

**CHURCH ORDER
OF THE
UNITING REFORMED CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

(The English translation of the Church Order has been noted by the General Synod of April 1997 and is subject to comment and rectification by the next General Synod)

URCSA SHARPEVILLE

Table of contents

ARTICLE 1.....	9
THE CHURCH	9
ARTICLE 2.....	9
CONFESSION OF FAITH.....	9
ARTICLE 3.....	9
MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.....	10
ARTICLE 4.....	10
MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.....	10
REGULATION 5	11
PROVE OF MEMBERSHIP.....	11
ARTICLE 6.....	11
OFFICES IN THE CONGREGATION.....	11
ARTICLE 7.....	12
MANAGEMENT OF THE CONGREGATION.....	12
ARTICLE 8.....	12
THE LINK BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS.....	12
ARTICLE 9.....	13
THE PRESBYTERY	13
ARTICLE 10.....	13
THE REGIONAL SYNOD.....	13
ARTICLE 11.....	14
THE GENERAL SYNOD	14
ARTICLE 12.....	15
THE CHURCH ‘S RELATIONSHIP.....	15
REGULATION 1	16
MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONGREGATION	16
REGULATION 2	16
LAPSE OF MEMBERSHIP AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH.....	16

REGULATION 3	16
TRANSFER FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS AND CHURCHES	16
REGULATION 4	17
BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.....	17
REGULATION 5	17
PROVE OF MEMBERSHIP.....	17
REGULATION 6	17
EXAMINATION COMMISSION FOR TURFLOOP	17
REGUALTION 7	19
ADMISSION TO THEOLOGICAL TRAINING	19
CALL OF MINISTERS.....	19
REGULATION 8	19
PRE-NEGOTIATIONS	19
REGULATION 9.....	20
WHO IS ELIGIBLE	20
REGULATION 10	20
WHO MAY CALL.....	20
REGULATION 11	21
PROCEDURE OF CALL	21
REGULATION 12	21
DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPESON IN CONNECTION WITH A CALL.....	21
REGULATION 13	22
OBJECTIONS AGAINST A CALL	22
REGULATON 14	22
TREATMENT OF OBJECTIONS AGAINST A CALL.....	22
REGULATION 15	23
LETTER OF CALL AND REPLY	23
REGULATION 16	23
CALL OR NOMINATION OF OFFICIALS IN SYNODICAL SERVICE.....	23
ORDAINED WORKERS	23
REGULATION 17	24

CALLING OF OFFICIALS WITH A SPECIFIC TASK WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF EXISTING CONGREGATIONS.....	24
REGULATION 18	24
INDUCTION OF MINISTERS.....	24
REGULATION 19	25
GRANTING OF DEMISSION	25
REGULATION 20	25
THE INDUCTION	25
REGULATION 21	26
NOTICE OF AN INDUCTION	26
REGULATION 22	26
EVANGELISTS.....	27
REGULATION 23	27
STATUS OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD	27
REGULATION 24	27
SEVERAGE OF THE BETWEEN SERVANTS OF THE WORD.....	27
AND CONGREGATION	27
PROCEDURES IN CASE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE MINISTER OF THE WORD. ...	28
ATTEMPTS BY CHURCH COUNCIL TO RESTORE PEACE	28
HEARING OF PARTIES AND PROPOSALS BY COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERY	28
SEVERAGE OF THE TIE BETWEEN CONGREGATION AND MINISTER OF THE WORD. ..	28
PAYMENT OF FAIR COMPENSATION.	28
APPEAL TO REGIONAL SYNOD OR SYNODICAL COMMISSION	29
PROCEDURES OF SEVERANCE OF THE TIE DUE TO ILLNESS.....	29
THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A CHURCH COUNCIL OR A MAJOR MEETING TOWARDS THE MINISTER OF THE WORD.	30
REGULATION 25	30
WHEN THE RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS.....	30
REGUALTION 26	30
THE CONTENTS OF THE RESPONSIBILITY	30
REGULATION 27	31
TENTMAKING MINISTRY	31

REGULATION 28	31
PENSION PRIVILEGES OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND CARE FOR THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.....	32
REGULATION 29	32
RETIREMENT.....	32
ELECTION AND SERVICE OF ELDERS AND DEACONS	32
REGULATION 30	33
WHO ELECTS.....	33
REGULATION 31	33
HOW THE ELECTION TAKES PLACE	33
ARTICLE 1.....	9
THE CHURCH	9
ARTICLE 2.....	9
CONFESSION OF FAITH.....	9
ARTICLE 3.....	9
MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.....	10
ARTICLE 4.....	10
MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.....	10
REGULATION 5	11
PROVE OF MEMBERSHIP.....	11
ARTICLE 6.....	11
OFFICES IN THE CONGREGATION.....	11
ARTICLE 7.....	12
MANAGEMENT OF THE CONGREGATION.....	12
ARTICLE 8.....	12
THE LINK BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS.....	12
ARTICLE 9.....	13
THE PRESBYTERY	13
ARTICLE 10.....	13
THE REGIONAL SYNOD.....	13
ARTICLE 11.....	14

THE GENERAL SYNOD	14
ARTICLE 12.....	15
THE CHURCH ‘S RELATIONSHIP	15
REGULATION 1	16
MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONGREGATION	16
REGULATION 2	16
LAPSE OF MEMBERSHIP AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH.....	16
REGULATION 3	16
TRANSFER FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS AND CHURCHES.....	16
REGULATION 4	17
BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.....	17
REGULATION 5	17
PROVE OF MEMBERSHIP.....	17
REGULATION 6.....	17
EXAMINATION COMMISSION FOR TURFLOOP	17
REGUALTION 7	19
ADMISSION TO THEOLOGICAL TRAINING	19
CALL OF MINISTERS.....	19
REGULATION 8	19
PRE-NEGOTIATIONS	19
REGULATION 9.....	20
WHO IS ELIGIBLE	20
REGULATION 10	20
WHO MAY CALL.....	20
REGULATION 11	21
PROCEDURE OF CALL	21
REGULATION 12	21
DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPESON IN CONNECTION WITH A CALL.....	21
REGULATION 13	22
OBJECTIONS AGAINST A CALL	22
REGULATON 14	22
TREATMENT OF OBJECTIONS AGAINST A CALL.....	22

REGULATION 15	23
LETTER OF CALL AND REPLY	23
REGULATION 16	23
CALL OR NOMINATION OF OFFICIALS IN SYNODICAL SERVICE.....	23
ORDAINED WORKERS	23
REGULATION 17	24
CALLING OF OFFICIALS WITH A SPECIFIC TASK WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF EXISTING CONGREGATIONS.....	24
REGULATION 18	24
INDUCTION OF MINISTERS.....	24
REGULATION 19	25
GRANTING OF DEMISSION	25
REGULATION 20	25
THE INDUCTION	25
REGULATION 21	26
NOTICE OF AN INDUCTION	26
REGULATION 22	26
EVANGELISTS.....	27
REGULATION 23	27
STATUS OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD	27
REGULATION 24	27
SEVERAGE OF THE BETWEEN SERVANTS OF THE WORD.....	27
AND CONGREGATION	27
PROCEDURES IN CASE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE MINISTER OF THE WORD. ...	28
ATTEMPTS BY CHURCH COUNCIL TO RESTORE PEACE	28
HEARING OF PARTIES AND PROPOSALS BY COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERY	28
SEVERAGE OF THE TIE BETWEEN CONGREGATION AND MINISTER OF THE WORD. ...	28
PAYMENT OF FAIR COMPENSATION.....	28
APPEAL TO REGIONAL SYNOD OR SYNODICAL COMMISSION	29
PROCEDURES OF SEVERANCE OF THE TIE DUE TO ILLNESS.....	29
THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A CHURCH COUNCIL OR A MAJOR MEETING TOWARDS THE MINISTER OF THE WORD.....	30

REGULATION 25	30
WHEN THE RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS.....	30
REGUALTION 26	30
THE CONTENTS OF THE RESPONSIBILITY	30
REGULATION 27	31
TENTMAKING MINISTRY	31
REGULATION 28	31
PENSION PRIVILEGES OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND CARE FOR THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.....	32
REGULATION 29	32
RETIREMENT.....	32
ELECTION AND SERVICE OF ELDERS AND DEACONS	32
REGULATION 30	33
WHO ELECTS.....	33
REGULATION 31	33
HOW THE ELECTION TAKES PLACE	33

ARTICLE 1

THE CHURCH

The Church of Jesus Christ is the community of believers who are called together by the Word of God and by His Holy Spirit. Those who have been called and who have been called and who form “Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa” are part of this Church of Christ. Together with all the other churches who confess Christ, this church has been set apart as a nation; as the people of God who belong to him and who have to proclaim the saving deeds of Him who called them from darkness unto light; as a new creation who lives in the light as He is the light.

ARTICLE 2

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- The “Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa” believes in the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who revealed Himself in Jesus Christ. This church believes that the Bible is the Word of God and is the full and trustworthy (reliable) witness of this revelation. This Church accepts that at certain times and in accordance with the Word of God creeds came into existence which interpret and state the faith of the Church of Christ.
- The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa accepts the ecumenical creeds viz. The Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, and by virtue of its own origins believes that the Confession Belgica (Netherlands Confession of Faith), the Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dordt, as handed down in history, give pure expression to her faith. It furthermore accepts the Confession of Belhar (9186), as demanded of her in the Southern African situation.
- The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa accepts that it has not completed its task of confession of faith. Changed circumstances and a better understanding of the Word of God in the future may lead to the acceptance of further articles of faith, or the revision of existing articles of faith.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

- Belief in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa.
- People who wish to join this Church do so publicly confessing faith before the Congregation and in the case of members from other recognized reformed churches by means of a membership certificate.
- Baptised children of communicants (practicing members) belong to the Church by Virtue of the covenant of grace. Such members will affirm their membership of the church by professing faith before the congregation.

ARTICLE 4

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

- The congregation forms a community of believers in a particular place to serve God, each other and the world.
- Service of God has a bearing on the whole life of the congregation and therefore includes service to each other and to the world. The nucleus or the core of the service of God is to be found in the coming together of the congregation round the Word of God and the sacraments. There God is worshipped and praised, His Word is listened to, sacraments are received, and all needs are brought to God in order to strengthen the believers in their faith and to prepare them for their service to each other and the world.
- The believers accept mutual responsibility for each other in their spiritual and Physical needs. The congregation lives as family of God in which all are inextricably bound to each other and share each other's joy and sorrow. Each considers the other as higher than himself and no one only cares about his own needs, but also about the needs of others. In this way they share each other's burdens and carry out the law of Christ.
- The congregation's service to humankind and the world consist in proclaiming God's Reconciling and liberating acts in and for the world; living out the love of Christ in the world; calling humankind to reconciliation with God, who is a particular way is the God of the Suffering, the poor and those who are wronged (victimize), by supporting people in any form of suffering and need, and by
- The church council must annually make copies of the baptism and membership Register and let these be checked by a commission of the church council, on behalf of the church council and signed and submitted at the ordinary meeting of Presbytery.

- Changes in the baptism and membership registers which are requested after the Annual copies have been handed to Presbytery, must be approved by the church council and with submission of the necessary documentation be send to the church administrator together with the amount of ten rand per application and if everything is found to be in order he/ she will effect the necessary changes in the documents of the church archivers and inform the church council accordingly.

REGULATION 5

PROVE OF MEMBERSHIP

- Where members move to other congregations, or transfer their membership to Recognized churches, certificates or testimonials of membership will be issued to them according to the prescribed form and signed by a minister or clerk of the church council.
- If a prove of membership is lost, a duplicate maybe issued with annotation that it is A duplicate.
- As soon as a member leaves a congregation, privilege of membership in that Congregation will lapse. At the departure of a member from a congregation notification will be given to the congregation where the member is moving to and the latter congregation will acknowledge receipt of the afore mentioned particulars.

ARTICLE 6

OFFICES IN THE CONGREGATION

- In order to render the congregation's service more effective, members may be elected By virtue of spiritual gifts (charismata) and God calling thereto – to serve in one or more of the congregation's services.
- Such members shall officially take charge in the services for which they have been selected. The offices of teaching and managing elder and of deacon may be used for these purposes. The particular circumstances of a congregations or congregations should always be borne in mind in developing other offices.
- Although the office of teaching elder or minister of the Word is based on service in the Community of believers and these persons are elected for this task by the congregation itself, this office has requirements which necessitate special preparation and training. The preparation and

training are the responsibility of all the congregation which elected him/her but may also be used in other congregations who call him/her.

- Because office bearers perform a service in and to the congregation, the congregation shall decide who will fill the offices.

ARTICLE 7

MANAGEMENT OF THE CONGREGATION

Jesus Christ rules His Church through His Word and the Holy Spirit. The office of believers forms the basis of all other offices in the church. For this reason the congregation itself elects a church council consisting of deacons and elders from among its practicing members. The church council is entrusted with the management (running), supervision and discipline of the congregation and the leadership in the various ministries in the congregation.

- deals with all matters pertaining to worship, instruction, joint (communal) care, witnessing and service in the community;
- disciplines members of the congregation with the exception of elected office bearers;
- lays down procedures and rule for activities entrusted to it
- may, if desired, call a meeting of the congregation as a whole in a way decided by each congregation.

ARTICLE 8

THE LINK BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS

As an expression of the unity of the church, congregations come, by means of representatives, together in church meetings by virtue of Christ's command to serve each other. The purpose of these meetings is joint consultation on matters that affect all congregations. These meetings form a visible link between congregations. Two types of such meetings may be distinguished: the Presbytery and the Synod. Depending on circumstances, the Synods may have a broad or narrow character. In the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa there will be a General synod and Regional synods.

ARTICLE 9

THE PRESBYTERY

Representatives of congregations shall meet as Presbytery at times and in a manner as decided by the regional synod. This meeting shall:

- deliberate on joint action with regard to the responsibility of the congregations towards each other and towards the community and society in which the congregations find themselves;
- 9.2 deliberate on ways in which the congregations may be prepared and equipped spiritually and materially for joint service;
- report on how the congregations have carried out their responsibilities;
- deal with disciplinary matters regarding Ministers of the Word and the elected offices;
- the founding and dissolution of congregations and the determination of the boundaries of congregations;
- deal with matter of the calling and retirement of ministers of the Word;
- lay down procedures and rules for the activities entrusted to it.
- Regional synod shall determine the boundaries of the Presbytery.

ARTICLE 10

THE REGIONAL SYNOD

The representatives of congregations shall meet as Regional synod at times and in Manner decided by the Regional synod. This meeting shall

- deliberate on joint action by the congregations with regard to the activities that cannot be dealt with by the Presbytery;
- decide on disciplinary matters and appeals;
- 10.3 give attention to the particular needs of congregations that cannot be handled by the Presbytery;
- lay down procedures and rules for the activities entrusted to it;

- undertake other matters that are referred to it by the Presbytery.
- The general synod shall, on submission of involved regional synods, determine the Boundaries of the regional synod.

ARTICLE 11

THE GENERAL SYNOD

Representatives of regional synods, consisting of the four members of the Moderamen Of each regional synod and one minister of the Word and one church council member From every presbytery within the boundaries of each regional synod, shall meet as General synod at times and in manner decided by the General synod. This meeting Shall deal with all matters pertaining to

- the doctrinal standard of the church, on condition that any change to the doctrinal standards of the church can only be made after two-thirds of all the General synod has decided in favour therefore;
- the church order, on condition that any change or addition thereto can only be made after two-thirds of the Regional synods have approved the change and the General synod has decided in favour thereof with a two- thirds majority;
- the formularies to be used in worship;
- 11.4 training of ministers of the Word;
- 11.5 ecumenical relations with other Christian churches within or outside the area represented by the General Synod;
- the church 's service to and involvement in the world and society;
- procedures and rules for activities entrusted to it;
- matters referred to it by regional synods;
- in the matter of disciplinary action related to doctrinal matters adjudicate on appeals brought before it;
- actively executive the Biblical instruction on Church Unity by involvement in and initiation of church unity process with other churches of the reformed confession.

- The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa is, in terms of its Constitution, a body corporate. Its legal person exists in the church meetings namely the church council, presbytery, regional synod and general synod each being the legal owner of its property and funds and having the right to act in civil law.

