

## **DEPUTIES FOR LITURGICAL MUSIC -**

Esteemed Brothers,

### **1 Deputies and procedure**

As Deputies served during this term: Br F van der Meer (convener) Rev J van der Linden and Matlaela and Rev Mnisi.

Deputies who worked with the Afrikaans Hymns and Scriptures have met three times to discuss and complete the activities.

### **2 Instructions**

*Synod 2014 decided to appoint new deputies with the following mandate:*

*2.1 To test the newly proposed versification of the Afrikaans "Geloofsbelydenis" according to the criteria as adopted by Synod 2011.*

*2.2 To ask the Afrikaans speaking churches to respond to the selected hymns before the end of 2015.*

*Ground:*

*Deputies will in this way be enabled to take the comments into consideration and bring the final selection before the synod for its final approval.*

*2.3 To publish the hymns in folders and make these available to the churches for convenient use after receiving the comments from the churches (and before final approval by the next Synod).*

*2.4 To consider requests from the churches regarding subjects on which we do not have a sufficient number of hymns, and to look for hymns on these subjects if deputies are convinced that there indeed a shortage.*

*2.5 To encourage the Sotho-speaking churches to discuss the principles for a good Hymnal.*

*2.6 To test and standardise the hymns that are being sung in the Sotho-speaking churches.*

*2.7 To contact the deputies of the RCSA (GKSA) regarding the revision of the Totius Psalm versification with the intention to:*

*i. relay our wish to retain the Totius versification;*

*ii. investigate whether the revised Totius versification can be used for our Psalter.*

*h. To submit an interim report for discussion during an Indaba to be held end 2015 or beginning 2016.*

*2.8. To report to the next Synod and formulate recommendations according to Article 11 of the Rules of Synod.*

### **3 Execution of the instruction**

Our report will provide feedback in the order of the instruction.

### **3.1 Alternative Confession**

At this point we refer to the Deputies report of 2014:

*“The church of Pretoria suggested a new versification of the Confession as an alternative to the current versification thereof. Although we try to avoid duplication in our new church hymnal, we do however consider it wise to have an alternative to the Confession. It is a text that we use every Sunday, and variety and alternative choices are of prime importance to ensure that it can continue to be sung consciously and with conviction.”*

### **3.2 Feedback from the churches in connection with 11 Hymns and 29 Skrifberymings**

By the deadline of November 2015, we received feedback from 2 congregations. By April 2017, deputies received feedback from 4 of the churches. The feedback of the churches is attached to the report. The following documents are attached:

Letter FRC Cape Town  
Letter FRC Johannesburg  
Letter and commission report FRC Pretoria  
Letter and commission report FRC Maranata.  
English translation of Hymns from Lifela tsa Sione.  
The New Totius Beryming.

#### **3.2.1 Summary of feedback from the Churches**

##### **FRC Cape Town**

From the feedback of FRC Cape Town, it appears that Cape Town has a positive attitude towards the Hymns & Skrifberymings, as well as its implementation in church services.

##### **FRC Pretoria**

In FRC Pretoria, the Hymns and Skrifberymings were tested and in general, the feedback was positive.

##### **FRC Pretoria-Maranata**

In FRC Maranata the hymns were tested and in general the feedback was positive. It was noted, however, that deputies should not limit the choice of songs to the 1976 Songbook version but should compare with older versions and then choose the best of them. Maranata church council is in principle not against hymns, but predominantly against the introduction of hymns in worship.

In terms of the Skrifberymings, VGK Maranata emphasized that if we want to use new Skrifberymings, the necessity for this must be shown according to the 2011 criteria. Maranata also expressed critique to numerous Skrifberymings.

## **FRC Johannesburg**

From the FRC Johannesburg Deputies received a letter from a member of the congregation, commenting on the introduction of hymns and a partial review of some hymns and Skrifberymings. It appears that the member/s is negative about the expansion of the Psalmbook. The Church council has not responded further, so it is not clear where Church council and congregation stands on this matter.

## **FRC Belhar**

We received no feedback from FRC Belhar.

### **3.2.2 General impression**

We see that there are hesitations in the Gauteng congregations to introduce hymns. There are many members in the 3 congregations against the use of hymns in the worship service.

There is fear that hymns will overflow the churches as has happened in some churches in SA and elsewhere. Another feeling that is heard, is that songs are not comparable to the quality of the Psalms. See, for example, the feedback of the member of the VGK Johannesburg. As a general impression, we must say that the introduction of the hymns does not really live in 3 of the 4 Afrikaans-speaking congregations. The sensitivity around this matter seems to be a hindrance.

