

# **Mission Deputies of the Free Reformed Churches in SA Report to Synod 2014**

Date 07 Apr 2017  
V1.01



## **Dear Brothers**

Attached you find the report of the mission Deputies, appointed by Synod 2014.

Not all relevant information is included in this report, like minutes of MDSA meetings and reports of workshops and conferences. This information is available on request from the secretary.

The main change the past three years for MDSA was the way we work with our co-operating churches in the Netherlands. You can read all about that in this report.

Talking about those churches, we think that it is apt to thank them here right at the beginning for all their financial and prayer support, as well as showing due interest in the work here.

One final note: Due to the above mentioned changes, there is a new proposed Agreement of co-operation between FRCSA and the Netherlands in the attachments, to be signed by Synod of the FRCSA. At the time of writing this report there was still one small issue to be sorted out and synod is requested to sign the one that will be/has been sent separately.

We pray that you as synod delegates may receive strength and wisdom in order to have positive discussions and that God may bless all wise decisions made.

With sisterly and brotherly greetings, for MDSA:

Br. H Pouwels  
Chairman

Sr. T Bijker  
Secretary

# 1. Mandate 2014 synod

## a. To appoint new deputies with the following mandate

- a. To continue the contact between the mission churches of the FRCSA and the supporting churches abroad.
- b. To act, within this contact, in accordance with the agreement of cooperation, which synod made with the supporting churches abroad and the agreement of cooperation regarding the mission between the FRCSA churches.
- c. To receive annually the policies and work plans from the mission churches, to receive the statements of the previous year, and the budget for the next year.
- d. To consolidate the various budgets and present them to the deputies of the supporting churches.
- e. To distribute, in accordance with the approved budgets of the mission churches, the incoming funds.
- f. To ensure that the money is spent in accordance with the budgets, policies and work plans.
- g. To assess the churches with the equivalent of R190 per member per year according to the old system, for calendar years 2014 – 2017, yet henceforth calculated for the different congregations according to the newly adopted differentiated contribution model.
- h. To request from the mission churches the minutes and reports related to mission work.
- i. To coordinate necessary mission affairs of mutual interest of the various mission fields.
- j. To review the “Agreement of Co-operation between the FRCSA” and to have the Agreement signed by all co-operating churches.
- k. To communicate funding requirements to consistories on an annual basis.
- l. To submit an interim report for discussion during an Indaba to be held end 2015 or beginning 2016.
- m. To report to the next synod and formulate recommendations according to Article 11 of the Rules of Synod.

## b. Extension of MDSA mandate - 2014

To mandate MDSA to consider requests for support outside of the current agreement of cooperation and these requests have to be assessed based on the following principles and pre-conditions:

- i. It has to be related to the spreading of the gospel and has to have as ultimate goal the conversion of sinners and the gathering of Christ’s church.
- ii. Money can only be spent for such activities when there is a pre-defined reserve limit, to prevent jeopardising current mission work.
- iii. The approval of ZDNL (Dutch Deputies) will be required insofar as ZDNL contributions are used.

- iv. The Agreement of Cooperation has to be extended to cover this additional mandate.
- v. Funding for projects relating to responsibilities of other Deputies and Churches within the FRCSA needs to be assessed in conjunction with such deputies.

**And not listed as part of mandate,** but mentioned as coming from Classis South:

- i. That Mission can include Development and Training.
- ii. That gifts in the mission congregations be harnessed and that individuals can be employed part-time or full-time and receive just remuneration for it.
- iii. That mission work be integrated in such a fashion that word and deed are combined, not only in the field but also in the respective committees. With this principle in mind, the consistories will have to carefully consider the competencies of mission committee members.
- iv. That it would be advisable for mission committees to develop a more unified approach.
- v. That there be greater mutual cooperation and liaison between the committees and deputyships.

## **2. Execution of MDSA mandate.**

### **a. A quick reflection on the past three years:**

- i. The above mentioned mandate was executed. We propose a simplified mandate as proposed at the end of this report. Apart from this we would like to spend a few words on other events:
- ii. This past three years since the last synod was a period of many changes for the MDSA. With the mandate we received at the previous synod we were able to approve money for new projects that now resort under mission.
- iii. The biggest change came from the Netherlands as Zending Deputate Nederland became part of a new structure, incorporating De Verre Naasten. ZDNL is now called Zuid-Afrika Mission (ZAM), with the biggest change being that money will be given according to what is needed, instead of money collected by the supporting churches just given for mission. This will be discussed in detail further in this report.
- iv. We had to learn and adapt to the new workings of DVN and ZAM. We had several meetings with delegates from the Netherlands. They made special visits (apart from the regular visitations) to South Africa to explain the new way forward, and new mission delegates had to familiarise themselves with the mission in South Africa. Harm Snijder (bookkeeper) also took time during a personal visit to the Netherlands to meet with ZAM.
- v. The MDSA met regularly as a team, and also had several meetings with the different mission boards or project management teams and church councils. Our biggest challenge currently is to get everyone involved to understand and

execute the new requirements that have to be followed according to the new structure.

