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ACTS

of the ELEVENTH SYNOD of
The Free Reformed Churches of Australia
held in the Church building of the Church at Launceston,
Tasmania, from June 3rd to June 12th, 1978.

E v e n i n g S e s s i o n, Saturday June 3rd, 1978.

Article 1

OPENING

On behalf of the convening Church of Launceston, Rev. A.H. Dekker opens the meeting, which is attended by the delegates of the Churches, and by several visitors from the Churches of Armadale and Launceston.

The chairman requests the meeting to sing Psalm 124, leads in prayer and reads Revelation 3 : 7-13 and 11: 1-8.

The following opening words were spoken by Rev. Dekker:

Brothers and Sisters,

When I extend a welcome to you all, then I have first of all in mind the brothers delegates to Synod. After all, that is the purpose for which we have come together tonight, the opening of Synod 1978. It is my pleasure that I may indeed welcome you on behalf of the Church of Launceston. We have a few newcomers in our midst, that is, there are some delegates who never before were delegates to Synod, namely the brs. 't Hart, Van Dijk and Van Asperen. Br. Kroeze was a member of one of past Synods, namely the one of 1962. Br. Terpstra is what we call a veteran, attending now his fourth Synod. Br. Brouwer is a special case, not because the number of Synods he attended (this is only his third), but because he was a member of the very first Synod of our Churches, the Synod of 1954. Among the ministers Rev.K.Bruning is present for the seventh time and equals the record set by Rev. G. Van Rongen, and Rev. J.D.Wielenga attends for the sixth and very likely for the last time, while yours truly is a newcomer, being present for the second time at a Synod. It is regretted by all of us, that Rev. Dr.S.G.Huh cannot be in our midst, due to circumstances.

We have come together to discuss matters concerning the Church, that is concerning the Body of Jesus Christ, our Lord. In His name we have gathered, and we are responsible to Him, and to Him alone for all that we say and decide. This gives us a tremendous responsibility for also the Synod will decide what the Church will be in the future. History is made in our midst, for the Church is always standing at the cross-roads, she can always go either to the left or to the right, or straight on, in the way the Saviour points out in His Word.

There are dangers, also for us today.

There is the danger of Independentism, the idea that it will be a lot easier and better if we keep to our selves as congrega-

tions. And there is much to say for this idea, for after all, the problems of Launceston are not the ones of Albany, and the difficulties of Armadale are different from the difficulties of Launceston. Yet, here we should not forget the words of Prof. Dr. K. Schilder, who said that Christ also shed His blood for the Federation of Churches.

We need each other, and we need each other badly.

And yet, we can raise the question: What can be done?

Such a question can be necessary, for if we ask: "What has been done?", then we find that reports were not made, or came in late, and not only some, but all but one.

We can throw accusations at each other, but all are guilty, may be the one more than the other, therefore we have to look at things from the positive side, and see what can be changed in practice. Another danger is that of hierarchy, and of lording it over. This is not so much a problem during Synod meetings, but it can come up in other aspects.

We stand as Churches in the midst of this world, and as Federation we have connection with other Churches, our three 'old' sisters, in the Netherlands, Canada and South-Africa. We have a 'new' sister in Korea, but are there also other churches which we can recognize as sisters? This is a question which we have to raise constantly, for our Saviour is Lord, over all His Churches.

Looking around us we see in this country in which we live, several Churches, which profess to be Reformed in doctrine. I mention a few, The Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In the past the Church of Launceston had some contact with them, a contact which was broken off by them. The Presbyterian Reformed Church, and Synod has to deal with our contact with this denomination. The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, also called the Free Presbyterian Church. One of their ministers told me this week that their last Synod decided to contact us, although we have not heard from them as yet.

We have come together, with 9 delegates representing the three congregations. Together we have about 1700 members. A small number compared with the 13½ million inhabitants of this continent.

What can we do? What is our task?

It is more than 25 years ago that our congregations were instituted. Armadale commemorated that fact in 1976, and Launceston and Albany in 1977. 24 years ago the first Synod was held. We can go back to the past and ask for the ideas of the first migrants. Did they just migrate or did they have a great vision, seeing that the Church has a task over against those who are outside? In this connection I may point to what Schilder wrote in his booklet "Your Ecumenical Task". "However I tell you: Your ecumenical task, your primary mandate is faithful witnessing".

That is also our task as Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
We do not have to ask for the impact we make on this nation.
We only have to do our task.
This evening we read from Christ's epistle to Philadelphia.
This was a small Church, with little strength.
But Christ had set an open door before it.
They had the opportunity to witness.
They still had the opportunity.

We have also read in Revelation 11 that there will come a time that the witness of the Church will end, when the testimony of the witnesses is finished. We are not yet at this point of history.

We still work in the streets of the Great City, where our Lord was crucified. Knowing that we do not serve a dead Jesus, but a living one.

He is also, with His Spirit, present at this Synod, He walks amidst the golden candlesticks of our Churches. There is an open door for the witness of the Reformed, that is the Biblical faith.

We have little strength indeed, but that does not matter, for our Saviour has all the strength in heaven and on earth.

We have come together because Christ gathers His Church, this Synod is part of His Churchgathering work. Here, at Synod, the Churches have come together for the task which Christ has given them to do. May it be done in faith, trusting in His power. So that the result of this Synod may be to the upbuilding of His body.

With these words, I declare the 11th Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia opened.

After the opening address, the meeting sings Psalm 122: 2,3.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The roll is signed by the delegates of the three Churches; two delegates from Albany examine the credentials. The Churches are lawfully represented by the primary representatives, namely:

from the Church of Albany:	Rev. J.D. Wielenga elder L. 't Hart elder J. Brouwer
from the Church of Armadale:	Rev. K. Bruning elder H. Terpstra elder J. Van Dijk
from the Church of Launceston:	Rev. A.H. Dekker elder J. Kroeze elder D. Van Asperen

Article 3

MODERAMEN

The following officers are chosen:

president	:	Rev. J.D. Wielenga
assessor	:	Rev. A.H. Dekker
first clerk	:	Rev. K. Bruning
second clerk	:	Elder L. 't Hart

The president declares the Synod for constituted; and speaks words of thankfulness to the Church of Launceston for the preparation of the Synod and the welcoming of the delegates. It is his wish that the Synod may be fruitful for the Churches and may be guided by the Spirit of the Lord.

Article 4

AGREEMENT WITH THE THREE FORMS OF UNITY

The president asks the delegates to testify their agreement with the Three Forms of Unity by standing up. This takes place. The Synod decides to put the matter concerning the signing of the Three Forms of Unity by Rev. dr Huh on the agenda sub 10b.

Article 5

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. from Deputies for correspondence with foreign Sisterchurches on behalf of the Canadian Reformed Churches with greetings and best wishes for the Synod
- b. a similar letter from the Deputies in Sth. Africa
- c. a similar from the Deputies in the Netherlands
- d. an appeal from Rev. A.H. Dekker at Launceston
- e. an appeal from br. B. at A.

The first clerk conveys the contents of the letters sub a, b, and c to Synod; d and e are added to the agenda sub correspondence.

Article 6

AGENDA

The agenda is adopted as follows:

Schedule of Meetings

Proposals: ARMADALE:

- a. Appointmens of deputies re English sermons.
- b. Acts of Synod to be printed within 6 weeks of closure.
- c. Appointments of deputies to study Dutch Church book; use and evaluate the

Canadian studies; and investigate suitability for our Churches.

Proposals: ALBANY: a. Alteration Art. 19 Acts Synod '75
b. Proposal Art. 61 Acts Synod '75
c. Appointment deputies re Colloquium Doc-
tum.
d. Proposal not to submit to Synod matters
per instruction.
e. Alteration to instructions for Archives.