### **3.2.3 Deputies assessment**

#### **Criteria.**

Briefly, for the sake of clarity, we summarize the criteria as approved on Synod 2011. (Acta 2011 pp. 141-150)

1. Scriptural.
- 2 Can be easily sung by the congregation.
3. The Psalms remain the basis. Skrifberymings and hymns are supplementary. Additional hymns may not replace or withdraw the attention from the Psalms.
4. Additionally to the Psalms there can be songs because of the "more" of the new covenant. Congregation must live and sing according to the riches of the new covenant.
5. For a well-rounded and balanced Songbook, it is necessary to divide the more of the new covenant into themes, and then test by which themes there are shortages and then search for songs accordingly.
- 6 Themes that already have sufficient hymns does need not be addressed.
7. The rich faith experience in the Psalms must be preserved. The Songbook as a whole must give a balanced picture of Christian life like sin, battle, judgment, mercy, justification, suffering, godliness, reconciliation, etc.
8. The bond with the Church of Christ at all times and places must be reflected in the Church song.

### **The themes that deputies identified in 2011 were:**

Origin of sin  
Punishment of sin  
Triune God  
Providence  
Death, burying and descending into hell  
Ascension  
God the Holy Spirit  
Community of saints  
Resurrection of the flesh  
The justification  
The Sacraments  
Baptism  
Necessity of good works  
Election  
Command to proclaim the gospel  
Marriage  
Confession of faith  
Confirmation of office bearers.

### **Hymns**

In the recommendations, 10 songs are recommended. Remember that those hymns were recommended in view of the themes that deputies identified. (See Acta 2011 page 145).

Deputies originally proposed 11 Songs. From the feedback it turned out that in general all the hymns passed the test except Hymn 124. We believe that Hymn 124 is Scriptural, but does not add much to our current song repertoire.

### **Skrifberymings**

First of all, the Skrifberymings that have been proposed did not come to the table of the Synod following the proposed themes of Deputies 2011, but have been proposed to the churches via Classis North. In light of Synod decision 2014 in connection with the themes - and we quote. "To consider requests from the churches with regard to subjects on which we do not have a sufficient number of hymns, and to look for hymns on these subjects if deputies are convinced that there is indeed a shortage", it is therefore the right thing to do to see if the Skrifberymings are supplementary to what we already have in terms of the themes.

In the recommendations (see page 11), 14 Skrifberymings were recommended for use by the churches. What is important now is whether those Skrifberymings meet the criteria and specifically whether it is supplementary to what we have already. Is it in line with the themes identified by deputies in 2011, and if it is not, it is in line with the recommendation of Synod 2014 relating to the themes.

First, we arrange the Skrifberymings that are in line with the themes identified by Deputies 2011:

Theme: Good works SB 73,75

Theme: God the Holy Spirit SB 53

Theme: Baptism: SB 54

Now we pay attention to the Skrifberymings that are not in line with the themes presented by deputies in 2011.

Theme: The Name Jesus SB 51 It is an enrichment.

Theme: The Church SB52 The comfort aspect makes it an enrichment  
75 Paul's prayer is an enrichment.

Theme The Mediator SB63 It is an enrichment

Theme: Prayer: Our Father SB59 It is already used in the churches.

Theme: The Name/Coming of Christ SB64 This is a powerful prophecy of the coming of Christ.

Theme: The Faith SB65 It is an enrichment and the transfer of Paul's life to the believer is not a problem, because we also sing the psalms even though we did not experience the specific historical events and the accompanying religious experience. See eg. Skrifberyming 26: 1.

Theme: Christmas /Birth of Christ SB68 This hymn is usually sung directly after the Christmas worship service

Theme: Confession of Faith SB71 This scripture is already used by the churches

Theme: Amen SB 77 & 78 The Amen is used by 3 of the 4 Afrikaans-speaking congregations

There are also 15 Skrifberymings not recommended and we also give reasons. We do not recommend the following Skrifberymings because:

A) it does not substantively pass the test: By this we mean that that certain parts were not versified strongly enough: SB 58, 74, 62, 70

B) Not supplementary: SB 61,70,72

C) It is a poorer duplication of Skrifberymings we already have: 55.56, 57.60, 66, 67;

D) Not applicable due to the melody: SB76 & 79;

E) Not high poetic quality: SB69

(See also the arguments mentioned in the commission reports of FRC Pretoria Maranata and FRC Pretoria and stated in the letter of the church council of FRC Maranata.)

### 3.3 Compilation of a hymn bundle for the churches

The execution of this assignment did not materialize.