**b. New projects approved in the past four years.**

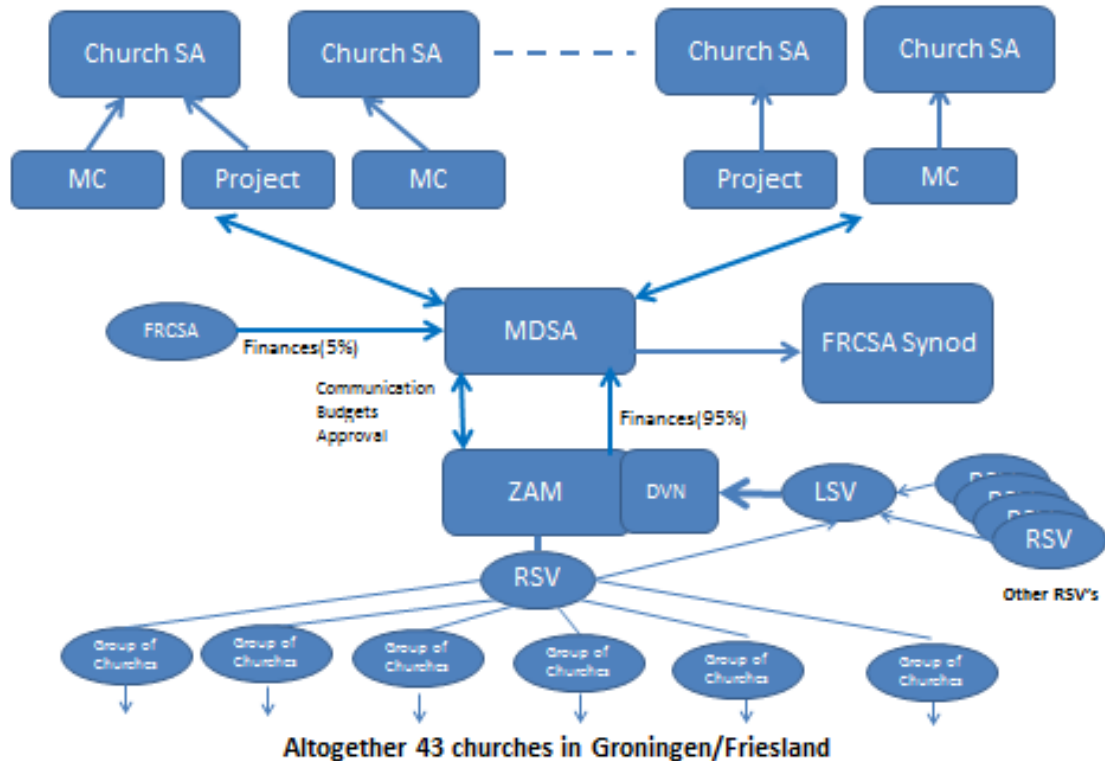
Funding for the following new projects was approved in the past four years:

- i. **Rev Hannes Breytenbach** (this project resorts under Deputies Curators and FRC Pretoria). Partial funding for this project was approved.
- ii. **Reformational Study Centre** (under leadership from Rev Jopie van der Linden. This project resorts under mission board Johannesburg and FRC Johannesburg). A partial contribution towards the stipend for Rev Jopie vd Linden was approved.
- iii. **Social worker Cape Flats** (this project resorts under the Mission Committee of Cape Town) and is supported 100% by MDSA/ZAM.

**3. What has changed**

**a. New structure in the Netherlands.**

A new structure was adopted in the Netherlands. Mission Deputies (ZDNL) as we knew them (Zending Deputaten Nederland) no longer exists, because mission is no longer a deputy matter. The new structure is shown in next illustration.



Starting at the bottom: There are 6 groups of churches in Groningen and Friesland (each group is a Classis). Every church has a representation on the RSV (Regionaal Samewerkings Verband/Regional Co-operation Bond). The RSV elects a Board called ZAM (Zuid-Afrika Mission). ZAM maintains contacts with the mission projects in SA via MDSA. ZAM makes use of DVN's expertise in executing their policies. There are various other RSV's in the Netherlands who together elect an LSV (Landelijk Samenwerkings Verband/National Co-Operation Bond). The LSV in turn elects the DVN management . ZAM does not report to a Synod or any other "higher" entity, which is in line with the GKv view that the responsibility for mission should be placed at local churches, so ZAM emanates from local churches and there it stops. This implies that ZAM does not get a mandate from a higher entity, but ZAM formulates its own policy based on what comes up from the co-operating churches.

The structure in South Africa is well known and is basically the same as the new one in the Netherlands. Mission initiatives emanate from local churches. The function of Deputies (MDSA) is not to initiate mission, but to execute certain functions as defined in the FRCSA synod mandate, the "**Akkoord van Samenwerking/Agreement of co-operation**" with ZAM and the "**Agreement of Co-operation between the FRCSA churches regarding mission work**" (Synod 2005)

## b. **New funding model**

In June 2015 MDSA were visited by ZAM (known as ZDNL before) in order to discuss their new approach and the financial consequences.

The most important change for us in South Africa is that there will no longer be an automatic annual total contribution, based on a fixed amount per church member in the co-operating churches in the Netherlands. This approach, which had been followed all those years, is called a **supply approach**. The new approach is called **demand approach**. This means that by the end of each year (Nov 1), MDSA must submit to ZAM the budget for the next year (as well as a rolling budget for the 4 years thereafter) for all projects accompanied by a motivation and explanatory notes for the budget (the strategic plans as submitted by Mission Committee or Church Councils). ZAM will approve the request/demand (or not ) in line with the new Agreement of Co-operation (see point 3.e below). This makes timely budgeting and planning by all parties in South Africa of the utmost importance. This also implies that new projects cannot be requested and/or started after budget approval and have to wait for the next budget cycle.

A result of the new approach was that the massive surplus, reported on in 2014 and which was the reason for invitations for new projects, has been utilised completely. (Refer to the Finances, Section 5)

## c. **Reporting.**

Reporting will be dealt with in more detail in Section 7.

Suffice to mention here that approvals of budgets also depend on the availability of information. One cannot just ask for money based on a budget, there must be a plan which is executable and sustainable. Moreover, during the life cycle of such projects, information must be made available to show that the project develops in line with the plans.

**d. The bigger picture.**

It should also be noted that ZAM inherited other projects in South Africa, projects which were driven by DVN before the new structure. These are projects we as MDSA are not involved in, but some of them are related to the FRCSA, like Khothatsong and Thusano. The FRCSA Mission projects as well as the inherited projects are now all funded from the same source and all moneys flow via DVN. The relationship with DVN was explained in 3.a

**e. New Agreement of Co-operation.**

ZAM initiated, due to the changes in the Netherlands, the drafting of a new “**Akkoord van Samenwerking**” (Agreement of Co-operation) in consultation with MDSA and in accordance of point a. of our mandate. Synod is requested to sign this document. (Appendix 4, but as mentioned in the cover letter: *At the time of writing this report there was still one small issue to be sorted out and synod is requested to sign the one that will be/has been sent separately*). Please note that the English version has been made available for Synod also in Appendix 4, but only the Dutch version needs to be signed by the Chairman and Scribe of Synod because only the Dutch version has been signed by ZAM. With these changes (wider mission vision and changes in the Netherlands) it also becomes necessary to establish our own “**FRCSA policy for supported mission projects**” (Appendix 1). See section 6 for more detail.

