Northern Synod

TASK TEAM SMALL CONGREGATIONS

Report

1. Assignment

To create a network where congregations with fewer than 100 members, as well as congregations who no longer can afford a minister, can converse with one another regularly.

2. Task team

Task team Leader: Hannes Peens

Task team Member: Carl Louwrens

3. Execution of the assignment

Even before the task team could be properly convened or constituted, we became aware that the Eastern Synod, headed by Francois Retief, their previous Executive Officer, had begun an intensive process regarding Small Congregations. We decided to become part of this process, so both Hannes and Carl were part of Francois' team. The result of this investigation is found in the appendix to this document.

Further, the Presbytery of Pietpotgietersrus, on Hannes' initiative, invited Frederick Marais of the Western Cape to their session of the presbytery to facilitate a short workshop on Small Congregations.

4. Further action

The report of the Eastern Synod is available to congregations and presbyteries for further reflection and implementation.