

ACTS

of the Synod of The Free Reformed Churches
of Australia,

held in the Lesser Town Hall, Armadale,
16th - 20th May, 1966.

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E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Monday 16th May

Article 1

OPENING

On behalf of the convening church of Launceston Rev.G. van Rongen opens the meeting. He calls for the singing of Psalm 133, prays for the Lord's blessing and reads Revelation 1.

In his opening address he reminds delegates and visitors of the fact, that the Free Reformed Churches have gradually become established churches.

We confess that Christ has wanted to maintain our churches, in a world, in which Satan also gathers together and maintains churches, and incites to great activity. In this regard tactics of Satan seem to have changed in comparison with his tactics in earlier centuries, when he was out to destroy the church. The work to which the churches in synod are called is to the outside insignificant; six men, three churches. But seen in the context of Christ's work of gathering together His people, it is grand, and a proof of His goodness and His will to go on with us. The reverse side of this grace is; that we as churches, also in the work of Synod, are under His strict supervision. That was also the case with the "established" churches of Revelation 1. John announces to them the coming of the King, "the time is at hand". The king comes to judge; in the first place to pass judgment on His churches, according to whether they had been faithful or not - it is the time that the judgment commences at the household of God - and after that to judge the whole world also. The King comes to test His "established" churches; to

bless and to make them flourish if they prove to be faithful or come to timely conversion, but to visit them with judgment if unfaithful. Established churches, when living under the permanent testing of their King, can never stand still. For the churches "the time is always at hand", degradation or promotion, according to the constant testing of Christ, through all ages, also now, until He comes with His last and final judgment. In that notion the churches must live. In this notion we must do our work of synod in the days to come. May God give, that we, instructed by His Word and knowing the situation, now, after fifteen years, may remain being gathered together by our Saviour. We shall have a future as churches, so long as we remember the covenant with our Saviour and are obedient to Him as our King; so long as we, as candlesticks, keep and spread the light of the gospel.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The delegates of the church of Armadale examine the credentials. All churches are lawfully represented. The church of Albany is represented by: Rev. J.D. Wielenga and elder G. Olde.

The church of Armadale is represented by: Rev. K. Brüning and elder J. Eikelboom.

The church of Launceston is represented by: Rev. G. van Rongen and elder W. Buist.

There are no instructions.

Article 3

MODERAMEN

The moderamen is elected as follows:

Rev. G. van Rongen, moderator;

Rev. K. Brüning, assessor;

Rev. J.D. Wielenga, 1st clerk;

elder J. Eikelboom, 2nd clerk.

Article 4

CONSTITUTION

The meeting is constituted as 6th synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

Article 5

SIGNING OF THE FORM FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD
Rev. J. D. Wielenga signs the form for ministers of the Word. The moderator expresses his gladness that in our churches the conviction lives that the signing of this form is of great importance.

Article 6

WELCOMING ADDRESS

The moderator welcomes Rev. Wielenga warmly as newly arrived minister within the bond of churches. Further, he expresses the wish of good co-operation between delegates under his chairmanship.

Article 7

TELEGRAM TO THE SYNOD OF DIE VRIJE GEREFORMEERDE KERKE IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is resolved to send the following telegram to the sister-churches in South Africa which are to meet in synod this week: "Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, meeting at Armadale in May 1966, prays for God's blessing over your work for your churches and the scriptural ecumene".

Article 8

AGENDA

The concept agenda as proposed by the convening church is agreed to, with the addition of a letter from the Reformed Churches of Australia (7e).

The agenda is as follows:

6. Schedule of synod meetings.

7. Inward correspondence:

a. letter from the church council of Albany dated 21.3.1966, in which he advises to have no proposals for the synod, but recommends to hold "a discussion on the possibility of starting our own mission work, this in connection with the termination of the mission work in Australia through the calling back of Rev. Versluis".

b. letter from the church council of Armadale dated 30.3.1966 in which proposals are made concerning:

I. art. 39 of the Acts Synod Launceston 1964, concerning adoption of children.

II. the possible recognition as foreign sister-

churches of, and in consequence thereof the taking up of correspondence with the Korean Presbyterian Churches.

III. the publication of the Acts of Synod in Dutch and English in one booklet and the financing thereof.

IV. the compiling and publishing of a "Booklet of Resolutions".

c. letter from the church council of Armadale dated 30.3.1966 with the announcement that in the week following the above date two papers will be forwarded to the convening church, which papers are intended for the synod agenda and which concern:

V. celebration of marriage.

VI. mission work.

d. letter from the church council of Armadale dated April 1966 with a request concerning:

V. celebration of marriage.

8. Reports:

a. concerning work among the "scattered";

b. concerning church visitation;

c. concerning the archives, to be reported on by the church of Armadale;

d. concerning the examination of the archives, to be reported on by the church of Albany;

e. concerning church book in the English language (Acts 1964, art. 58);

f. concerning correspondence with the foreign sister-churches;

g. concerning English Bible translation (Acts 1964, art. 18);

h. from deputies re arts. 49 and 79 Church Order;

i. concerning the mission, to be reported on by the church of Armadale;

j. from deputies for correspondence with the government;

k. from deputies concerning rules for church visitation;

l. from deputies for investigation concerning training of Ministers of the Word. (Acts 1964, art. 13);

m. concerning the compiling of a "Booklet of Resolutions" (Acts 1962, art. 42, Acts 1964, Art. 17)