## **4. Projects supported**

**a. Existing mission work:**

i. Northern Gauteng (FRC Maranata)

- |                                |   |                 |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Nellmapius                  | - | Rev GF Mnisi    |
| 2. Soshanguve F4               | - | Rev MP Magagula |
| 3. Soshanguve XX               | - | Rev BA Matlaela |
| 4. Sohanguve WW                | - | Rev P Kgatle    |
| 5. Akasia – Living Hope Church | - | Rev DM Boersma  |

ii. Cape flats ( FRC Belhar&Bellville)

- |                   |   |                     |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Leiden         | - | Rev P Abrahams      |
| 2. Wesbank        | - | Rev CA van Wyk      |
| 3. Leiden/Wesbank | - | Rev EL van 't Foort |

**b. New projects since 2014:**

- i. Deputies Curators - Rev JA, Breytenbach  
*Training of mission congregations to enhance the process to self-governance*
- ii. Reformed Study Centre -(FRC JHB) Rev J van der Linden  
*Supply of theological support to pastors in Africa via internet*
- iii. Social Worker(GSK Cape Town) -Sr. L. Arendse  
*Social work on the Cape Flats in support of the mission work there*

## **5. Finances**

### **5.1 General**

- a. During the past three years, the Lord has blessed the Mission work abundantly. With the support of our sister churches in the Netherlands as major funders, as well as other churches like our sister churches in Canada, and the contributions from our own FRCSA, enough funding was available for the mission work to carry on.

### **5.2 New funding model**

- b. As mentioned in **3b** above, a new funding model has been implemented by the Netherlands.
- c. Since the new funding model has been implemented, budgets are prepared based on the needs according and in line with the Strategic plans of the Mission committees. Those budgets are then discussed and provisionally approved by MDSA and ZAM during the annual Mission Indaba in October of each year. The final approval by ZAM is in December
- d. During 2015 MDSA didn't receive funding from the Netherlands for the following reasons:
  - 1. To relieve the supporting churches (congregations) in the Netherlands for one year's contributions;
  - 2. In order for the MDSA to utilise its accumulated surplus;
  - 3. Funds due but not yet paid to MDSA from the Netherlands were utilised to cover certain once off costs.

The result was that MDSA utilised its entire surplus during 2015.

### **5.3 Reserve levels**

- e. Reserve levels were adjusted to make provision only for certain fixed commitments of the MDSA towards Cape Town (support sr. Nicholson) plus 2 months running expenses for all mission projects under the auspice of MDSA.
- f. The balance of the reserves has been utilized during 2016.
- g. Exchange rate variances are borne by DVN and the budgets and funding requests by MDSA are accounted for in ZAR.

## 5.4 New role of MDSA

- h. The role of MDSA is no longer, as in the past, to distribute fixed funds as received from the Netherlands over various projects. MDSA's role has shifted more towards judging and approving budgets and putting together a consolidated budget, a consolidated annual financial report and various reports to ZAM.
- i. For ZAM to consider funding for the mission work done by our churches, a five year rolling budget needs to be presented annually. ZAM approves next year's funding, and commits itself in principle to the next four years funding.
- j. An abbreviated financial report is attached as Appendix 3.

## 6. Policy in connection with mission projects.

### i. Who is responsible

1. The end responsibility for a project supported by ZAM (DVN) is completely with a church council or a deputyship. They can appoint a Mission Committee or other administrative persons in order to help them realising the project, but the church council or deputyship cannot abdicate the responsibility to them
2. Projects sponsored by ZAM (DVN) must comply with certain requirements like sustainability, plans, goals and reporting. Also, the co-operating churches who contribute financially, are entitled to receive feedback, as also specified by ZAM. ZAM is part of a the larger whole through the National co-operation with DVN which implies that they also have to comply with timeframes and "checks and balances". Projects have to be managed and administrated well, we are talking of about R5-6 million a year.
3. ZAM themselves do not have the knowledge and are too far removed in order to control the projects in SA. Also, not every co-operating church in South Africa can exercise control over the spending of the money and the management of the projects. For that reason the FRCSA synod of 1996 already appointed Mission Deputies in order to:
  - a. Be the link between the co-operating churches in the Netherlands and the Sending churches of the FRCSA
  - b. Be the link between all co-operating churches in South Africa.
4. In the past, the MDSA mandate did not include timeframes and moreover it was expected from MDSA to ascertain that mission churches stick to their own policy. With the changes (wider mission vision and changes in the Netherlands) it becomes necessary to establish our own "**FRCSA policy for supported mission projects**" (See Appendix 1). This policy includes timeframes as well. Note that this is not a mission policy, these come from church councils, but merely a policy on how to deal with projects.



5. MDSA is responsible for approving projects annually and to pass on to ZAM for their finance availability. For any new project, ZAM also need be consulted and ZAM can subsequently decide if money is available. ZAM however can question MDSA's evaluation of a project.

## **ii. Sustainability.**

1. Projects must be sustainable: what does this mean?
  - a. Is there enough support from and/or within the church/congregation or deputyship in order to manage the project?
  - b. Are there clear mandates and goals/outcomes?
  - c. Is there knowledge and goodwill in order to support the project financially and from an administrative point of view.
  - d. Are there a multiyear plan and a final goal with the project with an end in sight?
2. Churches have to start and manage projects in faith and we may trust that God will help us, but we also have a responsibility for planning and should not start if resources, for example manpower, are lacking.
3. Churches also have to take into consideration the finding of DS (Deputies Sustainability 2014): we are in South Africa and cannot remain dependent on overseas funding for ever. Our dependency on overseas funding should not be too high.

## **iii. Must fit within the Synod mandate for the MDSA.**

1. Synod 2014 has formulated mission: It has to be related to the spreading of the gospel and has to have as ultimate goal the conversion of sinners and the gathering of Christ's church.
2. Only churches and or deputies can be project owners. It should not overlap with other deputies responsibilities. Nor will MDSA be a project owner, they cannot be a controller and an executor.