### 3.4 Themes and feedback

No churches used the opportunity to introduce new themes and/or applicable hymns. Deputies themselves did not work further on this point. However, we must keep in mind that it is important that the churches themselves identify- in particular the ministers of the congregations - themes where there is a lack of hymns for worship and pass it on to deputies.

None of the churches worked according to the themes as determined by Synod 2011. At this point of the report, it is important that we ask a few important questions:

- Was the model chosen in 2011 really understood by the churches?
- Was the model adequately described in the Deputies report of 2011. The theological basis for the shortcomings at each theme was not described in the Deputies report.
- was the model a too high ideal that is unreachable?
- is it because the matter does not live in the churches?
- Do we have the WILLPOWER AND CAPACITY in the churches to execute this project according to the specific model.
- Is it fair to continue this project if what is necessary to execute it is missing?

### 3.5 Hymn Bundle: Sotho-speaking churches

Little progress has been made regarding the Psalms and the systematization and evaluation of the hymns from Lifela tsa Sione used in the Sotho-speaking churches. We are sorry that this work has not been completed.

In order to make this project a reality for everyone, hymns have been attached-which were also translated into English- and used by the churches. There are more hymns that are sung by the churches. Note: the hymns must still be selected according to criteria 2011, so this document is a **WORK IN PROGRESS**.

At the back of the Difela tsa Sione hymnbook there is a thematic layout of the available hymns. The themes were translated into Afrikaans and English. The Hymn numbers mentioned are hymns used in the Sotho-speaking congregations. (Note: The table below is also a **WORK IN PROGRESS**)

#### Lifela Tsa Sione

Molimo, Ntate	God die Vader	God the Father	Lied nommers
Hlolo, popo	Skepper Oorwinning	Creator	3,5,7,11,12,16
Paballo ea Molimo	Bewaring by God		
Lerato le mohau oa Molimo	Liefde & genade van God		

<b>Jesu Kreste</b>	<b>Jesus Christus</b>		
Tsoalo	Geboorte	Birth of Christ	283
Ho shoa	Sterwe	Death of Christ	27,32,356
Tsoho	Opstanding	Resurrection	34
Nyolohelo leholimong	Hemelvaart	Ascension	
Thapello ea Jesu	Gebed van Jesus	Prayer of Jesus	
Borena	Koningskap van Christus	Kingship of Christ	
Ho khutla ha Jesu	Wederkoms van Christus	Return of Christ	45
Kahlolo	Regter, Oordeel	Judgement	420
Lerato la Jesu	Liefde van Jesus	Love of Christ	275,360
Kaloso le poloko ea Jesu	Herder / Verlosser	Saviour	
Thoko tsa Jesu			150
<b>Moea o Halalelang</b>	<b>Heilige Gees</b>	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	
Moea o halalelang	Heilige Gees	Holy Spirit	60
<b>Evangeli</b>			
Pitso ya evangeli	Oproep van die evangelie	Call of the gospel	300,308,314,329
tsamaiso ya evangeli	Voortgang van evangelie		79
Taelo ea ho tsamaisa evangeli	Sendingsbevel	Mission	272
lentsoe la molimo	Woord van God	Word of God	362
Ha ho boloa melao			
<b>Borapeli</b>	<b>Aanbidding</b>		
bolahlehi			86,89,91,99,337
Boipolelo/boinyatso	Belydenis /verklaring	Confession	264,364
Pako, tumelo,tsoarelo	Lof, geloof, vergiffenis	Praise, Faith,	100,110,111,116,117,268
lipelaelo	Twyfel		
Boitekolo			
Tsepo, thabo,khotso	Hoop, Vreugde, Vrede	Hope, Joy, Piece	108
Ntoae a tumelo le hlolo	Geloof en oorwinning	Faith and Victory	273
mamello	Geduld	Patience	
Metsamao ea balumeli			
boineelo	Toewyding	Commitment	374
Tiisetso le phetheho	Volharding / Volmaking	Perseverance	410
Thapelo le teboho	Gebed en vrede	Prayer	132,361,354
Kopano le Jesu	Band met Jesus	Covenant	138,315,379
Ho paka Jesu	Getuies van Jesus	Witness of Jesus	313
Ho falimeha	Wag/ vaak	Guard	
Meleko, mahlomola	Lyding / Beproewing	Trial & Tribulation	
Lerato la boena	Broederliefde	Brotherly love	142
Masoabi a mofokoli oa morkreste	Hartseer / teleurstelling	Sorrow	266,
Masoabi a phutheo	Smart	Sorrow	
<b>Lefu</b>	<b>Dood</b>		
Bokhutsoane ba ho phela	Verganklikheid	Corruption	148
Thoaso ea selemo			153
Matseliso bakeng sa lefu			