- to be reported on by the church of Armadale;
- n. from the synod treasurer;
 - o. from deputies concerning guidance rules for discipline over baptized church members (Acts 1964 art. 36), published as appendix to "Una Sancta" Volume XII No. 6, 12th December, 1964.
 - p. from the church of Armadale concerning the approbation of the call issued by the church of Albany to Rev. J.D.Wielenga. (Acts 1956, arts. 28 and 50).
- 9. Examination of the records and documents of the Synod Treasurer.
 - 10. Determination of percentage figures for the apportionment of costs of the synod among the churches.
 - 11. Appointment of deputies;
 - 12. Appointment of convening church, place and time of the next synod.
 - 13. Business concerning art. 41 Church Order.
 - 14. Personal Business.
 - 15. Fixing of the text of Acts.
 - 16. Fixing of the text of press reports.
 - 17. Censure if required, art. 43 Church Order.
 - 18. Closing.

Article 9

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The synod shall meet:

mornings: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
afternoons: 2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.
evenings: 7.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Where possible those items on the agenda which may be expected to be of special interest to the congregation shall be dealt with during the evening session. It is further decided that the in Armadale living deputies be invited to take part in the discussion of the reports to which they are signatories.

Article 10

CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. K. Brünig congratulates Rev. G. van Rongen with his birthday, wishes him Gods blessings and offers him a small present on behalf of Synod members.

Article 11

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN CHURCHES

Rev. K. Brüning reports about the work done by the committee and about correspondence received. With thankfulness it may be concluded that the foreign sister-churches had kept to their reformed beliefs. The desire is expressed that the correspondence with sister-churches should function as well as possible, also because it may be expected that the important activities which have been taken up by the Canadian Reformed Churches, will be of help to the Australian churches. In this connection their work, to come to a better translation of the Heidelberg Catechism, is mentioned. All the same it must again be noted with regret that as far as the sister-churches in Canada are concerned they do not correspond as well as might be expected.

The deputies (to be appointed) shall be instructed to try and bring about improvement in these matters. (Continued in art. 18).

Article 12

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned after the singing of Psalm 68 : 13 and prayer.

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Tuesday 17th May

Article 13

RE-OPENING

The moderator reopens the meeting and after the singing of Psalm 25:2, reads Revelation 2:1-7.

Article 14

PUBLICATION OF ACTS

The proposal of the church of Armadale concerning the publication of the Acts of the synod both in Dutch and in English in one booklet and the financing thereof is discussed. This proposal, with its consideration is as follows:

1. The Acts of the Synod to be published in two languages, Dutch and English, in one booklet, i.e. not two separate publications, and in a more de-

tailed form then has been usual up till now.

- Comments:
- a. All members of the church must be able to read the Acts.
 - b. In 25 years time and later there will be many who can no longer read Dutch and it must be possible for them to read the resolutions which are now being made by Synods.
 - c. Not to be published separately in both languages. The edition in English will then surely be too small - and perhaps this would also be the case with the Dutch edition - which would make costs too high. Besides this, in one booklet is cheaper.
 - d. If the Acts give a little more detail of the discussion and arguments of the matter to be discussed, the resolutions of the Synods will be easier understood.
2. As in 1964 again include a list of addresses in the booklet containing the Acts.
 3. To fix the price of a copy of the Acts at 20 cents. Previously the price was about 15 cents, but if it is decided to publish the Acts in two languages the cost will be higher. If the price is 20 cents all costs are not covered (see next item). It is better that the price is known beforehand. Some people do not order a copy because they fear that the price will be too high.
 4. The churches to pay portion of the costs of the Acts.

Comments: Free copies of the Acts are sent to foreign churches, synod archives, synod members, etc. The last time and as far as we know, it has always been this way, those copies which were distributed free were not paid for by the churches, but by those people who bought a copy. The cost of the free copies were included in the price. This is incorrect. These costs must be paid by the churches, so that they are carried by all, also by those people who do not buy

their own copy. If the churches pay those costs which cannot be recovered by sales, then the free copies are fully paid for.

This will probably amount to not more than ten dollars for Armadale, and for Albany and Launceston five dollars.

5. The churches pay for the required number of copies directly to the church or to the person, which looks after the publication of the Acts. Formerly these were paid to the Synod treasurer, who afterwards sends the account to the churches. This produces unnecessary additional work and has also led to mistakes in the past (Armadale Acts, 1962).

The Synod decides:

1. To publish the Acts in two languages, Dutch and English, in one booklet.
2. Where necessary for the true understanding of the Acts, to relate in more detail some of the discussions held.
3. To incorporate in the booklet containing the Acts a list of addresses, as in 1964.
4. To let the price of the Acts be decided by him who looks after its publication.
5. Those copies of the Acts which are distributed on behalf of the churches will be paid for by the churches.
6. That the churches will pay for the required copies of the Acts directly to him who looks after its publication.
7. To write the Acts in a book, which, at the end of Synod, is to be signed by all delegates.

Article 15

TREASURY, SYNOD 1964

Elders G. Olde and W. Buist are appointed to examine the books and documents of the treasurer of synod, Launceston 1964.

Article 16

CLOSED SESSION

The Synod meets with closed doors to hear and discuss church visitation reports.

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Tuesday 17th May

Article 17

RE-OPENING

After conclusion of the meeting with closed doors the moderator reopens the meeting; Psalm 97:1 is sung, and the moderator announces that during the meeting with closed doors church visitation reports were discussed.

