

Press Release of Synod Bunbury 2018 of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia

June 18th, 2018 – June 26th, 2018

Opening of Synod

Although the Free Reformed Church of Bunbury was appointed by Synod Baldivis 2015 as the convening church for the next synod, brothers and sisters of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia assembled in Southern River on the evening of June 18th, 2018. In view of the space limitations of the church in Bunbury, the Free Reformed Church of Southern River had graciously offered the use of their facilities in a rather unique arrangement of cooperation between the two churches. The chairman of the Bunbury consistory, Br.K.Visser, invited all those gathered to sing praises to the Lord and led in opening prayer. In this prayer of intercession, Br.Visser expressed thanks to the Lord for His care and protection over the churches in the inter-synodical period, as well as a desire for God's blessing over the work of synod in the coming days. He then read from Proverbs 3:1-18, and focused on verses 5-6 in his subsequent meditation: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.* In his address, Br.Visser emphasised to the delegates in particular the great need for spiritual wisdom focused on heeding the instruction and clear teaching of Scripture. He declared Synod Bunbury 2018 officially opened and welcomed all delegates to take their place at the synod table.

Delegates and Officers

Br.K.Visser confirmed that the church at Bunbury had examined the previously submitted credentials and found them to be in good order. All primary delegates from the three classes were present:

Classis North:

Rev.R.Bredenhof
Rev.W.Bredenhof
Rev.A.Souman
Elder H.Hamelink
Elder T.Reitsema
Elder W.Spyker

Classis Central:

Rev.R.D.Anderson
Rev.A.Hagg
Rev.C.Vermeulen
Elder E.Heerema
Elder H.Terpstra
Elder J.Torenvliet

Classis South West:

Rev.H.Alkema
Rev.R.Pot
Rev.S.'t Hart
Elder S.Bolhuis
Elder H.Olde
Elder W.Vandervan

The election of officers to serve synod took place in a series of votes, yielding the following results: Rev.A.Souman elected as chairman, Rev.H.Alkema as vice-chairman, Elder W.Spyker as first clerk, and Rev.R.Pot as second clerk. Sr.K.VanDuyn was appointed as an administrative assistant, and thankfulness was expressed for her willingness to serve once again at synod in this capacity. The chairman declared synod to be duly constituted, after which the delegates rose to express their agreement with the Three Forms of Unity. Rev.Souman then closed the evening in prayer and adjourned synod for the evening, giving an opportunity for all those present to enjoy a time of fellowship.

Foreign delegates

Synod was privileged to welcome foreign delegates representing a number of church federations in various levels of relationship with the FRCA. For the first time, a delegate from the Reformed Churches of New Zealand could be welcomed as a representative of a sister church (Rev.Dr.P.Archbald). Delegates from other sister churches were also welcomed, including representatives from the Canadian Reformed Churches (Rev.A.Witten, Br.H.Schouten), the Reformed Churches of Indonesia [GGRI] (Rev.A.Palandima, Br.Ev.A.Bantan), the Kosin

Presbyterian Church of Korea (Prof.S.Lee) as well as the Free Reformed Churches of South Africa (Rev.P.Kgatle). Delegates from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Rev.J.Plug, Rev.Dr.M.H.Oosterhuis) were received by synod in the category of temporary ecclesiastical contact, the result of the decision of Synod Baldivis 2015 to suspend the relationship of the FRCA with the RCN. Representatives from the churches of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands [DGK] (Rev.C.Koster, Rev.M.Sneep) were also welcomed to synod in this category. Synod received delegates from churches with whom we have official contact, including representatives from the Calvinist Reformed Churches of Indonesia [GGRC] (Rev.Y.M.Bunda, Br.S.Dethan as well as (for the first time) the United Reformed Churches in North America [URCNA] (Br.G.Swets). Also attending synod were representatives from the Reformed Churches of Indonesia [GGRI Timor]. (Br.Cl.Ngura, Br.F.S.Missa), A few days after the opening of synod, Rev.J.Sawyer of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church was welcomed, and given the opportunity to address Synod Bunbury. In the second week of synod, delegates from our sister church of the First Evangelical Church of Singapore [FERC] (Rev.Chong Nam Tuck, Brother Johnson See Choon Hock) were also heartily welcomed.

