
MORNING SESSION**Tuesday, 15 June 2021**

Article 7 - Re-opening

Rev D Poppe reads from Ephesians 6:10-20 and presents a short meditation. He then invites all present to sing Psalm 56:1, 4 and 5, and leads in prayer.

Article 8 - Welcome to Overseas Visitor

Due to COVID-19, overseas visitors are unable to attend in person at the synod, with the exception of Rev P Archbald from the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. His credentials have been received and are read out. The Chairman welcomes Rev Archbald and he is granted privileges under Synod Rule 6.1 as a delegate of a sister church.

Rev Archbald is requested to rise to indicate his agreement with the Three Forms of Unity. He does so.

Article 9 - Late Agenda Item

One appeal was received six days late from the Free Reformed Church of Armadale. Synod decides to accept this submission by way of special resolution on the grounds of exceptional circumstances (see Article 10 agenda Item 8.d.1).

ADOPTED**Article 10 - Adoption of Agenda**

Synod's agenda is adopted as follows:

1. Opening by the Convening Church
2. Signing of the Attendance List and Examination of Credentials
3. Election of Officers
4. Constitution of Synod
5. Delegates' agreement with the Three Forms of Unity
6. Adoption of Agenda
7. Adoption of Meeting Procedures
8. Incoming Correspondence
 - a. Free Reformed Church of Albany
 1. Recommendation Sr K van Duyn as Administrative Assistant
 2. Recommendation FRC Darling Downs Synod 2024 Convening Church
 - b. Free Reformed Church of Mt Nasura
 1. Appeal re application of Article 31 CO by Synod 2018 (Art 76,77,78)
 2. Appeal re Classis North decision re ICRC
 3. Overture re sister church relationship RCNZ
 4. Appeal re adoption of certain Hymns by Synod 2018
 5. Overture re Financing Australian Book of Praise
 6. Overture re DGK & GKN
 7. Overture re OPC

- c. Free Reformed Church of Darling Downs
 - 1. Appeal the decision of Synod 2018 to declare appeals by 3 members inadmissible (Art 76,77,78)
 - 2. Appeal re Increasing Number of Hymns
 - 3. Overture re Synod 2018 not Interacting with concerns.
 - 4. Overture re EPC and SPC
 - 5. Overture re OPC
 - 6. Overture re RCNZ
 - 7. Overture re Classis North decision re ICRC (incl Appendix)
- d. Free Reformed Church of Armadale
 - 1. Appeal of Articles 76,77,78 of Acts of Synod Bunbury 2018
 - 2. Overture re DGK & GKN
- e. Free Reformed Church of Mundijong
 - 1. Overture re DGK & GKN
- f. Free Reformed Church of Kelmscott
 - 1. Overture re OPC
 - 2. Overture re DGK & GKN
 - 3. Overture re Training for the Ministry
- g. Free Reformed Church of Southern River
 - 1. Overture re OPC
- h. Free Reformed Church of Launceston
 - 1. Overture re FRC Mt Nasura Appeal re adoption of certain Hymns
 - 2. Overture re FRC Mt Nasura Appeal re Classis North proposal re ICRC
 - 3. Overture re OPC
 - 4. Overture re RCNZ & FRC Mt Nasura Overture re RCNZ
- i. Free Reformed Church of Melville
 - 1. Overture re Overall Deputies' Report – Interchurch Relations – Outside Australia
 - 2. Overture re Training for the Ministry
- j. Free Reformed Church of Bunbury
 - 1. Overture re Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise
 - 2. Overture re EPC and SPC
 - 3. Overture re Overall Deputies' Report – Interchurch Relations – Outside Australia
 - 4. Overture re Training for the Ministry
- 9. Instructions
- 10. Reports by Classes
 - a. Classis Central
 - 1. Credentials – Delegates to Synod
 - 2. Sharing of decision made in regards to appeal it received re decision of Synod 2018 (Art 76,77,78) RCNZ
 - 3. Overture re Sister Churches URCNA
 - b. Classis North
 - 1. Credentials – Delegates to Synod
 - 2. Proposal to send observers to ICRC Meetings
 - c. Classis South West
 - 1. Credentials – Delegates to Synod
- 11. Reports of Deputies and discharge of Deputies
 - a. General Secretary's Report
 - b. Deputies FRCA Website
 - c. Overall Deputies' Report for Interchurch Relations – outside Australia
 - 1. The Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated)
 - 2. The DGK and GKN

