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**MORNING SESSION**  
**Wednesday, 23 June 2021**

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**Article 104 - Reopening**

The chairman reads Psalm 121 and leads in prayer. He invites all present to stand and sing Psalm 121:1 and 4. The chairman reopens the meeting.

**Article 105 - International Conference of Reformed Churches**

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the ICRC including which delegates may vote on the appeal of FRC Mount Nasura.

**I. Decision**

Delegates who are members of FRC Mount Nasura may not vote on the appeal from FRC Mount Nasura against the decision of Classis North November 2020.

**Ground**

Article 32 CO provides that delegates shall have a vote in all matters except those in which their churches are directly involved.

***ADOPTED***

The matter is referred back to the Committee for refining.

**Article 106 - Australian Book of Praise**

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the Australian Book of Praise. The matter is then referred back to the Advisory Committee for refining.

**Article 107 - Acts of Synod**

Articles 26-38 of the Acts are discussed and returned for editing.

Articles 39-52 of the Acts are adopted in their amended form.

Articles 73-86 of the Acts are adopted.

**Article 107 - Instructions from Churches**

Synod notes that there are no instructions from the Churches.

**Article 108 - Deputies Article 48 Church Order**

**I. Material**

Item 11.g – Report of Deputies Art 48 CO (pp 220-221)

**II. Decision**

1. To receive the report and discharge deputies from their task.
2. To note with gratitude the assistance given to classis South West (30 October 2020) in relation to the examination of Candidate K Dekker.

3. To appoint new deputies to assist the classes according to Art 48 CO, with one deputy and one alternate from each classical region, according to the manner decided by Synod Armadale 2012, Decision 3 (Art 110, p 80-81).

**ADOPTED****Article 109 - Days of Prayer – Article 66 CO****I. Material**

Item 13(p) – Report of Deputies CO 66 (p 222) – FRC Launceston called a day of prayer for 29 March 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has impacted the way of life in Australia and throughout the world. The deputies note that there was no feedback from the churches.

**II. Decision**

1. To accept the Deputies' report.
2. To thank the deputies for their work and discharge them.
3. To re-appoint FRC Launceston as Deputies CO 66 for the next three-year period.

**ADOPTED****Article 110 - Indexing Synod Decisions****I. Material**

Item 11.i – Deputies' Report

**II. Decision**

1. To thank the deputies for their work and discharge them.
2. To appoint deputies with the mandate to:
  - a. collate the decisions of Synod Albany 2021 as they relate to articles of the Church Order and:
    - i. publish these decisions on the official web page of the FRCA; and
    - ii. place one bound paper copy in the archives after the decisions of Synod Albany 2021 have been indexed;
  - b. ensure that all the published Acts of the FRCA Synods continue to be available on the FRCA website (without password protection, in searchable pdf format);
  - c. ensure a copy of the Church Order is available on the FRCA website; and
  - d. continue to update and publish the ecclesiastical documents currently on the FRCA website (e.g. Ecclesiastical Ordinances, Rules for Synods, Guidelines for Church Visits, Rules for Exercising Sister Church Relations).

**Grounds**

1. The churches are well served by the ongoing collation of Synod decisions as they relate to the various articles of the Church Order.
2. The Acts of Synod are of widespread interest both within our churches as well as our sister churches.
3. All information presented in the published Acts of Synod are generated in open session.

**ADOPTED**

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**AFTERNOON SESSION**  
**Wednesday, 23 June 2021**

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**Article 111 - International Conference of Reformed Churches****I. Material**

Item 8.b.2 – Appeal from FRC Mount Nasura – Appeal against the decision of Classis North, requesting synod not to mandate the Deputies for Inter-church Relations to accept invitations to the ICRC. FRC Mount Nasura argues that the classis proposal fails to engage with the reasons why the FRCA withdrew their membership from the ICRC. FRC Mount Nasura contends that membership within the ICRC promotes denominationalism and pluriformity by promoting cooperation before becoming sister churches. FRC Mount Nasura expresses concern that the sending of observers will lead to the FRCA becoming members the ICRC.

Item 8.h.2 – Letter from FRC Launceston interacting with the appeal from FRC Mount Nasura, giving their support to send observers to the ICRC.

**II. Admissibility**

All the material is deemed admissible.

**III. Decision**

To deny the appeal of FRC Mount Nasura.

