ARTIKEL	KERKORDE VAN DIE GEREFORMEERDE KERKE IN SUID-AFRIKA	CHURCH ORDER OF THE REFORMED CHURCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA
	Die Sinode van Reddersburg het die Dordtse kerkorde van 1618/1619 vir die kerkregering van die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika aanvaar. Verskillende sinodes het dit ooreenkomstig artikel 86 gewysig om nou soos volg te lui[1]	*The Synod of Reddersburg accepted the church order of Dordtrecht 1618/1619 for the church government of the Reformed Churches in South Africa. Several synods, in accordance with Article 86 as amended to read as follows:*
1	Om goeie orde in die kerk van Christus te onderhou, is daarin nodig: die dienste, samekomste, toesig oor die leer, sakramente en seremonies en die kerklike tug, waaroor hierna agtereenvolgens gehandel word.	To maintain good order in the Church of Christ, it is necessary that there should be: offices; assemblies; supervision over doctrine, sacraments and ceremonies; and church discipline. These matters are dealt with in the Articles that follow:
	OOR DIE DIENSTE	**THE OFFICES**
2	Daar is vier soorte dienste: die van die bedienaars van die Woord, die van die professore aan die Teologiese Skool, die van die ouderlinge en die van die diakens.	There are four types of offices: ministers of the Word, professors at the Theological School, elders and deacons.
3	Dit sal vir niemand geoorloof wees om die diens van die Woord en Sakramente uit te oefen sonder dat hy wettig daartoe beroep en toegelaat is nie.	No person shall be permitted to proclaim the Word and administer the sacraments unless he has been lawfully called to do so and has been admitted to the office.
4	Die wettige beroeping en toelating van iemand wat nie tevore in die diens van die Woord gestaan het nie en wat deur die klassis waarin hy woonagtig is, voorbereidend (preparatoir) geëksamineer is, bestaan uit: ten eerste, die verkiesing na voorafgaande gebede, deur die kerkraad en die diakens volgens die reëling wat daarvoor plaaslik in gebruik of soos deur die kerkraad vasgestel is en verder in kerke met slegs een bedienaar van die Woord, ook met advies van die klassis of van die konsulent wat hiervoor deur die klassis aangewys is; ten tweede, die ondersoek na die leer en lewe (peremptoir) van die beroepene deur die klassis (waar die beroeping ter goedkeuring voorgelê moet word) wat met advies van die deputate van die streeksinode moet plaasvind; ten derde, die approbasie en goedkeuring deur die lidmate van die betrokke kerk wat daarin bestaan dat daar, nadat die naam vir minstens drie Sondae in die kerk afgekondig is, geen wettige beswaar ingedien is nie; ten laaste, die openlike bevestiging voor die gemeente in teenwoordigheid van die klassikale deputate, volgens die formulier wat daarvoor vasgestel is.	The lawful calling and admission of a person who has not previously served in the office of the Word, and who has been examined preparatively (preparatoir) by the classis in which he resides, shall comprise the following: first, after prayers have been said, the election by the church council and deacons according to the customary local procedure or as determined by the church council; and, in churches with only one minister, with the advice of the classis or the counselor (consulent) appointed by the classis for this purpose; secondly, examination by the classis (to whom the call shall be submitted for approval) into the doctrine and life (peremptoir) of the person to be called, which shall involve the advice of the deputies appointed by the regional (partikuliere) synod; thirdly, approbation and approval by the members of the church in question, which implies that no legitimate objection was lodged after the name of the person to be called had been announced in church for at least three Sundays; finally, the public ordination of the person in the presence of the congregation and of the deputies of the classis according to the form prescribed for this purpose.
5	Waar 'n bedienaar van die Woord van een kerk na 'n ander binne die kerkverband beroep word, geskied dit soos volg: ten eerste, die verkiesing deur die kerkraad en die diakens na voorafgaande gebede, met onderhouding van die reëling wat daarvoor plaaslik in gebruik of deur die kerkraad vasgestel is en van die algemene ordinansies vir die beroepbaarheid van diegene wat buite die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika gedien het en verder in kerke met slegs een bedienaar van die Woord, ook met advies van die klassis of van die konsulent wat hiervoor deur die klassis aangewys is; ten tweede, die goedkeuring deur die lidmate van die betrokke kerk, as daar, nadat die naam vir minstens drie Sondae in die kerk afgekondig is, geen wettige besware ingedien is nie; ten derde, die kontrolering deur die kerkraad saam met die klassikale deputate van die goeie kerklike getuienis ten opsigte van leer, lewe en ampsbediening en van die losmaking. ten laaste, die openlike bevestiging voor die gemeente volgens die Formulier wat daarvoor vasgestel is.	The calling of a minister of the Word from one church to another in the same fellowship of churches shall comprise the following: first, after prayers have been said, the election by the church council and deacons, with observance of the customary local procedure or as determined by the church council, and of the general ordinances applying to persons who have served outside the Gereformeerde Churches in South Africa to determine whether they qualify for a call; in churches with only one minister of the Word, this process shall involve the advice of the classis or of the counselor (consulent) appointed by the classis for this purpose; secondly, approval by the members of the church in question, provided that no legitimate objections were lodged after the name of the minister had been announced in church for at least three Sundays; thirdly, ascertainment by the church council in conjunction with the deputies of the classis that there exists sound ecclesiastical evidence of the minister's doctrine, his life, the performance of his office and his release; finally the public installation in the congregation according to the Form accepted.

[1] Die praktiese implementering van die artikels soos besluit deur verskillende sinodes, is omskrywend saamgevat in die Kerkordeboekie.

6	Geen bedienaar van die Woord mag onder 'n beskermheer of in gestigte of op 'n ander wyse diens van die Woord aanvaar nie, tensy hy daarvoor toestemming verkry het en toegelaat is volgens die voorgaande artikels; en hy is ook net soos die ander aan die Kerkorde onderworpe.	A minister of the Word shall on no account assume the office of the Word under the auspices of a patron or in institutions or in any other way unless he has received permission to do so and has been admitted according to the foregoing Articles; and he, like the other ministers, remains subject to the Church Order.
7	As iemand tot die diens van die Woord in 'n bepaalde kerk beroep word, moet hy op die bepaalde plek gevestig wees, tensy hy gestuur word om elders kerke te vergader	If a person has been called to the office of the Word in a specific church, he shall live in that locality, unless he is sent to gather churches elsewhere.
