

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE FAMILY OF DUTCH REFORMED CHURCHES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

1-3 JULY 2015 at JUSTO MWALE UNIVERSITY IN LUSAKA

DAY ONE 1 JULY 2015

1. Opening worship

Dr Kobus Gerber starts the meeting by welcoming all. It is an important, historic event for all the General Secretaries of the DRC in Southern Africa to meet. Dr Kobus Odendaal, Dr Kobus Gerber, Prof Jurgens Hendriks and Dr Gideon van der Watt initiated the idea. Dr Gerber conveys his thanks to Justo Mwale University for hosting the meeting. Dr Gerber reads from Philippians 1:3 - Paul is praying and he thanks God. **Verse 7: all of you share in God's grace together with me.** It is only because of His grace that we can do many things. This meeting is that we will all be able to share in the grace of God and that when we leave that we will know how God's grace is being shared in our different churches.

Dr Gerber concludes the opening with a prayer.

2. Representatives and churches present

2.1 List of representatives and churches

First round: The following delegates were introduced

Charles Juro (RCZ, Zimbabwe)
Kobus Gerber (DRC, South Africa)
Kobus Odendaal (CFW DRC Family, Cape Region)
William Zulu (RCZ, Zambia)
Kovilan Moodley (RCA, South Africa)
Dawid Kuyler (URCSA, South Africa)
Vasco Kachipapa (CCAP, Nkhoma, Malawi)
Timoteo Fabiao (IRM, Mozambique)
Gabriel Maratachibota (IRM, Mozambique)
Carlos Erbarte (IRM, Mozambique)
Libias Boloma (CCAP Harare, Zimbabwe)
Andries Hoffman (DRCA, South Africa)
Kgosi D Tlhowe (DRC, Botswana)

Jurgens Hendriks (NetACT)

Second round: Sharing about churches and expectations

DRC Botswana: Rev Kgosi Tlhowe

Why did this not happen long ago?

We are a small church and not well resourced.

We have only one qualified minister. This means that the doctrine is at risk. Our Ministers do not get proper training. We have many challenges.

Recently the two presbyteries were divided in four.

A Special synod planned is for 2015. How do we move forward? Church planting as a solution?

Dr Gideon vd Watt: Free State

It is exiting and encouraging being part of this bigger church family.

We need to share resources and take hands.

We need to start with relationships and some partnerships.

The DRC in South Africa is not growing

Dr Kobus Odendaal:

The old structures were dominated by DRC.

Many things changed in SA.

The other sister churches grew. Theological strength developed. We need to be cared for in SA with our unification process but also with church planting.

Prof Jurgens Henriks

The white DRC realised the need to establish a Christian identity; it needs to be part of Africa.

Reformed Church in Zambia: Dr William Zulu

The RCZ is 100 years old. The church has grown. It consists of 17 presbyteries and is the third largest church in Zambia.

Old and young ministers are getting along

Serious challenges:

- Issue of modernity. How to keep up.
- Prosperity gospel
- Signs and wonders: Prophecies
- Dual membership. Reformed and Pentecostal

Reformed Church in Zimbabwe: Rev Charles Juro

- Fast growing
- 16 presbyteries

- Government is demanding what they are collecting on Sunday to tax it.
- Struggle economy
- Traditional practices

CCAP Nkhoma Synod Malawi: Rev Vasco Kachipapa

- Central part of Malawi
- Two parts joined together. The friends in the north are not adhering to boundaries and planted 50 churches in our territory
- All differences between the two major tribes
- Different spiritualities.
- 19 Presbyteries and 176 serving ministers. 25 students. 783000 confessing members
- Issue of including women in church offices. In 2009 we accepted it but now it is causing divisions.
- Pastors and morality big issue
- Ratio between pastors and members
- Western Churches forcing issues of abortion and gays on agenda
- Church of Scotland. Stopping relationship due to same sex marriages

RCA: Rev Kovilan Moodley

- Small church. 12 congregations.
- Formerly to Hindu and Muslim people
- Three presbyteries
- Financial burden to pay ministers
- Contemporary issues in context
- The church is growing
- Witness to Muslim and Hindu is challenging
- Chinese, Pakistanis, Somalis. Buddhists

DRCA: Dr Andries Hoffman

- Split in 1994
- Fighting in court
- Settlements out of court. Miracle. A few not joined
- 2015 Synod. We need prayer for reconciliation.
- Fighting inside. Old ministers retiring. Young ministers a new generation. Conflicts between young ministers and their church councils.
- Church is more of experiencing and not about teaching.
- Finance and stewardship a challenge