ARTICLE 12

THE CHURCH 'S RELATIONSHIP

- The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa is part of a society in which as an Institution among other institutions and social structures such as the state, the school, industry and others, it lives and works. In so far as the legal order that is in force in society does not conflict with the Word of God, the Church lives in agreement with it.
- At the same time the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa demands that her Inalienable right to freedom in exercise of her ministry and worship and the organization of her institution by virtue of her own profession shall be recognized by the authorities.
- The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa sees it as her kingly task to be and Set example to humankind and society in obedient application of the demands of God's Word in regard to love of neighbour, the exercise of justice and realization of a reconciliation, and the pursuit of true peace in her own life. This Church sees it as her prophetic task to proclaim these demands of God's Word as they have a bearing on society as a whole and on individual institutions, particular the state without respect for persons. This Church see it as her task to pray and intercede for the government and society and to intervene on behalf of the suffering, the poor, the wronged and the oppressed within this society, amongst others by way of organized service.
- The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa moreover has a special relationship With all other ecclesiastic institutions in society. This Church wishes to exercise communion with all these churches in so far a this is possible within the boundaries of the ecumenical confessions. In exercising this communion, which will take place at congregation, presbytery and synod level, the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa is striving towards the full revelation of the unity of the Church of Christ so that, in Jesus' words, " the world shall know that You have sent me and love them as You love me" (John 12:23).

**UNITING REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,
SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL
SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS TO THE CHURCH ORDER**

REGULATION 1

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONGREGATION

Entrance to full membership of a congregation is controlled by the church council and is granted on account of a sincere faith in Christ and a certain knowledge of scripture and the doctrine of the church and after, in the presence of the congregation, questions regarding the form for the confession of faith have been answered in the affirmative.

REGULATION 2

LAPSE OF MEMBERSHIP AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH

- Confessing and baptized members continue to belong to a congregation until they have, by means of church discipline, been ex-communicated or until they have in writing terminated their ties with the church.
- If members do not formally separate themselves from the church, but are still, in the judgement of the church council, guilty of breach of the promise of membership, then the church council will deal with them according to the directives of church discipline.

REGULATION 3

TRANSFER FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS AND CHURCHES

- Transfer from one congregation of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa to another takes place by proof of membership or attestation. A minister from another church of Reform Confession becomes, after induction and submission of attestation in the Uniting Reform Church in Southern Africa, a member of the particular congregation.
- Person who desire to come over to the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa from other churches, will present a proof of membership from their previous church to the Church council after which each case will be treated on merit at a meeting of the church council.
- Those who demonstrate the required knowledge regarding faith, doctrine and Confession will be acknowledged as full members
- Those who do not meet the requirements put to our own members, will be taken

Up into the catechism class for further teaching until they have reached the necessary requirements and will thereafter do confession of faith.

REGULATION 4

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

- The church council takes care of the proper maintenance of a baptism and Membership register in each congregation.
- The church council must annually make copies of the baptism and membership Register and let these be checked by a commission of the church council, on behalf of the church from the church council accordingly.

REGULATION 5

PROVE OF MEMBERSHIP

- Where members move to other congregations, or transfer their membership to recognized churches, certificates or testimonials of membership will be issued to them according to the prescribed form and signed by a minister or clerk of the church council.
- If a prove of membership is lost, a duplicate may be issued with annotation that it is a duplicate.
- As soon as a member leaves a congregation, privilege of membership in that Congregation will lapse. At the departure of a member from a congregation notification will be given to the congregation where the member is moving to and the latter congregation will acknowledge receipt of the afore-mentioned particulars.
- Members who settle elsewhere, will continuously be reminded that they need to submit prove of membership without delay.

REGULATION 6

EXAMINATION COMMISSION FOR TURFLOOP

- The composition and actions of the examination commission are contained in the bylaws of the Turfloop Theological School.
- Colloquium Doctum (Doctrinal investigation) The commission will, when Requested, hold a colloquium doctum with, and let the form of signatures be signed by
 - minister of the word who for fitted their status and who again, along the prescribed way, received permission from the commission to announce themselves;
 - minister of the word who after dismissal, are again reinstated in their offices by regional synod;
 - minister of the word who, with retention of status, for the purpose of advance studies were out of the active ministry;
 - ministers of the word from other reformed denominations who's training are recognized, who present themselves for service in the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa;
- the commission will admit those who pass the colloquium doctum to the ministry in accordance with the bylaws of the Turfloop Theological School.
- The commission will send all applications for the retention of the status to the Permanent commission for church law of the general synod.
- A member of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, who did not Receive the necessary theological training, may in highly exceptional case apply to be licenced on condition that the following requirements have been met.
 - A unanimous recommendations of the church council of the congregation where He/she re.... With a clear report of reasons to the Presbytery concerned.
 - The unanimous recommendation with report of reasons by the Presbytery to the Regional synod concerned.
 - After approval by the regional synod, a thorough investigation into his/ her Knowledge of scripture and ability to preach by the examination commission of one of the theological institutions of the URCSA.
 - A unanimous recommendation from the examination commission to a governing Body (curatorium) who will decide whether the person will be licensed immediately or whether a theological training of shorter or longer duration will have to be followed.

- After licensing the general synod or the general synodically commission will decide
On the area within which he/she will be eligible for call.

REGULATION 7

ADMISSION TO THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

It is necessary that the church itself will carefully note who are being allowed to theological schools therefore

- candidates will have to be members for at least three years of a congregation of the URCSA and recommended by the church council to Presbytery.
- Presbytery (or the Presbytery commissions) must decide who are being admitted To theological training on recommendation from the local church council.
- The Rector must determine whether the candidate complies the requirement for Admission as determined by the central governing body.
- This rule will also apply to students who have been expelled and who desire to Continue their studies.

CALL OF MINISTERS

REGULATION 8

PRE-NEGOTIATIONS

- Before a call is directed to a minister, the church council consider whether financial support will be needed from outside of the congregation in order to provide the person called with the necessary means of sustenance.
- Should assistance be required from outside of the congregation, then church Council will get in touch with the particular body from which assistance will be obtained. Conditions for the call will be determined in writing as well as the amount for which each of the parties take responsibility. These decisions will be carefully noted in the minutes of the church council.
- Church councils making use of financial assistance from outside of the

Congregation will be obliged to report at least annually to the particularly source of financial assistance about the work done in the area for which subsidy has been given.

REGULATION 9

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- Only ministers admitted to the ministry by the responsible commission are eligible.
- 9.2 Names of ministers of whom the call to a particular congregation has been invalidated will for the duration of the vacancy not be included in the list of nominations.

REGULATION 10

WHO MAY CALL

- The calling of ministers for separate congregations is done through the church Council under chairpersonship of a co-minister or a interim-minister and takes place at a meeting announced on two consecutive Sundays at a public worship service, with mention of the purpose of the meeting. The church council will have the right everytime when a call is executed to determine the date fro a next meeting to call with the possibility that the initial call could be declined. Of such a meeting notice need only be given on one Sunday simultaneously with the announcement that the previous call was declined. In newly established congregations a call maybe made immediately after church council members have been inducted.
- Where two or more congregations has agreed to cal a minister together (congregations in combination) the call will be made by the respective church councils who will meet together or representatives of the particular church councils authorized by the calling church councils after regulation 8 above has been compiled with. Prior to the call it would also be decided which duties the minister will fulfill and where.
- Minister who are not called to a specific congregation but to an extraordinary

Field of service will be called by the particular joint meeting under whose supervision the work will fall or by a commission of the particular joint meeting which has been dually authorized.

REGULATION 11

PROCEDURE OF CALL

- The calling of ministers will take place by secret ballot and with an outright Majority of the votes of those who are entitled to vote and who are present from a nomination list on which the meeting may place as many names as is desirable.
- At the first round of voting all those who are entitled to vote will cast one vote for One of the names on the nomination list. And if nobody at the first round receives a outright majority a second round will take place where the names of all those who received two or more votes during the first round will be voted for.
- If at this stage nobody has received a outright majority as yet a further round will Take place and voting will be done for the names that received the highest number of votes and who together form a outright majority of votes.
- If even at this stage no outright majority of votes is being obtained two semi-Finalists will be identified namely having received the highest number of votes respectively. If two or more names have received the same number of votes then there would first be voted between those who have the same number of votes in order to decide who will qualify as semi-finalists.
- The final voting will be done from the two semi-finalists who have thus been Identified and if equal numbers of votes is received by each candidate then the lot will be cast to decide who has been called.

REGULATION 12

DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON IN CONNECTION WITH A CALL

- The chairperson of a meeting who exercises a call will exercise strong oversight That there would be no agreement or appoint connected with the call. Church Council members will be obliged to bring any irregularity in this regard to the Attention of the chairperson.
- The chairperson of the meeting marking the call will immediately give notice to

Person who has been called about the call extended to him/her and will also send a notification about the call to the official organ as well as of the acceptance or decline of the call by the person called.

- The chairperson is responsible for the dispatch of the letter of call to the person Called and this must happen after the call has been announced on two consecutive Sundays to the congregation without their being any objections raised against the call.

REGULATION 13

OBJECTIONS AGAINST A CALL

- Any confessing member of the calling congregation (or congregations in the case Of combinations) who are not under discipline have the right until the end of the day of the second announcement of the call to submit written objection mentioning reasons to the church council and dealing with particular complaints against the doctrine or life of the person called or on account of objections against irregularities that took place when the call was extended.
- Objections to a call may also be submitted by any member of the Presbytery to The chairperson and clerk of Presbytery that may, on account of irregularities that took place during the extension of the call or on the other grounds, may refuse to approve the call ecclesiastically.

REGULATION 14

TREATMENT OF OBJECTIONS AGAINST A CALL

- All objections being raised against a call will immediately be conveyed to the Clerk of Presbytery and the Presbytery committee will without delay look into the objections.
- If these objections deal with irregularities in connection with the extension of the Call the Presbytery committee will give judgement and will notify the church council of its decision.
- All objections raised against the life and doctrine of the person called will be dealt With by the Presbytery under who's supervision and discipline the particular person stands. In addition to such a call been declared invalid further disciplinary action against the person called could be considered by the particular Presbytery.

- If the church council receives notification that a particular call should be regarded as having lapsed the chairperson of the church council will notify the person called in writing and will notify the congregation accordingly and will immediately call a meeting to make another call.

REGULATION 15

LETTER OF CALL AND REPLY

- If the announcement of a call takes place without hindrance or if objections brought against a call appears to be unfounded then the letter of call, according to the prescribed form and signed by the members of the church council, will be sent to the person called who will within a week after receipt thereof, announce his/her decision whether he/she accepts or declines the call, except if he/she has received extension for one week from the calling church council.
- A call that has been accepted in writing and/or by announcement to the congregation may only be withdrawn by the person called with permission by both church councils involved. If necessary the Presbytery committee will act as a mediator in this regard.

REGULATION 16

CALL OR NOMINATION OF OFFICIALS IN SYNODICAL SERVICE

ORDAINED WORKERS

- Officials who under supervision of the regional synod will serve the church in a wider connection and a particular field of service will be called or nominated by the Synodical Commission under instruction of the regional synod and in co-operation of the particular commission of the regional synod that will supervise the determined field of service. The latter will also have the right to add names to the list of nominations from which a call will be extended.
- The Synodical Commission will, in co-operation with the commission concerned, determine the amount for sustenance and subsidies of such officials, provide for the way on which funds will be generated for this purpose and take care that each of these respective officials are members of the pension scheme of the church.
- Such ministers who serve in scenario service with specific tasks under supervision

Of and in conjunction with the particular commission of the regional synod that supervises the particular fields of service, are ex-office members of those commissions and annually report on their activities to those commissions.

- Regarding doctrine and life these officials will fall under the supervision and Discipline of the church council and Presbytery where they resigned.
- **NON-ORDAINED WORKERS**
- Where confessing members who are not minister of the word are nominated in Synodical posts the above regulations will be observed in as far as it is applicable and the rest will be amended to suit circumstances.
- The particular commission may during their recess make appointments and Retrenchments in existing posts and submit these actions for cindonation to the Synodical commission.
- The creation of new posts will first be approved by Synodical commission.

16.4 In combined actions the Synodical commissions of the two regional synods jointly or in turn will extend a call (see regulation 6.1)

REGULATION 17

CALLING OF OFFICIALS WITH A SPECIFIC TASK WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF EXISTING CONGREGATIONS

In view of the extension of a particular field of service within the boundaries of an existing congregation, for example a synodical missionary action, or in view of the ministry to nurses, prisoners etc. within the boundaries of a congregation the joint meetings and their respective commissions may in accordance with regulation 9 negotiate with the particular church council and provide financial assistance for the call or appointment of workers.

REGULATION 18

INDUCTION OF MINISTERS

- The induction takes place after approval of the congregation by means of announcement has been obtained; approval on behalf of Presbytery has been

obtained (cf. Reg 20.2); the Deed of Demission, the letter of Call and the reply have been submitted.

- The induction of the minister in the new field of service must take place as soon as possible but not later than six weeks after he/she has received his/her demission, unless permission has been granted by the calling body and the Presbytery Commission concerned.
- In the case of candidate ministers the Deed of Admission has to be furnished and the induction takes place with the laying on of hands.
- The signing of the Forms of Unity, the three Ecumenical Confession and the Confession of Belhar is required from ministers who have been out of service for longer than a year.

REGULATION 19

GRANTING OF DEMISSION

- If a call is accepted, the Church Council of the congregation to which the called Person was attached will, on his/her request, discharge him/her from his/her a Deed of Demission in accordance with the prescribed form, signed by the chairperson and all the members of the meeting that is granting demission.
- If the person called served the church in a wider respect, the chairperson and Clerk of the commission that called him/her, will, on behalf of that commission, issue a Deed of Demission to him/her.
- The interim minister will inform the clerk of Presbytery of the demission. The Clerk of Presbytery or the Commission will inform the Administrator of the demission granted to a minister.

REGULATION 20

THE INDUCTION

- The induction of a minister takes place by the chairperson of the church council

Or the interim minister of the congregation or by another minister of a congregation within the same denomination who have been orderly requested to do so.

- The induction takes place after the clerk of Presbytery, or in his/her absence, a Member of the Presbytery committee, had insight into the letter of call, the reply thereto and the act of demission or in the case of a candidate for the ministry, the deed of licencing, and gave written approval.
- The induction of office bearers in extra-ordinary service is being overseen by the Relevant commission of the higher body under who's auspicious they will minister.

REGULATION 21

NOTICE OF AN INDUCTION

- 21.1 The chairperson of the calling meeting will give notice of the induction to the clerk of Presbytery and will send him/her the relevant documents.
- The clerk of Presbytery declares the minister as a member of Presbytery.
- 21.3 The clerk of Presbytery or the secretary of the particular commission of the higher body notifies the administrator of synod of the induction of the minister with mention of his/her previous and current address as well as his/her number as marriage officer. The administrator gives, in case of ministers notice to the state of
- the change of official post and, in the case of candidates for the ministry applies appointment as marriage officers by the state. The administrator will maintain a register for the arrival and departure of ministers.
- The clerk of Presbytery or the commission will send the necessary documents, Including the approval of the call and declaration as member of Presbytery to the Actuary with mention of the address of the minister inducted. An deed of induction will be issued on the prescribed form to all person who are inducted as ministers of the Word for the first time. The relevant documents will be returned to the persons concerned.

REGULATION 22

EVANGELISTS

- As evangelists are recognised only persons who have been admitted to the service Of evangelists by the examinations commission.
- Evangelist are being elected by the church council by means of closed ballot, as Requested by the prescribed form, and inducted in service after submission of a letter/deed of demission or the certificate of evangelists/deed of admission in the case of a first induction.

REGULATION 23

STATUS OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD

The status of ministers of the Word is being regulated by the relevant regulations of the general synod. These regulations also applies to evangelists.

REGULATION 24

SEVERAGE OF THE BETWEEN SERVANTS OF THE WORD

AND CONGREGATION

- If a minister of the Word is no longer able to serve his/her congregation towards Edification and there appears to be no reason for the application of church discipline Presbytery may sever the tie between him and the congregation when, according to judgement from Presbytery, provision for him/her and his/her family has been made. In this instance he/she retains his/her status and he/she remains eligible. The normal salary plus half of the traveling allowance for a period of six months until the date when the minister of the Word is inducted in another congregation, whichever the shortest period of the two may be, is been regarded as fair.
- The principle of complete dismissal of the office by the regional synod. If the Church council and Presbytery judge that a minister of the Word, without there being reasons for granting retirement status or application of church discipline, is not able to serve the congregation towards edification, a complete dismissal of the office may only follow after the regional synod with at least a two thirds majority has confirmed the judgement. Towards the maintenance of the dismissed and his/her family the church council will undertake a fair return which in the

judgement of the regional synods is fair and which has been determined by the latter.