Synod Bunbury 2018 made the following decisions in connection with various church federations:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and Southern Presbyterian Church (SPC)

Contact between the Free Reformed Churches in Tasmania and both the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as well as the Southern Presbyterian Church led to a proposal from Classis North to investigate the potential of this contact in a more formal way. Synod decided to create a deputyship to investigate the EPC and the SPC and report back to the next synod concerning the feasibility of further ecumenical contact. In the case of the EPC, this would not be a case of initiating contact for the first time on an official basis, but re-establishing the contact that was broken off at the synodical level in 1992 stemming from the lack of interest from the EPC at that time. Twenty-six years later it remains to be seen whether a relationship between our churches and these small federations will be possible.

Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)

The relationship with the Canadian Reformed Churches is one that members of our churches have cherished dearly for many years. It is our closest relationship, and now also our oldest. In his address to synod, Rev.A.Witten affirmed the close bond that is felt and experienced by members of our respective federations in an array of different ways. Cooperation between our federations continues on a variety of levels and strengthens our relationship. It was with thankfulness that synod could decide to continue our relationship with this sister church. In their report to Synod Bunbury, the deputies identified one area of concern to be a number of the decisions taken by the Blessings Christian Church, noting irregularities with respect to the practice of Reformed church polity: “Deputies question how such developments function within the CanRC and whether they are consistent with the plain reading of the agreed Church Order.” With this in mind, synod mandated the deputies very specifically to investigate these concerns. Ongoing attention was also given to the continued discussions between the CanRC and the URCNA with respect to a potential merger. Although the last URCNA synod fixed a waiting period of six years for federative unity with the CanRC, it was still felt beneficial for our churches to remain informed on this issue.

United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA)

In late 2014 contact with the Free Reformed Churches of Australia was initiated by the United Reformed Churches of North America. These churches are not unknown to us; their sister church relationship with the CanRC and efforts at working towards federative unity with them have made

the URCNA a federation that has been on our ecclesiastical radar for some time now. Nevertheless, their efforts at establishing separate contact with our churches led Synod Baldivis 2015 to mandate deputies to explore the possibilities and advise the next synod on how to proceed with the initial contact. In the inter-synodical period since 2015 minimal progress was made, and as a result Synod Bunbury essentially re-mandated the deputyship. The deputies were given the task to continue to liaise with the URCNA, attend their synod in Wellandport, Ontario in 2020, and recommend to Synod 2021 whether to proceed in a sister church relationship. It was good to have the presence of Br.G.Swets of the URCNA at our synod, which was a reflection of both the intent and the seriousness of this federation when it comes to a possible relationship with us.

Kosin Presbyterian Churches in Korea (KPCK)

While our sister church relationship with the Kosin Presbyterian Churches in Korea is one that we are thankful for, cultural and linguistic differences have historically made close interaction and cooperation with each other very difficult. Throughout the years the FRCA have taken different approaches to fostering increased familiarisation with the KPCK. At Synod Baldivis 2015 the deputies were tasked with the mandate to investigate the model and mode of missionary work being done by the KPCK in order to assist the local churches of the FRCA to determine whether and how they might cooperate together in their missionary calling. Although work was done by the deputies to learn more about the activities of the KPCK in the Asian region, their conclusion was that limited possibilities exist, and at Synod Bunbury this mandate was discontinued. One complication in the relationship involves the presence of Koreans in the Perth area and the establishment of churches in this area by the KPCK without any significant communication with the FRCA. For this reason, our deputies were mandated to further investigate the members of our sister churches living in the Perth metro area, with a view to improving contact and cooperation with them.

Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (RCN)

The potential termination of the relationship between the FRCA and the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands was a matter weighing heavily on the hearts of many members of our churches heading into Synod Bunbury 2018. Serious, detailed and prolonged calls for repentance in recent years have fallen on deaf ears. At Synod Armadale 2012 a significant effort was made to formulate a clear and exhaustive outline of the concerns held by the FRCA. Concerns about the RCN resulted in Synod Armadale classifying the relationship as being “under strain.” Sadly, the Dutch Synod of Ede 2014 rejected the admonitions sent by the FRCA, which led the deputies to present Synod Baldivis with the option of either terminating or suspending the relationship. Synod Baldivis chose the latter option, and emphasized the seriousness of the FRCA’s concerns with the decision to send to the consistories of the RCN a copy of the letter sent to Synod 2017 of the RCN. This letter included the assertion that “the FRCA’s sister relationship with the RCN will become untenable if the next Synod of the RCN in 2017 does not express and demonstrate evidence of repentance from the deviations mentioned in the letter of the Synod of Armadale 2012 to the Synod of Ede 2014.” Synod Baldivis also encouraged the FRCA congregations to “pray that the Lord would grant the RCN to uprightly hold and defend the Scriptural truth as maintained in the Three Forms of Unity.” A significant number of churches submitted letters to Synod Baldivis 2015 in connection with the relationship with our sister church, yet very few churches did so in preparation for this Synod. Decisions taken by the RCN in the inter-synodical period, and in particular the decision of Synod Meppel 2017, simply confirmed that the repentance prayed for and so desired by both our churches and our sister churches had not materialised. The need for the termination of our relationship with the RCN appeared to be clearly understood by the churches, and this need was underlined by the content of the address at synod of Rev.Dr.M.H.Oosterhuis. As a result, a decision was taken, with great sadness, to terminate the sister relationship with the RCN. The following grounds were given to support this decision:

1. The relationship with the RCN has become untenable due to their use of the “New Hermeneutic” – principles allowing the current cultural context to play a determining role in explaining scripture. This has allowed the RCN to turn away from the clear instruction of God’s Word and has shown unfaithfulness by lack of submission to that Word.
2. The evidence of ground 1 above is given particular expression in the recent decision of the RCN (Synod Meppel 2017) to allow women to the offices of deacon, elder, and minister.
3. There has been no adequate response, let alone repentance, to earlier admonitions:
 - i. Letter of admonition from Synod Armadale 2012 to RCN Synod Ede dated 22 April 2013 (Acts of Synod 2012, Appendix 5);
 - ii. Letter from Synod Baldivis 2015 to RCN Synod Meppel 2017 (Acts of Synod 2015, Appendix 2).

The historic decision to terminate our relationship with Reformed Churches of the Netherlands was one taken with soberness and sadness. We hope and pray that the LORD would call this federation back to Himself. Synod Bunbury 2018 made the decision to convey this decision by sending two deputies to the next synod of the RCN.

Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (DGK) & Reformed Churches Netherlands (GKN)

Synod Baldivis 2015 mandated deputies to continue to monitor developments in both the DGK and the GKN, and upon submitting their report, deputies considered their mandate to be completed. A number of letters from the churches urged Synod Bunbury to re-mandate the deputies in the interest of continuing contact with these church federations. Synod made the decision to mandate deputies to continue to monitor developments in both the DGK and the GKN, and encourage these two federations to work towards unity with one another. An obstacle in the development of our relationship with the DGK has been their acknowledgement of the Liberated Reformed Church of Abbotsford (LRCA). Synod Armadale 2012 decided that “the [DGK’s] relationship with the Liberated Reformed Church of Abbotsford (LRCA) may be an impediment to a future sister church relationship with the [DGK].” Since Synod Baldivis 2015, some positive steps have been taken by the DGK towards the LRCA on the matter of their separation from the CanRC. Synod Bunbury mandated the deputies to keep informed on the nature of the developments between the DGK and the LRCA, and to communicate with their respective Canadian Reformed counterparts on this issue.

Reformed Churches of New Zealand (RCNZ)

The history of our contact with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand and our internal discussions concerning them goes back many years. Over time, progress was made to such an extent that in preparation for Synod Baldivis 2015 the deputies submitted the following recommendation: “to offer [a] sister church relationship to the RCNZ under the established rules, and to accept their offer of a sister church relationship.” Synod Baldivis accepted this recommendation, and the historic decision was made to enter into a sister church relationship with the RCNZ. Since that time, various efforts have been made to increase the communication between our respective federations, and a natural process of increased interaction has begun to take place, which has been a wonderful blessing to both federations. Concerns with respect to the potential impact on the RCNZ with their relationship of ecumenical fellowship with the CRCA as well as the theological training at the Reformed Theological College (RTC) in Melbourne were identified as matters that deserve specific attention by deputies. Deputies will monitor these issues. A positive testimony of our sister church is captured in the first ground of the decision of Synod Bunbury in connection with the RCNZ: “from the decisions of its most recent synod, and the ongoing contacts observed and reported by deputies, the RCNZ gives evidence of a love for the gospel, ongoing faithfulness to God’s Word, and a commitment to the Reformed faith, and no evidence has been presented of any deviation or unfaithfulness in this respect.” In many ways, our relationship with the RCNZ is growing and maturing in a natural way. There is one point, however, that deputies

