27.4 RAPPORT 4: DEPUTATE KERKGROEIBEDIENING – TOERUSTING VAN OUDERLINGE (Art 190)

27.4 REPORT 4: DEPUTIES CHURCH GROWTH MINISTERY – EQUIPPING OF ELDERS (Art 190)

A. Ds AJ Burger stel die Rapport.
Rev. AJ Burger 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. Opdragte Die volgende opdragte (Acta 2018:1085, 2.2.3 en 2.2.4) is saam uitgevoer deur drie Deputaatgroepe en daarom gekonsolideer in een Rapport:	**1. Mandate** The following assignments (Acta 2018:1085, 2.2.3 and 2.2.4) have been executed in a coordinated manner by three Deputy groups and therefore consolidated into one Report:
1.1 *Dat Senaat van die TSP hulle mandaat (Cf. Acta 2009:451) om materiaal en kort kursusse vir sodanige omstandighede te ontwikkel, so spoedig moontlik in samewerking met die Kerkgroei-bediening deputate en Expando uitvoer.*	1.1 *That the Senate of the TSP execute their mandate (Acta 2009:451) to make available material and short courses for such circumstances as soon as possible along with Deputies Church Growth-ministry and Expando.*
1.2 *Dat die opdrag om die onafgehandelde opdrag van Sinode 2009 oor die toerusting van ouderlinge (Acta 2009:452, 5), met inagneming van hierdie Rapport en besluite van die Sinode 2018, verwys word vir uitvoering na Expando.*	1.2 *That a mandate to complete the unfinished mandate of Synod 2009 regarding equipping of elders (Acta 2009:452, 5) whilst taking into account the content of this report and decisions of Synod 2018, be assigned to Expando.*
Die 2009 opdrag waarna verwys word in opdrag 1.1 hierbo is die volgende (oorspronklike nommering): *2. Dat die TSP duidelike leiding aan voornemende predikante gee oor die aard, inhoud en standaard van ouderlinge toerusting.* *4. Dat hierdie kursusse* (verwysend na toerusting deur kerke in pt 3) *o.a. die volgende insluit:* *4.1 Onderrig in basiese, tersaaklike fasette van hermeneutiek, eksegese en openbaringsgeskiedenis.* *4.2 Onderrig in die leer van die kerk, met toespitsing op die Belydenisskrifte van die Gereformeerde Kerke.* *4.3 Beginsels en praktyk van Gereformeerde Kerkregering.* *4.4 Beginsels en praktyk van pastorale bediening.* *4.5 Beginsels en praktyk van Missiologie en Apologetiek.*	The 2009 mandate referred to in assignment 1.1 above are the following (numbering as in original): 2. *That the TSP give clear guidance to prospective ministers of the Word regarding the nature, content and standard of elder edification.* *4. That the courses* (referring to training by churches pt 3.) *should include amongst others:* *4.1 Teaching in basic, applicable facets of hermeneutics, exegeses and revelation history.* *4.2 Teaching in the doctrine of the church, with focus on the confessions of faith of the Reformed Churches.* *4.3 Principles and practice of Reformed Church Polity.* *4.4 Principles and practice of Pastoral Care.* *4.5 Principles and practice of Missiology and Apologetics.*
Die “onafgehandelde opdrag van Sinode 2009” waarna verwys word in opdrag 1.2 is die volgende (oorspronklike	The “unfinished mandate of 2009” referred to in assignment 1.2 above are the following (numbering as in original):