PROCEDURES IN CASE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE MINISTER OF THE WORD.

ATTEMPTS BY CHURCH COUNCIL TO RESTORE PEACE

When without a particular charge against the doctrine and life of a minister of the Word dissatisfaction prevails in a congregation, it is the duty of the church council regards it as necessary the assistance of one or two minister of the Word, with the Agreement of the parties involved are being called upon for assistance.

- If the peace can however not be restored and a situation has arisen which makes the fruitful ministry of the minister of the Word largely impossible, or him/her unacceptable to the congregation or a larger part thereof, or causes that he/she and the church council cannot cooperate, the committee of Presbytery will, on request of any of the parties involved or by order of Presbytery investigate the matter.

HEARING OF PARTIES AND PROPOSALS BY COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERY

The committee of Presbytery will hear all parties concerned and will make proposals to restore the normal order in the congregation. Hasty action should be guarded against and amicable resolutions of differences should always be sought.

SEVERANCE OF THE TIE BETWEEN CONGREGATION AND MINISTER OF THE WORD.

- If serious problems continue regardless of the executions of regulations 24.3.1 and 24.3.2 and the spiritual interests of the congregation are increasingly neglected and it further appears clear that all possibilities of reconciliation are excluded, then Presbytery will sever the tie between the congregation and the minister of the Word.
- Severance of the tie takes place at a meeting of Presbytery, after the latter has ascertained the inevitability of the step by listening to all evidence regarding the matter.

PAYMENT OF FAIR COMPENSATION.

The church council will pay the minister of the Word a fair monetary compensation determined by Presbytery (see regulation 24.1 mentioned above).

When Presbytery finally severs the tie between the minister of the Word and his/her congregation and the minister concerned should appeal, then the church council is being exempted from remunerating such an official. Should the appeal be upheld by the higher body and peace between the minister and the congregation is joint meeting restored, he/she will then be remunerated accordingly.

- The minister of the Word will retain his/her status as minister of the Word but Will, if he/she does not accept a call within one year, will again have to undersign the forms and confession referred to in regulation 18.2 above and again to a colloquium doctum before the call is approved. The congregation and presbytery where the particular minister resides, will report to the actuary and commission for Church Law regarding his/her circumstances.

APPEAL TO REGIONAL SYNOD OR SYNODICAL COMMISSION

If one or both of the parties feel themselves unjustly treated by the attempts of Presbytery then the objections will be tabled by him/her at the regional synod or the synodical commission who will deal with matters according to their judgement.

PROCEDURES OF SEVERANCE OF THE TIE DUE TO ILLNESS

- When a meeting of Presbytery may have reasons to suspect that a minister of the Word due to the weakening of intellectual abilities or physical weakness is no longer in a position to conduct his/her ministry properly, then the Presbytery commission will if necessary investigate the matter.
- Where such a minister of the Word is found to be unsound mind or prevented By physical weakness to exercise his/her office. The Presbyterian committee reports to Presbytery, and Presbytery attempts to persuade him/her in an way to take rest fro a period of half a year: If these attempts are however fruitless, Presbytery or the Presbytery commission may; after the latter has been provided with a certificate from a medical doctor, put such a minister of the Word out service for the said period ministers of the Word in the Presbytery to officiate in his/her office.
- Before half a year is over Presbytery again investigates whether he/she may Resume his/her activities while, in case Presbytery has no confidence in this regard such a minister may again for a period of one year in similar fashion be put of service in the exercise of his/her office, unless after appropriate investigation it may appear that hope for recovery is totally excluded.
- After the latter period the minister of the Word, at continued unsound mind or Physical weakness is being dismissed in honour with retention of pension.

- All similar arrangements are subject to higher appeal.
- All the above regulations are also applicable to evangelists.

THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A CHURCH COUNCIL OR A MAJOR MEETING TOWARDS THE MINISTER OF THE WORD.

REGULATION 25

WHEN THE RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS

- All obligations of a congregation towards ministers of the Word, including his/her leave must be dealt with by the date of his/her demission or dismissal.
- The responsibility of the calling church council begins from the date of the Demission of the minister of the Word from his/her previous congregation. It also applies in the case of the death of the person called even if he/she has not been inducted in his/her new congregation.

REGUALTION 26

THE CONTENTS OF THE RESPONSIBILITY

- The calling meeting will be responsible for the transport cost of the minister of the Word and his/ her family and furniture to new field of work and will see to it that the minister of the Word receives a fair sustenance (with the synodical scale as guidelines) as well as annual leave of six weeks.
- If a minister of the Word departs within two years (after date of previous induction) to another field of work, he/she will be responsible for defying the costs of his/her previous move. If a church council agrees that a minister of the Word may have a part-time occupation to supplement his/her income, an agreement will be submitted to Presbytery for approval.

REGULATION 27

TENTMAKING MINISTRY

- The church council of a needy congregation may enter into an agreement with a Minister of the Word to enter, in addition to his/her service in the congregation, also accept another permanent paid job, on condition that a written agreement has been entered into with the permission of Presbytery.
- The Presbytery commission may approve such an agreement on behalf of Presbytery on condition that is as unanimous decision if not the proposed agreement will be referred to a meeting of Presbytery for a decision.
- The agreement regarding such a tentmaking ministry will outline the work that is Expected from the particular minister of the Word, as well as adapted conditions from the side of the church council regarding his/her remuneration.
- The working accepted by the particular minister of the Word, must be of such a Nature that it does not clash with his/her dignity as minister of the Word. It should also not endanger his/her status as minister of the Word by him/her accepting service to a management body of a political party or him/her made available as a candidate in a nomination or election campaign.
- The requirements which such work may put to the particular minister of the Word must be of such a nature that it leaves room for his/her ministry in the congregation and should in particular make it possible for him/her to serve the Word on Sundays and Christian holy days and to administer the sacraments and to attend meetings of the church council, Presbytery and Synod.
- The fact that the minister of the Word of a congregation practices the tentmaking Ministry, will be taken into account by the Regional Synod and its commissions when the congregation applies for financial assistance with regard to the particular post and preference will be given to applications of needy congregations where no tentmaking ministry is being practiced.
- Presbytery will at each ordinary meeting investigate whether the financial Situation of the congregation is still such that a tentmaking ministry is required.

REGULATION 28

PENSION PRIVILEGES OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND CARE FOR THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

- Each church council and commission that call or appoint minister of the Word will be obliged to see to it that her/she is registered with the pension scheme and will also take care of the monthly payment of contributions to the pension scheme.
- When a minister of the Word, who is still in service, dies and she/he leaves behind a widow/widower and/or dependant children, they will for six months be entitled to the full sustenance and all allowance including the privilege of free accommodation as would have been paid normally to the minister of the Word.

REGULATION 29

RETIREMENT

- A minister of the Word who retires or who obtained retention of status From the permanent commission for church law in advance, is being relieved of his ties with the congregation by the Presbytery commission after announcement in this regard has been made on two consecutive Sundays the Presbytery commission will notify the interim minister concerning the issuing of the mission or dismissal. A deed of demission or dismissal will be handled according to the prescribed form adapted to the demand of circumstances.
- The Presbytery commission will before demission is granted first obtain information of the administrator of the church regarding the question whether the retiring minister of the Word may receive pension and will make a statement in this regard at the issuing of a deed of demission or dismissal.
- The scribe of Presbytery will in all cases of retirement give notice to the Administrator of the church in order to enable the latter to inform their registrar of marriages.
- People who enter the ministry should always bear in mind that they may retire at The age of sixty, where the age of sixty five are reached minister of the Word must retire.

ELECTION AND SERVICE OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

REGULATION 30

WHO ELECTS

- The election of church council members takes place in existing congregations at a church council meeting being announced in the public worship service at two consecutive Sundays with mention of this specific service.
- The election of church council members in newly established congregations takes place at a meeting of members which has been called together two weeks earlier in the official organ by the Presbytery commission and which takes place under the supervision of the latter. At this meeting which can be held simultaneously with the meeting to establish the congregation all confessing members residing within the boundaries of the new congregation are eligible to vote.

REGULATION 31

HOW THE ELECTION TAKES PLACE

- At the election of members of the church council no previous arrangements may be made but the church council will have right to nominate a commission for pre-advice who could submit to the meeting of the church council names of members who could be nominated for the particular vacancies.
- The election of church council members will, except in the case of first council Members of a newly established congregation, take place with secret ballot and then as follows.

A nomination list is formed on which each member may put as many names as He/she may wish, in addition to the names recommended by the commission for pre-advice.

If there are more names on the nomination list than the number that needs to be Elected, each member

If there are more names on the nomination list than the number that needs to be Elected, each member will put as many names on the ballot as need to be elected. Those who obtain an outright majority of votes are elected. If the required number is not reached then the remaining names on the nomination list will be voted for until the required number of people are elected with outright majority. If the votes of the final count are equally divided the lot will decide who will be elected.

Where the availability of suitable candidates permits, care will be taken that no **husband and wife, parent and child, parent-in-law or daughter-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law are simultaneously serving as members of the church council.**

The election of members of the church council of newly established church councils will take place as follows. The congregational meeting decides how many church council members need to be elected, then form a nomination list from nomination list. Those who obtained the most votes are elected. In view of a possible submission of complaints, it needs to be mentioned when those elected will be inducted in their offices.

REGULATION 32
THE TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

All members of the church council are elected for two years and are eligible for re-election afterwards. The term of office of every member of the church council will be calculated independently until the end of the second full church year after his/her induction. After a member of the church council have served for two consecutive terms, he/she will if possible not be eligible for re-election before/he she has rested for one year.

Church council members remain in service until their successors are abducted. This does however not apply to church council members who have resigned and who's resignation has been unconditionally accepted by the church council.

In the case of first church council members of a newly established congregation Half the number will be decided by the lot to retire at the end of the first full church year.

REGULATION 33
APPROVAL AND OBJECTIONS BY THE CONGREGATION

The names of those who have been elected as members of the church council, will Be announced on two consecutive Sundays in the public worship service in order to enquire whether any member of the congregation objects against the election of the members of the church council.

Any confessing member of the congregation, who is not under discipline has the Right to submit written objection against one or more of those elected to the chairperson of the church council before or on the day of the second announcement.

If an objection against one or more of those elected is submitted with the Chairperson of the church council he/she will as soon as possible call a meeting of the church council. Should the church council find that the objection is valid, then the election of the said person will laps and somebody else will be elected in his/her place as soon as possible. If they find the objection to be without any grounds the induction of the particular person may take place.

If objection is lodged against the objection against the election of one or more of The first church council members of a newly established congregation then their induction will be postpone until the church council had the opportunity to consider the matter.

REGULATION 34

INDUCTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members who are prepared to accept their election as church council members
And against whom no objections have been lodged or proven, have to reply within one week
after the second announcement of their names whether they accept the election and they must
then been inducted thereafter as soon as possible.

The induction then takes place on behalf of the church council by the chairperson
Of the church council or the interim minister or a minister of chairperson of the church council
or the interim minister or minister of another congregation within the denomination who have
been requested to do so.

Church council members who have been re-elected must again be inducted.

34.4 Nobody may be inducted as a church council member before he/she has submitted
 prove of membership.

ECCLESIASTICAL GATHERINGS

REGULATION 35

RULES OF ORDER FOR ECCLESIASTICAL GATHERINGS

The following rules of order will be taken into account by all ecclesiastical gatherings, and
wherever it can be applicable, to all meetings of church ecclesiastical commissions.

All meetings should have a chairperson who is responsible for leading the meeting
And for the orderly conduct of the meeting and a scribe/clerk who will record the acts of the
meeting and who will execute instructions.

All meetings will be held with open doors if it has not been decided otherwise.

35.3 All members are obliged to attend the meetings and if, they are not present, to
 give notice of their absence stating the grounds.

 The outright majority of members of a meeting forms a quorum unless decided
otherwise. At the application of church discipline two thirds of the members of the church
council forms a quorum.

 Members may not leave the meeting without permission of the chairperson.

 After the opening of the meeting the agenda is fixed. Additions can take place with

35.7 The chairperson will put the matters to be discussed to the meeting and in order
which appears to him/her to most suitable. He/she supplies all necessary information and will, if

the matter requires, make recommendations to guide the meeting towards a decision.

When two or more members asked for a term to speak, the chairperson will decide on the order in which the members speak.

A motion of order has to entail a proposal about the order in which matters are Put on the table, or the conclusion or bear in mind the conclusion of discussion on a particular point, or a proposal that a particular matter is no longer to be discussed and may at any time during the continuation of the discussion be submitted. However it has to be left to the judgement of the chairperson to refuse the motion if he/she is of the opinion that it is been used to prevent a proper discussion of the subject. If the discussion of the chairperson is disputed, then the mover of the motion of order may insist on a testing of the feelings of the meeting.

In the discussion each member will address himself/herself to the chairperson And refrain from all that could be in conflict with the dignity of an ecclesiastical gathering.

On a matter which is being discussed, only one proposal at a time could serve Before the meeting. Amendments to the proposal could be submitted and have to Do with the amending of, addition to or omission of the proposal. The proposal And amendments have to be seconded and may only be withdrawn with the Permission of the meeting. If the proposal is withdrawn all the amendments Subsequently lapse.

Each matter will be voted for and against and will be decided on by an outright Majority of votes. When a proposal and different amendments in connection with The same matter are tabled, the chairperson will first let the principal entailed In the proposal be voted for and then the matters touched by the amendments will First be voted on and subsequently in rising order. Amendments accepted will Change the original proposal. Thereafter the original (if all amendments are Rejected) or the amended proposal will be voted for or against. All matters will be Decided on with a outright majority of votes of those eligible to vote present.

No number may without the permission of the meting abstain from voting. The Chairperson will cast his/her vote last and if a equal number of votes is obtained, give a deciding vote. Persons who attend the meeting in advisory capacity, have the right to participate in discussion but may not vote. Every member is free with or without stating reasons to request that is being recorded that he/she voted against a particular proposal or amendments or that he/she was not present when a particular decision was taken.

Unless a decision on account of an unopposed motion is immediately taken into Revision, it could be in the case of a major gathering only be discussed with prior Notice and with permission of the meeting and in the case of the church council, at

A next meeting. When the motion for revision is put on the table, the proposer

will

Receive a fair opportunity to explain why he/she request revision.

Each gathering will decide which commissions will be elected for by closed ballot And which are being nominated on presentation. The nomination of commission of advise nominated for this purpose. At regional Synods the nomination of permanent commissions still takes place on presentation of a commission on which all Presbyteries, preferably the respective clerks, are represented.

35.16 The minutes of ecclesiastical gatherings will be read, approved and signed as follows:

The minutes of church council meeting is approved at the next meeting and signed By all members present.

The minutes of meetings of Presbytery will at the commencement of the next day Session be approved and signed by the chairperson and the clerk but at the last session be signed by all members.

The minutes of the regional Synod will be signed after each days session by the Moderation but that of the last session by all members.

While a meeting continues the primarius and secundus members may substitute Each with full voting except in a case where a particular matter is being discussed.

All meetings are opened and closed with prayer and/or reading of scripture.

It is expected of all office bearers to attend ecclesiastical gatherings and worship Services dressed with dignity as far as possible with dark suit and white tie.

Servants of the Word, will where possible when leading the worship service, Officiate at weddings and the ordination and induction of ministers, where a toga.

With regard to the minuting and general activities the official languages will be Afrikaans and English. Church councils can be independently decide of which language they want to avail themselves.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL AND ITS MEETINGS

REGULATION 36

COMPOSITION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council will comprise at least three elders and two deacons. The Church council itself decide how many members there will be. The number of elders may not be

less than the number of deacons.

Evangelist are after their induction members of the church council.

36.3 The quorum of the church council is one more than half of the total of members of the church council.

REGULATION 37

MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of the church council takes place after announcement of the Public worship service at least two consecutive Sundays.

Extra ordinary meetings of the church council are being called by the Chairperson With written notice to all members, when written or oral application is made to him/her with reasons stated by at least three members of the church council or when he/she judges it as necessary.