**Grounds**

1. FRC Mount Nasura does not prove that accepting invitations as observers to the ICRC is against the Word of God and/or the Church Order.
2. The concerns expressed by FRC Mount Nasura about past decisions in the FRCA regarding the ICRC are relevant and worthy of consideration should an overture for membership in the ICRC be proposed by the churches.

***ADOPTED***

The delegates from FRC Mount Nasura abstained from voting.

**Article 112 - International Conference of Reformed Churches****I. Material**

Item 10.b.2 – Proposal from Classis North – Classis North proposes that Deputies for Inter-church Relations be mandated to accept invitations to send observers to ICRC conferences.

Item 8.b.2 – Appeal from FRC Mount Nasura – Appeal against the decision of Classis North, requesting synod not to mandate the Deputies for Inter-church Relations to accept invitations to the ICRC. FRC Mount Nasura argues that the classis proposal fails to engage with the reasons why the FRCA withdrew their membership from the ICRC. FRC Mount Nasura contends that membership within the ICRC promotes denominationalism and pluriformity by promoting cooperation before becoming sister churches. FRC Mount Nasura expresses concern that the sending of observers will lead to the FRCA becoming members the ICRC. Synod Albany 2021 has denied this appeal.

Item 8.c.7 – Overture from FRC Darling Downs – FRC Darling Downs requests synod not to send observers to the ICRC, in view of past concerns among the FRCA congregations, shortage of manpower to fulfil the mandate, and lack of unity with all churches at the conference (e.g CRCA, PCEA).

Item 8.h.2 – Overture from FRC Launceston – Launceston interacts with the appeal from Mount Nasura, voicing their support to send observers to the ICRC.

Item 8.i.1 – Overture from FRC Melville – Melville supports re-engaging with the ICRC. However, they also see merit in reflecting on what has been said by our synods in the past, and where appropriate, to engage with matters that were left unresolved. They also suggest that input from the churches would be valuable.

## **II. Admissibility**

All the material is deemed admissible.

## **III. Decision**

Not to accede to the proposal of Classis North.

### **Grounds**

1. Prior to re-engaging with the ICRC, there is merit in reflecting on what has been said by our synods in the past and, where appropriate, to address matters that were left unresolved.
2. Even though the proposal from Classis North is limited to involvement in the ICRC as observers rather than as members, one of the grounds provided by Classis North mentions the possibility of reconsidering membership. This is the aspect that some of the churches have expressed concerns about.
3. Further input from the churches would be valuable, prior to making a decision to re-engage with the ICRC.
4. Synod has mandated Deputies for Inter-church Relations to develop guidelines which may have implications for FRCA engagement with the ICRC. The consultation process around guidelines will give churches a further opportunity to provide input.

### **ADOPTED**

## **Article 113 - Australian Book of Praise**

### **I. Material**

Item 11.d – Deputies' Report (pp 121-126)

Item 11.d.1 – Supplementary Report – Outlines financial details regarding the Australian Book of Praise, as well as various suggested changes to the Book of Praise of which they are keeping track.

Item 8.b.5 – Overture from FRC Mount Nasura – re Financing Australian Book of Praise. They request Premier Printing to act as the publisher of the Book of Praise, and request Pro Ecclesia to become the Australian distributors.

Item 8.j.1 – Overture from FRC Bunbury – re Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise. They express concern that the Standing Committee may have omitted changes made by Synod Albany 1987 Art 100.

### **II. Admissibility**

All the materials are deemed admissible.

### **III. Decision**

1. To take note that the reinsertion of the words "only-begotten Son" in various places in the Book of Praise as identified by the church of Bunbury and mandated by Synod Bunbury 2018 has already been implemented in the 2014 printing of the Book of Praise.

2. To appoint an additional member with skills in bookkeeping and administration to the Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise to take responsibility for stock.
3. To thank the deputies for all the work they have done leading up to the printing of the first edition of the *Australian Book of Praise*, a significant moment in the history of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, and to discharge deputies.
4. To appoint new deputies as members to the Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise with the following mandate to:
  - a. express the gratitude of the FRCA to the brothers W Helder, G van Popta and W Gortemaker for their contribution to the *Australian Book of Praise*;
  - b. receive feedback from the churches regarding the contents and appearance of the *Australian Book of Praise*;
  - c. record corrections and possible improvements for reprints and revisions;
  - d. maintain good contact with the Standing Committee for the Publication of the Book of Praise of the Canadian Reformed Churches;
  - e. clarify with the copyright-holders under what conditions we might be allowed to make modifications to the *Australian Book of Praise*;
  - f. monitor quantities available for distribution and authorise new print runs when necessary;
  - g. maintain contact with Pro Ecclesia Bookshop regarding the distribution and sales of the electronic versions;
  - h. deal with all financial matters relating to the *Australian Book of Praise* via a separate bank account controlled by Deputies;
  - i. assess the churches as necessary and arrange for repayment for the loans made by the FRC Darling Downs, FRC Rockingham and any other churches that might wish to be reimbursed; and
  - j. assess the churches as necessary to arrange financing for future print runs at the appropriate time.

