 stel dat: “doop lidmate beskou moet word as lidmate van die kerk kragtens die genadeverbond”.	2.3.1 Argument The respondent argues that the use of the word “lidmaatskap” (membership) can be misinterpreted, as being Remonstrant. The decision of Synod 1961 2.1 states that: "baptized members must be considered as members of the church under the covenant of grace."
Besluit: Kennis geneem.	**Decision: Noted.**
2.3.2 Bevinding In die lig van ons beredenering toon die beswaarde nie aan dat die begrip “inkompleet” ter sprake is nie, maar fokus op die term lidmaatskap.	2.3.2 Finding In the light of our reasoning, the aggrieved does not show that the concept of incompleteness is involved, but rather focuses on the term membership.
Besluit: Kennis geneem.	**Decision: Noted.**
2.3.3 Aanbeveling Beswaargrond 2 slaag nie.	2.3.3 Recommendation Ground for objection 2 does not succeed.
Besluit: Goedgekeur.	**Decision: Approved.**
3. Sake waaroor die Sinode besluit	**3. Matters that the Synod decides on**
3.1 *Finale bevinding*	3.1 *Final finding*
3.1.1 Die Beswaarskrif in geheel slaag op grond van Beswaargrond 1.	3.1.1 The Gravamen as a whole succeeds on the basis of Ground for objection 1.
3.1.2 In die lig van Beswaargrond 1 wat slaag, word aan die versoek vir redigering, soos voorgestel, voldoen.	3.1.2 In the light of Ground for objection 1 succeeding, the Synod complies with the request for the proposed editorial adjustment.
Besluit: Punte 3.1.1 en 3.1.2 goedgekeur.	**Decision: Points 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 approved.**