REGULATION 38

THE INTERIM MINISTER AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE

MEETING

The interim minister will only act as chairperson of the church council meeting When the congregation is vacant or when he/she is being requested thereto by the minister or the church council.

It is being expected that a interim minister will visit a vacant congregation at least Four times a year with a view of charing church council meetings and serving the Word and sacraments. The travel and sustenance costs are being carried by the vacant congregation. It id further expected of the church council to pay a suitable monthly honorarium to the interim minister as decided by the regional synod.

The interim minister will report to Presbytery on his/her activities in the vacant congregation.

38.4 The interim minister will expect of a departing minister a complete inventory of church property and it again hand over.

The wife of the interim minister is free, in the case of a vacant congregation, to Make her advice and guidance available to the local branch of the CWM.

REGULATION 3I

DOMESTIC REGULATIONS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council compiles regulations for each meeting and activities and for the official and commissions appointed by itself. Similar regulations may not be in conflict with the Word of

God and the church order and the supplementary regulations of the regional Synod.

REGULATION 40

WARD-CHURCH COUNCIL

The display of the church as the body of Christ is in the first place local and therefore it should in outstretched or large congregations or where desirable ward-church councils should be formed. Wards should be formed in such a way that members of a ward-church council may find it easy to meet.

Ward-church councils consists of all the church council members residing within a particular ward. There should be at least two elders and two deacons per ward-church council.

Ward-church councils discuss all matters of local interest, with report to the full Church council for ratification. It is desirable that all members will follow the discussions of ward-church councils and even share in the case discussions.

In accordance with regulation 41 the church council will further compile domestic Regulations (with regard to the chairperson, instructions, way of reporting etc) for ward-church council.

Ward-church councils are formed amongst other matters with a view of the later establishment of a independent congregation in the particular ward.

NEW CONGREGATIONS AND THEIR ESTABLISHMENT

REGULATION 41

WHEN A NEW FORMATION IS BEING PREPARED

Preparatory steps with regard to the establishment of a new congregation will be taken when

members congregations of one or more congregations feel the need for the establishment of a new congregation and approach their church council or church council in this regard;

when the church council itself feels the need for the establishment of a new congregation; or

when Presbytery determined that the establishment of a new congregation is desirable. Presbytery will on the one hand guide against congregations which are too big (more than 800 members) and on the other hand the cutting up of congregations.

REGULATION 42

PREPARATORY STEPS

Establishment is being prepared when a church council gives permission to members who have directed a request to establishment to the council, to have the necessary form for establishment completed by the members concerned, or when the church council itself undertakes it.

If it appears that the new congregation will consist of parts of more than one existing congregation, then the church council where the matter has been raised, will approach the church councils of the congregations concerned directly and request their co-operation.

If it should be cleared to the church councils concerned, from the form for establishment reaching them, there is adequate support for the establishment of a new congregation, they will compile recommendations in connection with the establishment of the new congregation, such as the proposed boundaries, the conditions for establishment, the name of the new congregation and any other matter that could be of importance, such as for example the arrangement of present ministers and documents to be submitted to Presbytery.

REGULATION 43

SHARE OF PRESBYTERY

When it is applied to Presbytery to establish a new congregation, Presbytery will examine the incoming documents and if Presbytery is convinced that a new congregation, with or without assistance from outside, be able to exist financially then leave towards establishment will be given.

Presbytery will instruct the Presbytery commission to initiate the establishment of the new congregation and in special cases Presbytery, if it is of the opinion that it has enough information available, transfer its powers in connection with the establishment of a particular congregation of which the required documents have not served at a meeting of Presbytery, to the commission of Presbytery.

If the congregation which has to be established, will consist of parts of congregations falling within the boundaries of more than one Presbytery, the documents concerned will be submitted to all the Presbyteries involved. The Presbyteries will jointly decide which Presbytery will further be given the task to lead the establishment and the other Presbyteries will give written permission to the clerk of that Presbytery towards the establishment of the new congregation.

REGULATION 44

BOUNDARIES

The Presbytery commission will carefully determine the boundaries of the new

Congregation on account of recommendations from the side of the church council/councils concerned.

Changes of boundaries of existing congregations are also done by the Presbytery Commission on submission of the church councils concerned and with notice to the clerk of the regional Synod.

Where more than one congregation falls within the same area, the community is free to arrange their interests mutually and to arrange the merging according to local needs, by example, by entering into arrangements with one another, forming one congregation or whatever arrangements to be made as long as it happens with full freedom and without any coercion from any side.

REGULATION 45

THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CONGREGATION

The establishment of a new congregation takes place by the Presbytery Commission on the instruction of Presbytery, at a meeting of which notice has been given two weeks before by announcements and to which interested parties from the different congregations had been called.

The commission of Presbytery nominates the interim minister, declares what the Name of the new congregation will be and under which Presbytery the congregation will fall.

The clerk of Presbytery will give notice of the establishment of the new Congregation to the clerk of the regional Synod with mentioning of the boundaries with the view of publication thereof in the official organ. The clerk of the Regional Synod notifies the Registrar of Deeds of the existence of the new congregation.

The clerk of the Presbytery will supply the church council of the new congregation With an extract from the minutes of the Presbytery commission in which all details in connection with the establishment of the congregation are mentioned.

The name of the new congregation will be registered as follows: Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, congregation _____ established on _____ .

REGULATION 46

THE COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY

The composition of Presbyteries will take place by the regional Synods during a Meeting of the regional Synods. Immediately after the composition or re-division the particular Presbyteries will meet for their constituting meetings

For this meeting as well as for the following extra-ordinary meeting until the next Ordinary meeting, the delegates to the regional Synod will act as official members of the meetings of Presbytery.

The ordinary meeting of Presbytery takes place once a year. Ordinary meeting of Presbytery is called by a notice at least four weeks prior to the members of Presbytery. The call is signed by the clerk of Presbytery.

An extra-ordinary meeting by the Presbytery is being called by the chairperson if She/he is requested thereto by at least three members of Presbytery or if the Presbytery commission should regard it as necessary. All the members of the extra-ordinary meeting should at least one week prior be notified in writing with the purpose of the meeting being stated.

The delegates to the ordinary meeting of Presbytery also act as delegates to extra-Ordinary meetings of Presbytery during the recess. The primaries or secundus may appear according to what is possible for them. If both are prevented another church council members with secundus is appointed by the church council to represent the congregation with the necessary letter of credentials.

REGULATION 47

CONSTITUTING AND OFFICE BEARERS

The outgoing chairperson of Presbytery will conduct the opening of the meeting Of Presbytery and will thereafter call on the delegates of the different congregations to submit their letters of credentials. Should it appear that at least two thirds of the members of Presbytery are present, Presbytery will be declared as been constituted legally. For all activities of Presbytery two-thirds of the number on the attendance register will form a quorum.

Presbytery immediately elects after its constitution at each ordinary meeting a Chairperson from among its members.

If during the year the chairperson or/of clerk have been prevented to fulfill their Functions, the Presbytery commission should make arrangements for the continuation of activities.

REGULATION 48

DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF PRESBYTERY

The clerk care of the secretariat of Presbytery as well as of the following assignments:

He/she will convey the points of discussion by Presbytery to the clerk of the Regional Synod.

He/she will see to it that within two months after the meeting a copy of the acts of

Presbytery together with all supplements belonging to it and all reports that served before Presbytery be handed to the administrator of Synod.

He/she will immediately after the meeting send all particulars required by the Yearbook to the administrator of the church.

He/she will as soon as possible after the meeting of Presbytery notified church Councils within the domain of Presbytery of decisions applicable to them.

He/she sends within one month after the meeting of Presbytery an official report Of the acts for publication in the official organ of the church. In this report he/she will also refer to the general condition within the constituting congregations.

He/she deals with documents of ministers who are inducted and who receive Demission. The clerk of Presbytery notifies the administrator and actuary of demission

The chairperson of the calling meeting will give notification of the induction to the Clerk of Presbytery accompanied by the necessary documents.

The clerk of Presbytery declares the minister as a member of Presbytery.

48.9 The clerk of Presbytery or the clerk of the commission concerned of the major gathering will notify the administrator of the Synod of the induction of the minister with mention of his/her previous and present address as well as his/her number as marriage officer.

The clerk of Presbytery or commission will send to the actuary all documents with The inclusion of approval of the call and declaration of member of the Presbytery with mention of the address of the minister inducted.

If a clerk of Presbytery will vacate his/her position during the recess he/she will Hand all documents of Presbytery by inventory to the commission of Presbytery.

REGULATION 49

COMMISSION OF PRESBYTERY

Before the closing of the ordinary meeting of Presbytery a commission of Presbytery will be elected which will consist of the clerk and two other members of Presbytery with three secundi who, if necessary, will be called up in order. This commission elects its own chairperson and execute all instructions from Presbytery, deals temporarily with matters of urgency until Presbytery can discuss them and undertakers further all the activities assign to it in

regulations 14, 20, 24, 27, 29, 30, 43, 44 and 90 with reports to the following ordinary meeting of Presbytery.

In view of the conduct of the activities assigned to Presbytery by Article 9 of the Church order, Presbytery nominates at each ordinary meeting permanent commissions for witness, Christian Education, Deaconate Services and Christian Women's ministry. These commissions will in close co-operation with the relevant commissions of the regional Synod promote the interests of the different areas for which they have been nominated within the domain of Presbytery, and will report about it as well as the stand of these activities in the respective congregations to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery.

Presbytery nominates at each ordinary meeting a commission for archivers which will report to Presbytery about the correctness of the duplicates of the baptismal and marriage registers prepared by the different church councils for dispatch to the church archivers. The archive commission will also investigate the condition of the active of Presbytery and the condition of the church registers and archives of the congregation. The costs of the Word are being paid according to the decisions of the regional Synod.

Control over payment of Synodical obligations. Presbytery as a controlling body instructs the financial commission to attend to the following matters with care:

It should be checked:

Whether the church council has paid the Synodical collections and levels before or on 30th April.

Whether all the Synodical collections have been gathered.

49.4.1.3 Whether the calculations of the ordinary income is the same as that of the general survey form FC;

Whether the percentage had been correctly calculated;

Whether the calculated amount is at least as much as the minimum decided on by Synod.

Report

If everything is in order, it is accordingly reported.

49.2.2.2 The mistakes in the report are being brought to the notice of Presbytery which will deal with them.

Accuracy and neatness – the commission will very carefully take note of accuracy

By:

The completion and signing of the forms.

Neatness and legibility

Comments

The commission should also take note of the different items of income in the Congregation and comment on these.

In comparison with the number of members

The geographic situation of the congregation – city and countryside

In comparison with other congregations in Presbytery.

The following items will have to be paid attention to:

Collections at the worship service.

Synodical collections.

Contributions by members.

Thank offerings and harvest festivals.

Bazaars. (Fetes)

Stewardship: The commission should see the finances of congregations not just as a business concern. It should be viewed in light of the principle of gratitude to which with joy regularly and according to ability in accordance to the Word of God is being contributed to for the work of the congregation and the kingdom of God. In this connection the commission will do its work in close co-operation with the commission of stewardship.

Presbytery nominates an interim minister for each congregation within its domain

49.6 Presbytery nominates a representative, and secundus for the CWM. It will be his/her duty to attend CWM circuit conferences and to report to the annual meeting of Presbytery.

49.7 In the year preceding the meeting of the general Synod Presbytery elected one minister and one church council member with their secundi to attend the meeting of the general Synod.

Presbytery selects the candidates admitted to theological training institutions.

REGULATION 50

CHURCH VISITATION

Church visitation will take place by means of written reports of the church council on the approved forms.

In the execution of its assignment to conduct visitation, Presbytery will receive at each ordinary meeting from each church council a report on the condition of the congregation whilst a copy of such a report be kept in the congregational archive.

The reports have to be submitted to the church council after which it is signed by the chairperson and clerk on behalf of the church council.

REGULATION 51

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY PRESBYTERY

Presbytery takes into discussion all matters submitted to it by church councils within its domain, by members of Presbytery and by members of congregations in an orderly manner.

Presbytery is entitled to undertake any activity and for that purpose to appoint Commissions and if necessary even call officials for extra ordinary activities and to compile regulations for the activities which it undertakes and the commissions it nominates provided that these regulations are not in conflict with the Word of God, the church order and regulations of the regional Synod.

Presbytery will, when applications from congregations are submitted with regard To permission for tentmaking ministry by ministers of the Word let the matter be investigated by the Presbytery commission. If it should appear to be necessary approval of the agreement submitted will be granted.

REGULATION 52

CONFERENCE WITH THE CONGREGATION

During the meeting of Presbytery a conference with the congregation will be conducted by members of Presbytery, with a purpose of fostering mutual interests in the welfare of the church. The topic for discussion and the time of the conference are being arranged by the commission for Evangelism in consultation with the local minister

THE MEETING AND ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD

REGULATION 53

THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD

The regional Synod meets at the time and place of which the Synodical Commission has given six months prior notice.

In urgent cases the Synodical commission has the right to postpone the regional Synod or to call a extra-ordinary Synod with written notification of three weeks to all church councils and with notification in the official organ.

The delegates to the ordinary meeting of the regional Synod also acts as delegates To extra-ordinary meetings of the regional Synod during their recess. The primaries or secundus church council member may occurring to what is possible for them. If both are prevented another church council member with secundus will be appointed the church council to represent the congregation. In the case of congregations where the office of minister is vacant the congregation may delegate two primary and two secundi.

REGUALTION 54

CONSTITUTING AND QUORUM

The letters of credentials of delegates, signed by the chairperson and clerk of the Church council on behalf of the church council, should be send to the clerk of the regional Synod at least two week before the time stating who will appear.

The commission of order will at the constitution of the regional Synod report on The letters of credentials.

No meeting of the regional Synod will be legally constituted unless two thirds of The total number of members constituting the regional Synod are present. Of the total number on the attendance register two thirds will constitute a quorum for all activities.

REGULATION 55

THE MODERAMEN

Directly after the constitution of the regional Synod takes place under guidance of The outgoing chairperson the election of the Moderamen of the regional Synod which will consists of a moderator, assessor, actuaries, and clerk after a nomination list has been compiled.

The Moderamen takes care in co-operation with the commission of order of the Ordely conduct of the meeting. After this meeting of Synod the Moderamen continue to exists as a commission with the following assignment:

The organizing of days of thanksgiving and prayer according to circumstances;

The nomination of delegates to act as specific events;

The activities as Moderamen of the Synodical commission and the execution of Everything delegated to them in this regard.

The clerk will, except for seeing to all that belong to the normal task of the clerk, Also take care of publishing the acts of the regional Synod and the submission of the regional Synod to the church archivers together with all supplements belonging to the acts and further execute everything assigned to him/her. He/she will report of all his/her activities to the next regional Synod. During the duration of the Synodical meeting the clerk will be assisted by an assistant-clerk appointed by the regional Synod.

The actuary will be member and clerk of the commission of church law. During The recess he will give on written request advice regarding the regulations of the church. He will annually report on his activities to the Synodical commission and to the next regional Synod and a copy of each advice given by him submit to the church archives for save keeping.

He will annually submit to the commission for church law for notification and Consideration, all enquiries that he received and the advice given. The actuary May consult the commission for church law as often as he regards it necessary. The actuary reports on all movements of ministers of the Word within the resort Of the regional Synod to the actuary of the general Synod.

The Moderamen is delegated to the general Synod.

REGUALTION 56

THE SYNODICAL COMMISSION

Before the adjournment of the regional Synod commission is being nominated, Consisting of the moderamen of the regional Synod with one minister and one church council member form each Presbytery appointed by nominations form the delegates of the particular Presbyteries, with a equal number of secundi.

The Synodical commission normally meets once per annum. Notification of the Ordinary meeting will be send to each delegate by the clerk at least three weeks prior to the meeting. Extra-ordinary meetings are being called by the Moderamen with written notification of at least one week prior to the meeting been send to each delegate.

The Synodical commission takes care of all matters assigned to it by the regional Synod and handled temporarily urgent matters which belong to the terrain of the regional Synod including matters of church discipline or disputes which would have directly or by means of appeal have been tabled by the regional Synod, with the understanding that all decisions of the Synodical commission have to be either approved or disapproved by the regional Synod. The Synodical commission takes into discussion all reports and requests directed to itself.