## **iv. Reporting.**

1. The co-operating Churches in the Netherlands and ZAM support these projects financially and with prayers. For that reason we have the duty to provide sufficient feedback (joy and sorrow, progress and setbacks) in order to keep the support base informed and warm so that they can see how the Holy Spirit is at work over here. Missionaries and project owners have a direct responsibility in this regard. Not complying can be reason for MDSA and/or ZAM to withdraw financial support.

# **7. Public Relations/PR**

## **a. Structure.**

Quote from the "Agreement of Co-operation ZAM-FRCSA":

“ZAM wants to involve its members with the mission work in South Africa as much as is possible. Up to date information about the work in South Africa (or lack thereof) will make or break this involvement. MDSA is responsible for correct and timely information. MDSA stimulates all involved in the area of mission to co-operate in mentioned information flow.”

MDSA has decided to work towards the following plan: (See also Appendix 1)

- i. Two reports per year per project or mission point providing general information about the status of the project and to what extent it is in line with Strategic and Operational plans. These reports are for ZAM internally.
- ii. Four snippets of information per year per project or mission point which can be used for publication in local and overseas church bulletins.
- iii. It has been agreed with ZAM that as a rule two missionaries visit the Netherlands each year (around Mar/April and Sept/Oct) in order to provide information session in co-operating churches and other entities (like schools).

Apart from the above there is also the topic of in-person local information sessions. These sessions are regulated by Art 12 of the *“Agreement of Co-operation between the FRCSA churches in South Africa regarding Mission work”* which was approved by FRCSA Synod 2005. These sessions only apply to the “traditional” mission points (Maranata and Bellville) and not for the Johannesburg and Pretoria projects. Maranata has to offer mission information sessions for two years in a 3 year cycle by one of their missionaries in all local Co-operation churches, while Bellville/Belhar has to do the same during the other year in the three year cycle.

Although this implies a lot of time and effort, the importance of information sessions cannot be stressed enough. This has also been stressed by ZAM visitors every time they are here in SA, especially on the Mission Indaba’s in October each year.

A final note on local information sessions. As mentioned, these are the result of the *“Agreement of Co-operation between the FRCSA churches in South Africa regarding Mission work”*. This agreement still refers to ZDNL as deputies. This must change to ZAM as non-deputies. We request synod to take note of this change. Refer to Appendix 2.

**b. How well were actions mentioned in 7.a executed from 2014-2017?**

There is room for Improvement with respect to feedback for some projects and a lot (yes a LOT) of improvement for other projects. MDSA sincerely hopes that the proposed **“FRCSA policy for supported mission projects”** will help all involved to comply. Also local information sessions are a challenge for Bellville/GSK. To reach all congregations in the North is not easy. For example in the past 3 year cycle Bellville/GSK had a duty to offer information sessions in 2016. Quite a few congregations were visited, but Pretoria and Johannesburg were not dealt with. It is also difficult to fit it all in during one

weekend and it is suggested that Cape Town comes up with a creative plan to cover all congregations.

## 8. Proposed deputies

We urge synod to take note of our recommendations regarding the appointment of deputies. During the last synod, our recommendations were not taken into account at all! Please also note that MDSA is a regional bound deputy, and all members of the MDSA should reside in Gauteng.

- a. Chairman: br. H. Pouwels
- b. Secretary: sr. T. Bijker
- c. Finance: br. H. Snijder:

**NB:** Br. Snijder has been the person responsible for finance for the last 25 years. Despite exploring alternatives, MDSA has not managed, till now, to find someone with the required skills willing to commit for multiple years. It is not just an accounting job.

- d. PR: br. T. de Wit:

Br. de Wit has been deputy for three consecutive terms. Due to his in depth knowledge and his willingness to serve for another term, we propose that he is re-appointed for another term. We recommend that a new member be added to the MDSA for succession.

- e. Other: br. L. IJlst  
br. M. Boersema was co-opted in 2016

## 9. We request synod to:

### 9.1 To appoint new deputies, see point 8 of this report

### 9.2 To approve following proposed MDSA mandate:

- a. To sustain and enhance the contacts between the mission churches of the FRCSA, the supporting churches abroad and the local supporting churches.
- b. To act in accordance with the “Agreement of Co-operation between MDSA and ZAM/DVN”<sup>1</sup>, and the “Agreement of Cooperation regarding the mission between the FRCSA churches”<sup>2</sup>.
- c. To execute the **“FRCSA policy for supported mission projects”** for all supporting projects.
- d. To approve proposals for possible new mission projects. These projects have to be related to the spreading of the gospel, have to have as ultimate goal the conversion

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<sup>1</sup> Akkoord van samenwerking van Die Vrye Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika, verteenwoordigdig deur de Sendings Deputaten Suid-Afrika en Zuid-Afrika Mission / Verre Naasten in Nederland

<sup>2</sup> Agreement of cooperation between the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa regarding mission work

of sinners and the gathering of Christ's church and must be proved to be sustainable and executable.

- e. To assess the different congregations according to the newly adopted differentiated contribution model.
- f. To report to the next synod and formulate recommendations according to Article 11 of the Rules of Synod.