- i. Supplementary Report
 3. Free Reformed Churches of South Africa
 - i. Supplementary Report
 4. Kosin Presbyterian Church of Korea
 - i. Supplementary Report
 5. First Evangelical Reformed Church of Singapore (FERC)
 6. Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)
 7. United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)
 8. Orthodox Presbyterian Church
 9. Reformed Churches of New Zealand
 10. Report of deputies for the Indonesian Churches:
 - i. The Reformed Churches in Indonesia (GGRI)
 - ii. The Calvinist Reformed Churches (GGRC)
 - iii. The Reformed Churches in Indonesia – Timor (GGRI-T)
 - iv. GGRI – Theological Training
 - d. Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise
 1. Supplementary Report
 - e. Deputies – Training for the Ministry
 1. Further Material – Regulations for the Financial Aid of Students
 2. Further Material – Financial Assistance for Theology Students
 - f. Committee for Contact with the EPC and SPC
 - g. Deputies Art. 48 C.O
 - h. Deputies for Church Order Article 66 Days of Prayer
 - i. Indexing Synod Decisions – Deputies' Report to FRCA Synod 2021
 - j. Deputies – Synod Archives – Reports to Synod Albany 2021
 - k. Report on Archives and Library of Synod
 - l. Nominating Authorities – Marriage Act 1961
 - m. Deputies for Training of the Ministry
 - n. Inspection of Synod Archives
 - o. Deputies for Synod Venue and Infrastructure
12. Audit of the books of the Treasurer and discharge of Treasurer
 - a. FRC Darling Downs – Synod Treasury Review Report
 13. Calculation of the percentages of the churches' share of synod costs
 - a. Synod Treasurer – Report Synod Albany 2021
 - b. Synod Treasurer – Budget and Actuals 2018-21
 - c. Synod Treasurer – Draft Budget 2021-24
 14. Appointment of Deputies
 - a. Letter from a Church (Confidential – Delegates only)
 15. Appointment of Convening Church, and place and time of the next Synod
 16. Personal Questions
 17. Adoption of Acts
 18. Approval of Press Release
 19. Closing of Synod

Article 11 - Administrative Assistant

At the recommendation of the convening church, Synod decides to appoint Sr K van Duyn as administrative assistant to the First Clerk of Synod 2021.

ADOPTED

Article 12 - Time Schedules

Synod adopts the following time schedule:

9.00am	Session
10.30am	Break
10.45am	Session
12.15pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Session
3.15pm	Break
3.30pm	Session
5.00pm	Dinner
7.00pm	Session
9.00pm	Close

Article 13 - Live Streaming**I. Decision**

Synod decides:

- A. Not to make a general decision about live streaming all open sessions of synod at this time:
 1. The Rules for Synod 7.4 imply that the right of admission to the audience of open sessions is for members of the FRCA and sister churches, so synod meetings are not in principle open to anyone.
 2. A change of this nature requires careful consideration of the implications for the work of synod, and should come from the churches.

- B. For this synod:
 1. Synod will only live stream the evening sessions.
 2. The agenda is structured so that in the evening sessions synod listens to foreign delegates' addresses and any matters of interest as determined by the synod moderamen.
 3. The link for live stream will be sent to members of the FRCA and foreign delegates with the request that this not be publicised.

Grounds

1. While synod wishes to be transparent it also wants to exercise discretion about what discussions are publicly accessible.
2. Synod wishes to allow members of FRCA and sister churches to observe the work of synod.
3. The Rules of Synod 7.4 give members of the FRCA the opportunity to observe sessions of synod.

ADOPTED

Article 14 - Publishing of Acts

I. Decision:

1. To place the Acts of Synod on the internet after they are adopted, provided that matters of a personal nature will be excluded and, in matters relating to other churches, discretion will be used.
2. A daily agenda will also be published on the internet.

ADOPTED

Article 15 - Financial Advisory Committee

Synod decides to appoint as Financial Advisory Committee, according to Article 11.1 of the Synod regulations, Br H van der Linde and Br H Faas.

Article 16 - Advisory Committees of Synod

The following advisory committees are appointed:

Committee 1 – OPC

Rev D Poppe (convenor)

Rev R Bredenhof

Br W Pleiter

Br H van der Linde

Committee 2 – Appeals of Synod Bunbury 2018, RCNZ

Rev W Bredenhof (convenor)

Rev AC Pol

Br J Plug

Br B Veenendaal

Br P Witten

Committee 3 – DGK/GKN and Overall Interchurch Relations Committee Report

Rev R Eikelboom (convenor)

Rev R Pot

Br H Faas

Br S Thompson

Committee 4 – Theological Training

Rev RD Anderson (convenor)

Rev A Hagg

Br H Ballast

Br J Lewis

Further material will be forwarded to the committees as needed.