8	Iemand wat nie gestudeer het nie, sal nie tot die diens van die Woord toegelaat word nie, tensy daar sekerheid is van sy buitengewone gawes, godsaligheid, ootmoedigheid en ingetoënheid, goeie verstand en onderskeidingsvermoë sowel as gawes van welsprekendheid. As so iemand hom aanmeld, moet die klassis, as die streeksinode dit goedvind, hom eksamineer en na gunstige bevinding hom vir 'n tyd lank private preekproewe laat lewer, om dan met hom te handel soos die klassis stigtelik oordeel.	Anyone who has not studied shall not be admitted to the office of the Word, unless that person displays unmistakable evidence of extraordinary gifts, piety, humility and modesty, sound intellect and discretion, and eloquence. If someone presents himself for this office, the classis, with the approval of the regional synod, shall examine him, and if the outcome of such examination is favorable, he has to present a number of private probatory sermons after which the classis shall deal with the matter according to its judgement and in an edificatory manner.
9	Predikers wat uit ander kerke of een of ander sekte aansluit, sal nie tot die kerkdiens toegelaat word nie, behalwe met groot versigtigheid en dit eers nadat hulle vir 'n sekere tyd goed beproef is.	Preachers that join the church from other churches or sects shall not be admitted to the office of the Word, except with great circumspection and only after they have been subjected to a severe trial period.
10	'n Bedienaar van die Woord wat eenmaal wettig beroep is, mag die kerk waaraan hy verbonde is, nie sonder bewilliging van die kerkraad met die diakens en toestemming van die klassis verlaat om op 'n ander plek 'n beroep op te volg nie; en geen ander kerk mag hom ontvang voordat hy van die kerk en klassis wat hy gedien het, wettige getuienis van sy losmaking getoon het nie.	A minister of the Word who has been lawfully called to a church shall not leave that church in order to obey a call to another church without the consent of the church council and the deacons of the church where he holds office and the permission of the classis in question; and no other church shall receive him unless he has shown legal evidence of his release from the church and classis where he had served.
11	Die kerkraad wat die kerk verteenwoordig, is verplig om sy bedienaars van die Woord met behoorlike onderhoud te versorg en mag hulle nie die onderhoud weerhou of hulle uit hulle diens ontslaan sonder kennis en goedkeuring van die klassis met advies van die deputate van die streeksinode nie	The church council, which represents the church, shall provide adequate means of support to their ministers of the Word and shall not deny them support nor dismiss them from office without the knowledge and approval of the classis, with advice from the deputies of the regional synod.
12	Omdat 'n bedienaar van die Woord wat eenmaal wettig beroep is, lewenslank aan die kerkdiens verbonde is, mag hy nie tot 'n ander staat van die lewe oorgaan nie, behalwe om gewigtige redes waaroor die kerkraad en die klassis moet oordeel met advies van die deputate van die streeksinode	Since a minister of the Word, once he has been lawfully called as described above, is bound to the service of the church for life, he shall not enter upon a secular vocation except for such weighty reasons as shall receive the approval of the church council and the classis with advice from the deputies of the regional synod.
13	As 'n bedienaar van die Woord, volgens oordeel van die kerkraad met goedkeuring van die klassis en advies van die deputate van die streeksinode onbekwaam word vir die uitoefening van sy diens weens ouderdom, siekte of andersins, behou hy die eer en die naam van 'n bedienaar van die Woord en moet die kerk wat hy gedien het, hom in sy nooddruf eervol versorg	A minister who, in the opinion of the church council and with the approval of the classis and the advice of the deputies of the regional synod, has become incapable of performing the duties of his office as a result of age, illness or otherwise, shall nevertheless retain the honour and title of a minister of the Word, and the church which he has served shall provide honourably for him in his need.
14	'n Bedienaar van die Woord wat weens siekte of om enige ander rede sy diens 'n tyd lank moet onderbreek, wat nie sonder bewilliging van die kerkraad en advies van die klassis mag gebeur nie, bly steeds onderworpe aan die beroeping van daardie kerk.	A minister who is compelled to interrupt his service for some time because of illness or any other reason shall at all times be and remain subject to the calling of his church. Such interruption shall be subject to the permission of the church council and the advice of the classis.
15	Geen bedienaar van die Woord mag in 'n ander kerk die Woord of sakramente bedien sonder bewilliging van die kerkraad van daardie kerk nie en niemand wat die diens van sy kerk onderbreek of nie in vaste diens staan nie, mag hier en daar gaan preek sonder die toestemming van die klassis of 'n streeksinode nie	No minister of the Word shall proclaim the Word or administer the sacraments in any other church without the consent of the church council of that church, and nobody who has interrupted his ministry or is not an ordained minister in a local church may proclaim the Word wherever he pleases without the consent of the specific classis or regional synod.
16	Die amp van die bedienaars van die Woord is om in die gebede en bediening van die Woord te volhard, die sakramente te bedien, om goed ag te gee op hulle medebroeders, op die ouderlinge, op die diakens sowel as op die gemeente en eindelik om saam met die ouderlinge die kerklike dissipline uit te oefen en te sorg dat alles betaamlik en ordelik plaasvind	The office of a minister of the Word is to persevere in prayers, proclaim the Word and administer the sacraments, attend to and oversee his fellow ministers, the elders, the deacons and church members, and ultimately, in conjunction with the elders, exercise the discipline of the church and ensure that everything in the church takes place in an orderly and proper manner.

17	Waar daar meer as een bedienaar van die Woord aan 'n kerk verbonde is, moet in hulle diensplig te sowel as in die ander opsigte volgens die oordeel van die kerkraad en, indien nodig, van die klassis, soveel moontlik gelykheid bestaan. Dit moet ook in die geval van die ouderlinge en die diakens onderhou word.	When there is more than one minister of the Word in a church, there shall be as much equality as possible with respect to their duties as well as all other aspects, according to the judgement of the church council and, if necessary, with the advice of the classis. The same principle applies to elders and deacons.
18	Die diensplig te van die professore aan die Teologiese Skool is om bedienaars van die Woord op te lei, die Heilige Skrif uit te lê en die suiwere leer teen die ketterye en dwalinge te verdedig.	The duties of professors at the Theological School are to instruct ministers of the Word, interpret and explain the Word of God, and defend the true doctrine against heresies and false doctrines.
19	Die kerke moet soveel nodig sorg dat daar studente in die Teologie is wat deur hulle ondersteun word.	The churches should ensure that there are a sufficient number of students of Theology and that they receive financial support from the churches.
