

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:

- a. 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.
- b. A year plan and budget are annually drafted out of the multi-year policy plan and the five year budget.
- c. 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.

1. After mutual counsel, having heard both parties.
2. 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