Article 18

CORRESPONDENCE FOREIGN CHURCHES

The discussion of the report of the deputies for correspondence with foreign sister-churches is continued. (Refer art. 11).

- a. A letter was received from the late Rev. J. van Bruggen. He wrote, that he has forwarded the letter from the Synod of Launceston 1964, addressed to the Synod of the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland, to be held in Zwolle - Apeldoorn 1965 (Refer Acts 1964, art. 35a, 43 - 8a). In his letter he points to the little-hope-giving course taken by the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken in their more and more pluriform-ecumenical actions.
- b. The reply of the Synod of the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands to the above mentioned letter of the synod Launceston 1964 confirmed this judgment of the late Rev. J. van Bruggen. On formal grounds they declared the letter of Launceston 1964 as not admissable. Although the synod does not accept this answer, it is considered useless to write again, the more so, because the synod of the sister-churches at Rotterdam-Delfshaven has placed the letter of the synod Launceston 1964 concerning this matter (Acts 1964 art 35b, art. 43-8b) in the hands of its deputies for discussions with the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken. The synod decides to instruct the new deputies (to be appointed) to remind deputies in the Netherlands about this matter.
- c. A letter was also received from the Dutch depu-

ties for correspondence with foreign churches, in which notice is given of the resolution, made by the Synod Rotterdam-Delfshaven at the request of the Synod Launceston 1964 (Acts 1964 art. 25 and 49, appendix 2). This resolution has the following text:

The General Synod establishing, that the Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia requests to disapprove the conduct of deputies in the correspondence with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand;

considering, that deputies have advised to reject the request of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand, to enter into correspondence with these churches;

declares, that she, although having sympathy for what is being submitted in this letter, to consider it unnecessary to comply with the request of the synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

- d. Disappointing is the request of the synod of Rotterdam-Delfshaven to the Australian churches regarding the manner in which correspondence is to be conducted, to drop the rules made by the synod Kampen 1951 and to accept the rules agreed to by the synod Bunschoten - Spakenburg 1958 - as was done by the churches in Canada, South-Africa and Monte Alegre. This would mean that in cases of alteration or extension of Confession, Church Order or Liturgy, prior consultation shall no longer be made between the Australian and Dutch churches, but that it shall be sufficient to inform each other afterwards. The synod regrets this request of the Dutch churches. The synod decides however to comply with this request and to express to the next synod of the Dutch churches her displeasure about the position taken by the Dutch churches regarding the rules of correspondence and to find fault with her in not having replied to the extensive arguments as given in the report forwarded to her on behalf of the synod Launceston 1964.
- e. Further, one copy of the Acts of the general sy-

nod held at Rotterdam-Delfshaven 1965 was received. New deputies (to be appointed) shall inquire about the other two copies requested by the Australian churches. They will also make attempts to acquire the in synods' archives missing copies of the Acts of the synods of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

f. The moderator discharges deputies with thanks.

Article 19

KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Next discussed is the proposal from the church of Armadale "to appoint deputies which will have to inquire whether the Free Reformed Churches of Australia are called and able to recognize the Korean Presbyterian churches as foreign sister-churches and on this bases to enter into correspondence with them. If these deputies can answer the question in the affirmative, they must inform the Free Reformed Churches about this as quickly as possible and submit proposals concerning the manner, in which the eventual recognition can be honoured and the correspondence can be conducted, so that - if possible - the completion of this matter need not wait until a next synod meets".

In the discussion of this proposal it is said, that the Korean Presbyterian churches, which the church of Armadale had in mind in its proposal, consist of 465 churches, with a total membership of approximately 100,000 people. They have as confession the Westminster Confession and the larger and shorter catechism. In a personal letter from one of the professors at their seminar of Pusan to Rev. K. Brünning the desire was expressed to enter into correspondence with the Australian churches. Delegates from the church of Launceston had also received from reliable sources good reports about these churches as being faithful to Scripture, and desirous to live in all things according to Gods Word. The delegates from the church of Launceston further suggest that deputies (if appointed) include in their investigations a group of Reformed Churches which is said to exist in Japan. The synod decides to restrict itself for

the time being, to the proposal of the church of Armadale, which proposal is accepted in its entirety.

Article 20

MISSION

a. The report concerning missionwork at Roebourne prepared by the Free Reformed Church of Armadale is read. In the discussion it is mentioned, that there was indeed consultation between the church of Armadale and "het Zuid-Hollands Zendingsconvent", concerning the calling back of Rev. C. A. Versluis, but that the decision whether or not to call back Rev. Versluis lay completely with the Convent, which in this matter had sole responsibility.

b. The next item on the agenda is the request from the church of Albany to discuss the starting of mission work by our own churches in Australia. The church of Armadale is of the opinion that with the calling back of Rev. C. A. Versluis our duty in regards of the natives of Western Australia has not ceased, because it is true that to these heathens the gospel according to the Will of the Lord is not being preached. Roebourne has indeed been a lesson to the churches. We will possibly have to seek closer to home and aim in the direction of getting one converted native, for whom the world and way of life of the natives is more accessible than for a westerner. The church of Albany is also of the opinion that there is still a duty of mission to the West Australian natives. The church of Albany is at present inquiring into the possibility of starting a hostel, a home where native children, taken by law from their parents, receive education and care. The synod comes to the conviction that the call of mission to the West Australian natives remains and resolves:

that the church of Armadale is instructed, in close cooperation with the church of Albany, whilst obtaining advice upon the matters concerned from the church of Launceston, to examine the possibilities of mission amongst the natives in Western Australia and to report to the next synod.