Reports: a. Study course Mission Worker.
b. Report re calling of Prof. Huh; and signing of 3
Forms of Unity.
c. Church visitations.
d. From the Church of Armadale and Albany re Mission
work.
e. Deputies Church book in the English language.
f. From the Church of Armadale re Synod archives.
g. " " " " Albany re Synod Archives' exa-
mination.
h. From Deputies correspondence sisterchurches abroad.
i. " Deputies " " Federal Government.
j. " Synod 1975 Quaestor.
k. " Deputies Rules for Synod meetings and Church
Order.
l. From Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of
the Word Art. 64.
m. From Deputies for an English version of the Bible.
n. " Deputies concerning correspondence with the
Presbyterian Reformed Churches.
o. From the Quaestor of Synod regarding income and ex-
penditure.

Appointment of deputies.

Determination of costs share formula.

Appointment of convening church for next Synod.

Business concerning Art. 41 C.O.

Discipline after Art. 43 C.O.

Personal Business.

Adoption of the Acts of Synod.

Adoption of the Press report.

Closing.

Article 7

WORKING METHOD

The hours of session are fixed. The meeting will be held from:

10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

A proposal from Rev. A.H. Dekker regarding working method of the Synod will be dealt with at the next meeting. The items for the Monday sessions will be the proposals of the Churches of Albany and Armadale; if possible the report concerning Correspondence with the Presb. Reformed Church in Australia; the evening session will be reserved for report-Church-book.

Article 8

ADJOURNMENT

Psalm 127:1 is sung; the president leads in prayer and the Synod is adjourned till Monday, June 5th, the Lord willing.

S e s s i o n Monday, June 5th.

Article 9

RE-OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Synod is re-opened; the president reads 1 Corinthians 1: 1-17 and leads in prayer.

Article 10

WORKING METHOD

The Synod deals with Rev. Dekker's proposal concerning the working method of the Synod. The proposal is to appoint 3 committees which take part of the agenda and bring forward proposals. It is decided not to appoint committees as proposed by Rev. Dekker. Synod will try to work in rounds of discussion.

The proposal of the Church of Albany (ag.9a) will be dealt with at the end of Synod.

The times of meals are fixed.

The suggestion to multiply the reports-Church visitation before they will be discussed is not accepted. Synod decides that the Acts and Press release will be read out and adopted in the English language at the beginning of every morning session.

It is also decided to instruct the first clerk to care for an unofficial Dutch translation of the Acts in a separate publication. The Acts, Art. 1-8 and press release are read and adopted.

Article 11

DEPUTIES re ENGLISH SERMONS

The discussion of the proposal of Armadale to appoint deputies re English sermons (ag. sub 9) resulted in the following decision: Synod will not appoint deputies, but urges the Churches and the Ministers to be diligent to cooperate in providing sermons which

can be read in the Church services in the English language, and to make those sermons available to the Churches.

Article 12

ACTS OF SYNOD

The proposal of the Church of Armadale that the Acts of Synod should be printed within 6 weeks of closure (ag. 9b) is adopted.

Article 13

DEPUTIES STUDY CHURCH BOOKS

Armadale's proposal sub 6c comes in discussion. The Synod does not adopt this proposal, because the matter involved belongs to the task of the deputies for Correspondence with foreign Sisterchurches and to the deputies for Churchbook in the English language; also because the use of the new provisional Dutch Churchbook can be left to the discretion of the Churches taking into consideration the findings of the deputies for Corr. with the foreign Sisterchurches.

Article 14

PROPOSAL ALBANY RE ART. 61, ACTS 1975

Synod deals with the proposal of the Church of Albany regarding objections of the Council to ratify art. 61 of the Acts 1975 concerning the admission to the Lord's table of visiting guests from outside our Churches or from outside the corresponding Sister Churches.

The proposals are:

1. in the case of visiting guests from countries of sisterchurches or corresponding sisterchurches, to admit only those persons to the Lord's Supper, who are able to produce a valid attestation from those sisterchurches;
2. in the case of visiting guests from countries where are no sisterchurches or corresponding sisterchurches, to leave the admittance to the Lord's Table to the discretion of the local churches.
3. in the case that persons mentioned sub-2 are admitted by a local church, this church will give them an attestation if they want to visit sisterchurches in Australia, which attestation will be dealt with as with attestations of members, and without which attestation the sisterchurches in Australia will not admit these persons as guests to the celebration of the sacrament in their own midst.

Synod decided to appoint a committee to examine whether the grounds mentioned in Albany's appeal justify the council's decision not to ratify art. 61, acts 1975.

Article 15

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Synod is adjourned to the evening-session.

E v e n i n g S e s s i o n M o n d a y , J u n e 5 t h .

Article 16

CHURCH BOOK IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The president re-opens the meeting, requests the attendance to sing Psalm 138:1, and announces that Synod will deal with report Church book in the English language. The deputies concerned are invited to participate in the discussion.

The meeting is adjourned after singing and prayer.

S e s s i o n T u e s d a y , J u n e 6 t h

Article 17

RE-OPENING

The president re-opens the meeting, reads 1 Corinthians 1: 18- 25 and leads in prayer.

Article 18

ACTS

Acts art. 9 - 16 and press release are read and adopted.

Article 19

WORKING METHOD

Synod decides to extend the afternoon sessions to 5.00 p. m. as from Wednesday, June 7th.

Article 20

APPEALS

Synod appoints a committee to report the admissibility of the appeal from br. B. at A.; and another committee to prepare the dealing with the appeal from Rev. A.H. Dekker. .

Article 21

COLLOQUIUM DOCTUM

The Synod discusses the proposal of the Church of Albany concerning Colloquium Doctum (ag. sub 9c), which is as follows:

"to safeguard the reformed character of the Ministry of the Word, it may be desirable to submit a minister who comes from abroad to the colloquium doctum; the Church of Albany proposes to draw up rules for this examination".

Synod does not adopt this proposal, and decides to appoint deputies to look in to the matter of the general ecclesiastical ordinances as mentioned in art. V, Church Order, and to report at next Synod.

Article 22

INSTRUCTIONS

The proposal of the Church of Albany (ag. sub 9d):

"As only those matters pertaining to the Churches in general shall be transacted in the ecclesiastical assemblies (Art. 30 C.O.), it is not correct reformed procedure to table matters of this nature per instruction"

comes under discussion.

The Synod decides to remind the Churches that in accordance with art. XXX, C.O., matters which pertain to the Churches in general should not be added to the agenda by instruction.

Article 23

ARCHIVES

The report and proposals of the Church of Albany concerning the archives comes under discussion (ag. sub 9e).

Synod decides that the deputies will check the secret archives on a later date and report to the Churches, as this could not be done before the Synod meeting.

It is further decided to alter some instructions for the Church keeping the archives.

The rules are now as follows:

1. The Church council of the Church, keeping the archives, is in charge of the archives of Synod.
2. The Church council will appoint an archivist.
3. The archivist reports to the Church council concerning the condition of the archives, contents, who has received or seen items and which items have been involved.
4. The Church council reports to Synod.
5. The archivist will carefully record everything, using files which will be placed in the filing cabinet, taking care that everything is clearly catalogued.

- 6a. The Church council is instructed to lend photo-copies or give for peruse any items from the general archives to any confessing member in full rights, on their request.
- 6b. Persons from outside the Church Federation wishing to borrow a photo-copy of or peruse any item from the general archives, may only do so after due approval from the Church Council.
7. Items from the secret archives can only be lent in photo-copy, after 2 Churches or Synod have given permission.
8. The borrowing time is limited to 3 months. The receiver will sign a document which contains:
 - a. a declaration not to multiply the items of the secret archives;
 - b. name of the item or items received;
 - c. date of borrowing;
 - d. name and signature;
 - e. date of return;

Article 24

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Rev. G. van Rongen was received and read.
A letter came in from Inter-Church Relation Committee of the Presbyterian Church of East Australia, with christian greetings and with the invitation to indicate what relationship we, as Free Reformed Churches, would desire to sustain to the Presb. Church of East Australia. The letter was discussed.
Synod appoints deputies for further contact with this Church and hands over the letter to a committee to prepare a concept-answer.

Article 25

OBJECTIONS RE ARTICLE 61 ACTS '75

The discussion on the appeal of the Church of Albany re Article 61, Acts 1975 is continued.

E v e n i n g s e s s i o n T u e s d a y J u n e 6 t h .

