

Report by Deputies ad art. 49 CO, Classis South

Pretoria, 18 June 2024

To: Synod Mamelodi 2024 of the Free Reformed Churches in South-Africa

Esteemed brothers,

Herewith we submit our report. We trust that it gives you a correct understanding of the activities deputies did to assist Classis North in accordance with the church order.

We apologize for the late submission of this report. The work has been carried out faithfully during the past years, but we were slow to realize that a report needed to be submitted.

May God bless you, for the upbuilding of the churches and for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!

### **Appointments**

Synod appointed Rev. DM Boersma and Rev. C. van Wyk (Convener); and as substitutes: Rev. P. Abrahams and Rev. J Bruitjes.

### **Mandate**

Art 49 of the church order states the following mandate:

*to assist the classes in all matters comprised in the Church Order, and – upon the request of the classes – in cases of special difficulties. They, or some of them, shall also oversee the peremptory examination of prospective ministers.*

*The deputies shall keep an accurate record of their work and submit a written report. They shall, if so required, justify their actions.*

### **Report on activities**

Classis North requested our assistance for three examinations:

1. The examination of br Rofhiwa Ramphabana for the ministry on 20 August 2022. Rev DM Boersma was present at this examination and agreed with the decision to make him eligible for a call.
2. The examination of br Kidane Habtemariam for a license to preach (preekkonsent) on 19 August 2023.

The invitation for this examination was sent too late, so deputies could not be present.

3. Examination br Arjan vd Meer for a license to preach (preekkonsent) on 11 May 2024.

Rev DM Boersma was present at this examination and agreed with the decision to give him permission to preach.

Deputies were not asked to assist in any other decisions or special difficulties.

## Recommendations

1. Regarding exams, the church order regulates that art 49 deputies must only “oversee the **peremptory** examination of prospective ministers”. However, the examination of students to get a license to preach (preekkonsent) is a new phenomenon in our church federation, and our Church order and Synod rules make no mention of such exams. They don’t qualify as “cases of special difficulties” as mentioned in art. 49.

We request that Synod make a decision on the need for deputies art. 49 to be present at such exams.

Since these exams are very short, it would be enough if deputies follow the proceedings through video link.

We offer two considerations:

- a. A student with a license to preach is still under supervision of a minister. This exam does not have the same weight as a peremptory examination.
- b. The cost of flying has risen dramatically in the past years. A domestic flight to attend classis in Cape Town or Gauteng costs about R3000-4000 per person. Given the financial shortages in our church federation, it does not seem worthwhile to spend so much money on a short presence at Classis.

2. We recommend that Synod reappoint Rev. DM Boersma, Rev. P. Abrahams, Rev. J Brintjes. Rev. C. van Wyk, however, has requested not to be reappointed due to his family situation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM Boersma', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

DM Boersma