Article 21

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned after the singing of Psalm 89:7, 8 and thanksgiving.

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Wednesday 18th May

Article 22

RE-OPENING

The meeting is reopened. Psalm 64:10 is sung, Revelation 2:12-17 is read.

Article 23

ACTS, PRESS REPORT

The texts of Acts and the press report of the meetings held on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th of May are fixed.

Article 24

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Rev. G. van Rongen reports about the activities of deputies for the correspondence with the Government. These deputies were instructed by the synod of Launceston 1964, in connection with the possibility of the celebration of marriages by the ministers of our churches, to take steps to obtain official recognition of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia from the Government. It appears that the Government prefers to authorize the church ministers personally to celebrate marriages, thus without recognizing the churches. The synod wonders why the Government did not recognize our churches in order to come to the authorization of the ministers and resolves: to instruct deputies to obtain further information regarding recognition of our churches by the Government.

Deputies are discharged with thanks.

Article 25

ARCHIVES

The report of the church in charge of the archives of synod (Armadale) is read; also the report of the church which examines the archives (Albany). Archives have been found to be in good order.

Respective deputies are discharged.

Article 26

DEPUTIES FOR ARTS. 49 and 79 OF THE CHURCH ORDER

These deputies have nothing to report.

Article 27

VISITATION RULES

The synod discusses proposals to fix a new set of rules for church visitation, prepared by deputies appointed for this purpose by the synod of Launceston 1964 (Acts 1964 art. 12). In accordance with these proposals, the new rules for church visitation are fixed. Deputies are discharged with thanks. The church of Armadale is instructed to take care of the multiplication and distribution to the churches of the accepted rules.

Article 28

SYNOD TREASURY

Deputies which were appointed to examine the books and accounts of the synod treasurer report that they have found these to be in good order. The treasurer and the deputies for examination are discharged with thanks.

Article 29

CHURCH VISITATION

The question arises as to the correctness of the contents of art. 10 of the Acts 1956 concerning the reports of those church visitations which are held in a year in which the churches do not meet in synod. The synod requests the churches to consider whether, an amendment in this rule, fixed by synod Armadale 1956 concerning these in-between visitation reports, is necessary.

Article 30

BOOKLET OF RESOLUTIONS

The instruction given to the Church of Armadale to compile three booklets of resolutions (Acts 1964 art. 17) is extended. To execute this instruction the church of Armadale is given free mandate.

Article 31

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned for the lunch period.

A f t e r n o o n s e s s i o n on Wednesday 18th May

Article 32

RE-OPENING

The moderator welcomes the pupils of the John Calvin School who with their teacher will be present during part of the afternoon session. Psalm 105:5 is sung; Revelation 2:18-29 is read.

Article 33

APPROBATION CALL REV. J. D. WIELENGA

The church of Armadale reports, that the documents relating to the approbation of the call issued by the church of Albany to Rev. J. D. Wielenga, have been found in order.

Article 34

CHURCH BOOK IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The report of deputies is read and discussed. It appears that the request made to the churches to test the Book of Praise in respect of form and contents has met with no response. The synod declares that it is desirable that the result of tests carried out by deputies, be made available to the churches. It is resolved that the results concerned shall be sent to the church councils and published in Una Sancta.

Article 35

ACTS AND PRESS REPORT

The texts of Acts and press report are fixed.

Article 36

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned during the dinner period.

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Wednesday 18th May

Article 37

RE-OPENING

The meeting is reopened, Psalm 98:1 is sung; Revela-

tion 3:1-6 is read.

Article 38

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

The next item on the agenda is the inquiry from the church of Armadale concerning the promised further consideration of the question whether or not the West Australian laws for the adoption of children are acceptable to the churches (see Acts 1964 art. 39).

The church of Albany appears to share the opinion of the church of Armadale in this matter and rejects the adoption laws of Western Australia. The church of Launceston has maintained its opinion adopted in 1964 meaning that, having considered the existing law, she does not deem any reason to exist to dissuade the adoption of children by members of the church.

The church of Armadale is disappointed that no argued refutation of its report submitted to the synod 1964 concerning the matter, has been presented to synod. The synod considers that this matter is not mature to come to a decision on the adoption problem in Australia, and resolves to appoint a study committee, which will report to the next synod.

Article 39

LETTER FROM THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA

A letter was received from the Reformed Churches of Australia. These churches write in reply to the letter of the synod Launceston 1964 (see Acts 1964, appendix I) that further correspondence with the Free Reformed Churches is not desired "so long as the attitude of these churches does not change". The synod expresses its deep disappointment about this reply. It is resolved to send the Reformed Church of Australia a letter in reply, in which the duty of the Reformed Churches to consider the matters, submitted to them in previous letters from our synods, will again be briefly set forth. (see appendix to these Acts).

Article 40

WORK AMONGST THE "SCATTERED"

The churches report about their work amongst the "scattered" brothers and sisters. The church of Albany has nothing to report. The church of Armadale wishes to report in a closed session. The report of the church of Launceston is read and discussed.