nommering): 5.1 om die werk in die aanbevelings vervat tot uitvoering te bring (verwysend na punt 1 *"Dat kerke en leraars opgeroep word om erns met die opleiding en toerusting van ouderlinge te maak."* en punt 3 "*Dat kerke dit oorweeg om in gemeente- of Klassis-Streeksinodeverband op 'n voortdurende basis kursusse vir ouderlinge aan te bied en so te sorg vir deurlopende opleiding en toerusting.")* *5.2 Om kerke behulpsaam te wees deur:* *5.2.1 toerustingskursusse op te stel* *5.2.2 alternatiewe kurrikulums en lesmateriaal beskikbaar te stel vir verdere akademiese opleiding van ouderlinge (diverse, spesifieke en gespesialiseerde bedieningswerk).* Die opdrag aan Expando (1.2 hierbo) sluit in *"met inagneming van hierdie Rapport en besluite van die Sinode 2018, verwys word vir uitvoering na Expando.* Dit behels die 2018 besluit dat ouderlinge eredienste kan lei "deur 'n preek te lees of voor te dra wat saamgestel is onder die leiding van 'n bevestigde predikant (Acta 2018:1084, 2.2.1.1 en 2.2.1.2). **Besluit: Punte 1.1 en 1.2 kennis geneem.**	5.1 to work to execute the recommendations (referring to items 1 *"That churches and ministers are called upon to treat training and edification of elders seriously."* As well as item 3*." That churches consider to present on a continuous basis, training courses for elders in order to ensure ongoing training and edification.")* *5.2 To support churches by* *5.2.1 Developing training courses* *5.2.2 Making available alternative curriculums and material for lessons for further academic training of elders (diverse, specific and specialised ministries).* The assignment to Expando (1.2 above) furthermore include "*taking into account the content of this report and decisions of Synod 2018".* This entails the 2018 decision that elders may conduct services by reading or delivering a sermon that is developed under guidance of a called minister (Acta 2018:1084, 2.2.1.1 and 2.2.1.2). **Decision: Points 1.1 and 1.2 noted.**
2. Sake waarvan die Sinode kennis neem 2.1 *Werk afgehandel* 2.1.1 Na vooraf gesprekke tussen Expando en die Senaat van die TSP, is 'n gesamentlike werkswinkel gereël deur die Ouderling Werksgroep van die Deputate Kerkgroeibediening op 7&8 Januarie 2019 in Frankfort. Die Agenda was om a) die metode te oorweeg om ouderlinge toe te rus en daarvan af te lei in watter formaat die opleidingsmateriaal ontwikkel moet word; b) om 'n voorlopige lys van potensiële toerustingsmodules te maak; c) om 'n potensiële proses te oorweeg om die materiaal te ontwikkel en beskikbaar te stel; en, d) om moontlike opsies te oorweeg om dit aan die kerke beskikbaar te maak. Die werksessie is bygewoon deur di SZ Phungula en AJ Burger (Deputate Kerkgroeibediening), proff IW Ferreira en AJ Coetsee (TSP) en gekoöpteer vir die werkswinkel di OJ Struwig en MJ Letebele asook oudl P Molete. (Verskonings van dr HPM van Rhyn, Expando.)	**2. Matters that the Synod takes note of** 2.1 *Work completed* 2.1.1 Following some pre-discussions between Expando and the Senate of the TSP, a combined workshop was arranged by the Elder Workgroup of the Deputy Church Growth Ministries on 7&8 January 2019 in Frankfort. The agenda was to a) consider the methodology to equip elders and following from that the format for the training material to be developed; b) to make a preliminary list of potential equipping modules; c) to consider a potential process to develop and make the material available; and, d) to consider potential roll-out options to the churches. The workshop was attended by Revs SZ Phungula and AJ Burger (Deputy Church Growth Ministries), proff IW Ferreira and AJ Coetsee (TSP) and co-opted for the workshop Revs. OJ Struwig and MJ Letebele as well as elder P Molete. (Apologies from dr HPM van Rhyn, Expando.)