20	By die afsterwe van 'n bedienaar van die Woord moet die kerk wat hy gedien het of in die geval van 'n professor aan die Teologiese Skool, die kerkverband, sy weduwee en wese eervol in hulle nooddruf versorg.	At the demise of a minister of the Word, the church which he has served, or in the case of a professor, the church fellowship, shall care and provide in an honorable way for his widow and children in their need.
21	Die kerkrade moet toesien dat die ouers die skoolonderrig aan hulle kinders in die vrees van die Here laat geskied.	Church councils shall ensure that parents observe their responsibility in seeing to it that their children's school education comprises the training and instruction of the Lord.
22	Die ouderlinge word deur die gemeente onder die leiding van die kerkraad verkies volgens die reëling wat daarvoor plaaslik in gebruik of deur die kerkraad vasgestel is. By hierdie reëling staan dit elke kerkraad vry om vooraf aan die gemeentelede geleentheid te gee om die aandag op geskikte persone te vestig en om saam met die diakens vir die verkiesing die nodige aantal ouderlinge aan die gemeente vir approbasie voor te dra of om tweetalle of 'n dubbele getal te stel waaruit die gemeente die nodige aantal kies. Die verkose broeders word, nadat hulle name verskillende male afgekondig is en geen wettige beswaar ingekom het nie, bevestig volgens die formulier wat daarvoor vasgestel is.	Elders are elected by the congregation under the guidance of the church council according to the customary local procedure or as determined by the church council. Each church council may offer church members the opportunity to direct the attention to able persons before the election. The church council, with the deacons, may present the required number of elders to the church members for approbation, present them as pairs of which one should be elected in each case, or present a list of names from which the congregation may elect the required number. After their names had been announced on several occasions and no legal objection was lodged, the elected brothers are ordained according to the form prescribed for this purpose.
23	Die amp van die ouderlinge is, benewens dit wat hulle gemeenskaplik saam met die bedienaar van die Woord moet doen soos in artikel 16 neergelê, ook om toesig te hou dat bedienaars van die Woord, hulle mede-ouderlinge en die diakens hulle ampte getrou bedien; verder om huisbesoek te doen tot stigting van die gemeente soos die omstandighede van tyd en plek dit toelaat, sowel voor as na nagmaal, om die lidmate veral te vertroos en te onderrig en om ook ander tot die Christelike godsdiens op te wek.	The office of elders includes, besides the duties jointly performed by them and the minister of the Word as provided in Article 16, to exercise the necessary supervision so as to ensure that the ministers of the Word, their fellow elders and the deacons conduct their offices faithfully; to conduct home visitations, as permitted by time and locality, both before and after the Lord's Supper, in order to build up the church; to take particular care to comfort and instruct church members; and to evangelize other people to adopt the Christian faith.
24	Wat gebruiklik is in die geval van die ouderlinge, moet ook onderhou word by die verkiesing, goedkeuring en bevestiging van die diakens.	The procedure applying to elders must also be observed in the election, approval and ordination of deacons.
25	Die amp van die diakens is om sorg te dra dat die gemeente hulle eenheid in Christus in daadwerklike onderlinge liefde beoefen. Hulle opdrag is om almal in die gemeente te besoek en uit die Skrif toe te rus en aan te spoor tot daadwerklike liefde teenoor almal, in besonder teenoor die medegelowiges; verder sien hulle toe dat niemand om watter rede ook al van die geloofsgemeenskap vervreem raak nie. Die liefdesgawes moet sorgvuldig ingesamel, met wysheid bestee en met vertroosting uit die Skrif uitgedeel word. Die diakens doen in die kerkraad verslag van hulle werksaamhede en, indien verlang, ook voor die gemeente soos wat die kerkraad dit geskik ag.	The office of the deacons is to ensure that the congregation actively practice their unity in Christ in mutual love. Their mission is to visit everyone in the community and according to Scripture equip and actuate mutual love for everyone, especially fellow believers; furthermore to assure that no one is estrange from the community of believers. The collections must be gathered carefully, distributed wisely with the comfort of Scripture. The deacons must report their actions in the church counsel and, if necessary, report to the congregation according to the instruction of the church council.
26	Die diakens moet ander liggame of instellings wat aan behoeftiges hulp verleen, versoek om met hulle oorleg te pleeg sodat die gawes des te beter uitgedeel kan word onder die wat die meeste gebrek het.	The deacons must request other bodies and institutions, who also provide help to the poor, to consult with them so that the gifts may be distributed more advantageously among those who have the greater need.
27	Die dienstyd van ouderlinge en diakens word deur die kerkraad gereël soos hy tot die meeste stigting van die kerk ag. By periodieke aftreding na minstens twee jare diens of meer, moet 'n eweredige deel jaarliks aftree.	The period of service of elders and deacons shall be determined by the church council in the best interests of the particular church. In the case of periodical retirement after at least two years, the same proportionate number of office bearers must retire annually.

28	Soos dit die plig van die owerhede as instellings van God is om aan die kerk en sy ampsdraers hulp en beskerming te bied, so is dit die plig van alle predikante, ouderlinge en diakens om die gehoorsaamheid en eerbied wat aan die owerheid verskuldig is, getrou en ywerig by die gemeente in te skerp en hulle moet trag om in die vrees van die Here, die guns van die owerheid jeens die kerke op te wek en te behou in belang van die kerke. Dit is ook die plig van die kerklike vergaderings om korrespondensie met die owerheid te onderhou om die nodige medewerking van die owerheid te verkry en in voorkomende gevalle as kerk van Christus voor die owerheid te getuig.	Precisely as civil authorities, as institutions of God, are obliged to assist and protect the church and its office bearers, it is likewise the duty of all ministers, elders and deacons to impress upon church members, faithfully and diligently, the need to obey and honour the government. They must also endeavour, in the fear of the Lord, to arouse and retain the goodwill of the civil authorities towards the churches in the best interest of the churches. Church assemblies must communicate with the government in order to acquire the necessary cooperation of the government and, as the church of Christ, must bear testimony to the government in cases where the need to do so occurs.
	OOR DIE KERKLIKE VERGADERINGS	**CHURCH ASSEMBLIES**
29	Kerklike vergaderings wat onderhou word, is: kerkraad, klassis, streeksinode en algemene sinode.	There are the following kinds of church assemblies: the church council, classis, regional synod and general synod.
30	Kerklike vergaderings moet alleen kerklike sake en dit op kerklike wyse behandel. Op meerdere vergaderings moet alleen sake behandel word wat nie in mindere vergaderings afgehandel kan word nie of sake wat by die meerdere vergaderings tuishoort.	Church assemblies shall deal only with ecclesiastical matters and shall do so in an ecclesiastical manner. Major assemblies shall deal only with matters that could not be finalized in minor assemblies or that concern all the churches in question collectively.
