

## **Report of the Stated Clerk of Synod**

Esteemed Brothers,

Over the past inter-synodical period I have responded to all items of correspondence, most of which were inquiries from ministers in South Africa looking for positions in the RCNZ. I have formatted, printed and distributed the Acts of Synod 2005. I sent letters to all sessions and convenors of committees stating the decisions of Synod 2005 relevant to each body. Two months prior to the due date, I sent notices to all committees that their reports were due by 6 March 2008, six months before synod is to meet. I have received and formatted reports from the committees and distributed them as quickly as possible after I received them. I have notified sister-churches and churches with which we have contact of the dates of our upcoming Synod and have invited them to send delegates to Synod.

Because of the cost of shipping large packages to each session and because of the extra work that requires of me, I made the decision to distribute the reports and overtures by email in PDF format. This enables those who want an electronic copy of the reports and overtures to have them and also enables local photocopying or printing by each session. The PDF format ensures that everyone will have a properly formatted document.

Much appreciation should be given to John van Dyk for his excellent summary of the reports and overtures. All our congregations profited from his work.

I had intended to update the Office-Bearers' Handbook with the significant decisions made by Synod 2005. Also I had hoped to update the Index of Synodical Decisions originally prepared by Dick Vanderpyl. However I have not been able to do either of these tasks due to the workload in Hastings over the past three years. Dick Spoelstra has made a good start on the Index of Synodical Decisions but there is need of further refinement. If the Stated Clerk is able to do these tasks in the next inter-synodical period, the Office-Bearers' Handbook and the Index of Synodical Decisions could be combined into one document and printed on A5 paper and drilled for 2-hole and 3-hole ring binders.

In the last couple of years three synodical committees have become defunct. The Committee for Contact with Political Bodies lost its chairman and impetus with the resignation of Gary Milne. The Ministers and Wives Conference Committee lost its chairman when Rev. Adams retired. The Home Mission Committee lost all its members, three going to Australia and one resigning from his synodical duties. As a result we have no reports from these committees.

I recommend that Synod consider whether the Committee for Contact with Political Bodies should be continued since it has been very difficult to find people who are willing and able to lead this committee. Is it necessary to have such a committee which works in an area somewhat unrelated to the work of the church?

All the ministers and wives on the South Island who did the original organising of Ministers and Wives Conference have left our churches. Because I did not regard the report of the Ministers and Wives Conference as essential for Synod, I have not asked for someone else to write that report. However, some recommendations regarding the next Ministers and Wives Conference should be on Synod's agenda. You can find these at the end of my report.

In view of the fact that the Home Missions Committee did very little during the inter-synodical period, the lack of a report is not too significant. I recommend that Synod consider whether such a committee is necessary. This is, after all, the responsibility of the local church given to it by Christ Himself and it is not clear to me that there is a desire or need for a synodical Home Missions Committee

I have served Synod for 13 years as Stated Clerk. Although that does not nearly approach the 24 years our brother Dick Vanderpyl served, I would be happy for someone else to take over this task. I have asked Pieter van der Wel, who has served on the Church Order Committee for some time. He is willing to take up the work of Stated Clerk. I believe that Pieter is quite capable of doing the work and his knowledge of the workings of our churches and Synod will stand him in good stead.

I have also served as a Clerk of Synod at six of the last eight synods. So I would be pleased if others

**Report 18**  
**Stated Clerk**

would be appointed to this role at our upcoming Synod. We need to put some younger men to work!

**Recommendations**

- 1. That Synod receive this report.*
- 2. That Synod ask the Stated Clerk to add the significant decisions from Synod 2005 and Synod 2008 to the Office-Bearers' Handbook (OBH). That the OBH be produced in A5 format drilled for 2-hole and 3-hole ring binders.*
- 3. That Synod ask the Stated Clerk to oversee the updating of the Index of Synodical Decisions and to add it to the Office-Bearers' Handbook.*
- 4. That Synod not appoint a Committee for Contact with Political Bodies.*
- 5. That Synod not appoint a Home Missions Committee.*
- 6. That Synod provide for another Ministers and Wives Conference in the next inter-synodical period.*
- 7. That Synod appoint the ministers and wives of the Auckland Presbytery to organise the next Ministers and Wives Conference.*

Rev. Bruce Hoyt  
Stated Clerk