

Deputies for Inspection of the Archive

19 January 2021

Mandate

- To examine the synodical archive in terms of the Rules of Synod.
- To report to the next synod and formulate recommendations according to the Rules of Synod.
- According to Synod Rule 10.5 (d) the Archive must be inspected prior to each Synod by the Church responsible for the care and maintenance of the Archive.
- According to Synod Rule 10.5 (c) the following documents shall be kept in the Archives:
 - The Acts of Synod
 - The Acts of churches with whom we correspond
 - Reports and letters of all deputyships
 - All incoming documents to have reached synod
 - Copies of letters that synod has sent

Recommendations

- Add inspection of planned improvements of the archives to the mandate of new deputies to be appointed.

Membership

- The second person of the deputyship declined her appointment (email 4 October 2018). In consultation with the Stated Clerk it was decided to co-opt Br Martin Ros of the Archive Church (Pretoria).

Summary of activities and methods employed, including members' roles

- In correspondence with the Stated Clerk (4 October 2018) it was understood that improvements to the Archive were planned and in process. These were special instructions such as a new register, summary and re-organisation of the whole Archive. At a later stage it became clear that the deputies did not have to inspect the planned improvements to the Archive.
- The deputies followed up on items outstanding in the report of the previous deputyship dated 11 April 2017.
- The documents of the 39th Synod of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa (Soshanguve North 7-11 August 2017) were inspected.
- The physical inspection of the Synod Archive took place on 14 January 2021 by the brothers Drijfhout and Ros with the Stated Clerk in attendance.

Detailed report (material, decision, grounds)

- The Synod archives are kept in a fire proof safe together with the archives of the Church of Pretoria.
- The following outstanding items in the previous report were located:
 - Proposal regarding Mission by Classis South
 - Credentials (geloofsbriefe): local and overseas

- Letters of greetings from other churches
- All 30 documents listed on pages 7 and 8 of the published Acts (39th Synod 2017), were found in the Archive, except for the presentation Mission Deputies South Africa (Document 14), which can be found on the FRC English and Afrikaans internet sites.
- Credential letters of the following churches:
 - Classis North
 - Classis South
 - Canadian Reformed Churches
 - Free Reformed Churches of Australia
 - Reformed Churches in the Netherlands – liberated
 - Reformed Churches of South Africa
 - Dutch Reformed Church in Africa
- The following documents were also located:
 - Report of Deputies Article 49 CO – Classis North
 - Report of Deputies Article 49 CO – Classis South
 - Report of the Treasurer
 - Deputies for Inspection of the Treasurers books
 - Report of Deputies for Inspection of the Archive
- Acts of Synod: a number of copies are kept and handed out when required.
- Acts of corresponding churches are only available on the websites of mentioned churches. No printed copies were received.
- Reports presented at the Indaba that took place in Pretoria in February 2016 are also kept in the Archive.
- Appointment letters from the synod to the various deputyships are only kept in e-format.

Signatures



Br Douwe Drijfhout (convenor)



Br Martin Ros