31	Wat op 'n kerklike vergadering met meerderheid van stemme besluit is, moet as vas en bindend beskou word, tensy bewys word dat dit in stryd is met Gods Woord of die artikels van die Kerkorde. As iemand egter 'n klagte het dat hy deur die uitspraak van die mindere vergadering verongelyk is, kan hy hom op 'n meerdere vergadering beroep.	A decision reached at a church assembly by a majority of votes shall be considered fixed and binding, unless it is subsequently proved that it conflicts with the Word of God or the Articles of the church order. If someone complains that he has been wronged by the decision of a minor assembly, he shall have the right to appeal to a major assembly.
32	Alle vergaderinge moet met aanroeping van die Naam van God geopen en met danksegging gesluit word.	All assemblies shall be opened by calling upon the Name of God and be concluded by giving thanks to Him.
33	Die afgevaardigdes na die meerdere vergaderinge moet hulle geloofsbriewe en opdragte saambring, onderteken deur die wat hulle stuur; en elke afgevaardigde sal 'n keurstem hê, behalwe in sake wat sy eie persoon of kerk in die besonder aangaan.	Delegates to major assemblies shall bring along their credentials and instructions, signed by the people who are sending them, and they shall have a vote in all matters, except such as particularly concern their person or church.
34	In alle vergaderinge moet by die praeses 'n skriba gevoeg word om noukeurig op te skrywe wat noodsaaklik opgeteken moet word.	In all assemblies a secretary shall assist the praeses and keep faithful record of all the important matters.
35	Op meerdere vergaderinge presideer 'n bedienaar van die Woord en die werk van die praeses is om voor te dra en te verduidelik wat behandel moet word, toe te sien dat elkeen op sy beurt spreek, om die wat redetwis en alte heftig spreek die swye op te lê en as hulle geen gehoor gee nie, die gepaste sensuur oor hulle uit te oefen. Sy amp hou op as die vergadering beëindig is.	At major assemblies a minister of the Word shall preside over the meeting. The task of the chairman is to state and explain the matters to be dealt with, to ensure that everyone awaits his turn to speak, to silence anyone who is quarrelsome or speaks too vehemently, and to discipline him suitably if he persists. His office shall cease when the assembly is concluded.
36	Dieselfde seggenskap het die klassis oor die kerkraad wat die streeksinode oor die klassis, die algemene sinode oor die streeksinode.	A classis has the same authority over a church council as a regional synod has over a classis, or as a general synod has over a regional synod.
37	In alle kerke moet 'n kerkraad wees wat bestaan uit die bedienaar(s) van die Woord en die ouderlinge, wat gereeld vergader onder voorsitterskap van die bedienaar van die Woord of die bedienaars om die beurt as daar meer as een is.	In all churches there shall be a church council composed of the minister(s) of the Word and the elders. The church council shall meet regularly under the chairmanship of the minister, or the ministers alternately if there is more than one.
38	Waar 'n kerkraad vir die eerste maal of opnuut ingestel word, moet dit geskied met advies van die klassis. As die aantal ouderlinge klein is, kan die diakens deur plaaslike reëling by die kerkraad gereken word; dit moet egter altyd gedoen word waar die aantal ouderlinge minder as drie is.	When a church council is instituted for the first time, or reinstituted, it must be done with the advice of the classis. If there are only a small number of elders, the deacons may be considered to form part of the church council by way of local arrangement; this shall apply only in cases where there are less than three elders.
39	Plekke waar nog geen kerkraad kan wees nie, moet deur die klassis onder die sorg van 'n naburige kerkraad gestel word.	Places where as yet no church council can be constituted shall be placed under the care of a neighbouring church council.
40	Die diakens moet gereeld saamkom om met die aanroeping van die Naam van God te handel oor die sake wat hulle amp aanbetref en die bedienaar(s) van die Woord moet daaroor goed toesig hou en, indien nodig, daarby teenwoordig wees.	The deacons shall meet regularly and, after calling upon the Name of God, deal with matters pertaining to their office. The minister(s) of the Word shall watch carefully over their activities and, if necessary, attend the meeting.

41	Die klassis is 'n vergadering van naburige kerke wat elkeen 'n bedienaar van die Woord en 'n ouderling of, waar nie 'n bedienaar is nie, twee ouderlinge afvaardig. Die plek en die tyd van die volgende vergadering word deur die vorige vergadering bepaal. Op hierdie vergadering moet die bedienaars van die Woord om die beurt presideer of anders die een wat deur die vergadering gekies word, maar dieselfde bedienaar mag nie op twee agtereenvolgende vergaderinge gekies word nie. Die praeses moet onder andere vra of die kerke kerkraadsvergaderings hou, of die kerklike tug uitgeoefen word, of die armes en die skole versorg word en of daar iets is waarin 'n kerk die oordeel en die hulp van die klassis vir sy regte bestuur nodig het. Op die laaste vergadering voor die streeksinode moet die afgevaardigdes na hierdie sinode gekies word.	The classis is a meeting of neighbouring churches of which each delegates a minister and an elder, or two elders if there is no minister, to represent them. The venue and time of the next classis is determined at each meeting. Such meetings shall be held at least once every three months. The various ministers shall preside over the classis in rotation, or one shall be chosen by the meeting; however, the same minister shall not be chosen twice in succession. The chairman shall inquire whether the churches hold meetings of the church council, exercise church discipline, take good care of the poor and the schools, and whether any of the churches require the advice and assistance of the classis in any matter regarding proper management At the last meeting prior to the regional synod, delegates must be chosen to attend the synod.
42	Waar in 'n kerk meer as een bedienaar van die Woord is, kan ook die wat nie volgens die bogenoemde artikel afgevaardig is nie, in die klassis teenwoordig wees met adviserende stem.	When a church has more than one minister of the Word, the minister who has not been delegated according to Article 41 may also attend the classis and shall have an advisory vote.
43	Aan die einde van die klassikale en ander meerdere vergaderings moet sensuur uitgeoefen word oor die wat iets tugwaardigs in die vergadering gedoen of die vermaning van die mindere samekomste verontagsaam het.	At the conclusion of a classis and other major assembly, anyone who has done something in the meeting that merits discipline or who has ignored an admonition by a minor assembly shall be censured.