Further the Synodical commission fills all vacancies on the Moderamen or the Delegation to the general Synod or the commission of the regional Synod that may occur regarding the latter, if possible, on the recommendation of the Presbytery commission of the

Presbytery which representatives are effected.

The Synodical commission may also call together an extra-ordinary meeting of the Regional Synod and report of all its activities to the regional Synod.

REGULATION 57

OTHER COMMISSIONS OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD

Regarding the management of activities assigned to the Regional Synod in article 10 of the church order the regional Synod will nominate the following:

A COMMISSION FOR CHURCH LAW which will study all recommendations in connection with amendments in the church regulations advise the regional Synod accordingly, and all decisions causing amendments to regulations, inserts at the correct place in the regulations, after it should be published.

The commission for church law will serve eccleasical meetings and officials with Guidance especially in cases where they on account of the execution of their Official duties maybe prosecuted in a secular court, and will in particular take Care that no matter for which cost the regional Synod may be build, be lightly Defended in a secular court.

A COMMISSION OF ORDER which will arrange all matters appearing on the Agenda of the regional Synod and compose a schedule of work as guideline to the regional Synod. The clerk is member of this commission. The other commissions nominated by the regional Synod are as follows:

ADMINISTRATION
CURRENT AFFAIRS
ARCHIVERS
PROMOTION OF PUBLIC PURITY
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (INCLUDING SUNDAY SCHOOL; YOUTH BRIGADE AND CHURCH CHOIRS)
DIAGONAL SERVICES
EXAMS COMMISSION
ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS
WORSHIP SERVICE
ACTION FOR WITNESS
RESTRUCTURING
CURATORIUM
ELDERS
PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION
JUSTICE
STEWARDSHIP
STUDY

These commission with the exception of the commission of order will annually report to the Synodical commission.

The regional Synod decides on what the number of members for each commission

REGULATION 58

DELEGATES OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD

The regional Synod elects four secundi to the Moderamen in view of the next Meeting of the general Synod.

Further the regional Synod also nominates representatives with the report to The regional Synod and the Synodical commission who will be serving on the following bodies.

Curatorium, Turfloop Theological School

CVB/CWM Executive.

Two members of the examinations commission of the Turfloop Theological School

REGULATION 59

JOINT COMMISSIONS BETWEEN THE REGIONAL SYNODS OF NOTHERN AND SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL

The two regional Synods undertake certain joint actions and call or nominate Officials/officers for this purpose jointly.

By calling or nominating officials/officers in joint service, regulation 16 will be Taken in consideration.

REGULATION 60

MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE REGIONAL SYNOD

Matters to be dealt with by the Regional Synod must be submitted to the clerk two Months prior to the meeting and maybe submitted by ministers, church councils, Presbyteries and commissions of the regional Synods. Undisciplined members of congregations within the resort may, by means of a petition, call on the regional Synod. The regional Synod will decide whether matters arriving late will be discussed. Each matter has to be submitted in triplicate. The original must be on archive paper and be signed by the contributor(s).

At least ten weeks before the time the clerk should also receive reports from the Clerk, actuary, Moderamen, administrator, Synodical commission, and all other commissions

and representatives nominated by the Regional Synod.

The clerk will have all the documents of 60.1 and 60.2 printed after the Commission for church law and the commission for order have had the opportunity to gain insight into the documents on which they have to advise the regional Synod. The clerk will in time distribute the agenda of the regional Synod to delegates and send points for discussion to the official organ for publication.

The commission of order shall submit points for discussing to the relevant Commission for submission to the regional Synod.

REGULATION 61

CEREMONIES DURING THE SESSION OF THE REGIONAL SYNOD

The chairperson of the Synodical commission delivers an opening message.

The local congregation may invite members of Synod to celebrate the Lord's supper with the congregation.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

REGULATION 62

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The church council may request persons whom they regard as capable to lead the Congregation occasionally.

These persons, as well as church council members, will as far as possible make use of/or let themselves be guided by a message of scripture from a minister or evangelist of reformed confession.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

REGULATION 63

HOLY BAPTISM

To children of 0 to 6 years:

Holy baptism will be administered to children of confessing and active members of the congregation. If parents wish to have their children baptize in another congregation as the

one in which they are members, they will have to obtain written permission from the church council of their own congregation.

Baptism may by means of high exception be served to the children of members of Recognized Protestant churches on condition that they have received written permission from their own minister or the responsible representatives of their congregation.

Children of believing parents, but born out of wedlock may be baptized after discipline has been lifted.

Children whose parents have renounced all claims to the children, may be baptized by the believing foster parents after proof of adoption.

To children of 7 to 15 years:

With great discretion but also with great liberty the church council will agree to Baptism of children from this age-group, especially in cases where the whole house became converted and desire baptism.

Children from this age-group will only be baptized if the church council is convinced of a personal faith in and love towards Christ as well as knowledge of Scripture and the Confessions.

The church council will report to Presbytery about the baptism of these children.

To adults (16 years and above):

Un-baptised adults are baptised after confession of faith and with the prescribed form being used.

Polygamists who are converts from heathendom may be admitted to the confession of faith and baptism after Presbytery has carefully investigated the grounds of an application of the particular church council, has given its approval. Polygamists may not be elected to officers.

Baptism of children born out of wedlock:

There may be distinguished between the following cases:

The father of a child born out of wedlock intends to marry the mother. The child is being raised by this mother and father.

The father of a child born out of wedlock is not of the intention to marry the mother. The father disappears and the child is being placed in the care of the parents of the mother or if the parents are already deceased in those if the mother later on marries another man, the child remains in the hands of the foster parents.

The unmarried mother who retains and raises her child.

In the first case above (63.4.1.1) the parents will bring the child for baptism after they have indicated remorse and the discipline has been lifted and they promised to raise their child in a Christian manner.

In the first case above (63.4.1.2) the baptizing parents will be those who are adopted the child born of wedlock as their own. The parents who bring the legally adopted child for baptism will have to give prove to the minister of the adoption or sign a declaration to the same affect in his presence. The own mother of the child will also have to sign.

When the parents or foster parents are not members or under discipline the child Will first do confession of faith and be baptised when she/he reaches the required age.

The baptism of such a child from a believing parent or a believing mother is being expected before the child is seven years of age.

In the third case (63.4.1.3) previously mentioned the matter will be dealt with according to regulation 63.1.3.

REGUALTION 64

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

Persons who desire baptism for themselves or their children, will have to present themselves to the minister who, if possible together with one or two church council members meet with them to impress on them the seriousness and meaning of baptism.

REGULATION 65

HOLY COMMUNION

Only undisciplined confessing members of the congregation will be admitted to holy communion, as well as members from other congregations of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa who have received permission to use holy communion as guests at a special occasion. The same also applies to other recognized churches although with the greatest discretion.

CATECHISM

REGUALTION 66

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In each congregation Sunday school will be held as preparation for catechism with The view of public confession of faith.

The Sunday school stands under direct control and supervision of the church

Council annually receives a reports on it to Presbytery.

The church council mainly follows the program of lessons for the Sunday school as Published under the supervision of the general Synod.

REGULATION 67

CONTENTS OF CATECHISM

For admission to the public confession of faith is required a proper knowledge of The Word of God and the doctrine of the Church as expressed in the forms of unity and an understanding of church history.

The period of catechism will in individual cases be left in the discretion of church Council but will normally be at least one year after three years preparatory catechism.

The minister will during catechism explain to the catechumen in a personal conversation the importance of being born again and having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as necessary requirement for membership.

REGULATION 68

ADMISSION TO CONFESSION OF FAITH

Admission to admission of faith is given by the church council or persons nominated by the church council together with the minister.

A catechumen who wishes to do confession of faith should have the liberty to testify about his/her redemption in Christ Jesus and will not be admitted before he/she gives clear evidence of spiritual maturity. Normally confession of faith takes place around the age of 16.

Catechumens will give written or oral evidence that they were baptised. Unbaptised catechumens will be taken up through adult baptism in the presence of the congregation after confession of faith.

REGUALTION 69

PUBLIC CONFESSION

Those to public confession of faith will at the occasion of a public worship service confession of their faith by answering the questions included in the relevant form presented to them by the local minister or an interim minister or another minister of a congregation within the denomination, requested there to by the church council.

REGULATION 70

THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC PURITY

Presbytery and the regional Synod each nominates a commission for the promotion of public purity which should identify social ills within the church and society and attempt to combat these.

REGULATION 71

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The commissions for Christian Education of the Regional Synod, Presbyteries and church councils, endeavour to stabilize and extend the care of the church to the youth. This care includes spiritual care and watch over the intellectual training and education.

REGULATION 72

WITNESSING

The commission for witnessing of the Presbyteries and the regional Synod endeavour the realization of the witnessing task of the church, especially by stimulating the office of the believer.

In its witnessing of the Presbytery the church is constantly instrument in the hand of Christ for extension of its kingdom amongst those who are still living in darkness. The action proceeds from the local congregation where the Word and sacraments are administered and where the Body of Christ comes to revelation. The offices of the local congregation has the task to equip believers for their work of service (Erf 4:11) and for their witness regarding Jesus Christ in the world (Acts1:8) to activities the congregations and to find ways in which the believers can live according to this calling.

If requested thereto Presbytery will regulate the witnessing action (s) in Congregational resort or in new resort.

Where circumstances require, Presbytery will undertake joint witnessing with full recognition to the principle that witnessing should proceed from the local congregation.

Where circumstances require the regional Synod will by means of its commission for witnessing action undertake a joint witnessing attempt according to the principles identified in 74.1 to 74.3. This commission also has its task to encourage Presbytery and congregations by means of example, guidance and inspiration towards the spontaneous proclamation of the Gospel to them who are to them are still trapped in pagan believes and customs and living far from Christ.

The church council, Presbytery and regional Synod will continue to make all attempts and arrangements to co-ordinate ecumenical witnessing actions and encourage joint undertakings.

REGULATION 73

DIACONAL SERVICES

To execute the service of charity a body deacons will be established in each Congregation to:

take responsibility for care and assistance to all those who are in need such as the poor, the hungry, prisoners, widowers and orphans, the sick, children of working parents and others.

encourage the congregation to bring thanks offerings, according to the principles of scripture, in order that the rendering of aid should also benefit from it.

The task of Presbytery commission for diagonal services is to co-ordinate work Within the resort of Presbytery. From reports from all the congregations a report will be tabled at Presbytery.

The commission for the diagonal services of the Southern Transvaal Regional Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa will co-ordinate all charity actions in general organize and inspire and report of its activities to the Regional Synod and during the recess to the Synodical commission.

The commission will give attention to the rendering of the necessary diaconal Services by means of family, child and institutional care to the needy aged, adults, youth and children as well as particular needy such as the sick, crippled people, the blind, alcoholics, mentally disordered, prisoners, etc.

The commission will serve as link between this regional Synod, the Dutch Reformed church and the State to the advantage of diaconal services and will Promote the training of social workers being employed by the church.

The commission may established auxillary organisations which will fall under Supervision of the church councils and Presbyteries of regional Synods and be governed by councils or commissions according to regulations compiled for councils or commissions and approved by the Synodical commission for the diaconal services.

Registration and powers:

The commission will apply to be registered as welfare organization and will have Legal personality. The constitution is found under supplement 8.

to borrow money for any of the purpose of the commission and to ensure the repayment by means of bonds, bond obligations, obligations or the pawning of any assets of the commission;

to provide heat, power, sewerage, water, transport or nay other requirements

conveniences or facilities and to supply or enter into contracts for the provision and supply of these items at such conditions as the commission may deem fit within the scope of the main objective.

The commission may develop ways and apply methods to find further monies or to raise monies to make work being undertaken possible to maintain or to extend.

The members of the commission are in their personal capacities not liable for anything which may proceed from the bona fide execution of their duties.

The financial books of the commission will be kept by the church office of Southern Transvaal of the Uniting Reformed Church in Africa, which will annually provide the commission with audited statements or discuss and submission to the Regional Synod or Synodical commission and welfare council.

Dissolution

Synod may dissolve the commission for diaconal services and take responsibility for all its services. All its assets after debts have been settled and obligations been executed be transferred to the Regional Synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, Southern Transvaal.

MATERIAL MATTERS

REGULATION 74

CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS AND PROPERTY

The administration and control of congregational funds and properties rest with the church council. All congregational properties are being transported on the name of the congregation as far as the law of the land permits. The church council is responsible for raising and spending all monies needed for the congregational life.

The cashbook properly audited as well as the financial forms and the budget statement will be submitted annually to the congregation at a congregational meeting announced on two consecutive Sundays.

The church council should prepare at the end of the financial year which goes from 1 April to 31 March, an overview of the congregational finances for submission to Presbytery. These statements should be signed by the chairperson, clerk and treasurer of the church council after being dealt with at a church council meeting. These statements should be certified on form FC by an auditor. Preferably a chartered auditor.

The following questions are being added to form KC:

Which properties are registered in the name of the church?

Are the documents in safekeeping?

Which properties are on the name of other instances?

Have obligations with regard to the pension fund being met?

The church council develops its own system of control over finances and will have to demonstrate its efficiency to Presbytery.

The church council is obliged to meet its responsibility in connection with Synodical activities. Pension contributions should be reported of to Presbytery.

The church council may make use of the following ways of fundraising:

Collections at worship services.

Voluntary monthly contributions.

Annual thanks giving and harvest festival.

Bazaars or similar special fundraising.

Juridical state: Each congregation is a legal entity pertaining to common law and such owner as its goods and funds. The church council on the other hand is not legal entity and participates only in a representative capacity and only as governing body on behalf of the congregation in legal matters.

The church council has the authority:

to take up money and to borrow at such an interest rate and on such conditions as have been agreed between itself and the money lender, and to mortgage with the bond or mortgage bond any immovable property registered in the name of the congregation as collateral.

to sell immoveable property registered in the name of the congregation and to buy immoveable property.

to receive on behalf of the congregation, as gift, immoveable property.

74.8.4 to make donations of any immoveable property registered in the name of the congregation. Permission is obtained by announcing the intended donation at three consecutive Sundays during the normal worship services. All objections should be submitted in writing and should be taken into discussing by the church council. The church council will after thorough consideration decide on the

objections, with the understandings that such decision is subject to higher appeal.

To purchase required movable property and to sell moveable property not required.

To rent or to lease movable or immovable property, obtain any interest in it for the purposes of the congregation.

To invest any surplus funds of the congregation in safe securities subject to conditions deemed proper.

To act in law suits and legal actions in representative capacity as claimant or person summoned on behalf of the congregation as legal entity. All legal [rocedures are being entered into or defended according to a decision of a legally constituted church council meeting. All legal documents are being served on the chairperson of the church council. In all instances in default of the church council the relevant Presbytery acts as its representative or contending party. The chairperson of Presbytery then takes the place of the Chairperson of the church council.

Where immovable property of the regional Synod or of Presbytery or Congregation is established or registered in a different way, for example in the name of the Dutch Reformed Churches in Southern Africa or the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa or any name used to indicate immovable property of the regional Synod or the particular Presbytery or congregation. In such cases the Registrar of Deeds maybe requested to make an endorsement on the title deeds and bonds to indicate that the owner or bondholder, as the case maybe is now described as outlined in this regulation.

REGULATION 75

STEWARDSHIP

Every Christian is steward of his/her time, body, goods and opportunities and will One day be accountable before God for the use of these gifts.

Every Christian, as steward of his/her money and properties, should out of Gratitude and joyfulness give from these to the Lord for the extensions of His Kingdom.

Where it is expected from every member to contribute generously to the Congregation of the Lord; members may accept the giving of tithes as a sound principle of life. In the New Testament where also taught that every member should contribute regularly according to his/her ability, this means according to his/her income and properties and according to the needs that exists.

The church council will as far as possible annually obtain a promise from each member regarding the amount he/she is prepared to contribute monthly to the coffers of the congregation (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

REGUALTION 76

FUNDS OF PRESBYTERY

The congregations of Presbytery contribute to the Presbyteral administration fund of which an audited reports should serve before Presbytery. Presbytery itself decide who will administer this fund on behalf of Presbytery.

REGUALTION 77

SYNODICAL FUNDS

Every congregation will contribute an amount as determine by the Regional Synod To the synodical coffers.

The following synodical collections will be taken up in the congregation:

Witness action.

Diaconal services.

Christian Education.

