

Reports by Deputies

as submitted to

SYNOD 2006

of the

***FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF
AUSTRALIA***

West Kelmscott, Western Australia

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Synod Kelmscott 2003 gave separate mandates to the various deputies for relations with other churches. It also specified that:

All deputies will work under one umbrella. The various deputies will do their own work and are responsible for their own report to Synod. All the deputyships will meet together as at least once per year and as needed to inform and consult with each other regarding their work. Deputies shall present their final report for interaction and consultation by the full deputyship before sending it to Synod. (Acts, Art 92)

After Synod 2003, the General Convener received a call to Canada and was unable to continue his duties. There was no alternate appointed by synod. Since the general convener and general secretary are given specific responsibilities, it is recommended that in future synods also appoints alternates for both the general convener and general secretary.

An attempt was made by the General secretary to bring deputies together for a Jumbo meeting on 18th June 2004, but this meeting had to be cancelled when it became evident less than less than 5 or 6 deputies would attend.

A meeting was held prior to the final date for the reports on 24th March 2006. Eight deputies attended: 4 from Deputies Sister churches, 2 from Indonesian deputies and 2 from New Zealand deputies. All deputies' reports were available at the meeting, but some were very late and scrutiny was limited.

As per the procedure of previous synods, the general secretary arranged the collation and printing of the reports of the various deputies relations with other churches into one booklet. Sufficient copies have been made for all office-bearers and supplied to the churches three months before synod. This arrangement was agreed to by the deputies and the clerk of the convening church was informed.

2. FRCA Web Site

Synod placed under the duties of the general secretary the web site of the FRCA. Br M. Pot has been an able and diligent webmaster who has maintained the site.

Synod 2003 did not give any guidelines as to how the web site would be administered or any rules regarding its use. If required, the secretary continues to apply the practice as used by the Church Bulletin editors i.e. only organisations which by their constitution restrict their membership to the FRCA are allowed to place material on the web site. Each church can have its own address and is responsible for the content within that link.

J.L. van Burgel

General Secretary