Tsepo ea leholimo	Hoop op die hemel	Hope	163,251,307,348,363
<b>Tsebeletso ea molimo</b>	<b>Diens (Erediens) aan God</b>	<b>Worship</b>	
tsatsi la phomolo	Rusdag/Sabbat/Sondag	Sabbath/Sunday	181,183,187,365
ho e-s o rutoe	Onderwysing	Instruction/rebuke	
ho se ho rutiloe	Onderrig moet word	Instruction	195
kolobetso ya bana	Kinderdoop	Infant Baptism	
kolobetso ea batho ba baholo	Doop van volwassenes	Baptism of adults	200
sellalo ea morena	Nagmaal van die Here	Lords supper	
lenyalo	Huwelik	Marriage	
Khakolo ea ntlo ea thapelo	Huis van gebed	House of prayer	
Thapelo ya hosasa	Oggendgebed	Morning prayer	
Thapelo ea ka phirimana	Aand gebed	Evening prayer	222
Tlotliso ea Molimo	Heerlikheid van God	Glory of God	228,269
Ho qhalana le hlohonolofatso	Seengroet (uiteen gaan)	Blessing	
Likabelo	Opdragte		267
peo ya moruti	Saad /predikant	Sow the seed	
pula	Reën	Rain	
kotulo	Maai/oes	Harvest	
mokete oa nchafatso	Wedergeboorte	Regeneration	

The Difela tsa Sione is also available as a mobile phone and tablet application.

We want to emphasize that the testing of the church hymnal for the Sotho-speaking congregations according to the proposed criteria and the possibility of singing Psalms in the churches is a high priority. For the most part of this work, knowledge of the Sotho language is required. It is therefore extremely important that a group of missionaries can do this work together.

We also remind you that the Book of Praise used by our churches in Canada and Australia was approved for use by our churches at Synod 2014.

### 3.6 New Totius Beryming

With regard to this assignment, we would also like to refer to the Deputies report of 2014. We quote from Acta 2014:

“We have contacted the *Calvyn Jubileum Fonds*, and according to them, our current Psalm Book is still widely in use and will also still be printed as needed.

The revised Totius versification was recently approved by the Synod of the Reformed Churches and released to be used by the churches, but as far as they know, none of the congregations make use of it as a volume. It has also not (yet) been published in book form. Apparently, it underwent such an intensive process of revision that much more than a basic language revision was done.

We deputies are of the opinion that we should not make the choice to use the revised Totius versification, because we should not isolate ourselves unnecessarily from other Reformed churches with regard to the songs that we use.”



The 1936 Totius versification is still well understood. Where necessary, the ministers can briefly explain difficult words -in a Psalm- to the congregation during a worship service.

The fully revised text is available to those who are interested. On the website (<http://www.cjbf.co.za/lied/pshersiene.html>) of the RCSA, the following is written icw the revised versification:

The 150 Psalms and the 50 Skrifberymings, as versificated by Totius (JD du Toit), have been revised to make certain archaic terms more understandable. This bundle does not replace the 1936 versification of the Psalms and Skrifberymings, but was left to the freedom of the Churches to use it.

As the cost of such a bundle is very expensive to print on a limited scale, the Synod decided to make it available electronically to the churches. Below you can download the entire bundle as a PDF file. It is also available in smaller bundles, one verse per page, where it can be downloaded as PDF files or in Powerpoint.

### **3.7 Indaba 2015**

Deputy Rev. Jopie van der Linden has given feedback of the work at the Indaba, and called upon the churches to finish the testing of the Hymns so that everything can be done in an orderly way.

## **4 Further comments**

### **4.1 Practical implementation**

As churches we will have to reflect on the practical side of the expansion of the Church hymnal. Are we going to print a separate booklet? Can we add the Hymns and Skrifberymings to the current Liturgy and CO booklet? We can use the new Psalmbook of the RCSA in terms of the Skrifberymings, but how are the hymns practically introduced? It is certainly not ideal if church members must bring with a Bible, a Psalm Book, a liturgical Forms Book, and then also a separate Hymn bundle along when they come to church.

There are two options we want to mention.

4.1.1 To use the GKSA Psalm Book for the approved Skrifberymings and to publish (with permission) the approved Hymns in the Church order book.

4.1.2 To publish the approved Skrifberymings and Hymns in the Liturgical Form and Church Order booklet with permission (from the Dutch Reformed Church and the RCSA) for use by the churches.