**9.3 To provide MDSA with the newly adopted differentiated contribution model so that congregations can be assessed correctly.**

**9.4 To Approve proposed "FRCSA policy for supported mission projects" (Appendix 1)**

**9.5 To Approve AND SIGN the new "Akkoord van Samewerking" with ZAM. Appendix 4, but the one to be signed will be sent separately.**

**9.6 To take note of the changes in the "Agreement of co-operation between local churches". (Appendix 2)**

# Appendix 1.

## **General “Policy of the FRCSA for supported Mission projects”**

### **Introduction.**

MDSA are the Mission Deputies as appointed by the FRCSA Synod and are responsible for the execution of the following for mission projects financially supported:

1. MDSA has to motivate FRCSA Mission Projects to ZAM in order for funding to be made available for new and existing projects. In order to do this MDSA has the responsibility to establish on a continuous basis if such projects are sustainable and proper executed.
2. MDSA has to see to it that projects, during its life cycle, comply with financial rules of governance of such projects, this so that overseas funding does not stagnate. This requires timely budgeting by the various FRCSA parties so that SDSA can communicate a total yearly budget in time to ZAM for approval.
3. MDSA has to see to it that FRCSA mission projects have distinct strategic plans which are updated on a yearly basis and which should cover the next 5 years. These plans are used to motivated requests for funding as mentioned in point 3 above. Lack of such plans or late submissions may cause stagnation in funding.
4. MDSA has to see to it that each FRCSA mission project adheres to its own strategic plan and that the money is utilised in accordance with the budgets, policies and work plans.
5. MDSA has to see to it that an information flow about the status of projects is maintained. These flows consists of:
  - a. Missionaries or project owners supplying information sessions in the local churches as well as providing timely written updates for local and overseas use.
  - b. Missionaries visiting the Netherlands in order to inform churches and other entities there about their work.
  - c. Evaluation reports of project owners about the progress and execution of the projects.
6. Minimum requirements per project with dates required - to be submitted to MDSA.

### **Planning:**

- Annual updated Strategic plan (1 Sept.)

- Budget new year (1 Oct.)
- Rolling budget (5 year). (1 Oct.)
- Presentation on Annual workshop (1 Oct)

#### **Control**

- Quarterly/six monthly Missionary reports per mission point. (within 1 month after reporting period)
- Financial report of previous year audited (1 April)
- Interim financial report budget vs actual 1 May, 1 July, 15 Oct.

#### **Communication and PR**

- Bi-annual evaluation reports
- Publications/articles 4 per annum/missionary
- Minutes of meetings.

#### **Missionary PR**

- Local as per agreement
- Overseas Netherlands two missionaries per annum.

# Appendix 2

## AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FREE REFORMED CHURCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA REGARDING MISSION WORK.

(English version approved synod 2005.)

### I PURPOSE

#### **Article 1**

The Free Reformed Churches of South Africa (FRCSA) work together in fulfilling their missionary task which the Lord has given to His church, as expressed in Matthew 28:19.

The responsibility regarding the implementation of the national cooperation lies with the missionary churches, which are appointed in mutual agreement.

#### **Article 2**

This agreement regulates the cooperation among the FRCSA regarding the mission work and includes the tasks and obligations and the organizational structure needed for this cooperation.

### II THE SYNOD OF THE FRCSA

#### **Article 3**

The synod of the FRCSA nominates mission deputies (MDSA) who receive their instruction from the synod. This instruction will be stipulated in accordance with the regulations of the agreement of cooperation with the supporting churches in the Netherlands, represented by ZAM (Zuid Afrika Mission) and the regulations of this agreement.

#### **Article 4**

The synod of the FRCSA decides on a quota for the mission contributions.

#### **Article 5**

The report and suggestions of the MDSA are discussed by the synod and new instructions are formulated without violating the responsibility of the missionary church.

### III THE MISSIONARY CHURCHES

#### **Article 6**

The missionary churches maintain the formal contact with the cooperative churches in the Netherlands and in South Africa via the mission deputies (MDSA).

Regarding the contact with the churches in the Netherlands the MDSA addresses itself to ZAM

#### **Article 7**

The missionary churches take it upon themselves to provide the MDSA with all the essential information in accordance with the terms of the agreement of cooperation with the churches in the Netherlands.

### **Article 8**

The missionary churches will on a regular basis provide information meetings for the cooperative churches in South Africa, regarding the activities and development in the mission work. Reports and strategic plans will be sent to the cooperative churches.

### **Article 9**

The missionary churches formulate their policy in a strategic plan; this plan will be the base on which annually a long-term plan and a budget will be formulated. The strategic plans, long-term plans and budgets of the missionary churches are consolidated by the MDSA and financing is determined in consultation with the ZAM. The available finances are divided in a responsible manner by the MDSA.

## **IV THE COOPERATIVE CHURCHES**

### **Article 10**

The cooperative churches accept the obligation to support the mission work of the FRCSA in word and deed. This support can be given in various manners but will at least consist of the following:

- a. that the mission work and missionaries are regularly prayed for in the worship services and that the Lord's blessing is asked for the ongoing mission work among the members and non-members of the mission churches so that the Lord's name is honored;
- b. that regular collections are held for the mission work;
- c. that the church councils will encourage the concern for the mission work in the congregations by planning parish meetings on a regular basis with the help of the mission board, where the missionaries will talk about and explain matters concerning the mission work;
- d. that members of the congregations of the cooperative churches can be chosen to be rightful members of the mission board of the missionary churches;
- e. that the church councils and congregations on their own initiative but with approval of the mission board and/or as requested by the missionary churches, within means will help with any other spiritual and/or material assistance needed to fulfill the missionary task.

### **Article 11**

If one of the cooperative churches wishes to become a missionary church in his own area, the plans must firstly be discussed with the MDSA.

The financial consequences of the plans must first be discussed with the supporting churches in South Africa and in the Netherlands. If the planned new mission work cannot be financed out of the national budget, it will be decided in joint consultation if the church in question can be exempted from his financial obligations.

### **Article 12**



The cooperative churches can, when it is needed, ask for a conference with all churches. The MDSA will then together with the missionary churches organize such a conference.

## **V THE MISSION DEPUTIES**

### **Article 13**

The mission deputies receive their instruction from and are responsible to the synod of the FRCSA.

The instruction of the mission deputies in general terms is:

- a. unite and coordinate the mission policy of the missionary churches in South Africa;
- b. prepare a consolidated mission budget annually;
- c. check on the implementation of the mission policy by the missionary churches as described in Article 9;
- d. prepare a financial statement and an annual report about the pursued policy for the co-operative churches in South Africa and the Netherlands;
- e. make available information on behalf of the briefing about the mission work.

## **VI SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

### **Article 14**

In case of a difference in understanding between the missionary churches and the cooperative churches regarding the nature and extent of cooperation, as well as a difference of opinion regarding the interpretation of the articles of this agreement, the synod of the FRCSA shall decide.

