Northern Synod

TASK TEAM MINISTRY SUPPORT

Report

1. Composition and policy

1.1. Task team members

The four members appointed by the synod made up the core of the task team. They are Paul Grobler (task team leader), Rehan Rheeder (liaison officer), Bernice Koekemoer and Jacques Myburgh.

Each individual task team is composed of representatives of the congregation (as appointed by the congregation), presbytery (as appointed by the presbytery), the presbytery representative, (PR), and permanent members appointed by the SSC. (The PR is preferably not the only representative of the presbytery appointed as a member of the task team.)

The task team's assignment was repeated every year. There were thus essentially three task teams: Task Team Ministry support 1 (2023/24), Task Team Ministry Support 2 (2024/25) and Task Team Ministry Support 3 (2025/26).

1.2. Process

1.2.1. By means of ministry support the Northern Synod desires to level out the playing field between congregations in different socio-economic regions.

1.2.2. If a congregation judges that ministry support is necessary, the presbytery is approached with a substantiated application. Relevant documents accompanying the application are the congregation's latest audited statements, a trial balance, the congregation's budget with comparative numbers for the year-to-date-actual, as well as any other financial information that can corroborate the application.

1.2.3. If the presbytery judges that support is merited but cannot fully meet it with funds and resources, the presbytery forwards the application to the financial officer at Synod House.

1.2.4. All such applications are then handled by a task team consisting of representatives of the congregation and the presbytery, as well as members appointed by the SSC.

1.2.5. If the task team cannot reach consensus about the application, the executive committee or SSC (the executive committee of the synod) acts as facilitator and, if there is still no solution, it is referred to the SSC for arbitration.

1.2.6. If any of the synodal bodies identify a congregation with a need for ministry support, the director constitutes a task team.

1.3. Presbyterial Representative for Finances

1.3.1. For the purpose of a connection regarding finances between the SSC and congregations, each presbytery appoints a Presbyterial Representative for Finances (PRF).

1.3.2. The PRF must preferably not be appointed for fewer than four years, from synod session to synod session.

1.3.3. For the sake of healthy communication pertaining to finances, the PRF is involved in all matters relating to it.

1.3.4. In any instance where the Task Team for Ministry support is constituted to handle an application involving a congregation of the presbytery, or for any reason relating to finances, the PRF is *ex officio* member of the task team.

1.3.5. In any matter pertaining to finances, the PRF is the first point of notification for either the presbytery/congregation or the office of the director.

2. The Role of the Presbyterial Commission

When a request for ministry support is referred to the PC (Presbyterial Commission), either for the writing off of funds owed the synod or for other financial support, the PC judges the merits of the case. The PC cannot decide about synodal funds. Should the PC judge that the matter has merit, it must be referred via the Presbyterial Representative to the Task Team for Ministry Support.

3. Ministry Support granted: 2023 to 2026

In discussions with 24 congregations, two camp sites, and the CSC (Christian Social Council), an amount **of R3 669 570** (R2 556 448 in the previous term) was paid out in grants for this period.

4. Contributions by congregations to the fund (additional Contributions for Joint Work [CJW])

Congregations voluntarily contributed R 521 879 to the Ministry Fund from 1 March 2023 to 28 February 2026.