



ECCLESIA CHRISTI FLUCTUAT NON MERGITUR

## Vrye Gereformeerde Kerk Pretoria-Maranata

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6 Maart 2019

Deputate vir die Hersiening van Liturgiese Formuliere en Gebede  
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Geagte deputate

### **Insake alternatiewe nagmaalsformulier, hersiene formuliere en formulier gebede**

#### 1. Alternatiewe nagmaalsformulier

Die kerkraad het reeds in die verlede die nuwe formulier ge-evalueer en hier volg ons kommentaar op die nuwe formulier:

*Synod FRC Bethal 2014 has decided to “provisionally approve the use of the text of the new Form of the GKSA for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper within our churches (for use in Afrikaans, English and Sotho services – the last two in translated form), in alternation with the forms already in use” (Art 26 Revision Liturgical Forms and Form Prayers).*

*Recommendation by FRC Pretoria-Maranata:*

*Consistory of the FRC Pretoria-Maranata has evaluated the proposed Form and would like to recommend:*

- a. *That this form should have been submitted to consistories and congregations for evaluation by the deputies, before approval to be provisionally used.*
- b. *That this Form should not be used yet as an alternative for the Forms currently in use in the FRCSA.*
- c. *To make the congregations more aware of their richness in the current Forms in order to strengthen their celebration of the Lord’s Supper and to break through any possible routine or groove.*

#### *Grounds*

- a. *The emphasis of the new Form is on the sacrifice of atonement of Christ as the basis for the Lord’s Supper. Therefore the first part focuses on the remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice.*

- b. *The second part deals with our attitude and God's assurances. The emphasis is again on the forgiveness of our sins and adoption by God based in Christ's merits. However, the reference to our misery and sins is very slim and there is no reference to self-examination and a warning not to use the Lord's Supper if we persist in our sins. In fact, Calvin's Short Treatise on the Supper of Our Lord (1541; [http://www.the-highway.com/supper1\\_Calvin.html](http://www.the-highway.com/supper1_Calvin.html)) extensively points to our sins in Section.6: "For not one of us can find one particle of righteousness in himself, but on the contrary, we are all full of sins and iniquities, so much so that no other party is required to accuse us than our own conscience ... It follows that the wrath of God is kindled against us, and that none can escape eternal death". See also Section 8 The Misery of Man, as well as Section 18 In the Supper we are reminded of our duty towards God. Such a self-examination and warning are part of the covenantal nature of the Lord's Supper, and should be part of the Form. In fact, our misery precedes our justification in both the Heidelberg Catechism and the current Long and Short Forms for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper in the FRCSA. When deputies allege that this new form brings out the accents of John Calvin re the Lord's Supper, this is a one-sided assertion, as has been indicated with the quotations above. We therefore regard it as important that this one-sidedness should be corrected, before the churches start using this form.*
- c. *In the alternative Form there is no part on the ceremony of sharing bread and cup. It may be assumed, but we recommend that it should be included.*
- d. *There is no indication that the comfort of Ps 103 should be given to the members. There is also no prescribed prayer of thanksgiving after the celebration. Both the comfort and prayer are important ways of concluding the celebration.*
- e. *The current long and abridged Forms used in the FRCSA are rich in confession, comfort and admonition, almost like a sermon with various sections/points. They are also structured in line with the Heidelberg Catechism: misery, deliverance and thankfulness.*
- f. *The proposed Form is rather short and would satisfy modern people who often have a shorter attention span, and are inclined to finish anything in the shortest time (short exciting sermons and a diversity of Forms). We should guide the congregations not to adopt such attitudes. The new form should therefore not be accepted on the basis that it is shorter, according to us this should not be a consideration that carries weight.*

## 2. Hersiene formuliere en gebede

Sien aangeheg kommentaar gemaak op u voorstel vir die hersiening van die formuliere asook die gebede.

Ons vertrou dat hierdie inligting u sal help om u taak te finaliseer en ons bid u die Here se wysheid toe in hierdie saak.

Met broedergroete,

Namens die kerkraad van VGK Pretoria-Maranta

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Boon'.

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Ds P. Boon (Voorsitter)

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Bouwman'.

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br Paul Bouwman (Skriba)