## **VII TERMINATION OF COOPERATION**

### **Article 15**

Termination of the cooperation in joint consultation between the missionary churches and the cooperative churches is possible.

Unilateral termination of the cooperation from the side of the missionary or cooperative churches can only take place in consideration of a term of notice of two calendar years. The termination of the cooperation must be sent in writing to the mission deputies.

### **Article 16**

When a missionary church terminates his active mission work, the assets will by the agency of the MDSA be designated for missionary purposes.

## **VIII VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT**

**Article 17**

Changes in this agreement can only be made with consent of all the cooperative churches in South Africa.

**Article 18**

This agreement of cooperation becomes operative after the signed approval of all church councils of the FRCSA.

# Appendix 3

## Abbreviated financial report

### MISSION DEPUTIES SOUTH AFRICA

#### ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL RESULTS

	Note	2014 ZAR	2015 ZAR	2016 ZAR
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>5 244 092</b>	<b>232 779</b>	<b>2 177 373</b>
Supporting Churches Netherlands	1	4 926 350	-	1 936 000
FRCSA		317 742	232 779	241 373
<b>Other income</b>		<b>352 488</b>	<b>231 978</b>	<b>285 001</b>
Interest	2	338 448	231 412	27 991
Donations		14 040	566	65 175
Project money				191 835
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>3 945 712</b>	<b>7 664 977</b>	<b>6 610 924</b>
Mission work - Maranata		2 560 166	2 828 935	3 452 188
Mission work - Cape		875 003	1 528 099	1 975 000
Project - Training (Mission)				376 141
Project - Reformed Study Centre			250 000	600 428
Allocation of project monies				191 835
General costs - Netherlands	3	323 934	3 031 703	-
General costs - South Africa		186 609	26 240	15 332
Exchange rate gains		420 680	33 955	-
<b>Net surplus (deficit)</b>		<b>2 071 548</b>	<b>- 7 166 265</b>	<b>- 4 148 550</b>

Note 1:

With reference to the MDSA report the funding model from the Netherlands have changed. No longer does MDSA receive funds from the supporting churches as in the past, but funding is now based on the actual financial needs of MDSA. During 2015 no funds were received, for the sole reason that MDSA had to deplete it's own reserves before being able to apply for funding. Hence that no income was received from the Netherlands during 2015.

Note 2:

Interest income decreased due to the fact that all non-earmarked reserves were utilised during 2015.

Note 3:

MDSA does not report on the costs of the ZDNL anymore, since that deputies have been replaced by ZAM in the new structure. MDSA only report on the South African expenses, and this report is taken up in the report of ZAM. During 2015 ZDNL had to pay certain monies to finalise the relation with Friesland.

# Appendix 4

Dutch version, do not sign this one.  
(see further down for English)

Akkoord van samenwerking van

Die Vrye Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika,

Vertegenwoordigd door de Sendings Deputaten Suid-Africa

en

Zuid-Afrika Mission / Verre Naasten in Nederland

Versie 18-03-2017

## Inleiding

Zuid-Afrika Mission / Verre Naasten is een regionaal samenwerkingsverband van plaatselijke gemeenten van de Gereformeerde Kerken (vrijgemaakt, hierna: GKv) in Nederland, uit de provincies Groningen en Friesland, hierna ZAM genoemd. Het doel van ZAM is het ondersteunen van de evangelieverkondiging in woord en daad in Zuid-Afrika. ZAM werkt in Zuid-Afrika samen met meerdere partners. In het onderhavige samenwerkingsakkoord is de samenwerking met Die Vrye Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika beschreven.

Die Vrye Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika, hierna VGKSA genoemd, is een kerkverband in Zuid-Afrika.

VGKSA en ZAM erkennen elkaar als broers en zussen in Jezus Christus. Vanuit die erkenning is er een relatie aangegaan. Binnen die relatie zal men voor elkaar bidden, met elkaar meeleven, etc. ZAM en VGKSA hebben het verlangen 'het geloof te delen, in woord en daad'. Vanuit die relatie en dat verlangen mogen er wederzijds ondersteuningsvragen gesteld worden.

De samenwerking tussen ZAM en de VGKSA is gebaseerd op de volgende kernwaarden:

- **Gereformeerd:** dat wat God in de Bijbel zegt (en in gereformeerde belijdenissen beleden wordt) is maatgevend voor het persoonlijk, kerkelijk en maatschappelijk leven en ook bepalend voor de missionaire activiteiten.

- **Missionair:** het verheerlijken en bekendmaken van Gods naam op aarde, in de eenheid van evangelisatie, dus in woord en daad, wereldwijd.
- **Wederzijds:** Mission is een wereldwijde beweging waarin kerken samen optrekken tot eer van God en tot wederzijdse versterking en bemoediging van elkaar, met als centrale vraag: 'wat kunnen we samen leren van en met elkaar als volgelingen van Christus en hoe kunnen we elkaar dienen in de dienst van de Heer?'
- **Trouw:** vanwege het belang van de gegeven relatie wordt een eenmaal aangegaan samenwerkingsverband niet zomaar verbroken, tenzij door één of beide partijen wordt vastgesteld dat samenwerking niet langer zinvol is. In zo'n geval kan de kerkelijke band met de eventuele partnerkerk wel blijven bestaan.
- **Complementair:** de geboden ondersteuning is aanvullend op eigen personele, materiële en geestelijke inbreng van de partner en sluit aan bij bestaande initiatieven van de partner en is in principe tijdelijk.
- **Participatief:** omdat mensen geroepen zijn verantwoordelijkheid te dragen, is de inbreng van alle betrokkenen vanaf het begin belangrijk. Invulling van de samenwerking vindt plaats in gezamenlijk overleg met de partner.
- **Contextueel:** om als een zelfstandige kerk te kunnen functioneren, is het voor christenen van belang de gereformeerde identiteit te laten functioneren in de concrete context. Mission houdt rekening met dit feit.
- **Transparant:** bereidheid om steeds inzicht te geven in het handelen en de achterliggende motieven.

Dit akkoord beschrijft de samenwerking, wederzijdse verplichtingen en de organisatie op hoofdlijnen.

