

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.