

National Publishing Committee

Esteemed Brethren,

The National Publishing Committee has continued through the inter-synodical period to function as mandated.

Following Synod 2005 there have been some changes to the Committee and further changes are proposed in the recommendations below.

The Convener/Chairman br. L. VanVliet resigned due to changes in his employment. Br J.Holtslag was appointed in his place after being able to return the work of Treasurer to Br A.Reinders who returned from overseas. The Committee now consists of:

Convener/Chairman:	J Holtslag
Secretary:	N Wharekawa
Treasurer:	A Reinders
Distributor:	M Vander Zwaag
Editor:	Rev. S Bajema
Liaison:	Rev L DeVos
Editorial sub-committee:	Revs. D J VanGarderen, P Archbald and H Vaatstra

Our synodical mandate requires the appointment of one delegate from each Presbytery. For reasons of convenience and efficiency the Committee would like to recommend to Synod that only one Liaison be appointed to represent and report to the Presbyteries. This Liaison to come from the Presbytery in which the NPC is situated. Our experience this inter-synodical period gave us difficulty in finding the liaison appointments. Only Auckland Presbytery had actually appointed someone and Christchurch Presbytery was seriously short of ministerial manpower.

Another matter the Committee would like to clarify is the seeming confusion between the workings of the National Publishing Committee and what is known as the Faith in Focus Committee. In the past the Faith in Focus Committee met annually and the NPC met once inter-Synodical. For the same reasons as given above we would now recommend that the two Committees simply merge into one Committee called the National Publishing Committee and that this Committee meets annually.

For the Committee to operate efficiently we believe it beneficial to keep membership to the present six members.

It may be remembered that there is a separate sub-committee to assist the Editor of Faith in Focus. This sub-committee is not involved in the actual workings of the NPC but is available to the Editor to assist in the contents of our national magazine - Faith in Focus.

Faith in Focus

Rev Bajema has now been Editor for Faith in Focus for 8 years. During his tenure the magazine has continued to prosper. A number of changes to layout and presentation were introduced. The total circulation is approximately 1000. The Committee expresses its sincerest gratitude to Rev Bajema for his time and efforts.

Yearbook

The annual Yearbook, for our churches, is now edited by Mrs J Nugteren, of Levin. Mrs Nugteren produced her first Yearbook in 2007. Again, a sincere thanks to Mrs Nugteren and also to the Bosgra family who produced this booklet previously for many years on a voluntary basis.

To maximise the effectiveness of the Yearbook, Sessions are encouraged to ensure that the material for the contents of this Yearbook are handed in accurately and on time.

Other than the productions of the Acts of Synod 2005, the Yearbook and Faith in Focus no material was produced by the NPC.

Report 8
National Publishing Committee

Recommendations

That Synod

- 1. Receive this Report and associated reports (Editors and Distribution)*
- 2. Approve the audited financial statements*
- 3. Approve the recommendation that only one Liaison be appointed to report to each Presbytery*
- 4. Appoint a replacement to the editorial sub-committee to replace Rev Vaatstra*
- 5. Endorse the appointment of J Holtslag as Convener/Chairman and A Reinders as Treasurer*
- 6. Approve the merger of the two Committees into one, meeting annually*

J Holtslag, Convener

Editor's Report – Faith in Focus

For the last Synod I gave a brief overview of what is involved in the compilation and publication of 'Faith in Focus.' We have been blessed to have been able to continue on a similar basis, with a very helpful team of contributors – regular and irregular – and our proof-reader, typographer, distributor, and committee.

I stated in that report also that my prayer was that 'Faith in Focus' would continue to be accepted by our members and that they would take more pride in having our own denominational magazine. I believe this is a prayer that is being graciously answered by our Lord with a growing appreciation and support for this work. I find more and more a warm personal link with our folk up and down the country. They show that Christian bond in their response. One example is the use of Family Notices. With the addition of photos, this has come to fit in very well, especially with the 'Gleanings' pages. A highlight showing this same growth for this last year of 2007 was having reports of the three Women's Presbyterial meeting, with digital pictures.

Further afield, 'Faith in Focus' articles have been reproduced in a number of other denominational magazines and independent publications. I regularly receive requests to reprint material from 'Faith in Focus.' With the appropriate acknowledgement, this permission is readily granted.

Perhaps the biggest change since the last Report has been the incorporation of colour on the cover and a whole different quality of paper. This has been most favourably commented on and has served to positively promote also the wonderful creation the Lord has given us in this land.