#### **Artikel 1:**

De synode van de VGKSA heeft een college van zendingsdeputaten (Sendingsdeputate Suid-Afrika, hierna SDSA) ingesteld. De SDSA heeft de bevoegdheid om namens de VGKSA deze samenwerkingsovereenkomst te onderhouden en uit te voeren en is het aanspreekpunt voor ZAM. De zendende kerken in Zuid-Afrika ontwikkelen het beleid voor de zending, SDSA oefent controle daarover uit.

ZAM heeft een bestuur benoemd voor de uitvoering van alle taken van ZAM. Verre Naasten(DVN) geeft hierbij ondersteuning.

#### **Artikel 2:**

SDSA en het bestuur van ZAM zijn gelijkwaardige partners in de ondersteuning van het zendingswerk in Zuid-Afrika onder de volgende condities:

- a. Er is een meerjarenbeleidsplan inzake het gehele mission werk van de VGKSA en een daaraan gekoppelde vijfjarenbegroting, welke jaarlijks wordt bijgewerkt.
- b. Vanuit het meerjaren beleidsplan en de vijfjaren begroting worden jaarlijks een jaarplan en jaarbegroting opgesteld.
- c. Een delegatie van het ZAM-bestuur woont als regel de vergadering in Zuid-Afrika (zendingsberaad in oktober) bij, waar jaarlijks het beleidsplan en de begroting worden besproken en vastgesteld.

SDSA is verantwoordelijk voor de opstelling van bovengenoemde stukken. De stukken dienen binnen twee weken na afloop van het Zendingsberaad (in oktober) in bezit te zijn van de secretaris van het ZAM . Hierbij wordt duidelijk en onderbouwd aangegeven welk deel van het jaarplan en de jaarbegroting ter financiering wordt voorgelegd aan ZAM, met daarbij een voorgesteld betaalschema. De begroting voor het volgende jaar wordt door het bestuur van ZAM beoordeeld en goedgekeurd. De begroting voor de volgende vierjaren van het vijfjarenplan wordt in principe goedgekeurd maar nog niet definitief.

### **Artikel 3:**

Het bestuur van ZAM zal het ondersteuningsverzoek van SDSA beoordelen o.a. aan de hand van haar eigen beleid, de genoemde kernwaarden en de financiële mogelijkheden. Voor 1 december, voorafgaande aan het nieuwe jaar, zal ZAM een besluit hebben genomen over de aanvraag.

### **Artikel 4:**

Op 1 juni en 1 december zal SDSA ZAM informeren over hun activiteiten, op basis van jaarplan en jaarbegroting: wat is gerealiseerd, waar zijn afwijkingen, etc. Tevens wordt halfjaarlijks een financieel overzicht gegeven: begroting, realisatie en verwachting voor het betreffende boekjaar.

### **Artikel 5:**

Het door een accountant in Zuid-Afrika goedgekeurde financiële jaarverslag (balans en resultatenrekening ) van het voorgaande jaar zal uiterlijk 1 mei door SDSA opgesteld en verzonden zijn aan ZAM. ZAM zal voor 1 juli aangeven of zij akkoord is met het aangeleverde jaarverslag en financieel jaarverslag.

**Artikel 6:**

ZAM wil zijn leden (achterban) zo veel als het kan betrekken bij Mission in Zuid-Afrika. Betrokkenheid (meeleven, voor elkaar bidden, van elkaar leren, met elkaar meedenken en meefinancieren) van de achterban in Nederland staat of valt met actuele informatie. SDSA is verantwoordelijk voor juiste en tijdige informatie, gevraagd en ongevraagd. SDSA stimuleert medewerkers en betrokkenen op het gebied van Mission, mee te werken aan de genoemde informatievoorziening.

**Artikel 7:**

Het bestuur van ZAM is vanuit de GKv in Nederland het aanspreekpunt voor de ondersteuning van mission in Zuid-Afrika. VGKSA zal geen ondersteuningsvragen op het gebied van mission stellen aan gemeenten of andere organen van de GKv buiten ZAM om.

**Artikel 8:**

Om de relatie tussen de VGKSA en de ZAM te bevorderen, zullen er periodiek werkreizen worden uitgevoerd. Ruim van te voren worden werkreizen afgesproken en doelen daarvoor geformuleerd.

**Artikel 9:**

Indien er ontwikkelingen of gebeurtenissen zijn die het missionwerk van de VGKSA (kunnen) raken, zal er onverwijld contact met elkaar worden opgenomen, om elkaar te informeren.

**Artikel 10:**

Beëindiging van deze samenwerkingsovereenkomst kan geschieden door ZAM en de VGKSA

1. in onderling overleg, gehoord hebbende beide partijen.



2. eenzijdig, met een opzegtermijn van 5 jaar (zijnde 60 maanden); of per direct wanneer niet aan verplichtingen wordt voldaan door één van de partijen, in geval van malversaties, etc.

**Artikel 11:**

In geval van verschil van inzicht tussen VGKSA (SDSA) en ZAM over interpretatie van dit akkoord van samenwerking zal een geschillencommissie worden benoemd. Deze bestaat uit drie leden: één door beide partijen aangewezen persoon en de voorzitter van het Landelijk Samenwerkingsverband Mission|Verre Naasten (of een door deze voorzitter te bepalen persoon). De laatste is de voorzitter van de commissie. De geschillencommissie zal alle partijen horen en een bindende uitspraak doen.

**Artikel 12:**

Deze samenwerkingsovereenkomst treedt in werking op de datum van ondertekening. Hiermee vervallen eerdere overeenkomsten tussen ZAM (of haar rechtsvoorgangers) en de VGKSA.

Aldus vastgesteld door:

De algemene vergadering van het regionaal samenwerkingsverband Zuid Afrika Mission|Verre Naasten gehouden op *datum* in Zuidhorn

Voorzitter:

Secretaris:

De Sinode van Die Vrye Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika *datum* te *plaats*.

