

23.7 RAPPORT 2: DEPUTATE PUBLIKASIES – KERKLIKE TYDSKRIFTE – DIE KERKBLAD (Artt 147, 148, 185)

23.7 REPORT 2: DEPUTIES PUBLICATIONS – CHURCH MAGAZINES – DIE KERKBLAD (Arts 147, 148, 185)

- A. Ds JG Ehlers stel die Rapport.
Rev. JG Ehlers tables the Report.
- B. Vir die algehele besluit oor *Die Kerkblad*, kyk die besluite by 23.6, Rapport 1, Deputate Kerklike Tydskrifte.
For the overall decision on *Die Kerkblad*, see the decisions at 23.6, Report 1, Deputies Church Magazines.

C. RAPPORT / REPORT

<p>1. Sake waarvan die Sinode kennis neem</p> <p>1.1 <i>Werkswyse</i> <i>Die Kerkblad</i> kon deur die genade van die Here sedert die vorige Algemene Sinode gereeld verskyn. Die Redaksie het onveranderd gebly en kostelike en gewaardeerde werk verrig ter ondersteuning van die Redakteur. Die werk van Mev Johanna Fourie as voltydse Kopieredakteur is van onskatbare waarde en verdien besondere vermelding.</p> <p>1.2 <i>Inhoud</i> Wat die inhoud van <i>Die Kerkblad</i> betref, word daar steeds gepoog om die lig van God se Woord deur die gedrukte en elektroniese uitgawes te laat skyn op aktuele temas en onderwerpe, met die oog op die geestelike toerusting en opbouing van lesers en as 'n getuienis op die totale terrein van die Koninkryk.</p> <p>1.3 <i>Maandelikse onderhoud oor Pretoria FM</i> Die Redakteur het voortgegaan met die maandelikse onderhoude in die program Redakteursforum oor Pretoria FM. Die programleier, Dr Christo Pretorius het onderneem om die saak van die bemarking van <i>Die Kerkblad</i> ook op die bestuur van die radiostasie se agenda te plaas en met voorstelle in die verband te kom. Hierdie inisiatief word hoog waardeer.</p> <p>1.4 <i>Gratis elektroniese kopieë aan Kandidaatstudente</i> Daar word voortgegaan om gratis elektroniese uitgawes aan elke Kandidaatstudent te stuur, in die hoop dat hulle ook wanneer hulle tot die</p>	<p>1. Matters that the Synod takes note of</p> <p>1.1 <i>Working</i> <i>Die Kerkblad</i> could by the grace of the Lord be published on a regular basis since the previous general Synod. The Editorial staff remained unchanged and performed valuable and appreciated work in support of the Editor. The work of Mrs. Johanna Fourie, as full-time Copy editor, is priceless and deserves special mention.</p> <p>1.2 <i>Content</i> The endeavour is always to have the light of God's Word shine in the hardcopy and electronic versions through topical themes and subjects, aimed at the spiritual equipping and upliftment of readers and as testimony on all terrains of the Kingdom.</p> <p>1.3 <i>Monthly interview on Pretoria FM</i> The Editor continued with the monthly interviews through the programme called Editor's Forum on Pretoria FM. The programme leader, Dr Christo Pretorius, undertook to place the matter of the marketing of the <i>Die Kerkblad</i> on the agenda of the radio station's management and to offer suggestions in this regard. This initiative is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>1.4 <i>Free electronic copies to candidate students</i> Free electronic issues are still being sent to every candidate student, in the hope that they will actively market <i>Die Kerkblad</i> in the church where they are</p>
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<p>bediening toetree, <i>Die Kerkblad</i> aktief in die gemeente sal bemark.</p> <p>1.5 <i>Dalende intekenare en finansiële krisis</i> Soos ander Kerklike Tydskrifte, ondervind <i>Die Kerkblad</i> ook 'n voortgaande daling wat intekenare betref en daarmee gepaardgaande ernstige finansiële uitdagings. Aan die begin van 2021 is 'n skrywe van die Deputate aan al die kerke gestuur. Die reaksie op die skrywe was deur die genade van die Here so positief dat die finansiële krisis tydelik afgeweer is. Die tendens van dalende intekenare kon egter tot sover nie omgekeer word nie, ten spyte van gereelde skrywes deur die Redaksie aan die kerke. Die Redaksie het ook in elke Klassis dominees geïdentifiseer om kommunikasie met die kerke te bevorder, terugvoer aan die Redaksie te gee en die saak van <i>Die Kerkblad</i> op die agenda van elke Klassisvergadering te plaas. Met die opstel van hierdie Rapport was dit nog nie duidelik of hierdie inisiatief van die Redaksie die beoogde vrugte lewer nie.