44	Die klassis moet minstens twee van die oudste, mees ervare en geskikte bedienaars van die Woord as visitatore benoem om in alle kerke van die klassis gereeld kerkvisitasie te hou, vas te stel of die ampsdraers hulle ampte getrou waarneem, by die suiwerheid van die leer bly, die Kerkorde in alles onderhou, die stigting van die gemeente en onderwys van die jeug behoorlik na hulle vermoë bevorder, sodat hulle diegene wat nalatig in een of ander bevind word, betyds broederlik kan vermaan en met raad en daad alles kan help reël wat bevorderlik is vir die vrede, die opbou en belange van die kerk.	The classis shall authorize at least two of the oldest, most experienced and competent ministers to conduct regular visitations at all the churches in the classis. They must ascertain whether the office bearers perform their duties faithfully, adhere to sound doctrine, comply with the church order at all times, and apply themselves diligently, as far as they are able to do so, to building up the congregation and promoting the education of the youth. If anyone should be found to be negligent in his office, they must admonish him in a brotherly spirit, and they must assist the church, through word and deed, in the management of everything that is conducive to peace and the building up of the church in its best interests.
45	Elke meerdere vergadering benoem 'n korresponderende kerkraad of deputate vir korrespondensie wat alle stukke en dokumente van die vergadering ontvang en bewaar en sy handelinge op die volgende vergadering besorg. Eweneens benoem elke meerdere vergadering 'n roepende kerkraad om die volgende vergadering op te roep en te ontvang op die vasgestelde tyd en plek of anders op die tyd en plek wat die roepende kerkraad in die geval van die streeksinode, volgens advies van sy klassis en in die geval van die algemene sinode, volgens advies van sy streeksinode, bepaal.	Every major assembly shall appoint a church council or deputies for ecclesiastical correspondence who must receive and keep all correspondence and documents of the meeting and present the minutes of that meeting to the next assembly. Every major assembly shall also appoint a church council to call the next assembly and to receive it at the time and place determined for it; or, in the case of a regional synod, at the place and time determined according to the advice of its classis, and, in the case of a general synod, according to the advice of its regional synod.
46	Sake vir behandeling op meerdere vergaderings moet nie opgestel word voordat die besluite van die voorgaande sinodes oor die voorgestelde punte nagegaan is nie, sodat wat eenmaal afgehandel is, nie weer voorgestel word nie tensy dit noodsaaklik geag word om iets te verander.	Matters to be dealt with in major assemblies shall not be prepared for discussion until the decisions of previous synods regarding these matters have been studied, in order that matters which had already been finalized were not tabled yet again unless it be considered necessary to review such matters.
47	Die streeksinode is 'n vergadering van naburige klassisse waarheen elke klassis 'n gelyke aantal bedienaars van die Woord en ouderlinge afvaardig soos deur die streeksinodes bepaal. Die streeksinode vergader jaarliks tensy dit na die oordeel van minstens twee klassisse noodsaaklik geag word om 'n buitengewone vergadering byeen te roep.	The regional synod is an assembly of neighbouring classes, to which each classis delegates an equal number of ministers of the Word and elders, as determined by the regional synod. The regional synod shall meet annually, unless, in the opinion of at least two classes, it has become essential to call an extraordinary regional synod.
48	Onderskeie klassisse, streek- en/of algemene sinodes onder kerke in algemene sinodale verband, kan met naburige klassisse, streek- en/of algemene sinodes onderskeidelik, korrespondensie hou soos elkeen dit vir die algemene welsyn die beste ag.	Each classis, regional synod and national synod in general synodical context may conduct correspondence with neighbouring classes, regional synods and national synods when, according to its judgement, this will promote the general welfare of the church.

49	Elke meerdere vergadering benoem deputate om wat besluit is, uit te voer volgens 'n welomskrewe opdrag. Die streeksinode benoem in elk geval deputate om aan klassisse hulp te bied in voorkomende moeilikhede en om teenwoordig te wees by die proponents-eksamen (peremptoir). Vir die onderskeie belange, moet soveel moontlik afsonderlike groepe deputate benoem word. Hierdie deputate hou van al hulle handelinge notule om aan die meerdere vergadering verslag te doen. Slegs die betrokke meerdere vergadering kan hulle van hierdie opdrag onthef.	Each major assembly shall appoint deputies to implement the resolutions of the meeting according to explicit instructions. A regional synod as a matter of course appoints deputies to assist classes in dealing with problems that may develop and to be present at the examination of candidates for the ministry. For other purposes, as many different groups of deputies as possible must be appointed. These deputies shall keep proper record of all their activities so as report back to the major assembly. Only the major assembly which appointed them can release them from their office.
50	Die algemene sinode is 'n vergadering van al die streeksinodes (of betrokke mindere vergaderings) waarheen elke streeksinode (of betrokke mindere vergadering) 'n gelyke aantal bedienaars van die Woord en ouderlinge, soos die algemene sinode bepaal, afvaardig. Die algemene sinode vergader driejaarliks tensy dit na die oordeel van minstens twee streeksinodes (of betrokke mindere vergaderings) noodsaaklik geag word om 'n buitengewone vergadering byeen te roep.	The national synod is an assembly of all the regional synods (or the minor assemblies concerned) to which each regional synod (or the minor assembly concerned) delegates an equal number of ministers of the Word and elders, as determined by the national synod. The national synod shall meet every three years unless, in the opinion of at least two regional synods (or the minor assemblies concerned), it has become essential to call an extraordinary meeting.
51	Die algemene sinode stel 'n sendingorde vas in sovêr algemene bepalings daarvoor nodig is.	The general synod determine a Code for Missions
52	Kerklike korrespondensie en samewerking of kontak met kerke en kerklike instansies buite die algemene sinodale verband, word in 'n algemene sinode gereël.	Ecclesiastical correspondence and cooperation or contact with churches and ecclesiastical institutions outside the general synodical context shall be directed by the general synod.
	OOR DIE LEER, SAKRAMENTE EN ANDER SEREMONIES	**DOCTRINE, SACRAMENTS AND OTHER CEREMONIES**
53	Die bedienaars van die Woord en ook die professore aan die Teologiese Skool moet die drie Formuliere van Eenheid soos vasgestel op die Sinode van Dordrecht 1618-19 onderskryf en onderteken en die wat weier om dit te doen, moet metterdaad in hulle diens geskors word deur die kerkraad of klassis en in die geval van professore, deur die algemene sinode, totdat hulle hul daaroor volledig verantwoord het. As hulle hardnekkig weier, moet hulle heeltemal van hulle diens afgesit word.	Ministers of the Word and professors at the Theological School shall endorse and sign the three Forms of Unity as established by the Synod of Dordrecht 1618-19. A minister who refuses to do so shall de facto be suspended from his office by the church council or classis, and a professor by the national synod, until such time as he has given full account of himself. If he obstinately persists in refusing, he shall be deposed.