Article 17 - Overture by FRC Darling Downs re Synod 2018 not interacting with concerns**I. Material**

Item 8(c)(3) – Overture from the FRC Darling Downs for Synod Albany ‘to make a decision that when concerns are raised from the Churches about a decision that has been proposed to Synod, that Synod interact with the concerns raised.’ The FRC Darling Downs provides the following grounds for its proposal:

1. When Synod interacts specifically with the concerns raised, then the Church who raised them have something to work with as they consider Synod’s decisions. Synod’s reasoning will either help allay their concerns, or give them reason for further appeal.
2. The Free Reformed Churches previously interacted more meaningfully with concerns raised in overtures from the Churches (eg, Article 17 of Synod Legana 2009).
3. Our Canadian sister church do this quite thoroughly (eg, Synod Edmonton 2019, art 120 Re GGRC, which interacts extensively with overtures received from the churches).

II. Admissibility

This proposal is declared admissible as per Article 33.

III. Decision

Synod takes note of the concern raised by FRC Darling Downs.

Grounds

1. While the overture from Darling Downs is not specific, it is clear from the context (and the attached appendix) that the matter refers to letters or overtures sent to Synod from the churches in response to the Deputies Reports. However, the status and nature of these overtures (provided by the churches) is for the information and consideration of Synod.
2. Synod Bunbury 2018 Article 16 decided that, ‘under the heading Material, the Acts shall also summarise the material considered’. By recording a summary of the overtures from the churches, Synod asserts that any concerns raised, or feedback provided, by the churches was considered in its overall decision-making process.
3. While Synod agrees that it may be helpful, in some circumstances, for a synod to record its interaction with a particular concern raised by the churches, Synod does not agree that it ought to be mandated in every circumstance. The difference in approach by previous synods of the FRCA (and CanRC) affirms this.
4. Our synods’ present practice for recording decisions only in the form of Decisions and Grounds is determined by Synod Rule 7.8. This differs from the Canadian Reformed practice for recording decisions with detailed interaction of all the churches concerns by including Observations and Considerations (cf example cited by Darling Downs in their Ground 3). Darling Downs can propose a change to the Rules for Synod via a proposal submitted according to Rules for Synods 12.

Article 18 - General Secretary’s Report**I. Material**

Item 11.a – General Secretary’s Report

II. Decision

Synod Albany discharges the current deputy and reappoints a new deputy with a renewed mandate:

- a. to distribute any pertinent mail to the deputies, and acknowledge correspondence not applicable to deputies, and if necessary, pass it on to the churches;
- b. to collate all Deputies reports (apart from that of the Treasurer) and have them printed in an appropriate format. Deputies' reports are to be submitted, six months prior to the next synod, so that they can be printed and distributed to the churches as per the Rules of Synod.

ADOPTED

AFTERNOON SESSION**Tuesday, 15 June 2021**

Article 19 - Discussion Rounds

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the following agenda items, which are then referred to the nominated committee to formulate proposed decisions:

- FRCA Website: Committee 1
- Overall Deputies' Report for Interchurch Relations – Outside Australia (together with submissions from Melville and Bunbury churches): Committee 3
- De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland (DGK) and Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland (GKN) (together with submissions from the churches of Mt Nasura, Armadale, Mundijong and Kelmscott): Committee 3
- Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) (together with submissions from the Mt Nasura, Darling Downs, Kelmscott, Southern River, Launceston and Melville churches): Committee 1
- Appeals against Synod 2018 decisions Articles 76, 77 and 78: Committee 2. This discussion was continued in the evening session after the addresses from the foreign delegates (refer Article 24).

All above submissions are declared admissible.

EVENING SESSION**Tuesday, 15 June 2021**

Article 20 - Reopening

The chairman invites all present to sing Psalm 32:1. For the benefit of the audience, he explains what has been achieved during the sessions today.

Article 21 - Address of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand

The chairman invites Rev P Archbald to present his address on behalf of the RNCZ (refer Appendix 1c).

Rev R Pot is then invited to respond to the address, after which he leads the meeting in prayer for the sister churches in New Zealand.

Article 22 - Address of the Gereja-Gereja Reformasi Indonesia

The chairman invites Rev AC Pol to present an address from Rev P Njuka on behalf of the GGRI (refer Appendix 1d), after which he leads the meeting in prayer for the sister churches in Indonesia.

Article 23 - Address of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

A video address is presented by Br M Bube on behalf of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, after which Br W Pleiter is invited to lead the meeting in prayer for these churches. He then requests all present to sing Hymn 52:2 and 5.

Article 24 - Discussion Rounds (continued, refer Article 19)

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the appeals against Synod 2018 decisions Articles 76, 77 and 78.

Article 25 - Adjournment

The chairman reads Psalm 32 and leads in prayer. He invites all present to stand and sing Psalm 32:5 and adjourns synod.