Article 26

CHURCHBOOK IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The president re-opens the meeting; Psalm 150 is sung.
Synod deals with the report of Deputies Churchbook; and the hymn section as proposed by deputies.
The list of acceptable hymns, which can be used in the worship services of our Churches, is fixed; it contains the following hymns; the numbers 6,7,10,12,13,15,17,18,21,22,26,28,30,34,43, 45, 46,47,48,49,50,51,60,61.

It is further decided to recommend the " six Bible songs" to the Churches to test them in the worship services for a trial period till the next Synod.

The Churches are requested to send their criticism to the deputies. The deputies are instructed to provide the Churches with a publication of the " six Bible hymns ".

The deputies are instructed to develop contact with the Canadian deputies so that optimal co-operation may be achieved, and to request the Canadian deputies to delete from the Book of Praise those hymns which because of the objections brought forward, are not suitable to be used in the worship services.

The deputies appointed by Synod 1975 are discharged.

Synod will appoint new deputies and formulate their mandates at a later session.

Article 27

ADJOURNMENT

After singing and prayer, the meeting is adjourned.

S e s s i o n Wednesday June 7th.

Article 28

RE-OPENING

The president opens the meeting, reads 1 Corinthians 1 : 26 - 2:5, and leads in prayer.

Article 29

ACTS

Acts, art. 17 - 27 and press release are read and adopted.

Article 30

TRAINING MINISTRY

Synod deals with report Training for the Ministry.

The following proposals were tabled by the deputies:

- a. to appoint deputies for the support of Korean Theological students;
- b. to ask the Churches for 12 collections each year for this purpose;
- c. to charge the deputies with the task to take up contact with the Board of Trustees of the Korean Theological College and request this Board to divide the money according to need;
- d. to urge the Churches of Korea to adopt a plan for full assistance of their theological students, and to ask the Sister-churches in Australia (and the Netherlands) to assist them in

this task, if necessary.

Synod decides not to appoint deputies for the support of Korean Theological students and to instruct the deputies for correspondence with foreign Sisterchurches to ask in Korea for more information about Church life in general and about the College and Seminary in particular.

In connection with the point that the Free Reformed Churches of Australia have supplied only one student for the training of the Ministry, Synod decides to instruct new deputies to collect and publish more information about the possibilities, conditions, required qualifications for study in Theology, either in the Netherlands or in Canada.

It is further decided to approve the proposal of deputies to collect from the Churches an amount of \$3,000 for the year 1978.

Article 31

OBJECTIONS RE ACTS '75, Art.61

A proposal concerning Albany's objections against Acts '75 art. 61 C.O. will be multiplied for study and discussion.

Article 32

VISITATIONS REPORT

Synod meets in closed session to deal with Church visitations reports.

Article 33

RE-OPENING

Synod is re-opened again after having dealt with the reports Church visitation in Albany and in Armadale.

Article 34

PROPOSAL CHURCH VISITATION

Synod deals with Rev. Dekker's proposal concerning Church visitation. The proposal is: to state the duty of the Church visitors if they are appointed.

The discussion will be continued at a later session.

E v e n i n g S e s s i o n W e d n e s d a y J u n e 7 t h .

Article 35

RULES FOR CHURCH VISITATION

The president re-opens the meeting; Psalm 72:1 is sung. The letter

received from Rev. G. Van Rongen (Acts/art. 24) is read for the attendance.

The proposals of deputies for translation and revision of the rules for Church visitation (ag.sub 10c) come under discussion; br.S.Reitsema, deputy, is invited to participate in the discussion. The meeting is adjourned after singing Psalm 72:9 and prayer.

S e s s i o n Thursday June 8th.

Article 36

RE-OPENING

The president re-opens the meeting, reads 1 Corinthians 2:6 - 16 and prays.

Article 37

ACTS

Acts, art. 28-35 and press release are read and adopted.

Article 38

REPORT DEPUTIES FOREIGN SISTERCHURCHES

Report deputies foreign Sisterchurches is discussed.

Synod decides to adopt the following rules for correspondence with The Presbyterian Church of Korea:

- a. to take care for each other that the doctrine, church services, church government and discipline do not deviate from the reformed confession;
- b. to send each other the Agendum and Decisions (Acts) of the General Synods and the receiving of subsequent delegates from these other churches as advisors;
- c. to consult each other previous to making any ammendments or additions to confessional standards, church orders or liturgical forms;
- d. to accept each other's attestations and admitting each other's ministers of the Word to preach the Word and administer the sacraments, applying what was determined at the Synod of Dordrecht in 1893, in article 165, which was further detailed at the Synod of Groningen in 1927 in article 161 (which includes the closer definition made in Amsterdam in 1936, art-ical 122, decision I, 4);
- e. to be responsible to each other concerning correspondence with third parties.

It is further decided to instruct the deputies for Correspondence with foreign Churches:

- a. to make sure that the Korean Presbyterian Church agrees with the rules for Correspondence as they were proposed and accepted by our Churches;
- b. to do all that is possible to make the relationship between the Free Reformed Churches and the Korean Presbyterian Church as effective as possible.

Synod also decides to instruct the deputies to supply the Churches with the Acts of the Synods of corresponding Sisterchurches; and to ask them to remain diligent in examining the new Churchbook and Church Order of the Dutch Sisterchurches and to report about this matter to the Churches and next Synod.

Synod agrees that the so-called Maranatha appeal is not admissible because Synod is not an appeal body for members of foreign Sisterchurches.

Synod agrees with the principle for an ecumenical Synod as mentioned in the report of deputies.

Article 39

APPEAL REV. DEKKER

The appointed committee reports about the appeal of Rev. Dekker concerning art. 63, Acts Synod 1975, which deals with the eligibility and examinations of candidates. The objection is that Synod 1975 did not give the proposed rules in discussion, on the ground that the Churches had already accepted the final text of those rules by mutual agreement. Rev. Dekker requests Synod to revoke art. 63 of Synod 1975 also for the reason that its content should be revised.

Synod rejects the grounds 1 and 2 of the appeal because Synod 1975 (acts, art. 63) confirmed the decision re eligibility and examination candidates as it was taken by the Churches in accordance with the Synod's decision 1972 (Acts 1972, art.19).

Synod further considering the grounds 3a and b of Rev. Dekker's appeal against the decision of Synod 1975 (art.63) judges that there is reason to have the rules re examination of candidates changed regarding the costs of the exams and the combination of the two examinations.

The deputies for the Training of the Ministry will be instructed to come with proposals to the next Synod.

Article 40

DEPUTIES CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOVERNMENT

Rev. Dekker proposes to appoint deputies to study the relationship between the Church and State in the matter of marriages and the Biblical principles involved in the Family Bill; this in connection with the matter of divorce and the marriage of Church members

before a civil marriage celebrant.
Synod declares that this proposal is not admissible because the matter concerned should be brought up by the Churches.
The deputies report that there was no contact with the Government.

Article 41

RE REVISION CHURCH ORDER

Synod dealing with report Deputies re revision Church Order and translation and revision of the Rules for Synod (Acts. 1975, art. 97-14) decides to appoint new deputies with the same mandate.

Article 42

BIBLE TRANSLATION

Synod adopts the following proposal:
to appoint new deputies with the instruction to contact the translators of the updated King James Version to be published by Thomas Nelson Inc., Nashville, Tenn., to obtain further information on this Version; to evaluate this Version when published, in comparison with the RSV, and to abandon evaluation of NASB.

Article 43

MISSION

Synod deals with reports Mission from Albany and Armadale.
It is reported that the council of the Church of Albany disbanded the mission committee because there is no opportunity to continue the work among the natives in the Albany region. It is the intention at some later stage to appoint a new committee for evangelisation among white and coloured people.
The report is adopted.
The report from Armadale is discussed.
Questions about finance, support from Holland, and the communication about mission work between the Churches are dealt with.
Synod decides to instruct the Mission Church of Armadale to consider the possibility that the Australian Churches become financially independent from the Sisterchurches in Holland; and to report to next Synod.

The meeting is adjourned till the evening session.