#### **IV. Grounds**

1. While not explicitly mentioned by deputies, it is good for the churches to be aware that the aspect of the mandate raised by the FRC Bunbury is complete.
2. The Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise requested an additional member to deal with financial matters relating to the *Australian Book of Praise*.
3. It is appropriate that the Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise oversees copyright, printing, distribution and financing for the *Australian Book of Praise*.
4. The Standing Committee for the Australian Book of Praise is responsible for communicating with FRCA churches, the Standing Committee in Canada and those who contribute.
5. Deputies are responsible for publishing the *Australian Book of Praise* and it promotes decency and good order for the financial aspects of that to be controlled via a separate bank account.

#### **ADOPTED**

#### **Article 114 - Archives and Library of Synod**

##### **I. Material**

Item 11.j – Deputies' Report (pp 225-135)

Item 11.k – Report on Archives and Library of Synod, together with the Synod Archives Review 2020. This comprehensive review recommends revisions to the relevant Synod Rules as well as recommending that Synod 2021 instructs all past and present deputies to forward all

'missing' relevant materials to the Synod Archivist. It is the responsibility of deputies to determine what materials are deemed relevant for storage in the archives.

Item 11.n – FRC Byford – Inspection of Synod Archives (p 239). The archives were found to be complete and in good order. FRC Byford provides the additional observation:

*"May it be noted that there are many public documents that are now many decades old, some even handwritten. If it is the intention to digitise these items in the archives at some point in the future, consideration could be given to entrusting the originals into the care of the FRC Historical Society for preservation."*

## **II. Admissibility**

All the material is deemed admissible.

## **III. Decision**

1. To accept the report on the Archives and Library of Synod and to thank the archivist br L Vermeulen for diligently maintaining the records of Synod.
2. To adopt the recommendations from FRC Mount Nasura to change the Rules for Synods in relation to CO Article 49 by adding rule 6, 9 and 10 and amending article 3.2 and article 10 including three minor amendments made by Synod, as highlighted in the Deputies Report, pp 233-235.
3. To request all deputies to forward any available material relevant to the archives not previously submitted and by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
4. To pass on the observation received from FRC Byford to the Deputies for consideration.
5. To thank the deputies for completing the inspection of the Archives and Library of Synod and accept their report on the matter, and to discharge deputies.

Refer to Annexure C for the updated Rules for Synods.

### **Grounds**

1. The revised rules will ensure that the appropriate material is archived in a safe and orderly manner.
2. Article 10 of the Synod Rules requests deputies to submit relevant copies of all correspondence, minutes, and records of other work done.

### **ADOPTED**

## **Article 115 - Deputies for Marriage Act – Nominating Authorities**

### **I. Material**

Item 11.l – Deputies' Report re *Marriage Act 1961* (pp 236-237)

### **II. Decision**

1. To thank the deputies for their work and discharge them.
2. To appoint new deputies officially designated as the *Nominating Authorities* to discharge duties under the *Marriage Act 1961*.

### **ADOPTED**

## **Article 116 - Audit Deputies for Training for the Ministry**

### **I. Material**

Item 11.m – Audit Deputies for Training for the Ministry

**II. Decision**

1. To accept the report from Audit Deputies for Training for the Ministry.
2. To thank the Deputies for their work.
3. To appoint new Audit Deputies for Training for the Ministry.