Article 41

TRAINING TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The deputies for the training to the ministry of the Word (Acts 1964 art.13) submit a report on their activities. As a result of the discussion it is concluded, that the churches have the task to care for the training of brothers, who desire to work in the office of minister of the Word (art. 19 Church Order) and that the motive for this care must not be to supply the needs for ministers in the own Australian churches, but the possible desire of brothers to work in this office. The Synod considers in this regard, that in this way the Australian churches may also expect the supply in their own needs. The finalization of the report of deputies is adjourned till a next session.

Article 42

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned after the singing of psalm 93:1 and 4, and thanksgiving.

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Thursday 19th May

Article 43

RE-OPENING

The meeting is reopened, Hymn 5:3 and 9 are sung, Revelation 3:7-13 is read.

Article 44

CLOSED SESSION

The synod goes into closed session for the discussion of the report concerning the work amongst the "scattered" from the church of Armadale.

Article 45

END OF CLOSED SESSION

The moderator announces that a report about the work amongst the "scattered" was read and discussed.

Article 46

CHURCH BOOK IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The discussion of the report of deputies for the churchbook for services in the English language is continued. (art. 34 of these Acts).

- a. Deputies report that unlike in the past (Acts 1964 art. 50) the cooperation with the deputies of the Canadian Reformed Churches can now be said to be good. The mode of cooperation has been changed somewhat for practical reasons.
- b. The wish is expressed, that the churches become more involved in the work of deputies by means of guidance and information.
- c. The Canadian deputies were instructed by their Synod to prepare an addition to the Book of Praise. This addition will contain: thirty Psalm arrangements and approximately twenty "Paraphrases" or "New Testamental Songs".
- d. Deputies request the Synod to declare again that in the preparation of a churchbook for the church services in the English language care must be taken not to move in a direction, which may lead to a "hymn-book", in the spirit of the "Psalter Hymnal" of the Christian Reformed Churches of the U. S.A. The requested declaration is made.
- e. The contact which our deputies through Canadian deputies established with deputies of the Reformed Churches of Australia is considered undesirable by synod, in view of the present circumstances.
- f. Synod supports deputies in their disapproval of the inclusion in the Book of Praise of alternative melodies besides the Genevan melodies.
- g. In accordance with what is proposed by deputies, Synod resolves:
 1. having heard the report of deputies for the churchbook for services in the English language, to approve of their activities.
 2. to share the desire of the synod 1954, that "concerning this matter there be as much uniformity

as possible in the churches in English speaking countries".

3. to appoint new deputies with the instruction:
 - a. to continue and if possible, complete the work as outlined in the Acts synod 1962 art. 40, whilst it must especially be guarded against that the Book of Songs should in the least achieve the character of a "hymn-book".
 - b. to inform the churches from time to time about the further development and menaing of the work which deputies are instructed to carry out.
 - c. that the co-operation to come to a complete church book for the services in the English language must be limited to the circle of corresponding sister-churches.
- h. The deputies are discharged with thanks for their work.

Article 47

TRAINING TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The report from deputies for training to the ministry of the Word (art.41 of these Acts) is dealt with to finality. The synod resolves:

1. To remind the churches of art. 19 of the Church Order of Dordt, in which they agreed that "the Churches shall exert themselves, as far as necessary, that there may be students of theology, who shall be supported by them".
2. To appoint new deputies with the instruction to inquire further into the possibilities of a training to the office of Minister of the Word, for brothers who desire to work in this office.

Article 48

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned for the lunch break.

A f t e r n o o n s e s s i o n on Thursday 19th May

Article 49

RE-OPENING

The meeting is reopened, Hymn 8:3 is sung, Revelation

3:14-22 is read.

Article 50

ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATION

The report concerning the English Bible translation is next on the agenda. Synod is of the opinion, that the urgency to come to a useable English Bible translation for church services does exist.

Synod is also of the opinion that the instruction to independently test the new English Bible (Acts 1964 art. 19) is difficult to carry out. The Synod resolves to appoint new deputies with the instructions to examine again which Bible translations could be considered for use in church services.

Article 51

PRACTICE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGES

A start is made with the discussion of the request from the church of Armadale to the synod to confirm, that the practice adopted by the church of Armadale for the celebration of marriages "is altogether permissible, because that which is proposed can certainly not be qualified as unscriptural and the Bible does in no way contradict the representation of matters contained therein".

Article 52

ADJOURNMENT

Following thanksgiving the meeting is adjourned until Friday morning 20th May.

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Friday 20th May.

Article 53

RE-OPENING

The meeting is reopened: Psalm 86:6 is sung, Revelation 4 is read.

Article 54

CLOSED SESSION

The synod goes into closed session.

Article 55

END OF CLOSED SESSION

The closed session is concluded, after which the mo-

derator announces some of the matters dealt with.

Article 56

PRACTICE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGES

The discussion of the request of Armadale (art. 51 of these Acts) is continued and results in the following resolution: the synod, considering that:

- a. the church of Armadale has overwhelming objections against a celebration of marriage in the official church service;
- b. the church of Armadale has not read in the, at the synod of Launceston 1964 amended article 70 of the Church Order, that also the celebration of marriages must take place in the official church service;
- c. the other churches were of the opinion, that the celebration of marriages in accordance with the amended article 70 of the Church Order, should indeed take place in the church service;

Of the opinion that, the practice adopted by the church of Armadale, cannot be said to be unscriptural;

declares that, the church of Armadale should be left free to continue to use this practice, but also that it is expected, that she will propose to the next synod to amend article 70 of the Church Order or make its application optional.