E v e n i n g S e s s i o n J u n e 8 t h .

Article 44

RE-OPENING

The president re-opens the meeting; Psalm 84:1 is sung.

Article 45

CORRESPONDENCE

The president announces that a letter has been received from the Psalter Revision Committee of Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. This letter contains information and questions about Psalter for the worship service. The letter is handed over to the deputies for Church Book in the English language for their information. The above mentioned Committee will be informed about this decision.

Article 46

RULES FOR CHURCH VISITATION

The Synod completes the discussion of the new Rules for Church visitation.

The new list of questions will be published in the Acts, as an appendix; and separately edited for the use in the meetings of the Church Councils.

Article 47

REPORT CALL OF REV. DR. S.G. HUH

The delegates of Albany report about the call of Rev. Dr. S.G.Huh of Armadale. It is adopted.

The delegates from Armadale present a copy of the Form for Ministers, signed by Rev. Huh, which signing was witnessed by two members of the Church Council of Armadale, and request the Synod to authorize the Church Council of Armadale to have the official document of the Form for Ministers, which belongs to the archives of the Churches, signed by Rev. Dr. S. G. Huh.

Admitted.

Article 48

REPORT ARCHIVES

The report - Synod Archives is adopted.

Article 49

ARCHIVES

The Librarian reports orally that no Acts have arrived from America as was previously promised (Acts 1975, art. 22)

The report Quaestor for Synod 1975 is discussed. The Synod decides that the cost of the meeting with the Presb. Ref. Church will be shared according to the quota percentages.

Article 50

AUDITING BOOKS QUAESTOR

It is reported that the books of Synod quaestor are in good order.
Report is adopted.

Article 51

CHURCH VISITATION

Synod deals with the letter from Rev. A.H. Dekker regarding the task of the Church visitors; no special rules or arrangements seem to be made or laid down.
Synod decides to appoint deputies to make proposal concerning this matter and report to next Synod.

Article 52

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned after singing and prayer.

S e s s i o n Friday June 9th.

Article 53

RE-OPENING

The president re-opens the meeting; reads 1 Corinthians 3:1-15 and leads in prayer.

Article 54

ACTS

Acts art. 33-51 and Press release are read and adopted.

Article 55

CHURCH VISITATION

The Synod continues the discussion re Church-visitation's proposals (Act art.51) and it is decided that until the next Synod the Church visitations are arranged in the following way:
the ministers of Armadale are appointed for visitation in Albany

and Launceston (by correspondence).
the minister and an elder (to be appointed by the Church Council)
of Launceston are appointed for Church visitation at Armadale unless
this can be done orally by a minister and elder from Albany.

Article 56

MISSION

Synod meets in closed session.

Article 57

MISSION

The president re-opens the meeting.
Synod adopts the mission report of Armadale, and expresses the
wish that the mission work of the Churches may go on under the
blessings from the Lord; and if possible, may be extended in one
way or another. It is also decided to appoint new deputies and
to compile new mandates for them.

Article 58

APPEAL ALBANY

After having considered the appeal of Albany, Synod makes the following
decision:

Synod admits that the decision of Synod 1975, art.61, may lead to
confusion, and decides to rescind this decision;
Synod states that in cases of visitors from outside the bond of
Churches, the rules laid down in article 61 of Church Order should
be observed.

Article 59

MISSION

Synod decides to instruct deputies concerned to draw up:

- a. rules for guidance of br. P. 't Hart's study;
 - b. rules for examination of br. 't Hart;
- and to report to the Churches and next Synod.

Article 60

ADJOURNMENT

Synod meets in closed session.

Article 61

RE-OPENING - REPORT PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH

After re-opening of the public session, the Synod deals with report re Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia.

This report is only admissible as far as the interim report is concerned; the rest of it is only admissible as report from the convener of the deputies.

Synod is adjourned to evening session.

E v e n i n g S e s s i o n F r i d a y J u n e 9 t h

Article 62

RE-OPENING

The meeting is re-opened; Psalm 116:1 is sung.

Delegate Br.D. Van Asperen from Launceston is absent. Br.P. Dingemanse takes his place after having signed the roll and testified to agree with the Three Forms of Unity.

Article 63

REPORT PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Report Presb. Reformed Church is further dealt with.

The following decision is adopted:

Synod, having discussed the reports decides not to appoint new deputies to continue talks with the P.R.C. on the ground that the reported meeting in Adelaide has brought to light considerable differences and misunderstandings regarding the interpretation of the Confession and in Church practice of such a nature that contact which aims at unity is not possible at this stage.

Synod decides to appoint deputies to write an appeal to rectify their distortion of our position and to try to point out to them where we believe they misunderstand the Reformed doctrine.

Deputies shall send the draft appeal to the Churches for approbation before forwarding it to Presbytery of the Presb. Ref. Church.

Article 64

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST AUSTRALIA

A draft letter to the Presb. Church of East Australia is tabled and discussed.

A letter to the Committee for Psalter of the same Church is read and adopted.

Article 65

ADJOURNMENT

The Synod is adjourned till Saturday morning 9 a.m. after singing Psalm 116:10 and prayer.

S e s s i o n Saturday June 10th.

Article 66

RE-OPENING; ACTS

The meeting is re-opened.

The president reads 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 and leads in prayer.

Acts art. 52-65 and Press release are read and adopted.

Article 67

CLOSED SESSION

Synod meets in closed session.

Article 68

RE-OPENING

The meeting is re-opened; the president makes known that Synod in closed session dealt with visitation report Church of Launceston and appeal (ag. sub 5e), which was rejected.

Article 69

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST AUSTRALIA

A letter to the Presb. Church of East Australia is read and adopted; this letter will be published in the Acts.

Article 70

APPOINTMENT DEPUTIES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Synod appoints deputies and formulates their instructions as follows:

1. For keeping the archives of Synod: the Church of Armadale.
Instructions: as in Acts, art. 23.
2. For supervision of the archives of Synod: the Church of Albany.
Instructions: to report to next Synod and as stated in Acts, art. 23.
3. Synod Treasurer: br. J.Kroeze, 22 Pomona Rd Riverside, Launceston, Tas. 7250. Secundus: br.F.Streefland, Launceston, Tas.
Instructions:
 - a. to table a written report at the next Synod
 - b. to provide the Churches with an outline of receipts and expenditures, as soon as possible;
 - c. to have his books and documents audited by the Church of Launceston, which shall report to the next Synod.
4. Deputies ad art. 49 and 79 C.O.: the Ministers and the elders
brs J. Brouwer, Albany;
H. Terpstra, Armadale;
P. Dingemanse, Launceston;
5. Deputies for Correspondence with foreign Sisterchurches: Rev. K. Bruning, Rev. dr. S.G. Huh, br. J. Zuidema. Convener Rev K. Bruning.
Instructions:
 - a. to bring to the attention of the Churches those items from the correspondence with foreign Sisterchurches which are of importance to the Churches in Australia;
 - b. to forward copies of the Acts of this Synod to the foreign Sisterchurches;
 - c. to inform the foreign Sisterchurches of the place and the time of the next Synod, and to send the preliminary agenda to them at least six weeks prior to the commencement of that Synod;
 - d. to be diligent in seeking contact with those Churches which are faithful to the Scriptures, and to see if we can enter into correspondence with them;
 - e. to inform the Churches as soon as an invitation or announcement of a coming Synod of one of the Sisterchurches comes in, so that the Churches may determine if one of the office bearers is able to represent our Churches there;
 - f. as is decided in Acts, art. 30 and 38;
 - g. to report to the Churches three (3) months before next Synod and also to the Synod itself.

