

## Report of the Stated Clerk of Synod

Dear brothers,

Synod 2011 gave the Stated Clerk the following mandate:

### Synod 2011 decided

#### Art.16

1. *To receive this report.*
2. *To authorise the Stated Clerk to print an updated Office Bearers' Handbook, A5 size, drilled for 2 or 3-hole ring binders. The Stated Clerk will request the number of copies desired by each session and add 80 to the total as the number to be printed.*
3. *To approve small print runs of the Acts of Synod of 2005 and 2008 to alleviate a shortage of copies of these Acts.*
4. *To appoint a Stated Clerk for the next inter-synodical period.*

#### Art.97

3. *To charge the Stated Clerk to write to the disciplined couples, the Reformed Church of Palmerston North, the other sessions of the Wellington Presbytery and the Presbytery itself asking them to meet with the pastoral committee to discuss the synod's decision.*

### Work Done

Over the past 2 ½ years I have sought to carry out my duties as Stated Clerk as promptly as I could, but have not always managed to do so.

1. I have responded to all correspondence directed to the Reformed Churches of New Zealand, except that which I regarded as junk mail, and filed all the correspondence and other documents relating to the RCNZ.
2. I have completed the correspondence to the various parties involved in the matter of the Appeal of the Reformed church of Palmerston North as directed by Acts of 2011, Art.97 (see above).
3. Where as Stated Clerk I have received inquiries for which the RCNZ does not have a specific committee or officer I have consulted with the most relevant committee or officer and such inquiries were usually able to be resolved in a satisfactory manner.
4. I collated the material for the Acts of Synod 2011 and Mr John Holtslag ably oversaw the printing of this document. This was the largest Acts of Synod in the history of our churches, comprising 524 pages.
5. I have completely updated the Office Bearers' Handbook which now includes all the relevant synodical decisions up to and including those made by Synod 2011. I want to express my appreciation to John Holtslag and Walter Walraven for their help with the production of the handbook.
6. I have organised the printing of additional Acts of Synod 2005 and 2008 as per Art. 16-3 above.
7. I have begun scanning the Acts of Synod of the RCNZ but have not been able to complete this process.
8. I have not been able to give time to updating of the Index of Synodical Decisions.

## **Report 21 Stated Clerk**

### **Reports and Overtures for Synod 2104**

The study and committee reports for synod have come in quite late this time. I was not able to send out the first batch of reports till 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and have sent out the other they came in during June. Due both to lateness and the need to wait for the outcome of deliberations of the RCN synod, the IRC report has only just been completed and was sent out on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, closely followed by the SIC report and the Stated Clerk's report.

I do realise that due to various time lines and other obligations certain reports cannot come in 6 months before synod, however greater efficiency where possible should be able to improve the timeliness of this process.

Only one overture has been submitted so far. Further overtures and communications for Synod will be processed and forwarded to the churches as they come in.

All the reports and overtures were distributed electronically to all ministers and sessions as PDF e-mail attachments, I did not distribute any printed copies to the sessions but left it to them to print copies for themselves as required.

### **Synodical Committees**

After the previous synod I sent letters to the convenors of all committees stating the decisions of synod relevant to their committee and who was appointed to their committee. As far as I am aware all the various convenors informed their committee members and all went about their business.

Various committees needed new members and as far as I know all contacted the Synodical Interim Committee for ratification of these appointments.

I am willing to serve a further term as Stated Clerk if Synod so desires.

### **Recommendations**

1. *That Synod receive this report.*

### **Re Rules for Synodical Procedures in OBH**

2. *That from Rule I-D-1(OBH p.2-3) 9.00a.m. of be struck out and be replaced with the designated time on to bring this rule in line with current practice, so that this Rule now reads:*

*At the designated time on the appointed day at the appointed place, he shall .....*

3. *That in Rule I-D-3(OBH p.2-4) ordinarily shall be inserted between the words "shall" and "be chosen" to bring this rule in line with current practice, so that this Rule now reads:*

*The officers of synod shall ordinarily be chosen by the delegates from their own number, etc*

4. *That in Rule II-A-1 (OBH p.2-4) the words arise, read the Prescribed Declaration and request them to express their agreement in unison be struck out and be replaced with stand and so signify their agreement with the Confessional Standards of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand so that this Rule now reads:*

*He shall request the members of Synod and the advisory members of Synod to stand and so signify their agreement with the Confessional Standards of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. A delegate who assumes his seat at a later time shall be requested to express his individual agreement.*

### **Re: Rules for Stated Clerk of Synod in OBH**

5. *That in the Rules 4 a 1) & 2), b 2), c 1) & 2) (OBH p.2-17,18) the words Synodical Committee be struck out and replaced with Synodical Interim Committee so that these Rules comply with current practice.*

6. *That under Rule 4-c, Responsibilities on behalf of the denomination, (OBH p.2-18) a new Rule c-3) be added as follows, to reflect current practice correctly:*

3) *The Stated Clerk, as secretary for the denomination, is responsible for the annual renewal of the Marriage Celebrant Licences for the ministers of the denomination with the Office of Deaths, Births and Marriages from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Stated Clerk is also responsible to arrange for the registration of newly ordained or installed ministers as Marriage Celebrant Licencees.*

### **Re Miscellaneous Matters in OBH**

7. *That where the document “Discipline of Those Who Resign” appears in church documentation (e.g. OBH p.5-39) the word Guidelines for the be added at the beginning of the title, as per Acts 2002, Art.86-3.*

8. *That under Rule 1-d in the Rules for the National Publishing Committee (OBH p.2-22) the following words be replaced to update this Rule:*

- a. *In line 2 after overtures: replace “on computer disk” with “as electronic files”*
- b. *In line 4 after available: replace “on disk at cost” with “as electronic files”*

9. *That Synod appoint a Stated Clerk for the next inter-synodical period.*

Humbly submitted,

Pieter van der Wel

Stated Clerk

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014