

Deputies for Revision of Liturgical Forms and Form Prayers

24 September 2020

Mandate

- To obtain permission and arrange for translation in English and Sotho, and certain amendments, of the new RCSA Form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- To send all the newly proposed Forms and Form Prayers to the local FRC congregations with the request to send their comments on the usability of them to the deputies.
- To search for existing Forms and Form Prayers in English or Sotho before attempting to translate Afrikaans or Dutch versions and to arrange for translation of them in English and/or Sotho when necessary.
- To arrange printing of a preliminary edition of the Forms and Form Prayers as soon as sufficient comments are received from the churches.
- To co-operate with Deputies for Revision of Rules of Synod and the Stated Clerk in order to combine all the newly approved forms and form prayers with other documents approved by synods.

Recommendations

- Appoint new deputies with the mandate to consider reprinting the Sotho version of the liturgical forms (published by NG Sendinguitgewers, Bloemfontein, 1983) in a suitable format for use by churches and church members.

Membership

Sr Ingrid Hagg and br Douwe Drijfhout (convener). Unfortunately two deputy members were not able to participate in the work of the Deputies. No other members were co-opted as most of the work was of an administrative matter, and could be managed by the remaining members. However valuable editorial work on the prayers by Br and Sr Bertus and Helmi Byker are noted, as well as invaluable support by Sr Louise Ros of DBU (Die Boekuitgewers) with final editing, graphic design, printing and distribution.

Summary of activities and methods employed, including members' roles

Work of the Deputies was delayed due to the fact that two members were not able to participate. First meeting was held 22nd August 2018. All meetings were held by way of teleconferencing, which worked quite well. Further meetings were held on 3 October 2018, 8 April 2019, 24 April 2019, 8 May 2019, 31 May 2019, 6 June 2019, and 5 February 2020. Correspondence and editing was handled by Sr Ingrid Hagg. Br Drijfhout acted as convener and finalised publication.

Detailed report (material, decision, grounds)

An English translation of the new RCSA form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper is available in the Acts of Synod Bethal 2014 pages 191-193. This Form together with the new Form Prayers in English were sent (15 October 2018) for comments to the English and Sotho speaking FRC congregations. Deadline end February 2019. Permission was obtained from the RCSA Deputies Publications (Church Order Book) to use the new RCSA Form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper. The RCSA Deputies do not hold copyright on Liturgical Forms. The Scriptural quotes in the Afrikaans version of the Form were changed to read from the 1933/1953 Bible translation.

The proposed revisions to the Afrikaans version of the Liturgical Forms and the proposed new Form Prayers and new RCSA form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper in Afrikaans were sent to the Afrikaans speaking FRC congregations on 9 October 2018 for feedback by end February 2019. Comments and changes were submitted by the FRC Pretoria and FRC Pretoria Maranata. Deputies discussed the responses and these were in most cases accepted and included.

Objections on the use of the new Form for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper were received from both the councils of the FRC Pretoria and FRC Pretoria Maranata. Synod 2017 (Article 25.1) however had decided to extend the provisional status and that congregations should use the Form in their worship services to enable church members to comment on suitability. It was unclear to Deputies how to deal with a decision by Synod turned around by local churches.

For an English version of the Liturgical Forms and Form Prayers the Deputies recommend to consider using the Liturgical Forms and Prayers as published by the Standing Committee for the Publication of the Book of Praise of the Canadian Reformed Churches (2014 edition with corrections in 2016).

The Sotho speaking churches are presently using the Liturgical Forms as published in the following publication: Puku ya Kereke. Dingwala tsa boipolelo le difomoliri tsa tirelo ye kgethwa tse di fetolelswego mme di dumeletswego ke dikereke tse di latelago: Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Afrika, Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid-Afrika, Hervormde Kerk in Suidelike Afrika. NG Sendinguitgewers, Bloemfontein, 1983.

The alternate orders of service were included based on those developed by Middelburg (1933), Kampen (1975), Cape Town (1990) and the Book of Praise (2014). The Deputies corresponded (22 January 2019) with the Deputies for Liturgical Music to include the Afrikaans hymns approved by Synod in the Afrikaans edition. The FRC Church Order (latest version) was included, as received from the Stated Clerk. No other documents such as Rules of Synod were included.

Printing was delayed due to the COVID 19 lockdown in March, April and May 2020, Quotations were obtained in June 2020 and printing took place in July 2020. For practical and cost cutting reasons the Afrikaans and English versions were printed as separate publications. Both contain the order of services, the new Form Prayers and the latest version of the FRC Church Order.

The costs of editing and printing were mainly covered by the Treasurer of Synod with a request to churches to recover costs as far as possible. Copies of both Afrikaans and English copies were distributed to all churches and missions. Print runs were based on members of each congregation / mission point and expected use of e-publications. Distribution was completed by end August 2020. Digital copies were distributed on request and posted on the FRC website.

Signatures



Br Douwe Drijfhout



Sr Ingrid Hagg