6. Deputies for correspondence with the Government: the chairman and secretary of every congregation. Convener Rev.A.H.Dekker.
7. Deputies for a Churchbook in English Language: Rev. A. H. Dekker, Br.G. Groenewold, br. J. Van der Ros (convener).
Instructions: a. to continue efforts aimed at achieving a scripturally based Church Book;
b. as stated in the Acts, art. 26 and 45;
8. Deputies for the English Bible translation: the Ministers, Convener Rev. A.H. Dekker.
Instructions: as stated in Acts, art. 42.
9. Deputies Training for The Ministry of the Word: Rev. A.H. Dekker, (Convener), brs. G. Numan and K. Salomons.
Instructions: a. to continue the fund for support to students after the rules of art. 19 C.O.;
b. as stated in Acts, art. 30 and 39;
c. to have the books and documents audited by the Church of Launceston, which shall report to the next Synod;
10. Deputies general ecclesiastical ordinances: Rev.A.H. Dekker, convener, brs. G. Numan and K. Salomons.
Instruction: as stated in Acts, art. 21
11. Deputies for Contact (appeal) with the Presbyterian Reformed Church: the Ministers (convener, Rev. A.H. Dekker).
Instruction: as stated in Acts, art. 63.
12. Deputies for Contact with the Presbyterian Church of East Australia: the Ministers (convener, Rev. A.H. Dekker).
Instructions: as stated in Acts, art. 63.
13. Deputies for Mission: the Church of Armadale.
Instructions: a. to act as address Church;
b. to carry out the Mission mandate in accordance with the Accord of Co-operation;
c. as stated in Acts, art. 59.
14. Deputies re Study Mission Worker: Rev. K. Bruning, convener, and Rev. dr. S.G. Huh.
Instruction: as stated in Acts, art. 59.
15. Deputies for Church visitation: the Ministers and elders appointed by the Church councils.
Instructions: as stated in Acts, art. 55.

16. Deputies for Rules Church visitation and Rules for Synod: br. J. Brouwer, convener; br. L. 't Hart and br. J. Plug.
Instructions: as stated in Acts, art. 41 and 55.
17. Deputies for translation and revision of Church Order: Rev. dr. S.G. Huh, br. H. Terpstra (convener) and br. J. Bruning.
Instructions: as stated in Acts, art. 41.
18. Church for the Library: the Church of Armadale.
Librarian: br. H. Terpstra.
19. Convening Church: Church of Armadale.
Instructions: as stated in Acts, art. 72.
20. Deputies in general: as stated in Acts, art. 76.
21. Deputies auditing books: Church of Launceston.
Instructions: to audit the books of the Synod treasurer, and of the deputies training for the Ministry of the Word, and to report at the next Synod.

Article 71

COST OF SYNOD

The cost of Synod is divided as follows:

Albany 23%

Armadale 56%

Launceston 21%

Article 72

CONVENING CHURCH AND NEXT SYNOD

It is decided that the Church of Armadale W.A. will convene the next Synod in September 1980, the Lord willing.

Article 73

ART. 43 C.O.

There is no business ad art. 43 C.O.

Article 74

ART. 41 C.O.

There is no business ad art. 41. C.O.

Article 75

BROTHERHOOD PORT MORESBY

The delegates of Launceston ask information about the situation of the brotherhood in Port Moresby. The Church Council of Armadale will give the information by correspondence.

Article 76

REPORTS

The following decision is made: multiple copies of all reports are to be made and sent to the Churches in English (if possible also in Dutch), at least three months before the start of next Synod, unless otherwise stipulated in the instruction of deputies. Reports which are sent later than the stipulated period will be inadmissible unless Synod decides otherwise.

Article 77

NUMBER OF DELEGATES

Synod rejects the proposal of the Church of Albany (agenda sub 6a) concerning the number of delegates, and decides to maintain a number of three (Acts 1975, art. 19). It is the opinion of the Synod that the increased number of delegates benefits the work of Synod.

Article 78

CLOSING SESSION

Synod will be closed on Monday, June 12 at 8.pm.

Article 79

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned after singing and prayer.

E v e n i n g S e s s i o n Monday June 12th.

Article 80

RE-OPENING

The meeting is re-opened. The president reads 1 Corinthians 3:16-4:5, and leads in prayer; the verses 1 and 4 of Psalm 93 are sung.

Article 81

ACTS AND PRESS RELEASE

Acts art. 66-80 and Press release are read and adopted.

Article 82

WORD OF APPRECIATION

The assessor takes the chair and thanks the president Rev. J.D. Wielenga for the way in which he has led the Synod. Rev. Wielenga receives the wishes that the Lord may bless and guide him when he will depart shortly to one of the Sisterchurches in Canada.

Article 83

FINAL ADDRESS

The president delivers his closing address:-

Brothers and Sisters.

This synod may well go on record as one of the longest synods in the history of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia. It would be fitting, in counterbalance, to make the closing session tonight the shortest on record. I doubt whether this would come to you as an anticlimax and not rather as a fitting end to a synod of which the tangible results and concrete achievements need not much time to relate.

Even before the start of this synod doubts were raised whether it would justify the costs. No burning questions were on the agenda, no hot issues that cried for a solution, to keep the churches on course, or to make them reach, full sail, for new horizons. As far as that is concerned, maybe nothing would have changed in the life of the three congregations, had this synod not been held, or been postponed, or just skipped. Time and money would have been saved and could have been invested in more useful projects in God's service. Indeed, no incisive decisions were made by this synod, for instance in the field of the mission; nor could a modern Bible Version be recommended to the churches, at long last; neither were windows opened to new and promising vistas of contacts with other churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, in this country or overseas. No sensational - if this word may be used - breakthroughs were made in any field of our churchlife. Besides, there was a feeling that this synod could have been prepared in a better way. Not organisationally - that side was above reproach -, but some deputies could not be in time or even not be at all at synod with reports. All in all, it was not exactly the synod of which we all can be proud.

There is of course a bright side to this. I believe it was prof. H. Bavinck, who must have said, that invariably synods of churches have done more harm than good to the churches. If that is true, we may in any case comfort ourselves with this good thing,

that this synod's lack of great deeds also means lack of great harm to the Churches. It may be a comfort of sorts, but it is not very satisfying to typify this synod as a blessing to the churches because it had not much to do, and did not do much either.

However, I believe there is no need to typify the profit of this synod in such a negative manner. For - and it may have been said of other synods; it may even be only a very personal opinion. I believe that this synod has definitely strengthened the bond of the churches.

There were differences, differences in views, in emphases, in attitudes. Certainly. There always were, there always will remain, as long as there are Pauls and Apolloses and Cephas in the Church of God (1 Cor. 1). But there was also - and maybe more than in the past - the willingness to listen to one another, and the mutual trust and acceptance of one another as men who only mean to keep the churches on the right foundation, not trying, consciously or unconsciously, to shift the basic fundamentals, to drive the churches onto a different course. A thing like this cannot be laid down in the Acts. Still, such a mutual acceptance of one another as one in faith, and one in intention, could hardly have been recognised in one another, but by sitting together through seven long days, morning, afternoon and evening, that is: only a synod could give us this. This experience strengthens the bond of churches. Call it a feeling only, an atmosphere, call it an intangible, yet it is important. The delegates take it along, back to their church councils, and through the church councils it will influence the congregations. If only for this, this synod has been a blessing and worth the effort.

But there is more. For though it may be true that this was a synod without important decisions, without great achievements, a synod of small things, yet these small things were not without promise for the future. To mention a few of them: at long last an acceptable Bible Version may be just around the corner. As to the mission, the churches are urged, slightly, to take more responsibility and sacrifice upon themselves for the missionary effort. Who knows, how this will be blessed. As to visitors to our churches from outside: the churches are now guided back to a position, reset in a position, from which they can come to a better approach and follow a better course for the solution of this problem. Then, there was the selection of hymns, a selection much more acceptable to all the churches than the previous one was, so that unity in this respect also may be expected.

Another item with which synod dealt for many hours, was the translation and revision of the rules for church visitation. The value of this is not only that we now have new rules - and perhaps

they are less new than some may have wished - but the value lay as much in having been forced to think through as churches all the many and varied aspects of congregational life.

There were of course also the church visitation-reports themselves, discussed in closed sessions, again something synod cannot show to the churches in concrete Acts, black on white. But who can weigh the value of the mutual information, admonition, correction, encouragement received at such sessions and finding their way into the life of the congregations.