Article 57

REPORTS OF DEPUTIES

Concerning the reports to be made to a following synod, the synod decides to determine this point separately for every committee of deputies to be appointed (see art. 68).

Article 58

APPENDICES TO ACTS

The synod decides, which documents will be appended to the Acts. It is decided to include only the latest correspondence with the Reformed Churches of Australia.

Article 59

LETTERS TO THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA, AND TO THE GEREFORMEERDE KERKEN IN THE NETHERLANDS

The final text of the letter to the Reformed Churches of Australia is fixed. This letter will be sent to all their local churches with English translation appended. The text of the letter to the Netherlands deputies for correspondence with foreign churches is also fixed.

Article 60

ACTS AND PRESS REPORT

Part of the texts of the Acts and Press report is fixed.

Article 61

CLOSED SESSION

The synod goes into closed session for the finalization of such matters as minutes of closed sessions, business concerning art. 41 and art. 43 Church Order, and for personal business, in so far as these matters must be dealt with in closed session.

Article 62

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned for the lunch break.

A f t e r n o o n s e s s i o n on Friday 20th May

Article 63

RE-OPENING

The meeting is reopened with the singing of Psalm 106:7 and the reading of Revelation 5. The closed session is concluded and the moderator announces some of the points dealt with.

Article 64

INSTRUCTION, CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN CHURCHES

The guidance rules for deputies for correspondence with foreign churches are drawn up. The synod instructs deputies:

1. To conduct the correspondence with the sister-churches in the Netherlands, Canada, South Africa and Monte Alegre, in accordance with the rules laid down by the synod of Bunschoten-Spakenburg 1958-1959, and to forward a copy of the letter to the Netherlands deputies mentioned in art. 18d, and art. 59 of these Acts, to the churches of Ca-

nada, South Africa and Monte Alegre.

2. To urge Canadian deputies to forward regularly the Acts of their synods.
3. To ask the Canadian deputies to request the next synod of their churches on behalf of our synod, to promote a closer coöperation between the churches in those matters which are of mutual importance.
4. To bring to the attention of the churches those items from the correspondence with the foreign churches which are of importance for the churches in Australia.
5. To forward two copies of the Acts to the foreign churches.
6. To inform the foreign churches of the place and time of the next Synod, and to send the preliminary agenda to them at least six weeks prior to to the commencement of the synod.
7. To examine whether the Free Reformed Churches have the duty and are able to recognize the Korean Presbyterian Churches as foreign sister-churches, and on that ground to enter into correspondence with them; and further, if the report is favourable, to send this to the churches as soon as possible accompanied by proposals, concerning the mode of correspondence.
8. To remind the Netherlands deputies for discussions with the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken of the matter mentioned in art. 18b of these Acts.
9. To report about their work to the churches at least six weeks prior to the commencement of the next synod and further to that synod.

Article 65

DISCIPLINE OVER BAPTIZED MEMBERS

The deputies for guidance rules for discipline over baptized members, submit their report. The synod resolves to advise the church councils, should the occasion arise, to consult the guidance rules given in the report and to accept the following form proposed in the report:

Formulieren van openbare bekendmakingen met betrekking tot doopleden der gemeente, die in ongehoorzaam-

heid leven.

a. Openbare vermaning t.a.v. afkerige volwassenen.

De kerkeraad deelt met droefheid mede, dat N.N., door de doop der Christelijke Kerk ingelijfd, ondanks voortdurend ernstig vermaan hardnekkig blijft voortgaan in de zonde van.....

Indien hij/zij niet onverhoopt binnen.....met betoon van berouw betering des levens bewijst, zal de kerkeraad genoodzaakt zijn dit dooplid om zijn moedwillige ongehoorzaamheid aan den God des Verbonds van de gemeenschap der Kerk uit te sluiten.

De gemeente wordt opgewekt de(n) afkerige liefderijk te vermanen en den Here te bidden voor zijn/haar bekering.

b. Openbare mededeling van uitsluiting.

De kerkeraad is in de droeve noodzakelijkheid aan de gemeente mede te delen, dat N.N. de gemeenschap met Christus en Zijn Kerk, die hem/haar in de heilige doop betekend en verzegeld werd, ondanks vele ernstige vermaningen hardnekkig verloochent. Dientengevolge moet de kerkeraad thans in de Naam des Heren er toe overgaan om N.N. uit de gemeente Gods uit te sluiten en te verklaren, dat hij/zij geen deel heeft in het Rijk van Christus, zolang hij/zij zich niet bekeert.

De gemeente wordt opgewekt niet op te houden de zondaar (de zondares) in den gebede te gedenken en hem/haar liefderijk te vermanen, dat hij/zij zijn/haar zonde belijde en hate. En zien wij toe, dat niet te eniger tijd in iemand van ons zij een boos, ongelovig hart om af te wijken van den levenden God.

The English text of these forms proposed in the report was also accepted. This text is as follows:

Forms of public announcement regarding baptized members of the congregation, who are living in disobedience.

a. Public Admonition.

The consistory has the sad duty of informing the congregation, that N...., by baptism ingrafted into the

Christian Church, in spite of continual earnest admonitions persists obstinately in the sin of..... Unless he/she within.....shows repentance and amendment, the consistory will be obliged to exclude this baptized member from the communion of the Church because of his/her wilful disobedience to the Covenant God.

The congregation is exhorted to admonish this adverse member with affection and to pray the Lord for his/her conversion.

b. Public Excommunication.