54	Ook die ouderlinge en die diakens en diegene wat deur 'n klassis as proponente toegelaat word, moet die genoemde Formuliere van Eenheid onderskryf en onderteken.	Elders, deacons and those candidates who have been admitted to the ministry shall likewise endorse and sign the aforementioned Forms of Unity.
55	Om die suiwere leer in die gemeente te handhaaf en om die valse leringe en dwalinge te weer, wend die bedienaars van die Woord en die ouderlinge by die uitoefening van hulle onderskeie ampte, by die bediening van die Woord, by die kategetiese onderrig en by die huisbesoek, die middele van lering, weerlegging, waarskuwing en vermaning aan.	To uphold sound doctrine in the church and to ward off false doctrines and deviations, ministers of the Word and elders shall employ the means of instruction, refutation, warning and admonition in the performance of their respective offices, in proclaiming the Word, in catechism instruction, and in home visitations.
56	Die verbond van God moet so spoedig moontlik aan die kinders van die Christene in die erediens met die Heilige Doop beseël word volgens die Formulier wat daarvoor vasgestel is.	As soon as it is feasible, the covenant of God shall be sealed unto the children of Christians through Holy Baptism during a church service according to the Form established for this purpose.
57	Die bedienaars van die Woord moet toesien dat die vader, moeder of voogde die doop vir hulle kinders aanbied.	Ministers of the Word shall ensure that fathers, mothers or guardians present the baptism for their children.
58	Die bedienaar van die Woord moet by die doop van klein kinders sowel as van volwasse persone die onderskeie formuliere gebruik wat daarvoor vasgestel is.	In administering baptism to children and adults, the Minister of the Word shall use the form established for the respective cases.
59	Volwassenes word deur die doop in die kerk van Christus ingelyf en as lidmate van die kerk opgeneem en daarom is hulle verplig om die Nagmaal van die Here te gebruik soos hulle by hulle doop belowe het om te doen.	Through their baptism, adults are incorporated into the church of Christ and are accepted as members of the Church. They shall therefore partake of the Lord's Supper as they had promised at their baptism.
60	Die name van die gedooptes en van hulle ouers of voogde sowel as die datums van geboorte en doop moet opgeteken word.	The names of the persons that have been baptized, together with the names of their parents or guardians, and the dates of birth and baptism shall be recorded.
61	Tot die Heilige Nagmaal word alleen diegene toegelaat wat volgens gebruik van die plaaslike kerk belydenis van die Gereformeerde godsdiens gedoen het en 'n goeie getuienis van 'n vrome wandel besit. Sonder sodanige getuienis moet ook diegene wat uit ander kerke kom, nie toegelaat word nie.	Only those persons shall be admitted to The Lord's Supper who, according to the custom of the local church, have confessed their belief in the Reformed faith and are reputed to lead a life of piety. Without such testimony anyone who is a member of another church shall not be admitted either.

62	Elke kerk moet die nagmaal hou op die wyse wat na sy oordeel tot die meeste stigting dien. Dit moet egter goed verstaan word dat die uitwendige seremonies wat in die Woord van God voorgeskryf is, nie verander mag word nie, dat alle bygeloof vermy moet word en dat na die preek en algemene gebede, die formulier van die Heilige Nagmaal, asook die gebed wat daarby behoort, gelees moet word.	Each church shall celebrate the Lord's Supper in the way it considers most conducive to edification, provided, however, that the external ceremonies as prescribed in the Word of God be not changed and all superstition be avoided and that, at the conclusion of the sermon and the usual prayers, the form for administering the Lord's Supper, together with the prayer included in it, shall be read.
63	Die nagmaal van die Here moet minstens elke drie maande gehou word	The Lord's Supper shall be administered at least every three months.
64	Die bediening van die nagmaal vind alleen in 'n erediens plaas onder toesig van die ouderlinge.	The administering of the Lord's Supper shall take place only during a church service under the supervision of the elders.
65	Lykpredikasies of lykdienste mag nie ingevoer word nie.	Death rites shall not be introduced.
66	In tye van oorlog, pestilensie, algemene volksrampe en ander groot beproewings waarvan die druk oral in die kerke gevoel word, moet die klassis wat daarvoor deur die algemene sinode aangewys is, 'n dag van verootmoediging en gebed uitskrywe.	In times of war, pestilence, national disasters and other great afflictions, the pressure of which is felt throughout the churches, the classis appointed by the general synod for this purpose shall proclaim a day of humiliation and prayer.
67	Die onderhouding van die Christelike feesdae, Kersdag, Paasfees, Pinkster en Hemelvaartsdag word aan die vryheid van die kerk oorgelaat.	The observation of Christian feast days, such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and the Day of Ascension, is left to the discretion of the local church.
68	Die bedienaars van die Woord moet op Sondag, gewoonlik in die tweede diens, die hoofinhoud van die Christelike leer soos vervat in die Heidelbergse Kategismus uitlê en soveel moontlik jaarliks afhandel volgens die Sondagsafdeling daarvan.	On Sundays, usually during the second service, the ministers of the Word shall interpret and explain the essence of Christian doctrine as summarized in the Heidelberg Catechism, and endeavor to complete as much as possible of this confession in the course of every year according to the division of the Catechism into Lord's Days.
69	In die kerke moet die 150 Psalms, die Tien Gebooie, die Onse Vader, die Twaalf Artikels van die Geloof, die Lofsange van Maria, Sagaria en Simeon gesing word. Ander skrifberyminge en Skrifgetroue liedere wat die sinode goedgekeur het, word in die vryheid van die kerke gelaat.	In the churches only the 150 Psalms and the rhymed versions of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostolic Confession, and the Hymns of praise of Mary, Zacharias and Simeon shall be sung. The use of other rhymed versions of Bible verses and Scriptural faithful hymns which have been approved by the Synod, is left over to the jurisdiction of the churches.
70	Kerkrade moet toesien dat die huwelik as heilige verbintenis in die Here aangegaan word volgens die Formulier wat daarvoor vasgestel is.	Church councils shall ensure that the matrimonial state is solemnized as a holy union in the Lord according to the Form prescribed for this purpose.