Then, there was the contact with other churches. One promising contact, instructed by a previous synod, turned at this synod into a disappointment, at least for the time being. Another church presented itself at our doorstep, with modest knock. Learned by the recent experience, synod's reaction was sober and cautious, more mature in this respect. A small thing, indeed; yet promising as to the contact itself, as well as to the reaction.

This synod is coming to an end now. For myself personally, it was probably the last synod I attended as delegate of the Australian churches. I am happy that this synod was for me an opportunity to be in Launceston once more before I leave for Canada. It was difficult, actually impossible, to combine synod-work with saying farewell to so many people in this congregation, which through the years has become well enough known to me to become dear to me. In parting, I wish you the blessing of God. What else can I do. What better can I do. May God bless you so, that as congregation, you may squarely and steadfastly remain on "the foundation that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. For other foundation can no man lay". Man will always try, nevertheless; all men, in all congregations; try to lay a safer, a more solid foundation, as they think; something they have in their own hands; something else than Jesus Christ only, his power, his grace, wisdom, his Word. But whatever may be build on another foundation, it will not be the temple of God, to his glory, to the salvation and happiness of people. Christ is enough. He is a complete Saviour. I am not trying to put a false dilemma, but I am stressing that what is first, what is fundamental, must remain fundamental: living faith in a living Christ. The young generation must become firmly rooted in Christ, in living fellowship with Him. The older generation must remain in Him. Only when we continuously and permanently take our starting point time and again from the foundation, we will receive the right perspective for finding the solutions to whatever problems we come across in the churches. If we build on that foundation, we need not fear or worry.

"Whether world or life or death, things present or things to come, all are yours", says Paul. What a Word! World, present,

future, life and death, everything is yours in Jesus Christ. You cannot loose. You cannot fail, neither in Churchlife, nor in personal life, if only you remain in Jesus Christ the only foundation, the living Lord, the always present Lord, the Lord who bought us with His blood. Building on Him, we will not be governed by fear and anxiety, but by freedom, trust and love.

This Synod comes to an end. I have said that it was a somewhat humbling experience, and I have tried to defend this Synod, a while ago. Maybe that was wrong. It may be better to close with Paul's word: "judge nothing before the time". We have done our work as delegates. We do not need the understanding or praise of men. We need not even judge ourselves. "The Lord will come, and then shall every man have his praise from God". In the meantime we will forget what lies behind, this Synod also, and continue our task in the upbuilding of the temple of God, labouring together with God. We may do it without fear, without anxiety, with great expectations, for the present, and for the future. For the Lord Jesus Christ is our foundation.

Article 84

CLOSING OF SYNOD

The assessor hands the gavel back to the president.
The meeting sings as closing song Psalm 146: 1 -3 .
Rev. K. Bruning leads in prayer and thanksgiving.
The president Rev. J.D.Wielenga closes the Synod.

K.Bruning,
1st Clerk of Synod;
June 12th, 1978.

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Rules for the Church Visitation in the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

General Rules

1. The Church Council shall inform the congregation at least a week in advance regarding the Church Visitation.
2. All office-bearers ought to be present at the visitation. In case of legitimate absence the reasons shall be presented in time to the Church Council.
If a quorum of two-thirds of the office-bearers is not present the visitation will take place on another date, as soon as possible.

The Examination

1. Are all members of the Church Council present?
If not, what are the reasons for absence?
2. Were the purpose, place and time of the meeting announced to the congregation according to Art. 1 of the General Rules?
3. Has any member of the congregation since previous visitation brought any complaint to the Church Council regarding Church life in general?
If so, could they be settled? *Yes. Johnson. Yes when they will it*
4. Does the Church Council need any help or information from the Church Visitors on any matter? *Reading services. Greater jealousy. Prayer for parish - when calling. Take away but ambulatory.*

(a) The Ministry of the Word

1. Is the Word of God administered twice on the Lord's Day?
Is the Heidelberg Catechism explained according to Art. 68 Church Order?
2. Are unauthorized persons allowed to deliver sermons? (Art. 3 Church Order)
3. Are only sermons of ministers of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia and their sister churches read, when there are reading services?
4. Is the preaching of the Word of God in accordance with the Three Forms of Unity?
Is the preaching discussed by the Church Council from time to time?

5. Is the law of God proclaimed in one of the services and the Creed confessed in the other? *Yes.*
6. Does the Church Council see to it that at funerals Art. 61 Church Order is observed? *68*
7. Are Christmas and other feast days observed according to Art. 65-67 Church Order? *Yes.*

8. Are there fruits of the preaching of the Gospel and is there a proper functioning of the communion of saints? How do these things become manifest? *visit with members duty*

9. (In vacant Churches)

- a. Are earnest attempts made to call a minister?
How does the Church Council try to reach this goal?

- b. Does the Church Council ask for the advice of the Synod or of the appointed counselor according to Art. 4 & 5 C.O.?

10. How often are services conducted in the Dutch language?
On what grounds does the Church Council believe that this rule is to the advantage and upbuilding of the congregation?

(b) Administration of the Sacraments

1. Are the sacraments administered only by authorized persons? (Art. 3 C.O.)
2. Are the forms read according to the text adopted by the Churches? (Art. 58 & 62 C.O.) *62 & 66*
3. Is Holy Baptism administered "as soon as feasible"? (Art. 56 Church Order)
4. Is the meaning of baptism and the baptismal vows discussed with the parents if necessary?
5. How often is the Lord's Supper celebrated?
Are preparatory-sermons preached on the Lord's Day before the celebration?
Are sermons preached during the services in which the Lord's Supper is celebrated?
Are, if necessary, home-visits made beforehand? (Art. 62, 63 64 C.O.) *if possible for services if necessary*
6. What is done in order that those who are baptized request admission to the Lord's Supper?
How does the Church Council take care that no one is admitted rashly? Art. 59 and 61 C.O.)
7. Is the Lord's Supper faithfully attended?

Are those, who do not attend faithfully, visited and seriously admonished? Art. 23 and 59 C.O.)

8. Is the Holy Supper administered in both services if necessary.

(c) Supervision and Discipline

1. Are all members of the congregation visited at least once a year?

How are the home-visits conducted? (Art. 23 C.O.)

2. Are special visits brought to those who by reason of sickness or age or any other valid reason cannot attend the Church services?

3. Are the lonely brothers and sisters in the congregation visited faithfully?

4. Are there any members living in dispersion?
If so, what does the Church Council do with regard to them?

5. Do the members of the Church Council exercise Christian censure among themselves and do they admonish each other in a friendly way with regard to the discharge of their office according to Art. 81 C.O.?

6. Is it known to the Church Council that the members of the congregation exercise supervision and discipline among themselves according to the Word of God and the Church Order?
Does the Church Council exercise this supervision and discipline over the congregation? (Art. 71-77 C.O.)

7. Did any censure take place since the last Church visitation?
Were there members who withdrew themselves from the congregation?
What information can the Church Council give concerning these cases?

8. Are there any dominant sins in the congregation?

9. Are censured members faithfully visited? (Art. 76 and 77 C.O.)
What are the results of these visits?

10. Do the ministers and elders ward off false doctrines and errors in preaching, teaching and visiting? (Art. 55 C.O.)

(d) Catechism Classes

1. Are the Catechism Classes regularly held?
At what age do the children start?

2. Are they faithfully attended?
What are the fruits thereof?

3. What is taught?
4. Are the Catechism Classes visited by the elders? How often?

(e) Church Life in General

1. Are the Church Council meetings held regularly?
At what intervals (Art. 37 C.O.)
Does the Clerk keep a faithful record of all important matters? (Art. 34 C.O.)
2. Are only ecclesiastical matters transacted and that in an ecclesiastical manner? (Art. 30 C.O.)
3. Are the Church Council meetings opened and closed with prayer? (Art. 32 C.O.)
4. Do the deacons hold separate meetings according to Art. 40 Church Order?
Is there a regulation stating which matters have to be dealt with at the Church Council and which at the Church Council with the deacons?
5. Have all office-bearers subscribed to the Three Forms of Unity? (Art. ^{50, 51}53, 54 C.O.)
6. Does the calling and election of the Ministers of the Word and the election and re-election of elders and deacons take place according to the Church Order? (Art. 4, 5, 22, 24, and ²⁵27 C.O.) 5 6 20 23
Are there local rules for the election of office-bearers? (Art. ²⁰22 C.O.)
7. Is the number of elders and deacons sufficient for the proper official labour in the congregation?
Of how many members does the congregation consist? 204 Sept 18
How many have been admitted to the Lord's Supper? 146
How many attend the Catechism Classes? 204 8-12
How many elders and deacons are there? 6-2
8. Is equality maintained among the office-bearers according to Art. 17 Church Order?
9. How are the marriages of members solemnized or confirmed according to Art. ⁶⁷70 Church Order?
Are mixed marriages solemnized or confirmed?
How does the Church Council deal with forced marriages, especially in case one or both partners have not made profession of faith? }
How does the Church Council deal with request for marriage of baptized members who have not made profession of faith?