**ADOPTED****Article 117 - Deputies for Venue and Infrastructure****I. Material**

Deputies' Report (received at synod)

**II. Decision**

1. To thank the deputies for the work done and discharge them.
2. To appoint new deputies with the mandate to:
  - a. liaise with the next convening church in a timely fashion regarding:
    - i. requirements for Synod venue;
    - ii. developing and maintaining, in consultation with the current convening church, a Synod hosting handbook, and reporting on this to the next synod;
    - iii. continue to maintain a Synod hosting handbook, and pass on handbook to convening church when it is appointed;
    - iv. maintaining contact with Synod committees in their deliberations and preparations for Synod;
    - v. being closely involved with the Venue Subcommittee and answering any logistical queries they may have;
    - vi. requesting that Synod committees re-evaluate and update the handbook if necessary and pass it back to the deputies;
    - vii. arranging storage and setup of Synod table and associated hardware;
  - b. provide and operate an audio system which includes the ability for delegates and audience to follow the discussion clearly;
  - c. provide and maintain a computer system for delegates which:
    - i. is easy to use with email and browsing capabilities;
    - ii. has central data storage;
    - iii. has convenient printing capability;
    - iv. has secure internal email facilities;
    - v. has data and email backup;
    - vi. includes a data projector for the audience to follow the discussions and also project the Psalm or Hymn that will be sung if required;
  - d. be prepared for the eventuality that synod may require the "live streaming" technology;
  - e. be prepared for the eventuality that synod may use "video call" meetings with overseas delegates not able to attend the next synod;
  - f. work closely with convening committees and coordinate the audio-visual/computer matters of the Synod venue preparations;
  - g. liaise with the convening church prior to Synod for an electronic copy – not scanned – of all reports and agenda items so that the agenda can be setup with links to the relevant documents, and to make this available when delegates log on to the "Synod Server";
  - h. be available and able to assist at all Synod sessions;
  - i. provide full computer and sound support; and
  - j. submit a report to the next synod 6 months in advance, and a supplementary report during synod.

**Grounds**

1. Synod must be able to do its work smoothly through the provision of technical equipment that allows:
  - a. delegates to clearly understand each other;
  - b. the audience, local and remote, to follow the discussion;
  - c. flexibility to expand and contract as the number of delegates changes; and
  - d. the computer system to service Synod with an enhanced method of distributing proposals and the like quickly and efficiently.
2. The role of the Deputies for Infrastructure and Venue has been of great benefit in enhancing the smooth preparation and operation of Synod.

**ADOPTED****Article 118 - Audit Deputies for Synod Treasury**

The Financial Advisory Committee presents its report, which is discussed. The material is referred back to the Financial Advisory Committee.

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**EVENING SESSION**  
**Wednesday, 23 June 2021**

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**Article 119 - Deputy Appointments****I. Materials**

Proposal for Deputy Appointments from Officers of Synod.  
Item 14.a – Letter from a Church (Confidential – Delegates only).

**II. Admissibility**

All the materials are deemed admissible.

**III. Decision**

In closed session, Synod makes the following deputy appointments:

**General Secretary**

Br J den Boer

Alternate: Br W Amoraal

**Website Committee**

	<u>Year Appointed</u>
Br L Vermeulen	2018 (convenor)
Sr B Mulder	2018
Br Winston 't Hart – website administrator	2021
Rev W Bredenhof	2021
Alternate: Sr Justine Berkelaar	

**Deputies for Inter-church Relations – outside Australia**

Rev S 't Hart	2012 (convenor)
Br E DeHaan	2014
Rev H Alkema	2015 (Albany)
Rev A Hagg	2015

Br P Witten	2015 (Albany)
Br C Mulder	2018 (Tasmania)
Rev A Souman	2018
Br H Terpstra	2018
Br B Veenendaal	2018
Br John Bruning (snr)	2021
Rev K Dekker	2021 (Albany)
Br R Groenewold	2021 (Tasmania)
Rev AC Pol	2021

Alternates: Br S Groenewold  
Br G Numan

**Standing Committee for the Book of Praise**

Rev C Vermeulen	2012 (convenor)
Rev R Eikelboom	2018
Br Rob Eikelboom	2018
Sr G Plug	2018
Br Harm Van Dijk	2021

**Training for the Ministry**

Rev D Poppe	2015 (convenor)
Br B Huizinga	2015
Rev R Bredenhof	2018
Rev W Bredenhof	2018
Br A Terpstra	2018
Br W Pleiter	2021

Alternate: Br Rob Eikelboom

**Contact with the EPC/SPC**

Launceston/Legana: Rev W Bredenhof (convenor)

