TAAKSPAN:

BYDRAES VIR DIE BEDIENINGSFONDS UIT SURPLUSFONDSE VAN DIE NOORDELIKE SINODE

Verslag deur die taakspan

1. AGTERGROND

’n Vorige samestelling van die Moderatuur van die Noordelike Sinode het in 2022 ’n taakspan onder leiding van James Kirkpatrick in die lewe geroep. Hierdie taakspan moes ondersoek instel na predikante wat nie die volle besoldiging waarop hulle geregtig is, ontvang nie.

Die taakspan het egter tot die insig gekom dat hierdie aanvanklike uitgangspunt nie die beste vertrekpunt is nie. Die vraag behoort eerder te wees: “Is daar voldoende bediening in al die gemeentes?” Die kerkverband se besorgdheid moet gerig wees op die bediening van en deur lidmate in gemeentes. Die Noordelike Sinode kan dit nie bekostig dat bediening in minder vermoënde gemeenskappe afgeskeep word nie. Wanneer bediening ondersteun word, kry die posisie van die leraar en sy/haar vergoeding noodwendig ook aandag.

Om dit moontlik te maak, het die taakspan besluit dat gemeentes aangemoedig moet word om die Bedieningsfonds uit hulle surplusfondse te ondersteun. Op die 2022-sitting is die volgende na aanleiding van hulle verslag besluit:

VOORSTEL:

In die lig van toenemende bedieningsnood van gemeentes kom ons met mekaar ooreen dat gemeentes wat ‘n surplus het volgens hulle geouditeerde state, tussen drie en ses persent daarvan aan die bedieningsfonds gee.

AMENDAMENT:

In die lig van toenemende bedieningsnood van gemeentes kom ons met mekaar ooreen dat gemeentes wat ‘n surplus het volgens hulle geouditeerde state 'n persentasie daarvan aan die bedieningsfonds gee.

GOEDGEKEUR

Die persentasie wat elke gemeente gee word vir verdere besinning na die SDR verwys.

GOEDGEKEUR

2. WERKSAAMHEDE VAN DIE TAAKSPAN

Hierdie taakspan is onder leiding van Wynand van Niekerk in die lewe geroep om te bepaal wat hierdie persentasie behoort te wees. Die vorige taakspan se riglyn van tussen 3% en % is as riglyn gebruik.

Die taakspan het die saak bestudeer en insette van die ringe se verteenwoordigers vir fondse ontvang. Die taakspan het ook vir ’n breër mandaat aansoek gedoen, en die volgende besluit is tydens die SDR-vergadering op 24 Julie 2024 geneem:

- *Die SDR gee opdrag aan taakspan bydraes uit surplus fondse dat daar ‘n duidelik behoeftebepaling met doelwitte vir bedieningsfonds opgestel moet word.*
    - *Hierdie behoeftebepaling moet die werksaamhede van taakspan toekoms en taakspan bedieningsmodel in ag neem.*
    - *Op grond van hierdie behoeftebepaling, ‘n begroting of billike totale jaarlikse bedrag vir die bedieningsfonds opgestel word.*
- *Taakspan bydraes uit surplusfondse se mandaat word uitgebrei om verskeidenheid modelle te ondersoek waarmee die bedieningsfonds befonds kan word om uitvoering aan die bo genoemde besluit te gee.*

3. BEDIENINGSFONDS

Die taakspan beklemtoon dat die Bedieningsfonds daar is om bediening in die totale sinodale gebied moontlik te maak. Dit vergroot die voetspoor van die NG Kerk binne ons sinodale gebied.

Hierdie fonds staan los van die gewone begroting van die sinode. Enige ekstra bydraes wat gemeentes tot hierdie fonds maak, word vir bediening in gemeentes aangewend. ’n Spesiale taakspan word aangestel om toe te sien dat die aanwending van hierdie fonds regverdig en konsekwent geskied.

Die taakspan beklemtoon die belangrikheid van die fonds en wil gemeentes aanmoedig om daartoe by te dra.

4. VORDERING

Die taakspan is van mening dat dit uiters moeilik is om meetbare doelwitte vir die edieningsfonds te formuleer wat rekening hou met die realiteite en vermoëns van gemeentes. Ander modelle is ook oorweeg, maar die taakspan oordeel dat gemeentes tans waarskynlik nie gunstig sal reageer op ’n verhoogde verpligting ten opsigte van bydraes nie, ongeag of hierdie verhoogde bydraes uit die gewone Bydraes vir Gesamentlike Werk (BGW) of uit surplusse betaal word.

Die taakspan is van mening dat die praktyk van vrywillige bydraes aan die Bedieningsfonds moet groei en dat gemeentes hierin eerder aangemoedig moet

word. Dit was die bedoening vaGemeentes kan self bepaal of, en watter persentasie van hulle oorskotte, hulle aan die Bedieningsfonds wil skenk. Die sinode word aangemoedig om hierdie fonds doelgerig te bemark en gemeentes tot bydraes te motiveer.