</p> <p>1.6 <i>Uittrede van die Redakteur</i> Die Redakteur, Prof Callie Coetzee, het aan die Deputate te kenne gegee dat hy beplan om aan die einde van 2022 of vroeg in 2023 as Redakteur uit te tree. Dit was 'n uitnemende voorreg om die werk van Redakteur vir die afgelope agt jaar te kon verrig. Dit val onder die mandaat van die Deputate om die naam van 'n nuwe Redakteur aan die Sinode voor te lê.</p> <p>1.7 <i>Honderd en vyftigjarige bestaan</i> <i>Die Kerkblad</i> kyk in 2023 terug op Honderd en vyftig jaar, sedert die eerste uitgawe van <i>De Maandbode</i> op 1 April 1873 verskyn het. Daarvoor kom al die eer aan God alleen toe. En ons innige bede is dat Hy in sy almag en genade dit mag beskik dat die blad voortgaan om tot sy eer in diens van sy Kerk en Koninkryk diensbaar te wees.</p> <p>1.8 <i>Finansiële verslag</i></p> <p>1.8.1 Die gemiddelde daling sedert 2007 tot met Mei 2022 was 11%.</p> <p>1.8.2 In Mei 2022 was daar 1083 intekenare op <i>Die Kerkblad</i> gewees.</p> <p>1.8.3 Indien die huidige tendens voort</p>	<p>ordained.</p> <p>1.5 <i>Declining subscription and financial crisis</i> As with other Church Magazines, <i>Die Kerkblad</i> is also experiencing a continued decline in subscribers and the associated financial challenges. At the start of 2021 the Deputies sent a letter to all the churches. The response to the letter was, by the grace of the Lord, so positive that the financial crisis was temporarily averted. The trend of declining subscription could, however, to date not be turned around, despite regular letters by the editor to churches. The Editorial staff also identified ministers in all the Classes to promote communication with the churches, offer feedback to the editorial staff and place the matter of the <i>Die Kerkblad</i> on the agenda of every Classis assembly. At the time of writing this report, it was not yet clear whether this initiative bore the desired fruit.</p> <p>1.6 <i>Resignation of the Editor</i> The Editor, Prof Callie Coetzee, informed the Deputies that he would be stepping down at the end of 2022 or early in 2023. It was truly a privilege to perform the work as Editor over the past eight year. Tabling a nomination to the Synod for a new Editor falls under the mandate of the Deputies.</p> <p>1.7 <i>One hundred and fifty years in existence</i> <i>Die Kerkblad</i> looks back in 2023 on a hundred and fifty years since the first issue of <i>De Maandbode</i> on 1 April 1873. Glory be to God for this. It is our sincere prayer that He will in His power and grace ordain dispose that this magazine continues in its service to His church and Kingdom to His glory.</p> <p>1.8 <i>Financial report</i></p> <p>1.8.1 The average decline since 2007 up to May 2022 was 11%.</p> <p>1.8.2 In May 2022 <i>Die Kerkblad</i> had 1 083 subscribers.</p> <p>1.8.3 Should this trend continue, the reserve</p>
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<p>gaan, sal die reserwe fondse van <i>Die Kerkblad</i> uitgeput raak en <i>Die Kerkblad</i> nie meer kan voort bestaan nie.</p> <p>1.8.4 Die Deputate sien geen ander uitweg as om voor te stel dat daar 'n verhoogde raming gehef word vir <i>Die Kerkblad</i> nie.</p> <p>Besluit: Punte 1.1 tot 1.8.4 kennis geneem.</p> <p>2. Aanbevelings</p> <p>2.1 Die Algemene Sinode besin indringend oor maatreëls en strategieë om die voortbestaan van <i>Die Kerkblad</i> te verseker.</p> <p>Besluit: Kennis geneem in die lig van die besluit by Rapport 23.6.</p>	<p>fund of the <i>Die Kerkblad</i> will be exhausted and publication of <i>Die Kerkblad</i> will come to an end.</p> <p>1.8.4 The Deputies see to prevent this apart from suggesting that an increased estimate be levied for <i>Die Kerkblad</i>.</p> <p>Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.8.4 noted.</p> <p>2. Recommendations</p> <p>2.1 The General Synod should seriously consider measures and strategies to ensure the continued publication of <i>Die Kerkblad</i>.</p> <p>Decision: Noted in the light of the decision at Report 23.6.</p>
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