Bible distribution.

Synodical study funds.

All monies according to 77.1 and 77.2 accompanied by the prescribed statement Of levies should annually be submitted to the administrator before the 30 April.

Travel and substance funds of members of ecclesiastical meetings are being Determined by synod.

REGUALTION 78

COMMISSION OF ADMINISTRATION

The commission for administration exercises control over the church offices which Deals with the administration of funds, finances, goods, properties and general administration of synod under the supervision of the administrator. The commission also deals with the printing and making available the church forms for the exclusive use if synod.

The commission for administration consists of five members. A member of the Moderarium and the administrator as clerk in advisory capacity. This commission has the right to co-opt people with advisory vote.

The commission will deal with investment, registration, loans and handling of Funds of the Southern Transvaal Regional synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa.

The commission is responsible for documents with regard to buying and selling, Registration etc, of properties and goods of the regional synod.

The commission acts as trustee with regard to the property and other concerns of The associations or other ecclesiastical institutions which are not legal commission.

The commission nominates auditors who will annually compile a complete report On the financial administration for submission to synod or the synodical commission.

The commission will submit to synod a budget for the next term of four years in Which the estimate need of all commissions of synod has been provided for.

The commission annually reports to synod to synod or the synodical commission On its activities.

REGUALTION 79

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Appointment, status and conditions of service.

The regional synod or the synodical commission will appoint an administrator.

If he/she is a minister, he/she will retain his/her status as minister.

The determination of salary and allowance takes place by the commission for Administration.

In consultation with the commission of the church office, be entitled to an annual Annual leave of six weeks.

His/her appointment will be terminated with a notice of three months or immediately if church discipline is being applied to him/her.

The administrator may retire at the age of 60 but should retire at the age of 65.

79.1.7 If impediments should occur to prevent him/her to exercise his/her office properly or in the case of death, retirement, dismissal, resignation, suspension the commission for administration will immediately take over control of the office until a successor has been appointed by synod or the synodical commission and

such a person has resumed or has assumed duty.

Activities and powers. The administrator is responsible for the following Activities:

He/she is ex-officio secretary and member of the commission
1 commission decisions which have bearing on the properties and funds or related matters.
He/she deals with all correspondence on behalf of the commission for Administration.

He/she deposits all monies received in a solid bank, approved of by the admission
Of administration and keeps an adequate amount available for running expenses. All available funds are invested on fixed property against bond or as loans to church institutions with proves of debt from ecclesiastical management or solid institutes with the approval of the commission of administration.

He/she deposits all monies received in a solid bank, approved of by the admission
Of administration and keeps an adequate amount available for running expenses. All available funds are invested on fixed property against bond or as loans to church institutions with proves of dept from ecclesiastical management or solid institutes with proves of dept from ecclesiastical management or solid institutes with the approval of the commission of administration.

He /she deals with the administration of finances and funds of the synodical
Commission for diaconal services and the synodical institutions and instances as entrusted to him by the commission of administration from time to time. The commission for administration will ascertain that any institution applying for its transfer of its financial bookkeeping system has required infrastructure to carry out this work effectively. The auditing of the books of the institutions which do this work themselves is done by the official auditors of the regional synod.

He/she makes payments from the funds of commissions of synod which have their
Own funds as approved by the relevant commission.

He/she deals with the payment of approved emoluments and travel allowance to
Synodical officials and office personnel.

He/she pay the travel expenses and day fees of members of commissions who have
To undertake work under instruction of synod or presbyteries and other inevitable expenses which have to be met by the synodical funds, after he/she has ascertained the legitimacy of the claim. In case of a difference between him/her and the claimant with regard to accounts, these accounts are being submitted to the commission for administration for a decision.

He/she collects the annual levies as determined by synod.

79.2.13 He/she has the books of the church office audited every year in April/May and submit the report to the commission for administration. He compiles a balance sheet of all available funds of synod.

He compiles a joint form C form all forms C of all presbyteries for every third Year of the synodical recess and make this available to the clerk of synod to be taken up in the agenda or scheme of activities for the next synodical session.

He watches over the church buildings with report to the commission for Administration.

79.2.16 He takes care that when report is received of the ordination of a candidate minister that the ordinary is appointed by the relevant state department as marriage officer. He also informs the particular state department when a minister stops being a minister of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa.

REGULATION 80

CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS

The following church associations manage themselves according to constitutions Approved off by regional synod:

The Christian Women's Ministry (CWM)

The Christian Youth Movement (CYM)

The Youth Brigade (YB)

The Christian Faith Movement (CFM) (MBB) in Sotho

The executive of each local branch yearly reports to the church council on its activities. The presbyterial executive in turn reports to presbytery. The regional executive reports the regional or synodical commission.

80.3 The funds of local branches are administered by church councils as trust funds on behalf of the association. The regional and presbyteral executives administer their own funds.

REGULATION 81

CHURCH CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE

An ecclesiastical body bears in mind that control as such has to do with misbehaviour punishable by secular authorities but also on variety of misbehaviour. Everything that go against the form for the celebration of Holy Communion against the baptismal promises and against the promises at the induction of members or marriage and all that can disturb good order should be bore in mind. The transgression of overseers of the congregation in their official ministry, the negligence in their official duties and the misuse of power will in particular be punishable.

**TREATMENT OF A COMPLAINT
REGULATIONS FOR THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

REGULATION 82

COMPLAINTS AND RUMOURS

Written and signed complaints against confessing or baptised members of the Congregation should be submitted to the chairperson of the church council by a confessing member of the congregation who is not under discipline.

Members of the church council are *ex officio* obliged or compelled to take note of the spreading of damaging rumours also when no particular charge could be brought against them and are obliged to bring all that are punishable to the notice of the church council after Matthew 18:15-16 has been adhered to.

REGULATION 83

COMPOSITION AND QUORUM OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

When a complaint or rumour is brought to the attention of the church council the Chairperson of the council will purify the meeting from all persons who are directly involved in the matter or whose family members or relatives in the first or second degree are involved in the matter and they will be absent for the duration of the discussion of the matter until the final decision is reached. Church council members who bring a rumour or punishable sin to the notice of the church council which they are not involved in do not lose their right of attendance when the matter is dealt with, but if they should act in the normal sense as complainers they will have no right to attendance. Members who attend until the matter is dealt with, except in the case of absence where such a member then loses his/her right of attendance for the duration of the matter.

If there should, as reported in 84.1, no longer be a quorum left of the church Council after the meeting has been purified, the meeting will be postponed with the purpose of obtaining a quorum.

REGULATION 84

INVESTIGATION OF A COMPLAINT OR RUMOUR

If a complaint or rumour is being brought to the attention of the church council and it judges that there are apparently no grounds for the matter, it will be dismissed. Should the church council however judge that there are apparently enough grounds to further investigate the matter, it will, if deemed necessary, first appoint a commission of investigation to go into the matter to the best of its ability and to report to the next church council meeting.

Should the church council decide that it is not even necessary to appoint a Commission of Enquiry or should the commission appointed be ready with its investigation the

parties concerned are being called together with their witness to meet the church council having received copies of the charge which will be discussed.

Should a member confess a punishable sin in writing to the church council give acknowledgement of such, the church council will according to the demand of circumstances apply discipline on him/her without the guilty member being called to appear in front of the church council and a commission will be charged with the responsibility of conveying the findings of the church council to the particular member.

If the accused does not appear and has no reasons for his/her absence, then the Meeting will discuss the matter in his/her absence without further waiting on his/her defence. If the complaint or important witness is absent and a acceptable reason could be forwarded for the absence, the discussion of the matter will be postpone until the persons could appear.

A member leaves a congregation after a charge or rumour has been brought to the notice of the church council and the church council suspects enough grounds, then the church council will not issue a membership certificate to the member but will send the certificate of membership to the church council of the congregation where the member will settle together with all documents pertaining to the matter in order to enable that church council further to investigate the matter.

The church council will give a fair opportunity to all who are called to appear to shed all necessary light on the matter under discussion. Nobody maybe assisted by any pleader and the prosecutor accused and witnesses maybe questioned by members of the church council. While one witness is being heard the others should be absent.

REGULATION 85

JUDGEMENT AND NOTICE THEREOF

When the church council has reach a particular decision in connection with a Disciplinary matter, it will be put into writing, be noted in the minutes and the particular parties will be informed. If the accused so wished a copy of the findings will be handed to him/her. At the application of discipline the church council will make use of the following measures:

An admonition in or outside of the meeting of the church council;

85.1.2 Discipline that consist of abstinence of the sacraments as well as the suspension of other membership privileges until prove of adequate remorse is shown;

Where discipline is applied and the member persists in the sin, she/she may be cut off by the church council of the congregation with the use of the particular form. The congregation will be informed accordingly in advance. Of this action report will be given to presbytery.

When a member is disciplined and moves to another congregation, the church Council of that congregation is notified of the fact that he/she is under discipline. Should he/she leaves the church and remains to reside within the boundaries of the congregation his/her name will be made known at a worship service with the fact that he/she separate from the church and

move elsewhere, notification will be given to the church council of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa within whose congregational boundaries his/she will then reside.

REGULATION 86

APPEAL AGAINST JUDGEMENT

Appeal against judgement on discipline can be submitted to presbytery with notification to the church council not later than four weeks after the judgement of the church council has been received. Within four weeks after this notification he/she should continue his/her call on presbytery by submitting the necessary documentation in the absence of which his/her right will expire: a church official, who has been suspended from service by Presbytery and who appeals to Synod or to the Synodical Commission, may, while the appeal is pending, not continue in his/her service.

REGULATIONS FOR PRESBYTERY

REGULATION 87

MATTERS TO SERVE BEFORE PRESBYTERY

Charges against those being under discipline under presbytery in terms of article 9.4 of the church order should be submitted by presbytery on a prescribed form properly signed by a confessing member by a confessing member of one of the congregations within the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa by ecclesiastical meetings or their commissions.

Members of presbytery are *ex officio* obliged to take note of the spreading of damaging rumours against those who are standing under discipline of presbytery and to bring it to the notice of the meeting even though no charge has been submitted and after Mathews 18:15-16 have been applied.

Presbytery further discusses matters which could by way of appeal be brought to it and further all disputes between church council members, church councils between church council and members of the congregations.

If presbytery should note that a church council does not pay attention to the existence of irregularities or when a charge being brought to the notice of the church council is not properly investigated presbytery will request information on the matter from the church council and will urge the church council to act. If repeated refusals occur or if the matter is unnecessarily delayed, presbytery itself will investigate the matter and do what the church council should have done.

REGULATION 88

ACTION OF THE PRESBYTERY COMMISSION DURING DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

When presbytery commission appeals against the judgement of the church council

Or accepts a charge or notice of a damaging rumour in connection with somebody who stands under discipline of presbytery, it will request the church council temporarily to investigate the matter, or will investigate the matter itself with notice to the church council.

The presbytery commission meets as soon as possible to investigate the charge or Rumour. If one of the presbytery commission is involved in the matter or if one of his/her family members or relatives in the first or second degree are involved, the secundus will be called in his/her case.

Should it appear that the charge or rumour is of a serious nature and according To the judgement of presbytery commission, not exempt from all grounds, then the presbytery commission will temporarily suspend the accused in his/her service with proper notice church council and by calling presbytery to consider the matter thoroughly.

Presbytery commission investigates as determined and will call the accuser and The accused with their witness to appear before itself in order to receive the necessary light on the matter. Church council and members of the church are obliged to submit to presbytery commission and presbytery all possible information which they may possess and in matters of appeal matter. Presbytery commission will put its findings in writing and if it is of the opinion that the matter should be dealt with by Presbytery it compiles considerations by presbytery and call as soon as possible, after consultation with the chairperson of presbytery, a meeting of presbytery, and call the particular parties and their witness.

Should the presbytery commission be of the opinion that the charge or rumour Is unfounded then it will temporarily dismiss the matter with notification to the accuser and the accused. The session remains valid until presbytery has endorsed or dismissed it at its next ordinary or at an extra ordinary meeting. The accuser has the right, within four weeks after the finding of the presbytery commission, to call on presbytery with the submission of all documentation pertaining to the matter. Presbytery will then convene to deal with the matter.

Disputes occurring in church council meetings of between church council Members or between the church council and members of the congregation, are investigated by the particular presbytery commissions and where no reconciliation can be brought about the presbytery are effected by the particular commissions of presbytery), and if after investigation no reconciliation can be brought about the matter is referred to the presbyteries.

REGUALTION 89

PROCEDURE AT PRESBYTERY

When a charge by a confessing member or a rumour is investigated at the meeting Of presbytery, the chairperson will purify the meeting in accordance with regulation 83.1 determined for the church council. Members of the meeting who have already decided on the matter as members of the church council, may not as members of presbytery again decide on the matter. When discussion of a disciplinary matter commences the personnel should remained unchanged until the end of the investigation. Accept in the case of absence where such a member

will forfeit his/her right of attendance for the duration of the matter.

When a matter is investigated by presbytery the documents and report of the Presbytery commission will be submitted to the meeting. Fair opportunity will be given to the accuser and the accused together with their witnesses to put their case to the meeting or to dispute the charge.

(Compare regulation 84.6)

The appeal against judgement of the church council is being dealt with, the Matter will be discussed on the grounds of written documentation and evidence that served at the church council.

Presbytery will, to the best of its ability, judge on each matter and put its finding In writing minute it and make it known to the parties concerned. Should the accused, so required, a copy of the findings will be handed to him/her. Presbytery will make use of the following disciplinary measures, with the understanding that suspension includes discipline and that presbytery also gives judgment in connection with subsistence:

Church council members

Admonition in or outside of the meeting of presbytery;

89.4.1.2 Suspension in service until prove of proper remorse is shown with or without the sacraments;

Dismissal from service by presbytery, with or without the use of the sacraments;

Minister of the Word (minister and evangelists)

Admonition in or outside of the meeting of presbytery by presbytery;

Suspension from service by presbytery until prove of proper remorse is shown;

89.4.2.3 Dismissal from service by the regional synod on recommendation by presbytery, which also in the case of candidate minister involves the nullification of the act of licencing and in the case of evangelist the nullification of the evangelist certificate.

REGUALTION 90

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Of all suspension or dismissal of ministers of the Work, the clerk of presbytery Will without delay notify the actuary of the regional synod of the Uniting Reformed Church in Africa.

The actuary of the regional synod will inform the actuary of the general synod of The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa on particulars of the case.

Lifting of discipline and suspension takes place by the presbytery who applied discipline on recommendation of the church council under whose supervision he/she finds himself/herself after the person disciplined has applied for it;

Reinstatement in the office of the dismissal, takes place by the regional synod which dismissed him/her on the recommendation of the presbytery who suspended him/her.

Reinstatement in the office in the case where doctrinal discipline has been applied is done by the general synod on the recommendation of the regional synod who dismissed him.

The clerk of presbytery will in all cases mentioned under regular Presbytery may claim that a person who acted as accuser of the appealing party pays the eventual costs. In cases where an advance of money may be necessary for the investigation of presbytery, presbytery should arrange how such money should be obtained.

Expenses maybe claimed in accordance with the synodical scale for travel and sustenance costs and further whatever is fare with regard to the making of copies and other documentation and for the distribution of the necessary postal articles. Presbytery decides who will have right to claim costs and the clerk of presbytery will administer the administration of costs.

REGULATION 92

APPEAL AGAINST THE DECISIONS OF PRESBYTERY

Appeal against the decision against the meeting of presbytery maybe submitted by the clerk of the regional synod with notification to presbytery not later than four weeks after judgment has been received. Within four weeks after the notification of the appeal the appealing party will call on the regional synod by submitting to the clerk of synod a copy of the findings of presbytery together with reasons for the appeal and anything else than he/she may consider to be of importance for the reconsideration of the matter, or his/her right thereto will expire. A church official, who has been suspended from service by Presbytery and who appeals to Synod or to the Synodical Commission, may while the appeal is pending, not continue in his/her service.

REGULATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL SYNOD

REGULATION 93

MATTERS OF APPEAL

When a matter for appeal is put in the hands of regional synod, the Moderamen Of the regional synod will call a extra-ordinary meeting of the synodical commission unless it is of the opinion that the matter could wait until the next ordinary meeting of the synodical commission and the appealing parties thereto agree.

The synodical commission will investigate the matter and its findings will remain Valid until the first ordinary or extra-ordinary meeting of synod.

