

Overture from the Reformed Church of Dovedale

This overture relates to Report 3 - Bible Translations

The Session of the Reformed Church of Dovedale respectfully overtures Synod as follows:

That all the churches of the RCNZ use the ESV as their pulpit Bible by 2020

Grounds:

1. The Bible translation committee is recommending that the ESV is suitable for use as a pulpit Bible in the RCNZ.
2. As the committee's report states, this is a Bible version that is an accurate and clear translation of the original languages.
3. The 1984 NIV, which most of our churches use now, is no longer being printed. This means those churches will have to change their pulpit Bible version anyway.
4. The ESV is growing in use and favour among sister denominations.
5. This would be a positive step in the direction of a practical uniformity. If we attend one of the RCNZ churches, we know that our hymnbook and Bible will be the same as the ones being used there. The same would be so at the camps of our denomination.
6. A further practical benefit would be in the area of Bible memorization, which can become a difficulty when you move to a congregation that uses another Bible version.
7. It is likely that the catechism and Sunday school material used in many of our churches will soon use the ESV as their source for Scripture quotation.

Respectfully submitted,

The Session of the Reformed Church of Dovedale