



# Die Vrge Gereformeerde Kerk te Pretoria

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The Free Reformed Churches of South Africa  
Classis North

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Dear Brothers

## **Re: Minutes of the Classis, Acts of the Synod and Attendance of the Synod**

1. Minutes of the Classis. Over the last year or so we realised that quite a large portion of the Pretoria Church Council is not fluent in English. This limits the participation, and the inputs that these brothers can give in any discussion and decision-making process where the documents are available in English only. Furthermore, it places an extra strain on those brothers that are fluent in English.

**We would like to request that the minutes of the classis be published in at least both English and Afrikaans.**

2. Acts of the Synod. For the same reasons as mentioned in 1 above, as well as the fact that the ratification of the Acts is even more complicated when brothers are not fluent in English, **would like the classis to request from the Synod to publish the Acts of the Synod in at least both English and Afrikaans.**
3. Attendance of the synod. Currently six representatives of every classis attend the synod. The result of this decision is that not every congregation is represented at the synod, as was the case with the FRC Pretoria during the last synod. Because of this, the FRC Pretoria only became aware of the synod decisions **more than a year after the synod (!)**, when the acts were published. This is not a healthy situation, especially because of the small bond of churches.

Furthermore, pressure is now placed on the FRC Pretoria to give feedback to deputies, where this pressure could have avoided had we been aware of the synod decisions and the feedback that's required.

This situation could have been avoided in more than one way. However, in our opinion the easiest way to avoid this in the future, is to request the synod to change the rules so that two representatives of every congregation attend the synod. This can easily be done, because of the small number of congregations in the bond of churches. It will not result in the synod becoming too large to manage.

**We therefore ask the classis to submit such a request to the synod.**

May our heavenly Father grant you all, the classis, deputies and the synod, the wisdom to handle this case in a responsible manner.

**Insake: Klassis notule, Sinode handeling en Sinode bywoning**

1. Notules van die klassis. Oor die laaste jaar het ons agtergekom dat nogal 'n groot gedeelte van ons kerkraad nie vlot in Engels is nie. Hierdie situasie beperk die deelname van broeders aan besprekings sowel as aan die besluitnemingsproses waar dokumente slegs in Engels beskikbaar is. Verder plaas dit ook ekstra druk op daardie broeders wat wel Engels magtig is.

**Ons versoek die klassis dat die notules van die vergaderings ten minste in beide Engels en Afrikaans versprei word.**

Sinodehandeling. Vir dieselfde redes as in 1 hierbo genoem, gepaardgaande met die feit dat die ratifikasie van die sinodehandeling nog moeiliker is wanneer broeders nie Engels goed magtig is nie, **vra ons die Klassis om 'n versoek aan die sinode te rig dat die handeling ten minste in beide Engels en Afrikaans gepubliseer word.**

2. Bywoning van sinodes. Tans woon ses afgevaardigdes van elke klassis die sinode by. Dit het tot gevolg dat elke gemeente nie noodwendig verteenwoordig is by 'n sinode nie, soos met die VGK Pretoria die geval was tydens die afgelope sinode. As gevolg hiervan het die VGK Pretoria **eers van die sinodebesluite verneem meer as 'n jaar na die sinode (!)**, toe die handeling gepubliseer is. Hierdie is 'n ongesonde situasie, veral omdat die kerkverband so klein is.

Om sake te vererger is die kerkraad van Pretoria nou onder druk om terugvoer aan deputate te gee. Hierdie druk kon vermy gewees het as die VGK Pretoria bewus was van die besluite en verwagte terugvoer.

So 'n situasie kon op meer as een wyse vermy word. Ons is egter van die opinie dat die maklikste manier om so 'n situasie te vermy sal wees om die sinode te vra om die reëls aan te pas sodat twee afgevaardigdes van elke gemeente in die kerkverband die sinode bywoon. Omdat ons so 'n klein kerkverband is, kan dit maklik gedoen word. Dit sal nie veroorsaak dat die sinode onbeheerbaar groot word nie.

**Ons vra dat die klassis so 'n versoek aan die sinode rig.**

*Dit is ons bede dat ons hemelse Vader vir julle almal, die klassis, deputate en die sinode, wysheid sal gee om ook hierdie saak op 'n verantwoordelike wyse te hanteer.*

On behalf of the consistory

Namens die kerkraad



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