2.1.2	By die werkswinkel was die gevolgtrekking om die “onderrig” aan te bied deur middel van kort videogrepe. Hierdie konsep is later getoets deur die ontwikkeling en hersiening van verskeie snitte deur proff IW Ferreira (3) SP van der Walt (2) en AJ Coetsee (2). Resensies is gedoen deur die ontwikkelaars, ander kollegas proff G Breed, HG Stoker, PC van der Walt asook predikante dr RN Makunga, di SZ Phungula, CB Robinson, OJ Struwig en AJ Burger. Terugvoer is vasgelê en in verdere werk geïnkorporeer.	2.1.2	At the workshop it was concluded to present the “teaching” by means of short video clips. This concept was later tested by development and review of several clips by proff IW Ferreira (3) SP van der Walt (2) and AJ Coetsee (2). Reviews were done by the developers, other colleagues proff G Breed, HG Stoker, PC van der Walt as well as dr RN Makunga, Revs. SZ Punghula, CB Robinson, OJ Struwig and AJ Burger. Several learnings were captured and incorporated into further work.
2.1.3	Een volledige module oor “Wat is ‘n preek?” is ontwikkel deur prof AJ Coetsee, en dit is as ‘n praktiese toets aan ‘n seleksie van 19 kerke versprei. Inligting rakende die konteks, die moduleformaat en die gebruik van die Sokratiese bespreking is saam met die toetsmodule versprei. Terugvoer oor die toetsmodule is van 4 kerke ontvang. Terugvoer is verwerk en veranderinge aan die module-ontwerp is dienooreenkomstig aangebring.	2.1.3	One complete module on “What is a sermon?” was developed by prof AJ Coetsee, and this was distributed to a selection of 19 churches as a practical test. Information regarding the context, the module format and the use of the Socratic discussion was distributed with the test module. Feedback on the test module was received from 4 churches. Feedback has been evaluated and changes to the modules design were made accordingly.
2.1.4	Alle vorige werk is gekonsolideer in ‘n “Ontwikkelingstandaard van Toerusting materiaal vir GKSA Ouderlinge en Kerke”. [Ongepubliseer en beskikbaar op aanvraag.]	2.1.4	All prior work was consolidated into a “Development Standard of Edification Material for GKSA Elders and Churches”. [Unpublished and available on request.]
2.1.5	Op hierdie stadium is die vordering vir geruime tyd ernstig belemmer deur Covid-19-implikasies.	2.1.5	At this stage the progress has been severely hampered for quite a while by Covid-19 implications.
2.1.6	‘n Leiersgroep is gevorm synde prof G Breed (Expando), proff AJ Coetsee en LH Moretsi (Senaat van TSP), ds AJ Burger (Deputate Kerkgroeibediening) en ds DJ Bakker (Sameroeper). Die groep het maandeliks via Zoom vergader om die uitvoeringsfase van die opdragte te rig.	2.1.6	A leadership group was formed being prof G Breed (Expando), Prof AJ Coetsee and Prof LH Moretsi (Senate of TSP), Rev. AJ Burger (Deputies Church Growth) and Rev. (Emeritus) DJ Bakker (Convener). The group met monthly via Zoom to steer the execution phase of the mandate.
2.1.7	Verskillende tegnologie platforms om die opleidingsmodules aan die kerke aan te bied, is ondersoek met raadgewende en konsulterende ondersteuning deur r P Grobler en sr C Maritz van Missionet. ‘n Standaard Leer-bestuurstelsel "Thinkific" is gekies.	2.1.7	Different technology platforms to present the training modules to the churches was investigated with counsel and consulting support by Br P Grobler and Sr C Maritz from Missionet. A standard Learner Management System “Thinkific” was selected.
2.1.8	Finansiering van die sagteware-lisensiëring is gesamentlik oorweeg tussen die Deputate Kerkgroeibediening en Expando en is gefinansier uit donasies wat die Deputate Kerkgroeibediening ontvang het.	2.1.8	Financing of the software licensing was considered jointly between the Deputies Church Growth and Expando and financed from donated funds to the Church Growth Deputies.