	OOR DIE KERKLIKE TUG	**CHURCH DISCIPLINE**
71	Die kerklike tug is geestelik, daarom is, afgesien van die burgerlike straf, die kerklike sensuur noodsaaklik om die eer van God te handhaaf, die sondaar met die kerk en sy naaste te versoen en die aanstoot uit die gemeente van Christus weg te neem.	Since Christian discipline is of a spiritual nature, censure by the church is essential, in addition to civil punishment, so as to uphold the honour of God, reconcile the sinner with the church and his neighbour, and erase all offence given to the Church of Christ.
72	As iemand dan ten opsigte van die suiwerheid van die leer of vroomheid van die wandel sondig, moet, in sover dit heimlik is en geen openbare aanstoot gegee het nie, die reël onderhou word soos Christus duidelik in Mattheus 18 voorskrywe.	If someone deviates from the true doctrine or from a pious way of life, the rule clearly prescribed by Christ in Matthew 18 shall be followed, provided that the transgression occurred secretly and did not cause public offence.
73	Die heimlike sondes waaroor die sondaar berou het nadat hy deur een persoon afsonderlik of in teenwoordigheid van twee of drie getuies vermaan is, moet nie voor die kerkraad gebring word nie.	Secret sins, of which the sinner repents after being admonished by one person in private or in the presence of two or three witnesses, shall not be reported to the church council.
74	As iemand, nadat hy deur twee of drie persone in liefde oor 'n heimlike sonde vermaan is, geen gehoor gee nie of 'n openbare sonde bedryf het, moet dit by die kerkraad aanhangig gemaak word.	If anyone who has been admonished in a spirit of love by two or three persons for a secret sin and then refuses to heed it, or if anyone has committed a public sin, the matter shall be reported to the church council.
75	Die versoening oor alle sondes wat uit hulle aard of deur veragting van die kerklike vermaninge openbaar geword het, moet, as daar genoegsame tekens van boetvaardigheid is, in so 'n vorm en op so 'n wyse plaasvind soos elke kerkraad dit vir die stigting van die kerk nodig oordeel. Indien daar verskil is in die kerkraad oor die vraag of die versoening in bepaalde gevalle in die openbaar moet plaasvind, moet daaroor met advies van twee naburige kerkrade beslis word.	The reconciliation of all such sins which were revealed as a result of their public nature or because the transgressor had despised the admonition of the church shall be undertaken (provided there is sufficient evidence of repentance) in the form and manner that the church council in question considers necessary for the edification of the church. If there is a difference of opinion among members of the church council as to whether such reconciliation should take place in public, the matter should be decided after the advice of two neighbouring churches has been sought.

76	Diegene wat hardnekkig die vermaning van die kerkraad verwerp en ook die wat 'n openbare of anders 'n growwe sonde gedoen het, moet van die sakramente van die Here afgehou word.	Anyone who obstinately rejects the admonition of the church council or who has committed a public or otherwise gross sin, shall be suspended from participation in the sacraments of the Lord.
77	Diegene wat na afhouding van die sakramente en na herhaalde vermanings geen teken van boetvaardigheid laat blyk nie, maar hardnekkig in die sonde volhard, moet eindelik met die laaste tugmiddel, die afsnyding van die gemeenskap van die kerk afgesny word volgens die formulier wat daarvoor vasgestel is. Die finale afsnyding moet voorafgegaan word deur drie openbare afkondigings daarvan aan die gemeente, waarin vermeld moet word wat die oortreding van die sondaar is, dat daar veel arbeid aan hom bestee is deur bestraffing, afhouding van die sakramente en menigvuldige vermaninge en dat hy hom nie bekeer het nie. In hierdie afkondiginge moet die gemeente opgewek word om met die sondaar te spreek en vir hom te bid. By die eerste afkondiging moet die naam van die sondaar, om hom enigsins te spaar, nie genoem word nie. By die tweede moet met advies van die klassis ook sy naam genoem word. By die derde moet aan die gemeente bekend gemaak word dat die sondaar, as hy hom nie bekeer nie, van die gemeenskap van die kerk afgesny sal word, sodat sy afsnyding met die stilswyende bewilliging van die gemeente kan plaasvind as hy hardnekkig bly. Die kerkraad bepaal die tyd wat vir elke afsonderlike geval tussen die drie afkondiginge moet verloop.	Anyone who has been suspended from participating in the sacraments and who, after repeated admonitions, shows no signs of repentance but persists in sin, shall eventually be excommunicated as the extreme means of church discipline according to the form prescribed for this purpose. The final excommunication shall be preceded by three public announcements thereof to the congregation. In each announcement the sin committed by the transgressor shall be mentioned and it must be pointed out that the church council has devoted a lot of time to the transgressor in the form of censure, suspension from participation in the sacraments and repeated admonishments but that he had nevertheless not repented and reformed his ways. In these announcements the congregation must be exhorted to speak to and pray for the transgressor. At the first announcement the name of the transgressor shall not be mentioned so as to spare him to some extent. At the second announcement, on the advice of the classis, his name shall be mentioned. At the third announcement the congregation shall be informed that, unless the transgressor repents, he shall be excommunicated from the church; this implies that, should he remain obstinate, his excommunication may take place with the tacit approval of the church members. The church council determines the interval between the three announcements.
78	As iemand wat afgesny is hom weer deur boetvaardigheid met die gemeente wil versoen, moet dit - voor die viering van die Heilige Nagmaal, of anders wanneer dit geleë is - tevore aan die gemeente bekend gemaak word, sodat hy by die eersvolgende nagmaal, as niemand daarteen beswaar inbring nie, openlik met betuiging van sy bekering weer opgeneem kan word volgens die formulier wat daarvoor vasgestel is.	When someone who has been excommunicated shows repentance and wishes to become reconciled to the Church, it shall be announced to the congregation, either before the celebration of the Lord's Supper or at some other appropriate time, so that the penitent, provided that nobody lodges any objection, may be publicly reinstated after the declaration of his repentance, according to the form prescribed for that purpose.
79	As ampsdraers 'n openbare growwe sonde bedryf wat in die kerk skandelik of ook by die owerheid strafbaar is, moet hulle deur die kerkraad dadelik voorlopig in hul amp geskors word; ouderlinge en diakens moet dan deur die kerkraad en 'n naburige kerkraad of deputate van twee naburige kerkrade in hulle amp geskors of daarvan afgesit word. Bedienaars van die Woord moet deur die kerkraad en deur die naburige kerkraad of deputate van twee naburige kerkrade egter net geskors word, waarna die klassis met advies van die deputate van die streeksinode oordeel of hulle heeltemal uit hulle amp afgesit moet word.	When an office bearer has committed a gross sin, which is a disgrace to the church or deserves punishment by the authorities, he shall immediately be temporarily suspended by the church council. Elders and deacons shall then be suspended or expelled from their office by their church council in conjunction with a neighbouring church council or deputies from two neighbouring church councils. However, ministers shall only be temporarily suspended by the church council in conjunction with the neighbouring church council or deputies from two neighbouring church councils. The classis, with the advice of the deputies of the regional synod, shall then decide whether they should be dismissed from their office.