When the synodical commission deems it necessary or when the accused within Four weeks after the announcement of the finding of the synodical commission calls on the regional synod, an extra-ordinary synod for the discussion of the matter will be called. The regional synod itself decide in which way an appeal, as well as matters which can leads to a dismissal of a minister of the Word should be dealt with.

Regional synod may, when it judges that a presbytery does not give attention to Existing regularities, or complaints brought to its attention not properly investigated, request information from presbytery and urges presbytery to action with a right to take up the matter itself, in the case of continued negligence or refusal by presbytery.

In connection with the cost of meetings of the regional synod regarding discipline, The same applies as for presbytery in regulation 91.

Against the decision of the regional synod there is right for appeal to the general Synod, but only in the case of doctrinal discipline, doctrinal differences or differences between synods or synods and lesser meetings. The procedure for this appeal is being given in the domestic regulations of the general synod.

REGUALTION 94

CHURCH AND STATE (STATE 12 refers)

(See the Belgic confession, Article 36)

The church is called to pray for the state.

The church as institute subjects itself to the authority and law of the state, As much as it affects its participation in legal matters and the exercise of civil rights and if such matters and rights are not in conflict with God's Word.

The church accepts with gratitude the protection of the state, as well as the Recognition of its inalienable right to exercise freedom of religion in confession and gatherings and makes it its duty to use this freedom with all responsibility towards the education of the society.

The church accepts it as its holy calling to remain prophetic and witnessing to the state and the world in which it stands.

When the church approaches the state on a particular matter, it should happen through the delegates of the particular ecclesiastical gatherings, namely the church council, presbytery and

synod.

INTRODUCTION

In relation to the unification process of URCSA task committee, a woman was elected to consolidate existing constitutions of the Women Organisation in NG Sending Kerk. The task team consisted of eight members. Four coming from NGKA and four from NGSK. Two constitutions together with other related resources were consulted to form a regional constitution for URCSA Women's Organisation.

To facilitate this process the task initiated discussion and workshops on congregational, presbytery regional and synodical level ensuring women's participation in establishing the constitution.

This constitution was adopted by the Congress held at Youth for Christ Centre in Magaliesburg in

Our Thanks to the task team who despite cultural and historical diversities made it possible through their commitment motivation and consultation with others to successfully complete their task of establishing this constitution.

“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace”. (Ephesians 4:3)

BYLAE 4

CONSTITUTION: CHRISTIAN WOMEN MINISTRIES IN THE URCSA

NAME:

The name of the organization will be:

The Christian Women's Ministries abbreviated as C.W.M of the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Transvaal Synod.

MOTTO:

Women in the service of Christ and His Church.

OBJECTIVES:

To actively extend the Christian faith and to oppose that which conflicts it.
To further spiritual life by daily reading of the scripture, or to have it read and by praying daily.
To encourage others to have family prayers and to do likewise.
To encourage faithful attendance of all church services and prayer meetings.
To encourage mothers to bring up their children in a Christian manner, that they may honour their parents, superiors and elderly people, and to desire a Christian marriage.
To encourage prayer according to Matthew 6:6 and also with other believers.
To empower women to participate in effecting change in the community in a Christian manner.
To encourage purity of thought, speech and life.
To help the church to take the lead in and preserving creation.
To encourage the church to minister to the poor as the scripture demands it.
To encourage the development of a community of children, youth, men and women in the church.
To strive for equality in the Christian community.

CHURCH SUPERVISION

The women's work in a church service, functioning under the supervision of the different church meetings (church council, presbytery, synod) of the Uniting Reformed Church (U.R.C.S.A)

COMPOSITION

Every confessing women church member belonging to a specific congregation of the U.R.C can be part of the women's organisation of that congregation.

METHOD OF WORK IN CONGREGATION

5.1 Initiation

In each congregation the women's work comes into being under the guidance of, and the co-operation with the local church council. The church council will appoint a commission selected from the women members who are actively involved in the work. Plus one representative from the church council.

5.2 Working Method

- 5.2.1. Where practically possible the women's work functions according to the congregation ward system.
- 5.2.2. Each year the wards draw up a programme of their activities for the year to submit to the C.W.M for approval.
- 5.2.3. Wards will meet as regularly as possible concerning the local circumstances.
- 5.2.4. The women in each ward elect their own leaders/chairpersons in the presence of the church council members of the ward or the C.W.M executive.
- 5.2.5 The Women's work integrates with the general activities of the ward and regularly reports to the C.W.M executive.
- 5.2.6 To equip the women of the congregation for their tasks, regular workshops, bible study and training must be held.

5.3 Congregational C.W.M Executive Committee

5.3.1. C.W.M Executive: Consists of the chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, vice secretary, treasurer, and one Church Council representative.
A quorum will be half of the serving members of C.W.M Executive plus one.
Minutes of the meeting are kept and signed by both the chairperson and secretary.

5.3.2 Task of the C.W.M Committee

To co-ordinate the work of the C.W.M in general.

Each year meets with the C.W.M to plan.

Reports at least once a year on the work of the C.W.M to the Church Council

Congregational C.W.M Committee

The C.W.M committee consists of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, vice-secretary, Treasurer, and a leader/chairperson of each ward plus one church council representative. Each year, as the church order demands, the office bearers are appointed at a general meeting. If local conditions necessitate it, the wife of the minister or Evangelist will *ipso facto* be chairperson. The same is applicable regarding the appointment of a vice-chairperson. The C.W.M committee meets quarterly or when necessary.
A quorum will be half of the serving members of the C.W.M committee plus one.
Minutes of all meetings are kept.

Task of the C.W.M committee

i. Meet regularly for prayers as well as discussion, planning and control of the women's work in the organistaion.

Report yearly on the work of the church council.

Each year compile a programme for both general meetings and joint activities, i.e., ways of fund raising, etc.

General Meetings

5.5.1. General meetings are held in accordance with the local conditions, ie., monthly, bi-monthly quarterly.

A planning meeting is held at least once a year.

An annual report will be given to the chairperson of the Women's Presbyterial Committee (W.P.C) at the end of each year.

UNIFORM:

The wearing of the uniform will be optional and each congregation can decide individually on This matter.

Uniform should be won properly in the following manner, i.e C.W.M. pin, a black jacket, A white collar, a black straight skirt, black stockings and black shoes.

The uniform will only be won at the C.W.M. meetings, funerals if need be, church buildings, Welcoming functions of the leaders in the church, holy communion, meetings or church functions.

6.4.(i) **Evangelists' wives will also have the right to conduct the clothing ceremony.**

(ii) **If the Minister's or Evangelist's wife is not in uniform, any Minister's wife Evangelist's wife Within the circuit can perform the ceremony in consultation with the local church council.**

6.5 The Clothing Ceremony

6.5.1. The member is called forward to stand before the congregation.

The aims and the objectives of the C.W.M and the work that will be expected of her are explained to her from the constitution.

The vow of faithfulness to the constitution and the CWM is read to her and she signs as Confirmation of acceptance.

The appropriate text is read, e.g., Isaiah 8:6 and Matthew 25:35-40.

Whilst the congregation sings the appropriate song, the minister's wife/evangelist's wife clothes the member (the jacket, the hat, collar and pin).

A member who is under is not permitted to wear the uniform and after she has been lifted, the Member can wear her uniform again without repeating the above-mentioned procedure.

Promises

I.....Promise

To read my Bible truthfully, to pray truthfully and to lead a holy and spiritual life.

To attend services and prayer meetings whole heartedly and offer my service to my church to the best of my ability.

To abide by the rules and terms of CWM.

To be under the leadership of the church.

Signed.....

Congregation.....

Chairperson.....

Date..... Time.....

FINANCES

Fund raising will be done in consultation with the Church Council.

The C.W.M handles all the funds and thoroughly records it. The ward leader pays over all funds of the ward to the treasurer of the C.W.M. A receipt must be issued for every payment made.

The treasurer of the C.W.M pays these funds over to the treasurer of the congregation who handles it as trust funds.

The C.W.M decides over the administrative expenses and reports such to the General Meeting.

When the C.W.M brought the financial report before the General Meeting, contributions are decided on for the work of the congregation, presbytery and synod. The treasurer of the congregation does the payments of such donations.

At the end of each financial year, a financial report will be given on a prescribed form to the Chairperson of the Women's Presbyterial Committee, who will in turn send it to the treasurer of the Women's Synodical Committee.

Subscription fee to be paid by all members by the end of March each year.

WOMEN'S PRESBYTERY

The Women's Presbytery will consist of two representatives of the C.W.M in each congregation within the Presbytery.

The Executive consisting of the chairperson, secretary, vice-secretary, treasurer will be elected by the conference delegation at the end of the conference. If local conditions necessitate, the Minister's wife or Evangelist's wife will ipso facto be the chairperson.

The Women's Presbytery Committee stands under the supervision of the Presbytery.

The W.P.C meets at least once a year except for the year in which the Synodical Conference takes place.

Task of the Women's Presbyterial Committee:

8.5.1. Give guidance and information to, and co-ordinating the women's work in the respective congregations.

Organise women's Presbyterial conferences, training and workshops.

Compile household guidelines and list suitable activities for the conference of the presbytery.

Each year the chairperson of the W.P.C compiles a general and financial report of the women's work to be tabled at the meeting of the Presbytery.

Women's Presbyterial Conference

The members of the Presbyterial C.W.M shall attend the conference.

The chairperson tables her general report regarding the women's work in all the congregations in the presbytery. The delegates then discuss this report. This discussion can be a benefit to all women present.

The conference theme given by the Women's Synodical Committee (W.S.C) can also be discussed at this meeting.

Delegates report to their congregations the information, proposals and resolution adopted at the conference.

SYNODICAL CONNECTION

The women's work is under the supervision of Women's Synodical Committee (W.S.C)

Women's Synodical Committee

This committee is elected at the close of the Synodical Congress.

It will consist of the President, vice-president, secretary, vice secretary, treasurer, two members of the Synod, one of which should preferably be Actuary, and a representative of each women's presbytery. If local conditions necessitate the Minister's or Evangelist's wife will ipso facto be the chairperson.

The elections of the executive committee will be done in accordance with the church order.

To elect the representatives of the different presbytery the said presbyteries meet separately. The outgoing presbytery representatives chairs this meeting. Nominations from the representatives of congregations of the presbyteries present are made and primaries secundus chosen to represent the presbytery in the W.S.C.

The Executive Committee will consist of the office bearers: chairperson, secretary, vice-chairperson, secretary, vice-secretary, treasurer plus one member of Synod, preferably the Actual.

If vacancies occur regarding the presbytery representatives, the secundus representatives becomes the primarius. The W.P.C appoints the secundus. In the event of the post of chairperson becoming vacant, the vice-chairperson becomes the chairperson. The Executive

Committee then circulates the names of all the presbytery representatives amongst the W.S.C members who in turn elect a vice-chairperson from one of these names. The same procedure is followed in the case of a vice-chairperson being vacated.

Task of W.S.C

Organise the woman's synodical, conference, workshops and training courses.

Give guidance from conference to conference.

Carry out instructions of women's synodical conference.

Meet at least once a year and when necessary. A quorum will be half of its members, plus one.

Each year the secretary reports to the moderator of the U.R.C in Southern Africa on the activities and finances of the women's work, as well as, that of the W.S.C. At least three months before the synod meets, she also send a report to the scriba sinodi, on the activities of the women's work during the past recess.

Each year receives a report from every W.P.C

9.3. Women's Synodical Congress

Is held every four years and prior to the year synod meets.

Meets under the leadership of the W.S.C and the chairperson of the said committee chair the meeting.

It consists of two representatives of the women of each congregation. They comprise of chairperson of vice-chairperson of the congregational committee plus an elected women members or her *secundus*. All are elected at a general meeting.

These representatives must present credentials to the secretary of the W.S.C reaching her three weeks prior to the start of the congress.9.3.5. The cost of the congress and representatives are funded as follows:

9.3.5.1. A congress fee stipulated and adapted as necessary before each such conference by the Synodical Committee covers the administrative expences for the representatives to the Synodical congress.

Six weeks prior to the (start of) congress, the agenda reports and other papers are forwarded to The representatives.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the Synodical Congress, the minutes of The said congress are scrutinized. It is then sent to the members of the W.S.C. Decisions taken at the synodical congress are sent to each congregation. Other expeditions and instructions flowing from the minutes are also completed.

Presbyterian Representatives to Synodical Committee

Status:

The regional representatives are the members of the Presbyteries executive committee.

Duties:

She is a member of the regional synodical committee .She reports back to the Presbyteries executive committee or the Presbyteries. She attends all the meetings of the Presbyteries executive committee.

Election of W.S.C.

The election committee will consist of each member representing each presbytery.

ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Proposal by the women's synodical conference for the alteration of the constitution needs the approval of the Synod.

BYLAE 5

JEUGBELEID

1 BELEIDSBEGINSELS

1.1 GRONDSLAG VAN DIE JEUGWERK

Die Verenigende Gerformeerde Kerk in Suider-Afrika (VGKSA) is gebou op die fondament Jesus Christus en gegrond op die Bybel, die heilige en onfeilbare Woord van God.

Die hoofsaak van die kerk is die bediening van die Woord van God. Die kerk bedien die Woord onder leiding van die Heilige Gees en volgens die belydenisskrifte van die kerk.

Die Woordbediening is die basis van die kerk se onderwys- of onderrigsaak: "... En leer hulle om alles te onderhou wat Elk julle bevel het". Mat 28:19. Die Woordbediening vind plaas waar die Woord verkondig word in die prediking; waar die Woord bely word in –

**Die Christelike getuienis;
Die Christelike gemeenskapsbeoefening;
Die Christelike diensbetoning;**

Waar die Woord onderrig en geleer word in die katechese

**Onder leiding van die kerkraad;
In die Christelike huisgesin.**

Die onderrigsaak van die kerk is, nes die prediking, gerig op alle mense van alle ouderdomme wat onder die sorg van die kerk kom. Die kerk se onderrigsaak is dus nie net vir die jeug bedoel om hulle gereed te maak om belydenis van hulle geloof af te lê nie. Dit is die verantwoordelikheid van die kerk om, op 'n voortgaande wyse, al die gelowiges te onderrig ten opsigte van die betekenis van die Christelike geloof vir hulle lewe in 'n veranderende wêreld.

Die jeugwerk van die kerk is gerig op die kinders en jongmense van geboorte tot ongeveer die ouderdom dertig. Hierdie werk staan nie los van die res van die werk in die gemeente

nie maar vorm 'n onderdeel van die voortgaande onderrigarbeid van die kerk.

VERDUIDELIKING:

Oral waar daar dus verder van die kerk se jeugwerk gepraat word, word dit gesien as 'n deel van die algemene en voortgaande onderrigarbeid van die kerk. Alhoewel hierdie voortgaande onderrigtaak van die kerk ten opsigte van die belydende lidmate nog nie formeel en gereeld aandag ontvang in die gemeentes van die VGKSA nie, sien ons dit as die ideal waarna ons, in gehoorsaamheid aan die Skrif, moet streef.

DOEL VAN DIE JEUGWERK

Die doel van die kerk se jeugwerk is om die Woord van God so te bedien –

**Dat die jeug Jesus Christus as Verlosser en Here sal ken en aanneem;
Dat hulle God sal liefhê, terwyl hulle gelowig en gehoorsaam lewe om Hom te vereer;
Dat hulle die gemeenskap en die krag van die Heilige Gees sal ervaar;
Dat hulle opreg hulle belydenis van geloof sal aflê terwyl hulle blymoedig getuig van hulle nuwe lewe in die Koninkryk van God;
Dat hulle heelhartig sal deelneem aan die lewe en werk van die plaaslike gemeente;
Dat hulle die Woord van God daagliks sal oordink en in gebed daarop antwoord;
Dat hulle sal streef om die eenheid en die heiligheid van die kerk in die plaaslike gemeente 'n werklikheid te maak;
Dat hulle volgens die voorbeeld van Christus sal leef om hulle medemens in liefde te dien;
en
Dat hulle erns sal maak met die probleme en die knelpunte in die samelewing om dit tot eer van die opgestane Here te help oplos.**

1.3 RIGLYNE VIR JEUGWERK

Die Woord van God en die Jeugwerk.