2.1.9	‘n Standaard is ontwikkel vir moduledokumentasie,	2.1.9	A standard was developed for module documentation, presentation slides as

aanbiedingskyfies asook die metode vir video-opname. (Ongepubliseer beskikbaar op aanvraag.)	well as methodology for video recording. (Unpublished available on request.)
2.1.10 Die vakke wat in die 2009 Sinode Opdrag gelys is, is oorweeg, maar daar is besluit om eers klein te begin en op ‘n later stadium na die volledige lys te uit te brei.	2.1.10 The subjects listed in the 2009 Synod Assignment was reviewed, and it was decided to start small and grow to the full list at a later stage.
2.1.11 Ontwikkeling van ‘n eerste stel opleidingsmodules is begin in vyf fokusareas, elk onder 'n groepleier (Hermeneutiek – prof AJ Coetsee; Dogmatiek – ds AL Pelser; Pastorale Bediening – dr SP van der Schyff; Gebed – ds JP van der Walt; Kerkreg – ds PW Kurpershoek; Homiletiek – ds JP du P Aucamp).	2.1.11 Development of a first set of training modules started in five focus areas, each under a group leader (Hermeneutics – Prof AJ Coetsee; Dogmatics – Rev. AL Pelser; Pastoral Ministry – dr SP van der Schyff; Prayer – Rev. JP van der Walt; Church Polity – Rev. PW Kurpershoek; Homiletics – Rev. JP du P Aucamp).
2.1.12 Vordering van module-ontwikkeling is in verskeie stadiums – sommige voltooi, ander nog nie begin nie.	2.1.12 Progress of module development is in various stages – some completed, others not started.
2.1.13 ‘n Beta-weergawe van die stelsel, met slegs sommige van Hermeneutiek-modules, is in Mei 2022 bekendgestel vir beperkte gebruik en toetsing.	2.1.13 A Beta-version of the system with only some of Hermeneutics modules has been launched in May 2022 for limited use and testing.
2.1.14 Expando het ‘n paar webinare gereël om die stelsel en modules te gebruik en te toets gedurende Junie 2022. Uitnodiging is gerig aan ouderlinge van kerke sonder predikante en aan alle kerke via die Admin Buro.	2.1.14 Expando organised a few webinars to use and test the system and modules during June 2022. Invitation was directed to elders from churches without Ministers and to all churches via the Admin Bureau.
2.2 *Beplande werk, nog nie voltooi nie*	2.2 *Planned work, not completed*
2.2.1 Die eerste vrystelling van die Expando Toerusting Stelsel word beplan vir die eerste week van Augustus 2022 met die modules wat betyds gereed sal wees vir publisering.	2.2.1 The first release of the Expando Edification System is planned for the first week of August 2022 with the modules that would be completed in time for publishing.
2.2.2 Die bekendstellingskommunikasie word beplan – eerstens, aan alle kerke via die Admin Buro, gevolg deur ‘n Engelse en Afrikaanse Webinar vir alle predikante om die gebruik te demonstreer en te bevorder; tweedens aan alle Klassis Deputate vir Korrespondensie om in die onderskeie Klassisvergaderings te deel; derdens word beplan dat dit gekommunikeer en bevorder sal word deur adviseurs van die TSP wat Streeksinodes bywoon; en laastens hierdie verslag by die Algemene Sinode.	2.2.2 The launch communication is planned – firstly, to all churches via the Admin Bureau followed by an English and Afrikaans Webinar for all ministers to demonstrate and promote the use; secondly to all Classes Deputies for Correspondence to share in the respective Classis meetings; thirdly it is planned to be communicated and promoted by advisers from the TSP attending Regional Synods; and finally this Report at the General Synod.
2.2.3 ‘n Tweede vrystelling van bykomende opleidingsmodules word vir April 2023 beplan en daarna van tyd-tot-tyd soos meer modules beskikbaar word.	2.2.3 A second release of additional training modules is planned for April 2023 and thereafter from time to time as more modules become available.