Having served for nearly eight years, a time longer than any previous Editor, I have sought the input of the Committee to their thoughts on a change in the Editorship. Their response was that they believed I should continue on as long as is possible. They are most thankful also for the time that the Mangere Session allows me to work on 'Faith in Focus.' It must be noted that it is a position which takes up a considerable amount of time – I would estimate some 20% of a ministerial workload. But its blessings are great too. For example, I have a contact with a huge world-wide Reformed community I would not otherwise have and to be a part of that is a privilege. I also am able to be blessed by what others have written and so challenged to keep up my writing too. (And you get to be excused from other Synodical Committees too!)

Sjirk Bajema

11-02-08

Faith & Focus Distribution report 2008

The amount of Faith and Focus magazines sent out has increased slightly to 968.

It has been stable in the amount sent out, although postage has gone up due to the heavier paper.

Postal rates are also suspected to go up at the end of March. How much I am not yet sure.

Usually the magazine is sent out for the 1st Sunday of the month, unless something unforeseen happens.

Mark van der Zwaag

National Publishing Committee

Financial Year 1 Jan 07 – 31 Dec 07

	31 Dec 06	31 Dec 07
Opening balance	12,365.51	8,758.69
 Income		
Faith in Focus subscriptions: Bulk	26,752.75	30,310.00
Individual	332.00	80.00
Overseas	960.52	672.64
Yearbook subscriptions	1160.00	1,075.00
Interest	217.33	1,279.80
Donations	310.00	0.00
Other – Synod refund	115.18	0.00
Advertising	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>
	29,847.78	33,457.44
 Expenditure		
Printing: Faith in Focus	23,827.15	20,098.13
Yearbook	853.88	1,026.01
Shipping & postage	1,952.23	1,882.63
Layout	6,333.75	5,850.00
Phone expenses	161.59	359.60
Travel	326.00	0.00
Sundry	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	33,454.60	29,216.37
 Closing balance	 8,758.69	 12,999.76
 Surplus/(Shortfall)	 (3,606.82)	 4,241.07

Audit report of the Financial Statements for the National Publishing Committee of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand

I have audited the financial statements of the National Publishing Committee of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand ("National Publishing Committee"). The financial statements provide information about the past financial performance of the National Publishing Committee and its financial position as at 31st December 2005.

Responsibilities:

Responsibilities of the National Publishing Committee.

- The National Publishing Committee is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that reflect the financial position of the National Publishing Committee as at 31st December 2005.

Responsibility of the Auditor.

- It is my responsibility to express, as an independent opinion, on the financial statements of the National Publishing Committee and, to report my opinion to the Committee of the National Publishing Committee.

Basis of Opinion:

I have conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards in New Zealand, except that the audit work was limited as explained in the opinion below. The audit was planned and performed so as to obtain all the information and explanations that were considered necessary. Sufficient evidence was obtained to give a reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from material misstatements.

Other than in my capacity as Honorary Auditor, I have no relationship with or interest in the National Publishing Committee. I am, however, a member of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.

Opinion:

In examining the records it was noted that no statements of accounts, tickets or invoices for the phone or travel expenses were provided or made available.

As the Avondale refund was paid out during the previous treasurer's time, the current treasurer was not able to ascertain why Avondale was entitled to this refund or what this refund was for.

In common with other organisations of similar nature, control over income is limited prior to being recorded in the underlying financial records for the period commencing 1st January 2005 to 31st December 2005. There is no practical audit procedure to determine the effect of this limited control.

In my opinion, except for the possible effect of that limited control referred to in the preceding paragraph, the lack of a defined statement of accounting policies, the statements of financial performance and income and expenditure give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Publishing Committee as at 31st December 2005 and the results of the operations for the financial period 1st January 2005 to 31st December 2005.

John J Lubbers - Honorary Auditor

1st April 2006

Lower Hutt

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John J Lubbers - Honorary Auditor
9th June 2007
Lower Hutt

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Opinion:

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In common with other organisations of similar nature, control over income is limited prior to being recorded in the underlying financial records for the period commencing 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007. There is no practical audit procedure to determine the effect of this limited control.

In my opinion, except for the possible effect of that limited control referred to in the preceding paragraph, the lack of a defined statement of accounting policies, the statements of financial performance and income and expenditure give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Publishing Committee as at 31st December 2007 and the results of the operations for the financial period 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007.

John J Lubbers - Honorary Auditor
28th January 2008
Lower Hutt