Preses:

Scriba

# English Version.

## Agreement of co-operation

**The Free Reformed Churches in South Africa,**

**Represented by Mission Deputies South Africa**

**and**

**Zuid-Afrika Mission / Verre Naasten in the Netherlands**

Version 18-03-2017

### Introduction

Zuid-Afrika Mission / Verre Naasten is a regional co-operation bond of local congregations of the Gereformeerde Kerken (Reformed Churches) (vrijgemaakt/liberated, hereafter: GKv) in the Netherlands, in the provinces of Groningen and Friesland, called ZAM hereafter. The purpose of ZAM is to support the spreading the gospel in word and deed in South Africa. In South Africa ZAM works together with multiple partners. This agreement of co-operation describes the co-operation with the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa.

The Free Reformed Churches in South Africa, called FRCSA hereafter, is a bond of churches in South Africa.

FRCSA and ZAM acknowledge each other as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. A relationship was established out of this acknowledgement. Within that relationship the parties will pray for each other, be interested in each other, etc. ZAM and FRCSA desire to 'share our faith in word and deed'. Out of this relationship and this desire we can ask each other questions in connection with support.

The co-operation between ZAM and the FRCSA is based on the following key values:

- **Reformed:** what God tells us in the Bible (and as confessed in the reformed confessional standards) determines how we act in personal, church and society life and also determines our missional activities.
- **Missional:** glorifying and proclaiming the name of our Lord on earth, in the unity of evangelism, hence in word and deed, worldwide.
- **Reciprocal:** Mission is a worldwide movement in which churches act together glorifying God and resulting in reciprocal strengthening and encouragement, with as a central question: 'what can we learn together and of each other as followers of Christ and how can we serve each other in the service to God?'
- **Fidelity:** a bond of co-operation once started will not easily be broken, due the importance of the given relationship, unless one of the two parties comes to the conclusion that co-operation is no longer meaningful. In such a situation the ecclesiastical bond with the partner church need not be severed.
- **Complementary:** the offered support complements own personal, material and spiritual input of the partner and merges or connects with existing initiatives of the partner and is in principle temporal.
- **Participating:** all people are called to carry responsibility and for that reason the inputs of all involved are important. Shaping the co-operation takes place in mutual counsel with the partner.
- **Contextual:** it is important for Christians to uphold the reformed identity in the actual context in order to function as independent church. Mission takes this into account.
- **Transparent:** be prepared to provide, at all times, insight into ways of acting and the motives behind it.

This agreement describes the main topics of the co-operation, reciprocal duties and organisation.

#### **Article 1:**

The Synod of the FRCSA appointed mission deputies (Mission Deputies South Africa, MDSA hereafter). MDSA has the mandate to sustain and execute this agreement of co-operation for the FRCSA and is the party ZAM deals with. The sending churches in South Africa develop the mission policy, MDSA exercises control over the execution of this policy.

ZAM appointed a Board for executing all the tasks of ZAM. Verre Naasten (DVN) is involved by supporting ZAM in these tasks.

#### **Article 2:**

MDSA and the Board of ZAM are equal partners in supporting the mission work in South Africa under the following conditions:

- d. There is a policy plan for multiple years with respect to all the mission work of the FRCSA and a five year budget linked to this plan, which gets updated annually.
- e. A year plan and budget are annually drafted out of the multi-year policy plan and the five year budget.
- f. A ZAM Board delegation will attend, as a rule, the annual mission indaba in October where the policies and budgets are discussed and finalised.

MDSA is responsible for drafting above mentioned documents. These documents need to be in possession of the secretary of ZAM within two weeks after the Indaba. With this submission to ZAM, MDSA shall clearly and substantiated indicate which part of the year plan and annual budget is submitted to ZAM for financial support. The budget for the coming year will be judged and approved by ZAM. The budget for the four years following will be approved in principal, by not yet final.

**Article 3:**

The Board of ZAM will judge the request for support from ZAM using her own policy, mentioned key values and the financial possibilities. Before December 1, preceding the new year, ZAM will have taken a decision about the request.

**Article 4:**

MDSA will inform ZAM on June 1 and December 1 about their activities based on the annual policy plan and budget: what has been realized, where are deviations etc. Also, every half year a financial resume will be given: budget, realisation and expectations for the year at hand.

**Article 5:**

An approved financial annual report (balance and results account) of the previous year has to be submitted to ZAM by MDSA not later than May 1. ZAM will indicate by July 1 if she agrees with the submitted annual financial report.

**Article 6:**

ZAM wants to involve her members (congregations) in the mission work in South Africa as much as possible. Involvement (sympathizing, praying, learning from each other, thinking together and financing) of the followers in the Netherlands depends on up to date information. MDSA is responsible for correct and timely information, asked or not. MDSA will stimulate all involved with the mission work, to co-operate in order to make mentioned information available.

**Article 7:**

The Board of ZAM is the point of contact for the Gkv in the Netherlands in connection with support in South Africa. The FRCSA will not request other support related to mission from congregations or other organs of the Gkv without involving ZAM

**Article 8:**

Periodic work visits will be taking place in order to further the relationship between the FRCSA and ZAM. These work visits will be planned ample time before the visit and goals for these visits will be formulated.

**Article 9:**

Immediate contact will be made with each other in case there are developments or events which (can) impact on the mission work of the FRCSA, so that we can inform each other.

**Article 10:**

Termination of this agreement of co-operation can be initiated by ZAM and the FRCSA.

3. After mutual counsel, having heard both parties.
4. One-sided with a termination period of 5 years (60 months); or immediate in case one of the parties does not honour its duties, like misappropriation of funds etc.

**Article 11:**

A mediation committee will be appointed in case of difference of opinion between FRCSA/MDSA and ZAM in connection with interpreting this agreement of co-operation. This committee will consist of three members: one person appointed by each party and the chairman of the National Co-Operation Bond Mission | Verre Naasten (LSV) (or a person as determined by this chairman). Latter is chairman of the committee. The mediation committee will hear all parties and make a binding announcement.

**Article 12:**

This agreement of co-operation kicks in on the date of signing. All previous agreements between ZAM (and predecessors) and the FRCSA then become void.

thus established by:

The general meeting of the Regional Co-operation Bond (RSV) Zuid Afrika Mission | Verre Naasten held on \_\_\_\_\_ in Zuidhorn

Chairman:

Secretary:

The Synod of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman:

Scribe