### **4.2 Relation with RCSA and the local RCSA congregations**

Synod must also keep in mind our relationship with the RCSA and the local RCSA congregations.

As far as the RCSA church federation is concerned, there are Hymns approved by their Synod for use in the churches. In the RCSA, it is left to the freedom of the local churches to put it into practice. The situation in the RCSA is currently as follows. In addition to the 79 Skrifberymings, a further 11

Skrifberymings were approved and 23 Hymns were left in the freedom of the Churches. The information is available on the following website: <http://www.cjbf.co.za/lied/nuweliedere.htm>

During the talks with the 3 congregations in Pretoria, the reality is that the 3 RCSA congregations do not sing Hymns (Gesange) in the worship services. Keep in mind that the resistance to Gesange was one of the reasons for the existence of the RCSA. It is true that in the discussion it has been said that this matter does not have to stand in the way of unity. Some of the congregations are also strict with regard to the Skrifberymings. In one congregation, very little of the 79 Skrifberymings are actually sung. They only sing the Skrifberymings that are real songs (poetic) in the Bible. At RC die Kandelaar, the 29 Skrifberymings have never been considered by the Church council.

This is a difficult issue, and Synod will also have to reflect on how much weight this carries. If we have to be completely uniform in all things before unity is reached, we will never reach unity.

In this regard it is also important to mention the following: In our sister churches in Canada, the Book of Praise (2014 version) currently used is as follows: In addition to the Psalms there are 53 Hymns and 32 Skrifberymings in total 85 Hymns. The Book of Praise was also approved by our Synod 2011 for use by the churches. At our sister churches in the Netherlands, their songbook/s contains a total of about 1000 songs.

#### **4.3 The RCSA Psalm Book**

There is another matter we want to bring to your attention. In conversation with the Calvyn Jubilee Fund Deputy, it appeared that the printing of the black Psalm book is not a given. See the attached email correspondence between Br van der Meer and Ds GJ Meijer. This issue should also be attended to. See our recommendation 6.

The RCSA has made the Psalm Book as we know it (+ the 29 Skrifberymings) available as a Mobile Phone and Tablet application. On the website <http://www.cjbf.co.za> there are instructions for downloading and installing.

#### **4.4 Composition of Deputies.**

Br F van der Meer and Rev. J van der Linden has been deputies since 2008 (3 terms) and request the Synod to not be nominated for a subsequent term.

#### **4.5 Important considerations**

It is important that every local church council makes an effort to base the expansion of our Hymnbook in the congregations from principle. All material is available in the Synod acts of 2002-2014.

We do not need to be led by what is available or not, and the format in which it is available. We can choose **the best** of what is available and then use it with the necessary permission. (from the Hymnbook of the Dutch Reformed Church, or from the Psalm Book of the RCSA)

Remember that the expansion of the Hymnal has consequences, but also remember that not to expand it also has consequences. In the first case, there is the possibility that the Psalms are

undervalued. In the second case, good song material to build the churches in faith, and the fullness of salvation, and the glory and praise of the Lord will pass by us.

## **5 Recommendations**

Deputies make the following recommendations:

5.1 To evaluate the questions set out in 3.4 properly and in depth and to make a decision that is in the best interest of the churches.

Decide on the following recommendations in the light of the decision taken at 5.1.

5.2 To approve the following 14 Skrifberymings for use by the churches: 51,52,53,54, 59, 63, 64, 65, 68, 71,73,75,77 & 78.

5.3 We do not recommend the following Skrifberymings: 55,56,57,58, 60, 61, 62, 66, 67, 69, 70, 74, 72, 76 & 79.

5.4 To approve the following 10 Hymns for use by the churches: Songs 239, 241, 244, 273, 290, 305, 430, 431, 435, 485.

5.5 To disapprove the following song: Hymn 124

Appoint new deputies with the following assignment:

5.6 To make a choice for the practical implementation from the options mentioned in 4.1 Practical implementation. Our recommendation is to use option 4.1.2

5.7 To sistematize and test the songs used in the Sotho-speaking congregations according to the criteria approved by Synod 2011.

5.8 To assist the Sotho-speaking churches to find Psalms for use in the worship service.

5.9 To contact the CJF deputies of the RCSA and to keep abreast of developments regarding the Psalm book. To make contributions with regards to the Skrifberymings that the high standards that were set by Totius - are also maintained with all new Skrifberymings.

## **In close**

This we present and we pray for the power and blessing of God to make a wise decision.

With brotherly greetings on behalf of deputies.

Rev Jopie van der Linden and br. Freek van der Meer.