80	Onder die growwe sondes wat skorsing in of afsetting uit die diens verdien, is die volgende die vernaamste: valse leer of kettery, openbare skeurmakery, openbare godslastering, simonie, trouelose verlating van die diens of indringing in die diens van 'n ander, meineed, egbreuk, hoerery, diefstal, geweldpleging, gewoontedronkenskap, vegtery, onregverdige winsbejag - kortom al die sondes en misdade wat die bedrywer by die wêreld en die kerk eerloos maak.	The primary gross sins, which merit suspension or deposition from office, include false doctrine or heresay, public schism, public blasphemy, simony, faithless desertion of office or intrusion upon that of another, perjury, adultery, fornication, theft, violence, inebriety, brawling, and profiteering; in other words, all the sins and transgressions which render the perpetrators infamous in the eyes of the world and the church.
81	Die bedienaars van die Woord, die ouderlinge en die diakens moet onder mekaar die Christelike sensuur uitoefen en mekaar oor die bediening van hulle amp vriendelik vermaan.	Ministers of the Word, elders and deacons shall exercise Christian censure among themselves and admonish one another in a friendly spirit with regard to the fulfillment of their offices.
82	Aan diegene wat uit die gemeente vertrek, moet die kerkraad 'n attestasie (getuienis) van hulle belydenis en wandel saamgee wat deur twee van sy lede onderteken is.	The church council shall provide those who move out of the boundaries of that church with a document of attestation concerning their confession and conduct which shall be signed by two of its members.

83	Aan armes wat om gegronde redes uit die gemeentes vertrek, gee die diakens soveel middele as wat hulle nodig oordeel en hulle pleeg oorleg oor die verdere versorging met die diakens van die gemeente waarheen die armes vertrek het.	The deacons shall provide poverty-stricken church members, who are moving out of the boundaries of that church because of sound reasons, with sufficient means of support according to their judgement. They must also consult with the deacons of the church to which these church members are moving about further care for them.
84	Geen kerk mag oor ander kerke, geen bedienaar van die Woord oor ander bedienaars van die Woord, geen ouderling oor ander ouderlinge en geen diaken oor ander diakens enige heerskappy voer nie.	No church, minister of the Word, elder or deacon shall in any way dominate other churches, ministers, elders or deacons respectively.
85	In middelmatige dinge moet die buitelandse kerke by wie ander gebruike as by ons in swang is, nie veroordeel word nie.	In nonessential matters, churches whose customs differ from ours shall not be denounced.
86	Hierdie artikels wat betrekking het op die wettige orde van die kerk, is so opgestel en aangeneem met algemene stemme dat hulle, as die belang van die kerk dit anders vereis, verander, vermeerder of verminder kan word en behoort te word. Geen besondere kerk, klassis of sinode het egter die reg om dit te doen nie, maar hulle moet hul daarop toelê om dit te onderhou, totdat die algemene sinode anders verorden.	These Articles, relating to the legal order of the Church and having been drafted and adopted by common consent, may, and ought to be, modified, augmented or reduced, if the interests of the church require it. However, no particular church, classis or synod, may do so but shall endeavor to uphold these Articles until it be otherwise ordained by the general synod.

OPENLIKE VERKLARING	**OPEN DECLARATION**
Die sinodale vergadering van die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika verklaar openlik en elke lid vir homself soos volg: Ons glo van harte in God Drie-enig, Vader, Seun en Heilige Gees wat Hom in sy Woord openbaar. Ons glo dat Jesus Christus die enigste Hoof van die kerk is en dat Hy sy kerk deur sy Woord en Gees regeer. Ons aanvaar met ons hele hart en 'n goeie gewete die Drie Formuliere van Eenheid wat deur die Dordtse Sinode van 1618/19 as Belydenis aanvaar is, naamlik die Heidelbergse Kategismus, Nederlandse Geloofsbelydenis en die Dordtse Leerreëls as ons belydenis. Ons beloof om hierdie waarheid deur die genadige leiding en verligting van die Heilige Gees volgens God se Woord te handhaaf. Ons aanvaar vir die eredienste die liturgiese beginsels en riglyne soos vasgestel deur die Sinode van Dordrecht, en soos gewysig deur die Sinodes van die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika. In kerkregering handhaaf ons die Dordtse kerkorde, soos aanvaar in 1618/19, en gewysig deur die Nasionale Sinodes van die Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika. Ons verklaar as vergadering dat ons na ware onderlinge eenheid streef, en dat ons as liggaam van Christus in die wêreld vir die ware geloof getuig. Almal wat deur die genadige werking van die Heilige Gees dieselfde dierbare geloof verkry het, en dit saam met ons wil bely en handhaaf, roep ons hartlik op tot kerklike gemeenskap. Ons wens is om met alle kerkgemeenskappe wat dieselfde as ons glo en bely, die innigste geloofsgemeenskap en kerklike korrespondensie te onderhou. Mag die Here in sy genade gee dat baie sy Woord deur die werking van die Heilige Gees sal aanneem. Mag al die uitverkorenes geroep en as ware gelowiges in een kerklike gemeenskap verenig word. Dit is ons wens en bede. (Acta 1863:8, Acta 2009:498).	The synod / classes meeting of the Reformed Churches declare openly and each member for himself as follow: We do hereby, sincerely and in good conscience before the Lord, declare that we heartily believe and are persuaded that the doctrinal standard decided on the Synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands at Dordrecht in the year 1618-19, published and taught in the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dordt, does fully agree with the Word of God and that we will abide to it by the grace of the Holy Spirit, each one according to his office. We also accept the liturgy as decided on by the mentioned synod for our corporate worship. We will keep to the Church Order of the afore mentioned synod of Dordrecht as altered by the Synods of the Reformed Churches of South Africa in the ruling of our church. We heartily invite to our church community all who received the same precious belief through the grace of the Holy Spirit and want to confess and adhere to it. It is our wish to keep close brotherly community and correspondence with all local churches and those abroad who confess and adhere to the same standards. May the Lord graciously sanctify his precious Word to many hearts. It is the desire and prayer of this meeting that through it and through the work of the Holy Spirit all the elect gather and all true believers will be united in one churchly community.