identified as requiring further thought and consideration, which is the matter of coordinating financial arrangements for retiring ministers. Deputies have been mandated to help overcome this obstacle, so also in this respect the bond with the RCNZ may be strengthened to the benefit of our churches.

Free Reformed Churches of South Africa (FRCSA)

It was with great thankfulness to the Lord for the relationship that we enjoy with the Free Reformed Churches of South Africa that Synod Bunbury welcomed Rev.P.Kgatle to give his address. In it he outlined both the blessings as well as the challenges faced by the Free Reformed Churches of South Africa, and treated all those gathered to an interesting and informative slide show which highlighted the various congregations in the FRCSA. Some of the most pressing issues faced by the FRCSA remain the number of vacancies in the federation and the challenges of calling ministers from abroad to serve in their churches. There are also ongoing deficiencies in theological education, but a recent arrangement with the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary has been put in place to allow a form of distance education which has already proven helpful. There also remains the need for financial support. The provision of financial support for the FRCSA was included in the mandate for the deputies at Synod Baldivis 2015, and at Synod Bunbury the deputies were once again mandated “to coordinate responses to any requests for support from Deputies within the FRCSA (including either Needy Churches or Theological Training) and to involve the local congregations of the FRCA as appropriate.” It is our hope and prayer that the Lord would continue to support and uphold the churches of the FRCSA in their various challenges.

First Evangelical Reformed Church of Singapore (FERC)

While contact with the First Evangelical Church of Singapore has taken place on an informal basis for a number of years, it was at Synod Baldivis 2015 that the offer of a sister church relationship was formally extended to the FERC. This offer was accepted by the FERC shortly afterwards, and in the inter-synodical period the interaction between our two federations has increased. The Lord has blessed the FERC with the establishment of a sister church relationship with the Covenant Grace Church of Penang (Malaysia), a small instituted church which is the result of years of mission work by the FERC. At the same time, there are also challenges associated with being a single-church federation. For this reason, they have sought support from our federation in requesting ministers from our churches to teach and preach in their midst. They also initiated contact with the Canadian Reformed Churches and submitted to Synod Dunnville 2016 a request for a sister church relationship, which was turned down by the Canadian Reformed Churches. Deputies were mandated to visit Singapore twice in the next three years, give timely reports concerning the FERC to the membership in the FRCA and to offer assistance to the FERC of Singapore where requested and feasible. We pray that the Lord would continue to bless the relationship with our sister church in Singapore.

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

Classis North submitted to Synod a proposal to investigate the possibility of entering into fellowship with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Synod Bunbury decided to accede to this proposal, and mandated Deputies for Relations with Churches Abroad to establish contact with the OPC and report to the next synod with information about these churches. Deputies were also given the task to make a recommendation to the next synod concerning the feasibility of further ecclesiastical contact. It was also decided to send a delegate to the General Assembly of the OPC once in our inter-synodical period. A number of grounds were listed in support of these decisions: the history of this federation’s strong stand for the inerrant truth of God’s Word as well as its long-standing sister-church relationship with several of our sister churches, including the CanRC, the

RCNZ and the KPCK. We will see whether it is the Lord's providential will that our church federations grow closer together now that this initial point of contact has been made.