Die jeugwerk van die kerk word verrig in antwoord op die Woord van God wat ons die opdrag gee om van mense dissipels van Christus te maak en hulle te leer om alles te onderhou, wat Jesus Christus bevel het. Deut 6:6- 7; Mat 28:19.

Die Woord van God is te alle tye sentraal in die jeugwerk van die kerk –

WANT die goeie boodspak van die Bybel is 'n krag van God waardeur Hy werk om almal wat op Jesus Christus vertrou, te red. Rom 1:16.

WANT die hele Bybel kom van God wat dit aan ons gegee het om ons die waarheid te leer

ken, dwaal leringe te help bestry, ons te waarsku en ons te leer om volgens die wil van God te leef. 2 Tim 3:16.

WANT die ware geloof kan slegs verkry word langs die weg van 'n gewisse kennis van die sentrale boodskap van die Bybel en 'n vaste vertrou dat Jesus Christus die Verlosser is wat sondaars van hulle sonde verlos en hulle regverdig maak voor God.

Daarom rus daar 'n groot verantwoordelikheid op ons om die Bybel op die regte wyse te gebruik deur onder andere –

In biddende afhaklikheid van die leiding en verligting van die Heilige Gees met die Skrif om te gaan. Ps 119:18.

Aandag te gee aan die volle boodskap van die Skrif in plaas van slegs sekere tekste of Bybel gedeeltes, los van die verband, te gebruik; en

Die Skrif self te laat praat in plaas daarvan dat ons dit gebruik om maar net ons eie gedagtes daarvan vas te maak.

Die Kerk en die Jeugwerk

Die jeugwerk word in die kerk as die liggaam van Christus verrig. Deur die jeugwerk word die jongmense toegerus om, as lidmate van die gemeente, en saam met al die ander gelowiges, kerk van Christus in die wêreld te wees deur –

Te getuig van die groot dade van God in Jesus Christus;
Gemeenskap te beoefen as nuwe volk van God in die wêreld; en
Liefdesdiens te verrig volgens die voorbeeld van Christus.

So word die jeug gehelp om die boodskap van die Skrif en die betekenis daarvan vir hulle lewe as lede van die liggaam van Christus, elke dag en orals, te verstaan sodat hulle met die krag van die Heilige Gees gelowig en gehorzaam daarvolgens kan lewe.

Die identiteit van die kerk as liggaam van Christus, volk van God, bruid van Christus, temple van die Heilige Gees, uitgeroepenes en getuies in die wêreld, moet steeds in die jeugwerk bevestig en versterk word.

'n Bewustheid van hierdie identiteit van die kerk is van groot belang omdat die onderrig wat die lidmate en die jeug ontvang, nie net formele en beplan aangebied word nie, maar ook onbeplan plaasvind. Die jeug word hulle geloof versterk of verswak deur die kwaliteit van die lewe van die volwasse lidmate. Hulle gesindheid en optrede, hul bereidheid of onwilligheid om te getuig, die atmosfeer tydens die samekomste van die gemeente, die besluit van die kerkraad veral oor kontroversiële sake, die voorbeeld van die ampsdraers in die kerk – dit alles is 'n kragtige hoewel onbeplande vorm van onderrig in die gemeente veral ten opsigte van die jeug. Op hierdie wyse is die gemeente self deur sy lewe en werk, 'n skool van geloof of van ongeloof!

Juis omdat die volwasse lidmate in hierdie verband so 'n groot rol speel, is voortgaande

onderrig vir hulle belangrik. Die kerk het die taak om hierdie voortgaande onderrig te beplan en te organiser en wel op so ' wyse dat die volwasse lidmate van die gemeente toegerus word om as gelowiges, in dankbare gehoorsaamheid teenoor die Here onder andere-

**Saam te leef in die huwelik;
Hulle kinders in ooreenstemming met hulle doopbeloftes op te voed;
Hulle Christelike getuienis te lewer waar hulle werk of ontspan;en
Die Here in hulle ouderdom en strewe te verheerlik.**

Op hierdie wyse, deur middle van die voortgaande kerklike onderrig, moet daar gepoog word om die Woord van God in die sentrum van die gemeente en die lewens van die lidmate te plaas. So moet dit blyk dat die lidmate in hulle lewe en werk steds opreg soek om God te vereer deur gehoorsaamheid aan Sy Woord en Gees in plaas van selfsugtige ywering terwille van eie belang en voordeel. Waar die lidmate 'n voorbeeld in hierdie terme stel, word die unieke identiteit van die kerk onder die jeug bevestig en versterk.

Die belydenis van die kerk en die jeugwerk

Deur sy onderrigarbeid ook in terme van die jeugwerk, wil die kerk die gelowiges toegerus

–

Om 'n belydende gemeenskap te wees wat, onderling en teenoor die wêreld, Jees Christus as Verlosser en Here bely;

Om 'n belydenis gemeenskap te wees wat, in antwoord op Gods Woord, op 'n ordelike wyse sy geloofsoortuiging formuleer in terme van die belydenisskrifte vand ie kerk.

Die belydenisskrifte is vam groot belang vir die algemene onderrigtaak en die jeugwerk van die kerk want daardeur –

**Word die eenheid van die gelowiges versterk;
Word die suiwer geloofsleer teenoor die dwaaelleer gestel; en
Word die geloofskennis aan die nageslag oorhanding en word hulle geloof versterk deur die bewys van die verliggende werk van die Heilige Gees in die geskiedenis van die kerk.**

Die kategetiese leerstof moet gebonde wees aand ie belydenisskrifte en geloofsbekydenis van die kerk en wel op so 'n wyse dat –

Dit die inhoud van die belydenisskrifte op 'n vertsaanbare en relevante wyse oordra en verduidelik;

Dit die jeug toerus om die openbare belydenis van gellof te doen en aktief betrokke te raak by die lewe en werk van die gemeente;

Dit die jeug oproep om in tewyding aan die Here, die Koninkryk en hulle getuienis in die wêreld; en

Terwyl dit daarop gerig is om, met behulp van die Heilige Gees, die jeug tot die geloof te lei, dit hulle ook leer wat om te glo en hoe om hulle geloof in dae van gehoorsaamheid om

te sit.

Die Christelike mensbeskouing en jeugwerk

1.3.4.1 Die jeugwerk is gereg op jongmense as mense -

Wat na die beeld van God geskep is om God te dien, 'n naaste en broer vir ander mense te wees, en as rentmeesters in God se wêreld te leef en te werk;

Wat in hulle wese godsdienstig is maar deur die sondeval op 'n dwaalspoor beland het sodat hulle van nature geneig is om God en die mense te haat, waardeur hulle lamal skuldig staan voor God; en

Wat groep word om deur die verlossingswerk van Christus radikaal vernuwe te word en, onder leiding van die Woord en Gees, as kinders van God en burgers van Sy Koninkryk te lewe.

Omdat die jeugwerk met die mens te doen het moet die bedizening vand ie Woord in die jeugwerk so plaasvind dat die jeug as mense in hulle totale lewensverband aangespreek word. Dit beteken onder andere:

Dat die verskillende ontwikkelingsfaese van die jeug in ag geneem moet word soos by voorbeeld ten opsigte van die jeug as voorskoolse kleuters, kleiner kinders, kinders, ouer kinders, jeug en ouer jeug;

Dat daar gepoog moet word om persoonlike deelname en betrokkenheid van beide die jeug en die jeugleiers in die jeugwerk te verkry;

Dat daar begrip en respek moet wees vir die vryheid en verantwoordelikheid van die jeug om persoonlik te antwoord op die roepstem van die Evangelie; en

Gebruik gemaak sal word van alle onderwysmetodes wat geskik mag wees om die boodskap van die Bybel oor te dra met inagneming van die ontwikkelingsases en omstandighede van die jeug.

PRAKTYK VAN DIE JEUGWERK

Die belangrikste terrain waarop die jeugwerk vand ie kerk plaasvind is die plaaslike gemeente. Jeugwerk op die vlak van die ring en die sinode het veral tot doel dieskoling van jeugleiers met die oog op die jeugwerk in die plaaslike gemeente lê, kan op rings- of sinodale vlak voorsien word soos by voorbeeld in terme van kerkkohuise, kinderhuise, kampterreine, jeugsentrums ensovoorts. Die jeugwerk in die plaaslike gemeente omvat in hoofsaak die volgende.

KATEGESE

Die kategetiese arbeid is die basis van die jeugwerk in die gemeente. Dir val uiteen in die volgende afdelings.

Afdelings

Kleuterkategese - vir die ouderdomsgroep 3 tot 6 jaar;

Kinderkategese - vir die ouderdomsgroep 7 tot 11 jaar;
Junior kategese - vir die ouderdomsgroep 12 tot 14 jaar;
Senior kategese - vir die ouderdomsgroep 15 tot 16 jaar;
Voortgaande kategese- vir die ouderdomsgroep 17 jaar en ouer;
Huiskategese - benewens die formele kategese in die gemeente onder toesig van die kerkraad het die ouers as lidmate die roeping en taak om huiskategese veral deur middle van huisgodsdienst te hou. Gesien die besondere plek wat die ouers normaalweg in die lewe van hulle kinders inneem, kan hulle die belangrikste jeugwerkers in die gemeente wees. Hulle bydrae tot die geloofopvoeding van hulle kinders is van die allegrootste betekenis. Daarom is hulle toerusting, onder meer tydens huisbesoek en deur middle van voortgaande kategese, doopkategese en die prediking, van baie groot belang.

Leerstof

Die leerstof vir die kategese is hoofsaaklik die volgende:

KLEUTERKATEGESE

‘n Eenvoudige Bybellesprogram met klem op aanskoulikheid, aan die hand van die boek “Kom stap saam deur die Bybel”.

‘n Vyfjaar Bybellesprogram volgens die leerplan wat die Sinode goedgekeur het, met teksboekies vir die kinders en lesaansleidings vir die onderwysers, voorsien deur die Algemene Jeugkommissie.

SENIOR KATEGESE

‘n Eenjaar program met die oog op die aflegging van belydenis van geloof op ouderdom 16 jaar, waartydens Afdeling A van die katekisasieboek. Die Christelike Leer, weer, sover moontlik onder die persoonlike leiding van die plaaslike leraar, behandel word.

VOORTGAANDE KATEGESE

‘n Lesprogram, met klem op Bybelstudie en bespreking, om die implikasies van die Christelike geloof vir die verskillende terreine van die lewe van die lidmate te belig. Die nadruk val in hierdie verband veral op die voorbeeld wat die belydende lidmate vir die kinders en jeug stel binne die verband van die gesin, die gemeente, die arbeid, die politiek, sosiale verhoudings en ontspanning.

Bybelkenniseksamen

Hierdie eksamen word jaarliks na aanleiding van die Bybellesprogram wat in die kategese gevolg word, afgeneem. Die eksamen bestaan uit vier afdelings, te wete:

- ‘n beginners afdeling;
- ‘n laer afdeling;
- ‘n hoer afdeling;
- ‘n gevorder afdeling.

Die Bybelkenniseksamen is aanvullend tot die kategese en dien tot aanmoediging vir die

jeug om erns te maak met die Bybelgeskiedenis en – inhoud, en dit te leer ken.

DIE JEUGBEWEGING VAND IE KERK

Die doel van die jeugbeweging is om die jeug binne die verband van die plaaslike gemeente, en onder leiding van die kerkraad, te organiseer en aan te moedig om die geloofsleer in hulle lewe toe te pas. Deur die jeugbeweging word die jeug is staat gestel om gesamentlik, as jongmense, hulle besondere bydrae te lewer ten opsigte van die getuienis vir die Koninkryk van God en dit deur middle van die Christelike gemeenskap, getuienis en diens.

Om hierdie doel te bereik word die jeug van die gemeente saamgebind in die jeugbeweging wat gereed bymekaar met die oog op 'n program wat onder andere die volgende insluit:

Bybelstudie, bespreking en gebed;
Samesang en ander vorms van musiek;
Praktiese diens en getuienis;
Dramatisering en debate;
Spel en ontspanning; en
Koorsang.*

(* Die Jeugkoor in die gemeente sorteer onder die jeugwerk omdat dit net uit kinders in die Kinderkategeese bestaan. Die ander koor of kore in die gemeente hoort ook onder die jeugwerk tuis aangesien die meeste koorlede gewoonlik jongmense is en die koor besonder geskik is as middle om jongmense nader te rtek na die Here, Sy Woord en kerk).

Benewens die gereeld samekomste van die jeug in die terme soos hierbo verduidelik, is jeugkampe en –konferensies ook 'n belangrike middle met die oog op die gemeente, maar ook op rings- en sinodlae vlak; georganiseer word.

Die jeugbeweging is gerig op die jeug vanaf die ouderdom 3 tot ongeveer 30. Voorsiening kan, waar nodig en wenslik, gemaak word vir die behoeftes van verskillende ouderdoms- en belangegroepes onder die jeug. So kan daar binne die jeugbeweging verskillende afdelings wees soos byvoorbeeld:

'n kinderkransafdeling vir die jeug tussen die ouderdomme van 3 en 11 jaar;
'n afdeling vir die junior jeug tussen die ouderdomme van 12 tot 16 jaar;
'n afdeling vir die senior jeug van 16 jaar en ouer; en
'n afdeling vir die werkende jeug met eiesoortige en besondere omstandighede en behoeftes soos byvoorbeeld as huiswerkers.

Die jeugbeweging staan onder die toesig van die kerkraad en, waar nodig, onder die leiding van die jeugkommissie van die kerkraad. Dieselfde geld vir die jeugbeweging op die vlak van die ring en die sinode. Al die afdelings van die jeugwerk in die gemeente, en in die kerk in breër verband, moet onder leiding van die betrokke jeugkommissies, gekoördineer word ten opsigte van die doel, program en organisasie. Die betrokke jeugkommissies kan hulle verantwoordelikhede aan besture wat as subkommissie onder hulle dien, de;geer, maar hulle bly finaal verantwoordelik.

IMPLIKASIES VAN DIE JEUGBELEID

Die beleidsbeginsels van die jeugwerk impliseer dat die kerk self die verantwoordelikheid vir sy werk onder die jeug dra. Hierdie verantwoordelikheid omvat die volgende:

Die herdelike sorg ten opsigte van die jeug en hulle ouers of voogde sowel as die ander lidmate wat betrokke is by die opvoeding en onderwys van die jeug;

Die inskakeling van die jeug by die lewe en werk van die gemeente met klem op die erediens, die onderlinge dienslewering en die getuienis na buite;

Die jeugbeweging vandie kerk;

Die verantwoordelike bemoeienis met die algemene onderwys en opvoeding in die skole; en Hulp, voorligting en leiding aan die jeug ter bereiking van die doel van die jeugwerk soos in die jeugbeleid bepaal. (Sien 1.2 hierbo)

Om die kerk in staat te stel om sy plig in terme van hierdie verantwoordelikheid uit te voer, word daar jeugkommissies op gemeentelike, rings- en sinodale vlak saamgestel. Hierdie jeugkommissies funksioneer soos volg.

DIE JEUGKOMMISSIE VAN DIE KERKRAAD

Elke kerkraad kies jaarliks 'n jeugkommissie wat verantwoordelik is vir die bevordering van die jeugwerk in die gemeente. Die jeugkommissie doen by elke gewone vergadering van die kerkraad en ten minste twee maal per jaar verslag van die jeugwerk in die verkillende afdelings van die katecese en die jeugbeweging.

Die jeugkommissie van die kerkraad is verantwoordelik vir die jeugwerk in die volgende terme:

Die toesig oor en versorging van die onderrig in al die afdelings van die katecese sodat die volle leerplan van die kerk deeglik met al die katekiserende behandel word;

Die vind van die nodige personeel vir die katecese met die oog op aanstelling deur die kerkraad;

Die jaarlikse bestelling van teksboekies, lesandleidings, katekiserende boeke en ander noodsaaklike materiaal soos voorgeskryf en voorsien deur die Algemene Jeugkommissie vir die katekesiese werk van die gemeentes;

Die toerusting van die katekesiese personeel;

Aanmoediging vir die leraar(s) om belang te stel in die jeug in die eredienste te betrek en persoonlik die senior katekiserende seker weekliks vir 'n jaar lank voor die aflegging van belydenis, waar te neem by ten minste die hoofdienspunt in die gemeente;

Die jaarlikse inskrywing vir die Bybelkenniseksamen;

Toesig oor en hulp aan die jeugbeweging in die gemeente;

