Northern Synod

TASK TEAM HERMENEUTICS 1&2&3

Report

1. Assignment

To give ministers the opportunity to discuss the matter of a responsible reading of the Bible under the leadership of a facilitator.

2. Task Team

Task Team Leader: James Kirkpatrick

Task Team members: Paul Grobler, Riaan Odendaal, Theo Oosthuyzen, Rehan Rheeder, Fritz Snyman, Natalie-Ann van Blerk, Peet Venter.

The Task Team's assignment was repeated every year. Essentially there were then three task teams: Task Team Hermeneutics 1 (2023/24), Task Team Hermeneutics 2 (2024/25) and Task Team Hermeneutics 3 (2025/26).

3. Execution of the assignment

James developed material and presented it to two test groups, namely, the executive committee, and then to the executive committee and the task team together. Then the material was used during five *Wegbreke* [Getaway Camps] to conduct group discussions on hermeneutics. Each Getaway was attended by 15-20 people. Based on feedback, and for the sake of staying fresh and relevant, James adapted his presentation every time for the next group.

After the Getaway James made all the PowerPoint© slides he had used available to the attendees of the Getaway with a view to further use. Three ministers of which we know have already presented the slides in their congregations and one enriched the colleagues of his ring with them.

The Getaways were held at Tsekama, a beautiful venue outside Modimolle. Getaway way attendees slept in single rooms with en suite bathrooms. Fritz Snyman put specific effort into relationship building. The food was great and there was enough time to relax.

A total of about 100 out of about 150 ministers of the Northern Synod attended.

4. Further planning

In the past fifteen years the Northern Synod has applied the concept of smaller Getaways, and with much fruit. It entails that about fifteen people stay for two nights at a secluded venue in an island setting. This concept can unreservedly be utilised again in future.