Die gebruik het ook ontstaan dat gemeentes tydens die rekonsiliasie van hulle finansiële state bepaal of hulle te veel of te min vir BGW betaal het. Indien hulle te veel betaal het en geregtig is op ’n terugbetaling van die Noordelike Sinode, het sommige gemeentes op versoek besluit om die terugbetaling aan die Bedieningsfonds toe te wys. Hierdie praktyk kan uitgebrei word.

5. VOORSTEL

5.1. In die lig van toenemende bedieningsnood van gemeentes versoek die Noordelike sinode gemeentes om ‘n vrywillige persentasie van die gemeente se surplus volgens geouditeerde state aan die bedieningsfonds te skenk.

5.2. Die Sinodehuis kan gemeentes skriftelike versoek om

5.2.1. ‘n persentasie van hulle oorskot aan die bedieningsfonds te skenk;

5.2.2. gemeentes wat bo die bydrae-formule BGW vir die finansiële jaar betaal het aan die Bedieningsfonds te skenk.

Wynand van Niekerk

4 Maart 2026

Report by the Task Team: Contributions to the Ministry Fund from Surplus Funds of the Northern Synod

1. BACKGROUND

In 2022, a previous Moderature of the Northern Synod appointed a task team under the leadership of James Kirkpatrick. This task team was mandated to investigate the situation of ministers who were not receiving the full remuneration to which they are entitled.

The task team, however, came to the insight that this initial point of departure was not the most appropriate. The more fundamental question should rather be: “Is there sufficient ministry in all congregations?” The concern of the church should be directed towards the ministry of and through members in congregations. The Northern Synod cannot afford for ministry in less affluent communities to be neglected. When ministry is supported, the position of the minister and his/her remuneration inevitably also receive attention.

To make this possible, the task team decided that congregations should be encouraged to support the Ministry Fund from their surplus funds. At the 2022 meeting, the following was resolved in response to their report:

PROPOSAL:
In the light of increasing ministry needs in congregations, we agree that congregations which show a surplus in their audited financial statements should contribute between three and six percent thereof to the Ministry Fund.

AMENDMENT:
In the light of increasing ministry needs in congregations, we agree that congregations which show a surplus in their audited financial statements should contribute a percentage thereof to the Ministry Fund.

APPROVED
The percentage to be contributed by each congregation is referred to the SDR for further consideration.

APPROVED

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK TEAM

This task team was established under the leadership of Wynand van Niekerk to determine what this percentage should be. The guideline from the previous task team report of between 3% and 6% was kept as a starting point.

The task team studied the matter and received input from the presbytery’s representatives for finances. The task team also applied for a broader mandate, and the following resolution was taken at the SDR meeting on 24 July 2024:

- The SDR mandates the Task Team on Contributions from Surplus Funds to compile a clear needs assessment with objectives for the Ministry Fund.
    - This needs assessment must consider the future activities of the task team and the task team's ministry model.
    - Based on this needs assessment, a budget or a fair total annual amount for the Ministry Fund must be determined.
- The mandate of the Task Team on Contributions from Surplus Funds is expanded to investigate a variety of models through which the Ministry Fund can be financed to give effect to the above-mentioned resolution.

3. MINISTRY FUND

The task team emphasises that the Ministry Fund exists to enable ministry throughout the entire synodical area. It increases the footprint of the Dutch Reformed Church within our synodical region.

This fund is separate from the ordinary synodical budget. Any additional contributions that congregations make to this fund are utilised for ministry in congregations. A special task team will be appointed to ensure that the allocation of these funds is fair and consistent.

The task team underscores the importance of the fund and wishes to encourage congregations to contribute to it.

4. PROGRESS

The task team is of the opinion that it is extremely difficult to formulate measurable objectives for the Ministry Fund that adequately consider the realities and capacities of congregations. Other models were also considered, but the task team is of the view that congregations are currently unlikely to respond positively to an increased obligation regarding contributions, whether such increased contributions are paid from the ordinary Contributions for Joint Ministry (BGW) or from surplus funds.

The task team is of the opinion that the practice of voluntary contributions to the Ministry Fund should rather be strengthened and that congregations should be encouraged in this regard. Congregations can themselves determine whether, and what percentage of their surpluses, they wish to donate to the Ministry Fund. The Synod is encouraged to market this fund purposefully and to motivate congregations to contribute.

It has also become practice that congregations, during the reconciliation of their financial statements, determine whether they have paid too much or too little towards BGW. If they have paid too much and are entitled to a refund from the Northern Synod. Some congregations have, at the request of the Synod, decided to allocate such refunds to the Ministry Fund. This practice can be expanded.

5. PROPOSAL

5.1. In the light of increasing ministry needs in congregations, the Northern Synod requests congregations to donate a voluntary percentage of the congregation's surplus, as reflected in their audited financial statements, to the Ministry Fund.

5.2. The Synod Office may request congregations in writing to:

5.2.1. donate a percentage of their surplus to the Ministry Fund;

5.2.2. allocate amounts paid in excess of the BGW contribution formula for the financial year to the Ministry Fund.