

## Report of the Synodical Archivist (Temporary)

Esteemed Brethren

During the last inter-synodical period two major events have affected the Denominational Archives. Mid 2012 the Reformed Church of Palmerston North began a program of building a new Church building, the first stage of which was the demolition of Harmony House.

A new location for the Denominational Archives had to be found and after circulating this need, Hastings responded that they had the space, but not the environmental conditions necessary to keep the archives. A decision was taken to fit out a room as an archive room which would be water tight, vermin tight and fire retardant with the cost being shared by the churches.

Because the demolition of Harmony House was imminent, the archive material and shelving were stripped and transported to Hastings where they were temporarily stored in the 'Bulk Store' until the Archive Room could be completed. Unfortunately this took longer than expected because of some urgent building work at the Hastings Christian School which had to be ready for the 2013 school year.

Before the archive room could be fully completed, the Lord called to Himself the long serving Archivist, Roy Nugteren who had been suffering from cancer. As a representative of Hastings session, I had volunteered to co-ordinate the fitting out of the archive room shelving and relocating the archives from their temporary location into the archive room. I visited with Roy when it was obvious that he would not be able to come to Hastings to give advice and in this way he described to me how to accommodate the archives onto the variety of shelving that he had accumulated. It was quite a job but the result is a purpose built, near hermetically sealed and temperature/humidity controlled room well fitted out with shelving and archives.

In Report 15 Acts of Synod 2011, the Archivist reported on the types of archives stored as well as the items of not strictly archives that are also held. However it was obvious when moving the archives into the room that the Archives location has also become the storage of surplus printed materials such as surplus Acts of Synod, surplus Faith & Focus Magazines and other surplus Magazines such as Trowel & Sword. This year it has also become the storage space of the surplus Sing To The Lord Hymnals which, although it does not pose a problem at present, only serves to endorse the comment made by Roy in Report 15.

*The room which the Archives are stored in, does, however, have limited capacity, and at some point there will come a need to either cull some of the material, or perhaps convert some of it to electronic formats. The need for this is not yet pressing, but may become so in future years.*

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**Synodical Archivist**

Since being relocated in Hastings, I have been acting as Archivist and have been able to provide information, or access to information of at least five occasions ranging from Church photographs of years gone by for display at anniversaries, to old minutes of a Presbytery, to a back copy of Faith in Focus and an Act of Synod.

I am not an Activist at heart so I do not yearn to fill this role full time, however I am prepared to continue in a temporary role, maintaining the archives, storing new archive materials and filling the requests for archive material or information until such time as a more suitably gifted Archivist can be found.

**Recommendations**

- 1. That this report be received.*
- 2. That the budget for the archives be unchanged at \$200.00 per annum.*
- 3. That the Temporary Synodical Archivist be reappointed until a suitable replacement can be found.*

Leen Vandenberg  
Temporary Synodical Archivist