2.2.4 Daar word in die vooruitsig gestel dat die stelselontwikkeling ‘n voortgesette taak sal word met bykomende modules wat mettertyd bygevoeg word. Die terugvoer van gebruikers behoort in ag	2.2.4 It is envisaged that the system development would become a continuing operation with additional modules added over time. The identification of additional modules

geneem te word by die identifisering van bykomende modules.	should take feedback from users into account.
2.2.5 Benutting in kwantiteit en kwaliteit behoort gemonitor word om die oorweging van fasiliteringsopleiding te rig aan Bedienaars van die Woord wat die opleiding van ouderlinge lei/fasiliteer.	2.2.5 Utilisation in quantity and quality should be monitored to guide consideration of facilitation training to Ministers of the Word leading/facilitating the training of elders.
2.2.6 Die uitkoms van 'n ondersoek deur Expando en ander rolspelers om die stelseladministrasie behoeftes van hierdie Expando-opleidingstelsel met ander stelsels in die GKSA te konsolideer, moet gefinaliseer en geïmplementeer word.	2.2.6 The outcome of an investigation by Expando and other role players to consolidate the system administration requirements of this Expando Training System with other systems in the GKSA has to be finalised and implemented.
2.2.7 'n Aanvullende verslag sal oorweeg word rakende die bekendstelling aan, en aanvanklike benutting deur kerke.	2.2.7 A Supplementary report will be considered regarding the launch and use by all the churches.
Besluit: Punte 2.1 tot 2.2.7 kennis geneem.	**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.2.7 noted.**
Sake waaroor die Sinode besluit	**Matters that the Synod decides on**
3. Aanbevelings	**3. Recommendations**
3.1 *Kontinuering van die opdrag* Die grondwerk is voltooi om aansienlike vordering moontlik te maak in die uitvoering van die opdrag wat in die 2009 Algemene Sinode besluit is. Daar word voorgestel om Deputate aan te wys om met die werk voort te gaan:	3.1 *Continuation of the mandate* The groundwork has been completed to enable substantial progress of the assignment that was decided in the 2009 General Synod. It is proposed to appoint Deputies to continue with the work:
3.1.1 Dat die oorsig en operasionele bestuur van die toerusting stelsel, asook die koördinering van voortgesette ontwikkeling van addisionele modules aan Expando toe gewys word, met vryheid om aan ander te delegeer en/of te koöpteer soos vereis word; en dat die nodige uitgawes in die Expando begroting opgeneem word	3.1.1 That overview and operational management of the system as well as the coordination of continued development of modules be assigned to Expando, with freedom to delegate and/or co-opt others as required; and that the associated expenses be included in the budget for Expando.
3.1.2 Dat die ontwikkeling van modules aan die Senaat van die TSP toegewys word, in koördinering met Expando en met vryheid om te koöpteer. (In lyn met 2009 Sinodebesluit Acta 2009:451.)	3.1.2 That the development of the modules be assigned to the Senate of the TSP, with freedom to co-opt. (Aligned with the 2009 Synod decision Acta 2009:451.)
3.1.3 Dit die Kuratore van die TSP spesifieke tyd vir die Senaat van die TSP toewys, as deel van hul kernaktiwiteite, om die ontwikkeling van opleidingsmodules moontlik te maak waarvoor die kerke 'n dringende behoefte het. (Hierdie behoefte van die kerke is sedert 2006 by Sinode Potchefstroom ter tafel gelê – Acta 2006:804-805.)	3.1.3 That the Curators of the TSP allocate specific time for the Senate of the TSP, as part of their core activities, to enable development of training modules which the churches desperately needs. (This need of the churches has been tabled at the 2006 Synod Potchefstroom since 2006 – Acta 2006:804-805.)
Besluit: Punte 3.1.1 tot 3.1.3 goedgekeur.	**Decision: Points 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 approved.**