The consistory is confronted with the sad duty of informing the congregation, that N....., denies obstinately the communion with Christ and His Church, which was signified and sealed unto him/her in Holy Baptism, in spite of many earnest admonitions.

Therefore the consistory now has to proceed in the Name of the Lord to excommunicate N..... from the Church of God, and to declare that he/she has no part in the Kingdom of Christ as long as he/she be not converted.

The congregation is exhorted to pray for the sinner unceasingly, and to admonish him/her with affection, that he/she may confess and hate his/her sin.

Let us take heed, lest there be in any of us an evil heart of unbelief, in departing of the living God.

The multiplication of these forms and their distribution amongst the church councils are arranged.

Article 66

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned.

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Friday 20th May

Article 67

RE-OPENING

The meeting is reopened, Psalm 124 is sung, Revelation 22:6-21 is read.

Article 68

REPORTS OF DEPUTIES

Synod resolves which of the reports to be made to the next synod, must be sent to the churches, and the period of time within which this shall be done.

Thus:

1. Deputies for correspondence with foreign churches shall send their report to the churches six weeks before the following synod;
2. Deputies for correspondence with the Government: also six weeks;
3. English Bible translation: six months;
4. Deputies training to the Ministry of the Word: six months.
5. Report concerning Mission activities: six weeks;
6. Committee for the examination of the adoption problem: six months.
7. Deputies Church Book for services in the English language: six months.

Article 69

FIXING OF THE PERCENTAGE FIGURES FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF SYNOD COSTS BETWEEN THE CHURCHES

The percentage figures are fixed as follows:

Albany:	23%
Armadale:	54%
Launceston:	23%.

Article 70

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTIES

The following deputies are appointed:

Church keeping the archives: the church of Armadale;
Church supervising the archives: the church of Albany;
Synod treasurer: br. J. Veltkamp; deputy: br. J. Kroeze;
Deputies for art. 49 and art. 79 Church Order:

Ministers of the Word, brs. G. Olde, J. Eikelboom and W. Buist;

Deputies for correspondence with foreign churches: brs. Rev. K. Brünig, H. Terpstra and J. Zuidema;

Deputies for correspondence with the Government: the president and secretary of each church (President: Rev. G. van Rongen);

Deputies for English Bible translation: the ministers of the Word;

Deputies for the Church Book in the English language:
brs. Rev. G. van Rongen and J. van der Ros;

Deputies for Church visitation: the Ministers of the Word. For each oral visitation the church council to which the deputy for visitation concerned belongs, appoints one elder, who will be regarded as having been appointed by the synod;

Deputies concerning the training for the Ministry of the Word: brs. Rev. K. Brüning, M. Dijkstra and J. Eikelboom;

Address church for the Mission: the church of Armadale;

Committee for the examination of the adoption problem the ministers of the Word, brs. G. Olde, M. Eikelboom, A. Swarts, A. Slob, W. Buist, H. van der Velde. President: Rev. K. Brüning, reporter: Rev. J. D. Wielenga.

Article 71

NEXT SYNOD

The church of Albany is appointed as the convening church for the next synod, which will meet, the Lord willing, in May 1968 at Albany.

Article 72

BUSINESS CONCERNING ART. 41 CHURCH ORDER AND PERSONAL BUSINESS

None of the churches has any business concerning art. 41 of the Church Order.

There is also no personal business.

Article 73

ACTS AND PRESS REPORT

The texts of the Acts and the Press Report are fixed.

Article 74

DISCIPLINE AFTER ART. 43 OF THE CHURCH ORDER

No discipline is required.

Article 75

CLOSING

The moderator expresses thanks to the two sisters of the church of Armadale for the excellent manner in

which they have served the synod in the care of the meals. He hands them a token of gratitude. Next he addresses his fellow synod members, after which the assessor thanks the moderator for his calm and businesslike management and wishes him and his fellow delegate God's blessing on the occasion of their departure to far-away Launceston. In conclusion the moderator reads Psalm 90 and speaks a closing address. He points to the established tradition to give a summarizing typification at the end of synods, of the matters dealt with. Whilst the previous moderators typified the respective synods as being characterized by the building up (1954 and 1956), by the consolidation (1959) by the experiencing of the bonds between the churches (1962) and by the world wide work of the Word of God (1964), this synod 1966 may be characterized as having been concerned with the preservation of the reformed character of our more or less "established" churches. To be reformed may be summarized as: to give witness to the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. His Kingdom is a universal kingdom and will make itself felt in all life, also in public life and community life. The revealed Word of the King must be obeyed, preached and carried out to the ends of the earth. The synod was allowed to serve this preservation of the thus described reformed character of the churches, in dealing for instance, with matters concerning the training for the Ministry of the Word and the mission. But also where it acted for the protection of the older and younger members of the church against the suction of the way-of-life of the unbelieving world around us. In this connection it may be stated with gratitude, that the Lord in His grace has given all three churches an own institution for reformed education of the church youth. Further may be mentioned agenda items such as the Church book in the English language and the work amongst the "scattered". In all this the synod was concerned to preserve the reformed character of the churches. Because of that we dare ask for God's blessing over our work with the words of Psalm 90:16 and 17.

Regarding the coming period of the life of the churches: the churches must remain in the reformed track. For the King knows our works. And He comes, again and again, and then permanently to judge and to bless or to punish, in accordance with the works of obedience to His universal kingdom. Full of good courage may we go into the future, a time, which in accordance with the promise may become a time of grace and happiness for the churches.

