

# Report Deputies for the Book of Praise

Deputies appointed by Synod West Albany 2000: D Pot (convenor), W Amoraal, E Swarts,

Synod Rockingham 2004 appointed deputies with the mandate

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1. To ascertain the desirability and necessity for the publishing of an Australian version of the Book of Praise (also by asking the churches for feedback)
2. To monitor ongoing developments in the Canadian Book of Praise and report to synod on their plans re: the updating of language of the psalms and hymns, the confessions, and liturgical forms, especially considering the CanRC's ongoing contact with the United Reformed Churches.

B Conclusion and recommendations

## 1 Desirability and Necessity

- i. The churches were engaged via the letter attached to this report.
- ii. Responses were received by all churches except Byford.
- iii. Two sister churches (Armadale & Launceston) proposed a wait and see strategy; the vast majority preferred to make preparations to print a Australian BoP, with the majority recommending that a Australian Edition of the BoP be printed. On that basis an Australian Book of Praise is considered to be desirable.
- iv. The preference to maintain unity with Canadian Reformed Churches, "as much as possible" was echoed by several Churches.
- v. Many of the churches who responded listed and engaged in matters that will have to be determined prior to printing. These topics are summarised as
  - Selecting a Bible translation
  - Using "thee & thou" or "you and your"
  - Using Australian forms
  - Highlighting some opportunities to make corrections

## 2 Monitor Developments in the Canadian Book of Praise

- i. The Canadian Joint Song Book committee is continuing to deliberate, and as the needs/preferences of the FRCA are outside of their mandate, there was no formal mechanism to engage the committee and request that the committee forecast likely outcomes.
- ii. Anecdotal feedback emanating from the Joint Song Book committee, suggests that if all things go well it would take the committee 5-6 years to be in a position to print a revised Joint Song Book.
- iii. The current printer of the BoP indicated an ongoing commitment to serve both the Canadian and Australian Churches. Minimum print

run of the BoP is 2000 copies which equates to 2 years consumption for both Federations.

- iv. As the FRSA seeks certainty with regards to the content of the BoP, and as the Canadian Joint Song Book Committee is not mandated to consider the needs of the FRCA, it is considered desirable to prepare to publish an Australian BoP.

### **3 Sundry notations**

As a private person holds copyright to 45 tunes, used in the current BoP the copyright fee would have to be agreed at the time of publishing. The Free Reformed Churches of Australia are price takers in this transaction. As a guide in 2002 the copyright holder advised that C\$75 was a reasonable sum per tune, compared to C\$50 per tune paid in 1978.

### **4 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Deputies are discharged.
2. Synod acknowledges the Churches desire to publish an Australian BoP and decides the following timetable to publish the Australian Book of Praise, namely
  - a. Have deputies report on all material matters, such as use of Bible Translation, You vs Thou, copyright negotiations, consider opportunity to compose/use alternate tunes, revised budgets/quotes, production timelines, for Synod 2009 to determine.
  - b. The following Synod can then instruct deputies to commence the work of publishing the Australian BoP.
3. Synod considers instructing the deputies to commence work on having alternate tunes composed, as this is likely to be a time consuming process.

This report humbly submitted by deputies:

D Pot

W Amoraal

E Swarts