Reformed Churches in Indonesia

The FRCA have for some time enjoyed a sister church relationship with Reformed Churches of Indonesia (GGRI). Synod Armadale 2012 noted that “this is now a larger federation as a result of the union in February 2012 of what were previously three federations, namely the federation of GGRI-NTT (our original sister church), the federation of churches in Papua, and the federation of churches in Kalimantan Barat” and mandated the deputies to report to the churches with more information concerning this larger federation with its three regional synods. At both Synod Baldivis 2015 as well as Synod Bunbury 2018 this mandate was again renewed, since it was decided that not enough has been reported about the Reformed character of these federations. It was also made clear to the delegates of Synod that in the GGRI some troubling aspects in the area of church polity and liturgy have developed. These concerns were deemed sufficiently serious to require the addition of a new element to the mandate of the deputies: monitoring, evaluating and offering advice about these developments. Contact with the Calvinist Reformed Churches in Indonesia (GGRC) was continued, while Synod also mandated deputies to establish official contact with a newly-formed federation in Indonesia, the GGRI-Timor. This is a federation that came into existence in 2016 and was the result of mission work sponsored by the Canadian Reformed Church of Smithville, Ontario. The relationship between these three federations is one that is not always easy for the deputies to work with, yet they were also given the task to encourage the GGRI in their efforts to work towards federative unity with the GGRC and the GGRI-Timor. One final element in connection with the GGRI discussed and debated by Synod Bunbury was the matter of theological training. A number of churches submitted letters to Synod recommending that deputies be tasked to find a local church to take over the support for the Theological College of the GGRI. Synod mandated deputies to continue to support theological training for the GGRI and make funds available for this cause, yet also gave the deputies the task of finding a local church to assume responsibility for the financial support of theological training for the GGRI following Synod 2021.

Synod Bunbury 2018 made the following decisions in connection with the workings of our own federation:

Australian Version of the Canadian *Book of Praise*

The topic of a potential Australian Book of Praise (or an Australian Version of the Canadian *Book of Praise*) is one that has surfaced at a number of synods preceding Synod Bunbury. The Australian churches have consistently expressed their thankfulness for the Canadian *Book of Praise*, and have gratefully acknowledged a debt of gratitude to our sister church in this respect, but at the same time there has been an ongoing and increasing desire in the Free Reformed Churches in recent years for some form of our *Book of Praise*. Synod Baldivis gave the deputies a very challenging mandate to prepare a number of different versions of the Book of Praise for possible adoption. These included the use of either the NKJV or the ESV, none of the 19 additional hymns, all of the 19 additional hymns, or some number of them. It was clear from the variety of submissions to Synod Bunbury that this topic is one that very much holds the interest and attention of the churches. It was also clear to the delegates at Synod that coming to a common consensus on this issue would be challenging. Synod decided to adopt and produce an Australian version of the Canadian *Book of Praise* that includes the psalms and hymns of the 2014 Canadian *Book of Praise*, including the 19 additional hymns, makes use of the ESV translation of the Bible and does not capitalize the personal pronouns for God. This song book will be called the “Australian Book of Praise: Anglo-Genevan Psalter”, and will include the creeds, confessions and liturgy forms as found in the 2014 Canadian *Book of Praise*, with adopted changes made by the FRCA, as well as the Australian Church Order. Synod

Bunbury also created an Australian Standing Committee for the Book of Praise and gave the committee the task of making the practical arrangements necessary for the printing and distribution of this Book of Praise. Of particular note is the second ground listed under this decision: “there is merit in keeping the Australian version of the Book of Praise as similar as possible to the Canadian Book of Praise so that they can be used interchangeably by the members, and so that our book closely resembles that used by our Canadian sister churches. This is also in the interests of promoting the good stewardship of our financial and other resources.” This emphasises the fact that the current 2014 Canadian *Book of Praise* can be used up until and beyond the time when the Australian version of the Book of Praise is ready for distribution.

Training for the Ministry – Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary

Synod Bunbury approached the subject of training for the ministry as a topic separate from that mentioned below: an investigation in the possibility of establishing an Australian Theological Seminary. In connection with the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, Synod made a number of decisions. These included accepting the invitation from the CRTS to participate in the work of the ad hoc committee that is investigating the possibility of pursuing distance education with the CRTS and requesting the churches to match the contributions of our Canadian brothers and sisters (\$90/pcm) in support of the CRTS. Synod also mandated the deputies to review the current system of funding for students with respect to its effectiveness in supporting and encouraging students as well as considering and implementing new ways to promote the study for the ministry among young men. In light of the current and anticipated vacancies in the FRCA and the CanRC, this is a crucial step. Further decisions were taken to investigate and report on the applicability of a ministry internship model and monitoring the effectiveness of the Pastoral Training Program (PTP) of the CRTS within the Australian churches by seeking feedback from the minister and students participating in this program. Regardless of what future decisions may be taken by the FRCA in connection with the establishment of a federational or regional seminary, strong support for and appreciation of the CRTS remains a prominent feature in the relationship between the FRCA our sister churches in Canada. We praise God for the faithful, quality instruction given at the CRTS and pray that the Lord would continue to bless this institution.