The moderator finally calls for the singing of Psalm 98:4, then gives thanks and prays, and declares the synod closed.

Fixed at Armadale, 20th May 1966.

was signed: G. van Rongen, moderator
K. Brünning, assessor
J.D. Wielenga, 1st clerk
elder J.Eikelboom, 2nd clerk
G. Olde, member
W. Buist, member.

APPENDIX I

(see Acts arts. 39, 58, 59).

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE 'REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA'.

15th February, 1965.

The Free Reformed Churches of Australia,
C/- Rev. K. Brüning,
3216 Albany Highway,
ARMADALE.....W.A.

Esteemed Brethren,

The synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia, in session from February 10, 1965 having heard the Committee's report regarding your letter of February 21, 1964 regretfully decided to discontinue under the present circumstances the correspondence with your churches until such a time that you change your attitude for which we pray.

With fraternal greetings,
on behalf of Synod,

was signed: J.B. van den Bom, president
P.G. Geertsema, 2nd clerk.

Synod of the Free Reformed Churches
of Australia-Armadale W.A. 1966

Armadale, W.A.
June 1966.

To the Synod of the
Reformed Churches of Australia,
Reverend gentlemen,

In reply to your letter dated 15 February 1965, containing the message that you, having heard the report of your committee about our letter of February 1964, do not wish to continue the correspondence with our churches, until a change occurs in our attitude, we inform you that the Sy-

nod of Armadale 1966 decided to put the following question before you once more:

If it is true that you assert,:

to seek unity,

to desire to sit together at the one table of the Lords' Supper,

to go forward together in the Name of the Lord,

why then have you never taken seriously the matters which we have put before you repeatedly and which for our conscience demand a solution before we can reach that desired scriptural unity.

As long as you continue to sidestep a serious answer to these things we must remain in concluding that your desire for unity is not scriptural and true and that therefore you are guilty of blocking the way which can lead to the scriptural unity.

On behalf of the Synod:

was signed:

G. van Rongen, moderator

J. Eikelboom, secretary 2.

Copy of this letter has been forwarded to all Reformed Churches.

S Y N O P S I S

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Monday 16th May

- Art. 1 : Opening
- 2 : Credentials
 - 3 : Moderamen
 - 4 : Constitution
 - 5 : Signing of the form for Ministers of the Word
 - 6 : Welcoming address
 - 7 : Telegram to the synod of Die Vrije Gereformeerde Kerke in South Africa
 - 8 : Agenda
 - 9 : Schedule of Meetings
 - 10 : Congratulations
 - 11 : Correspondence with foreign churches
 - 12 : Adjournment

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Tuesday 17th May

- Art. 13 : Re-opening
- 14 : Publication of Acts
 - 15 : Treasury, synod 1964
 - 16 : Closed Session

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Tuesday 17th May

- Art. 17 : Re-opening
- 18 : Correspondence foreign churches
 - 19 : Korean Presbyterian Churches
 - 20 : Mission
 - 21 : Adjournment

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Wednesday 18th May

- Art. 22 : Re-opening
- 23 : Acts, Press Report
 - 24 : Correspondence with the Government
 - 25 : Archives
 - 26 : Deputies for arts. 49 and 79 of the Church Order
 - 27 : Visitation rules
 - 28 : Synod treasury
 - 29 : Church visitation

Art.30 : Booklet of Resolutions

- 31 : Adjournment

A f t e r n o o n s e s s i o n on Wednesday 18th May

Art.32 : Re-opening

- 33 : Approbation call Rev. J.D. Wielenga
- 34 : Church Book in the English language
- 35 : Acts and Press report
- 36 : Adjournment

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Wednesday 18th May

Art.37 : Re-opening

- 38 : Adoption of children
- 39 : Letter from the Reformed Churches of Australia
- 40 : Work amongst the "scattered"
- 41 : Training to the Ministry of the Word
- 42 : Adjournment

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Thursday 19th May

Art.43 : Re-opening

- 44 : Closed Session
- 45 : End of closed session
- 46 : Church book in the English language
- 47 : Training to the Ministry of the Word
- 48 : Adjournment

A f t e r n o o n s e s s i o n on Thursday 19th May

Art.49 : Re-opening

- 50 : English Bible translation
- 51 : Practice for the celebration of Marriages
- 52 : Adjournment

M o r n i n g s e s s i o n on Friday 20th May

Art.53 : Re-opening

- 54 : Closed session
- 55 : End of closed session
- 56 : Practice for the celebration of Marriages
- 57 : Reports of deputies
- 58 : Appendices to Acts
- 59 : Letters to the Reformed Churches of Australia, and to the Gereformeerde Kerken in The Netherlands

Art.60 : Acts and Press report

- 61 : Closed session
- 62 : Adjournment

A f t e r n o o n s e s s i o n on Friday 20th May

Art.63 : Re-opening

- 64 : Instruction,correspondence with foreign churches
- 65 : Discipline of baptized members
- 66 : Adjournment

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n on Friday 20th May

Art.67 : Re-opening

- 68 : Reports of Deputies
- 69 : Fixing of the percentage figures for the apportionment of synod costs between the churches
- 70 : Appointment of deputies
- 71 : Next synod
- 72 : Business concerning art. 41 Church Order and Personal Business
- 73 : Acts and Press report
- 74 : Discipline after art. 43 of the Church Order
- 75 : Closing

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