**Church Order Art 48****Classis Central**

Rev RD Anderson

Alternate: Rev R Eikelboom

**Classis Southwest**

Rev A Hagg

Alternate: Rev H Alkema

**Classis North**

Rev A Souman

Alternate: Rev S 't Hart

**Days of Prayer**

FRC Launceston

**Indexing of Synod Decision**

Br J Numan  
Br W Spyker

**Synod Archive**

FRC Mount Nasura

**Marriage Act Deputies**

Br H Faas  
Br W Spyker

**Synod Venue and Infrastructure**

Br E 't Hart  
Br Alan Vanderwal  
Alternates: Br Adrian Vanderwal  
Br Darren Brouwer

**Synod Treasurer**

Br Robert Dekker  
Alternate: Br A Bonker

**Audit Deputies for Training for the Ministry**

FRC Southern River

**Inspection of Archives**

FRC Darling Downs

**Audit Synod Treasurer**

FRC Byford

***ADOPTED***

**Article 120 - Audit Deputies for Synod Treasury**

**I. Material**

Item 12.a – FRC Darling Downs - Synod Treasury Review Report  
Item 13.a – Synod Treasurer – Report Synod Albany 2021  
Item 13.b – Synod Treasurer – Budget and Actuals 2018-21  
Item 13.c – Synod Treasurer – Draft Budget 2021-24  
Advisory Committee report (received at Synod)

**II. Decision**

1. Accept the Synod Treasurer's Report, including the Budget and Actuals 2018-21 and Draft Budget 2021-24.
2. Accept the Synod Treasury Review Report.
3. To thank the Synod Treasurer for the work done and discharge him.
4. Appoint a new Synod Treasurer, with a mandate in accordance with Rule 11.2 of the Rules for Synods.

5. Thank Audit Deputies for Synod Treasury for their work, and appoint new Audit Deputies for Synod Treasury.
6. Approve the rate of \$246 per day as the rate of reimbursement for claims of loss of income by Deputies and Delegates.
7. Approve the rate of 72 cents per kilometre as the rate for reimbursement of vehicle travel costs.
8. Approve the amended draft budget, including the cost sharing arrangements presented by the Financial Advisory Committee with their report.
9. Authorise the Synod Treasurer to collect from the churches the amount of \$18 per communicant member for the next inter-synodical period of 2021 to 2024 (being an average of \$6 per communicant member per year), with the liberty to vary this amount if required.
10. To mandate the Audit Deputies for Synod Treasury to audit the financial records of the support provided to the Free Reformed Churches of South Africa and report to the next synod for the years 2018 to 2021 and 2021 to 2024. This report will also include an audit of their books from 2018 to 2021 since this audit was not performed.

**ADOPTED****Article 121 - Appointment of Convening Church for the next Synod****I. Material**

Item 8.a.2 – Proposal from the convening church of FRC Albany recommending FRC Darling Downs as the next convening church for synod.

**II. Admissibility**

The letter is deemed admissible.

**III. Decision**

1. That Synod 2024 be convened by FRC Darling Downs.
2. To take note that the convening church is to liaise with the Deputies for Infrastructure and Venue regarding various practical matters.

**Grounds**

1. FRC Darling Downs has not yet held a Synod.
2. Metro churches have not hosted the last two Synods.
3. The brothers of FRC Darling Downs have been contacted and agree to this proposal.

**ADOPTED****Article 122 - Acts of Synod**

Articles 26-38 of the Acts are adopted.

Articles 87-103 of the Acts are adopted.

Articles 104-119 of the Acts are adopted. The First Clerk will organise for the remaining acts to be reviewed

**Article 123 - Re-opening**

The chairman invites all present to stand and sing Psalm Hymn 77:1 and 3. For the benefit of the audience, he explains what has been achieved during the sessions today.

**Article 123 - Press Release**

The press release is adopted with minor amendments (refer Appendix 4).

**Article 124 - Censure according to Article 47 Church Order**

The chairman states that there is no need for censure in this sitting of Synod.

**Article 125 - Personal Questions**

The delegates are given the opportunity for general questions. No questions are asked.

**Article 125 - Closing Address**

The chairman delivers his closing address (refer Appendix 1...)

**Article 126 - Closing**

The vice-chairman compliments the chairman on the way that he steered the synod boat, his patience and his willingness to allow each delegate to have their say.

The chairman reads 2 Peter 3:13-18 and leads in prayer. He then invites all present to stand and sing Hymn 16:1 and 5 and declares Synod 2021 officially closed.