10. Does the Church Council activate the members to maintain and establish Reformed education?
11. Are there members of the congregation who are also members of Trade Unions or such like worldly organizations? *Answer: no, not of the kind*
What does the Church Council do as regards the education of such members?
Does the Church Council act according to Art. 76 C.O. with regard to them, who after admonition, stubbornly refuse to break with such an association?
12. Are there Youth Clubs in the congregation, where the young members study the Word of God?
Are there Bible Study Clubs for the older members?
Does the Church Council stimulate and activate this work?
If so, in what way?
13. Are attestations issued to departing professing members?
Are attestations of Baptized members sent to the Church Council concerned for departing baptized members?
14. What does the Church do for the work of Mission?
What does the Church do for the work of Evangelisation?
Is there a Committee for the Mission?
Is there a Committee for Evangelisation?
Do Church Council and congregation work in such a way that those who are outside join the Church?
How does the Church Council see to it that no one is admitted rashly? (Art. 23, 59, 61 C.O.)
15. Does the Church Council supply the minister(s) with adequate means for his (their) livelihood, according to Art. 11 C.O. and does it take into consideration the changing needs and circumstances of the minister's family?
16. Has the Church Council made an arrangement for its Minister(s) Of the Word in order to be able to adhere to Art. 13 C.O.?
17. (In vacant Churches)
Is the counselor willing to help and is his service called upon in all important cases? (Art. 40 C.O.)
18. Does the Church Council see to it that all quota, established by Synod, are faithfully paid?
19. How is the income of the Church collected?
20. Are the funds of the Church and of the ministry of mercy counted and administered with care and sufficient control.
21. Are all items entered by double entry bookkeeping and are the books of the Church and of the deacons audited and closed yearly?

22. Is there a Committee of Administration?
If so, has the Church Council clearly stated by regulation, what are the duties and responsibilities of this Committee?
23. How is the congregation notified regarding the state of the finances?
24. Are all funds and title-deeds kept in a safe place in order that there is no occasion for mistrust and that no difficulties can arise through retirement or death?
25. Are the archives properly kept and is someone appointed as archivist?
Are the Acts of Synod and the old minute books present?
Are all ecclesiastical papers kept?
Are there proper registers, including a membership register?
Is there a separate register for Baptisms? (Art. 60 C.O.)
26. Are the decisions of the major assemblies faithfully adhered to? (Art. 31 C.O.)
27. Are the boundaries stated and does the Church Council respect them?
28. Are congregational meetings held?
If so, how often?
What is dealt with?

(f) Ministry of Mercy

1. Are the needy of the Church faithfully cared for? In what way?
2. Does the congregation contribute liberally and willingly for the needy?
3. Is there sufficient control that only the real needy are supported?
4. Do the deacons report to the Church Council and the congregation?

(g) Ministers of the Word

1. Does (do) the Minister(s) of the Word fulfil his (their) office faithfully according to the Word of God and does he (do they) adhere to the Three Forms of Unity and the Church Order? (Art. 16 C.O.)
2. Is his (their) preaching according to Scripture and is it edifying?
3. Is it evident from his (their) preaching that he (they) diligently studies (study) the Word of God?

4. Does he (do they) participate in home-visitation and in visiting the sick?
5. Is his (their) conduct in his family (their families) as well as in his (their) public life as befits a faithful servant of the Lord?

(h) The Elders (Art. 16, 23 C.O.)

1. Do the Elders diligently attend the Worship Services and the administration of the sacraments, and also the meetings of the Church Council and other ecclesiastical meetings?
2. Do they faithfully assist the Minister(s) of the Word in all things?
3. Do they regularly visit the congregation and do they try, according to their ability, to prevent and take away all offences?
4. Do the elders also visit the sick?
5. Is their conduct in their families as well as in their public life as befits faithful servants of the Lord?
6. What is done by them in order to prepare themselves further for their office?

(i) The Deacons (Art. 25, 26 C.O.)

1. Do the Deacons diligently attend the Worship Services and the administration of the sacraments, and also the meetings of the Deacons and those of the Church Council?
2. Are the deacons faithful and diligent in the distributing of gifts to the poor?
Do they make reference to the mercy of Christ?
Do they exercise care that the gifts are not misused?
Do they take care that sufficient gifts are collected to assist the needy?
3. Is their conduct in their families as well as in their public life as befits faithful servants of the Lord?
4. Is there contact between the deacons and the Minister of the Word?
Does the Minister of the Word visit the meetings of the deacons? (Art. 40 C.O.)
Is there contact between the deacons and the (ward) elders concerning the diaconal cases?
5. What is done by them in order to prepare themselves further for their office.

A P P E N D I X I I

June 1978.

Mr. Edwin R. Lee,
Convenor Inter-Church Relations Committee,
Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia,
93 Wynten Street,
TAREE, N.S.W. 2430.

Dear Reverend Lee,

Synod Launceston, 1978 of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia acknowledges your letter of 1st June, 1978.

We thank you for your Christian greetings and are indeed pleased to hear of your desire to have relationship with our churches.

Synod has decided to appoint deputies for the initial contact and investigation. It is the wish of Synod that in this way we may come to know each other better.

May the Lord give His blessing over this contact.

With Christian greetings
on behalf of Synod,

J.D. Wielenga - President

L. 't Hart - 2nd Clerk.

YEARBOOK

1978

OF

THE

FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA

ALBANY

Instituted 13th Nov. / 14th December 1952. Membership total 442 of which 172 are confessing members.

Minister: the Rev. J.D. Wielenga has accepted a call from the Canadian Reformed Church of Coaldale, Alberta.

Address Churchcouncil: J. Brouwer, 13 Drew St. Albany, 6330, Western Australia.

Church services in the Churchbuilding, Beaufort St.; every Sunday at 9.30 a.m. and 4.15 p.m.

Mission secretary and address deacons: G.J. Versluis, P.O. Box 522, Albany, 6330. W.A.

Stewards Committee: L. Vermeulen, 207 Albany Highway, Albany. 6330, Western Australia.

Associations and Organizations

Free Reformed Church Education Ass.: "School with the Bible", Beaufort St. Albany; phone 41 3840. Secr. J.B. De Snoo, Flemington St. Albany. Headmaster: W.S. Fokkema.

Emigration Ass.: J. Brouwer, 13 Drew St., Albany.

C.P.S.A.: W.S. Fokkema, Lot 13 Burnby Rd, Lower King, via Albany.

Men's Ass.; Pro Ecclesia: J. Plug, Kampong Rd, Albany.

Women's Ass.; Priscilla: A. Mrs J.B. de Snoo, Flemington St, Albany
B. Mrs G.J. Versluis, P.O. box 522, Albany

Young Men's Ass.; Pray and Work: J.'t Hart, 7 North Rd, Albany.

Young Women's Ass.; Deborah: Miss J. Brouwer, 13 Drew St, Albany.

Adult Ass.: W.L. Dekker, Sinclair St, Albany.

Mezoz: G.J. Versluis, P.O. Box 522, Albany.

Publication Committee: J. Van Duyn, 2 Minerva St, Albany. This committee runs a bookshop, managed by M. Wagenaar, Leschenault St, Albany.