Australian Theological Seminary

Two members of the Deputies for Theological Training presented Synod Bunbury with a proposal in connection with the feasibility of an Australian Theological Seminary. One proposal recommended the establishment of an Australian Theological seminary in the short term, while the other recommended that Synod decide “that it is not feasible to establish a Free Reformed Theological Seminary at this time.” These proposals were the end product of the mandate these deputies received at Synod Baldivis 2015: “to investigate the feasibility of establishing an FRCA Theological Seminary, and report back to the next synod”. Much work was done by the deputies in fulfilling their mandate. A survey was presented to the churches with the results compiled and included in their report, while input from the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary was solicited and formed part of the analysis. A number of submissions from the churches presented various arguments on both sides of the issue, while a letter from Classis Central recommended that Synod mandate deputies to develop a seminary in Perth, locate premises, seek two professors, start an accreditation process, and pursue other preparations for the immediate establishment of an Australian Theological College. After much deliberation, Synod decided not to pursue establishing an Australian Theological seminary at this time. A number of reasons were given for this decision, including the lack of broad support among the churches for this initiative, the understanding that Article 17 of the Church Order does not by definition require the establishment of a federational seminary, and acknowledgement that concerns expressed by the CRTS Board of Governors were significant. At the same time, Synod recognised that among the churches of our federation there

exists some support for the idea of establishing an Australian theological seminary in the medium to long term. This recognition is in line with some of the submissions from the churches in which the potential for an Australian Theological seminary was considered within the context of the broader Asian-Pacific community, including our sister churches in the region. For now the FRCA will, with thankfulness, continue to send students to the CRTS in Hamilton.

Miscellaneous Decisions

Throughout the course of synod, a number of other decisions were taken:

- a) A decision was made to amend the Rules of Synod to allow for changes in the way the Acts of Synod are compiled. The decision seeks to improve the readability and transparency of the Acts of Synod for consistories and general readership in our churches and overseas. Early reaction to the Acts of Synod posted online has been very positive.
- b) Deputies were mandated to collate the decisions of Synod Bunbury 2018 as they relate to articles of the Church order, and to publish these decisions on the official web page of the FRCA. It was also decided to mandate the deputies to make all the published Acts of the Synods since the start of the FRCA available on the FRCA website, without password protection, in searchable pdf format.
- c) Classis Central submitted a proposal to synod recommending that Article 36 of the Church Order be changed to make an allowance for an office bearer other than the minister to chair consistory meetings. Synod saw the wisdom in this proposal and adopted it, meaning that the second sentence of Article 36 now reads: *“In all churches there shall be a consistory composed of the minister(s) of the Word and the elders. It shall meet regularly and as a rule be chaired by the minister.”*
- d) As the result of the adoption of the proposal from the church at Launceston, the decision was made to create a new deputyship of four members to update the look and functionality of the FRCA website, and to make it mobile friendly.

Closing of Synod

Delegates at Synod Bunbury 2018 labored over the course of six memorable days with the expressed desire of honouring the LORD and serving Him and His churches with decisions that were in accordance with His Word. Despite a variety of opinions and viewpoints, the delegates were able to work in a productive and harmonious manner. All would confirm that they served in weakness, but that by the grace of God issues could be addressed, discussed and decided upon. These decisions were made with a continual desire to be truly Reformed, time and again judging by the standard of God’s Word and the principles found therein. May the King of the church bless these decisions, to His glory and our benefit. We praise Him for lighting the path forward for us through these past days: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (Psalm 119:105).

For Synod Bunbury 2018,
H.Alkema
(vice-chairman)