ARMADALE

Instituted 24th June 1951. Membership per 31st May 1978: 992, 410 of which are confessing members.

Ministers: the Reverend K. Bruning, born 2nd July, 1921; Minister of Mildam, Holland, 23rd April 1950; Rijnsburg, Holland, 21st September, 1952; Armadale, 15th May 1960.

Address: 3216 Albany Highway, Armadale, Western Australia; Postal address: P.O. Box 12, Armadale, Western Australia. 6112 Tel. (092) 399 2264.

the Reverend Dr. S. G. Huh, born 15th December 1933, from 14th October 1963 minister of Sumoonlo, Korea; from 1972 to December 1978 Professor in Church History at the Korea Theological Seminary.

Address: Lot 521 Lake Road, Kelmscott, Western Australia, 6111. Tel. (092) 390 8525, Postal Address: P.O. Box 146, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Church Services in the Church Building, Fifth Road, Armadale. 9.00 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 4.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. The 11.00 a.m. service is in the Dutch language.

Postal address of the Church Council: P.O. Box 213, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Secretary of the Church Council: L. Schoof Jnr., 43 William St, Armadale, W.A. Tel. (092) 399 2285.

Mission Secretary: W. Buist, 7 Stepney Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Mission Treasurer: G.J. de Vos, 34 Eighth Ave, Armadale W.A. 6112.

Full time Mission worker: P.'t Hart, 58B Fifth Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112. Tel. (092) 399 4239.

Address Deacons: J. Bijl, Chevin Road, Roleystone, Western Australia, 6111.

Stewards Committee Secretary: P. Kleyn, Lot 43 Moore Street, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Stewards Committee Treasurer: H. Huizenga, 19 John Street, Armadale, W.A. 6112. Tel. 399 2994.

Associations and Organisations

Free Reformed School Association: "John Calvin School", 18 Robin Hood Ave., Armadale W.A. 6112.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 59, Armadale, Western Australia, 6112.

Secretary: K.A. Wieske, 3187 Albany Highway, Armadale, W.A. 6112. Tel. 399 3054.

Principal: T.M.P. van der Ven, Williams Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112. Tel (092) 399 2196.

Association for Assistance to Free Reformed Migrants: A. van Leeuwen, 4 Fifth Road, Armadale, Western Australia, 6112 Tel. (092) 399 3153.

Calvinistic Political and Social Association (CPSA): J.L. van Burgel, 327 Railway Avenue, Armadale, Western Australia, Tel. (092) 399 2738.

"Mesoz" Association: H. Strating, Lot 394 Forrest Road, Armadale. W.A. 6112.

Men's Associations:

West: A.K. Pleiter, 10 Avonlee Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

East: J. Bruning, 30 Lilian Avenue, W.A. 6112.

Centre: R. van der Laan, 5 Wangoola Street, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Combined Secretary: J. Bruning, 30 Lilian Ave., Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Women's Associations:

"Through Faith Alone": Secr. J. Maring, 44 Millen St., Armadale. 6112.

"One in Christ": E. Pleiter, 10 Avonlee Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

" Study the Scriptures ": M. Terpstra, Lot 162 Baskerville Street, Mundijong, W.A. 6202.

Combined Secretary: M. Terpstra, address as above.

Boys' Club " Rejoice in the Lord ": Secr. H. de Jonge, 124 Derry Ave, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Boys' Club "Serve the Lord": Secr. J.Jongeling, 21 William Street, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Girls' Club "Trust and Obey": Secr. S. Boersma, 90 Wungong Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Girls' Club "Ora et Labora ": Secr. T. De Jonge, 124 Derry Ave, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Girls' Club "Not by own Power": Secr. I. Berkelaar, 49 Forrest Road, Armadale W.A. 6112.

Adults Association: Secretary G. K. De Jonge, 124 Derry Ave., Armadale W.A. 6112. From this association emanate the young boys' and girls' clubs and the library. The address of the

library is c/o L. Schoof, 43 William St, Armadale.

G.O.N.G.: Secr. P. t Hart, 58b Fifth Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

Free Reformed Brass Band "Crescendo": Secr. B. Bergsma, 60 Little
John Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112.

LAUNCESTON

Instituted 15th February, 1953. Membership per 1 June 1978: 342 members, of which 156 are confessing members.

Minister: the Rev. A.H. Dekker, Th. Grad. (Geelong), born January 9, 1935; minister of Lincoln, Ont. Canada, June 25, 1972; Launceston, Tasmania, July 13, 1975.

Address: 1 Robin Street, Launceston (Tas.) 7250. Phone (003) 44 2706.

Church Services in the Church building, 51 Howick Street, every Sunday at 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. in the English language, and at 7.00 p.m. a Dutch service every last Sunday in the month.

Clerk of the Church Council: H. L. Ten Haaf, 26 Orana Pl. Riverside; 7250. Phone 27 3949 (003).

Mission Committee: J. De Jong, 39 Shirley Pl., Launceston, 7250, Phone 44 2037.

A. Van Dongen, 32 Strahan Rd, Launceston 7250, Phone 44 7268.

Deacons Address: D. Miller, 15 Tasma Street, Launceston, 7250. Phone 31 6305.

Committee of Administration: J. Kroeze, 22 Panomona Rd., Riverside, 7250. Phone (003) 27 3438.

G. Reitsema, 21 Nobelius Drive, Legana, 7251.

Associations and Organisations

Free Reformed School Association: "John Calvin School", 53 Howick Street, Launceston, Tas. 7250.

Secretary: J. Van der Ros, 13 Richards Avenue, Launceston Tas. 7250.

Principal Primary School: A. H. Terpstra.

" Secondary " F. J. Veldhuis.

Address for correspondence: P.O. Box 89, Launceston, 7250.
John Calvin School, 53 Howick St, Phone 44 3794.

Parents Association: Secretary: H. Ten Haaf, 26 Orana Pl, Riverside, 7250. Phone 27 3949.

Publication Organisation: Secr. R. Jansen, 24 Malcolm St., Longford, Tas. 7301.

Calvinistic Political and Social Association (C.P.S.A.) Secr. A.M. Van Dongen, 73 Risely Street, Launceston. Phone 44 3599.

Committee for Free Reformed Evangelism: Secretary D. Miller, 15 Tasma St., Launceston, phone 31 6305.

Immigration Committee: Correspondence address: J. VanderRos, 13 Richards Ave, Launceston.

Men's Bible Study Club: meetings every second Tuesday at 8.00 p.m., in the Church building.

Study-Society (mixed): meetings every second Monday at 8.00 p.m., in the Church building.

"Sola Fide" (Women's Dutch Bible Study Club): Secretary: Sr. E. Van Asperen, 258 Leonards Rd, St. Leonards, 7250.

"Sola Scriptura" (Women's English Bible Study Club) Secretary: Sr. F. Witten, 22 Walkers Avenue, Newham, 7250.

Youthclub "Rehoboth": Secretary: Gerald VanderRos, 13 Richards Avenue, East Launceston, 7250.

Girl's Youthclub "Ruhamah": Secr. Elaine Groenewold, 17 Frankland Street, Launceston, 7250.

Girl's Youthclub "Seriah": President: Sr. N. Swarts, 7 Derby Street, Launceston, 7250.

Girl's Youthclub "Kimi Marama": Secr. Sr. D. Schipper, 400 Bass Highway, Launceston, 7250.

Boy's Youthclub "Beniah": Secr. Ricky Streefland, 11 Brady Lookout Rd, Rosevears, 7251.

Boy's Club (14-16 years): Leader: P.N. Vander Burgh, 6 Basin Rd, Launceston, 7250.

"Sister Aid": secretary Sr. H. Kroeze, 22 Pomona Rd, Launceston, 7250. Phone 27 3438.

"The Handel Players" Contact address J. VanderRos, 13 Richards Ave, Launceston.

Church Library: Librarian: A.M. (Lex) Van Dongen.

Free Reformed Bookshop: Proprietor: A.M. Van Dongen, 73 Riseley Street, Launceston. Phone 44 3599.

Sunday School held every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30 at the Ravenswood Primary School.