Reformed Church Mozambique Synod: Carlos Herbert

- Young church. Established 2000. 20 congregations 5 presbyteries
- The whole northeast of Mozambique. Big area
- Reach out in Muslim areas.
- Lacking resources

CCAP Harare Synod: Rev Libias Boloma

- Small synod
- 4 presbyteries
- 20 pastors 56 evangelists
- Started amongst Malawians working in Zimbabwe. Working on farms and mines.
Lost many members
- Language barrier
- In towns but not in rural areas
- Busy planning new congregations
- Also influence of Pentecostal churches
- Economic problems
- 85% unemployment

Igreja Reformada em Mocambique (Mphatso Synod) Rev Timoteo Fabiao

- 1908 established. 1928 banned by government
- Church run by elders until 1972.
- Struggle and wars impact on church
- Since 1992 the church grew when people returned from exile in Malawi etc
- Stewardship did not grow. They saw themselves as poor
- Partners stopped financial support
- 1994 High Christian Institute established. Big move. Many ministers are leaving the ministry. Morality issue and lack of money to pay them
- Conflict between elders and ministers
- Administration a challenge
- Focusing on unity amongst ourselves.
- Our Synod is a rural synod
- Not many educated people in our church

Announcements

Kobus Gerber and Dawid Kuyler will share tomorrow about their churches

Morning worship tomorrow: CCAP Harare Synod: Rev Libias Boloma

Closing at 20.45 Rev Carlos Erbate of the Reformed Church Mozambique closes the meeting for the day.

DAY TWO: 2 JULY 2015

OPENING

Welcome to Rev Gabriel Maratachibota from Mozambique

Dr Kobus Odendaal opens with prayer.

Rev Libias Boloma opens with prayer and asks Rev Moodley to read John 5:1-9

The need to be there for one another. Bethsaida. House of mercy.

Good discussion on the text. Need to reflect more on healing.

Meeting requests Kobus Gerber to chair the meeting.

URCSA: Dr Dawid Kuyler

- Seven regional synods. 720 congregations
- Much to be thankful for.
- Many challenges.
- Belhar Confession
- Accra confession
- Seek together what it means to be church in Africa.
- Not only complaining but be constructive

IRM: Rev Gabriel Maratachibota from Mozambique

- North Synod. Operating in 5 provinces. Working amongst 12 tribes
- Cultural issues
- Working in big cities Matola, Maputo and Beira.
- There is progress.
- New vision. Church planting in rural areas
- Urbanisation influenced the church. Church had to establish churches for people that moved to the cities.
- Training of ministers a challenge.
- 19 ministers over a area 1500km
- Ministers big responsibilities
- Struggling how to accommodate people who are educated.
- Influence of Pentecostal churches
- Influence of Islam

- Politics. They accept all religions

DRC: Dr Kobus Gerber

- 10 Regional synods.
- 1 100 congregations. 1000 000
- 1600 pastors
- Declining membership
- Within 10 year 50% of ministers will retire
- Since 1986 try to face the atrocities of apartheid.
- Process of seeking Unity within the DRC family in South Africa.
- Effects of modernity etc
- Racism
- Ethical questions: Euthanasia, gays,
- Common journey of unity. Four churches
- Sad about Belhar confession process did not went well
- Stories of hope on local level.
- DRC has stated: We are an African Church.

2.2 Chairperson and secretary for this meeting

The meeting appoints Dr Gerber as chairperson and Dr Kuyler as Secretary.

3. Agreement on program and agenda

4. Items for agenda as communicated

4.1 The common heritage that binds us together and those things which we share with one another.

Dr Gideon vd Watt:

- **We share a history.** We need to tell this history and the stories. We need to ask how we can tell this story again.
- **We share a tradition as a Reformed Church with confessions**
- **We share a context.** We are in Southern Africa. Borders are no longer closed
- **We share the same calling.** Same challenges

Dr Kobus Odendaal

- It not a given to have a shared goal.
- Sisters churches have other partnerships

Rev Charles Juro

- How we tell the story about our history today is important
- Open and frank discussion of the history.

-

Prof Jurgens Hendriks

- **We share common challenges.**
- One common: Tension between youth and older people. Tension between Reformed and Pentecostal. We need to start with the context. If we start with confession we will not go far.
- The Christendom paradigm is gone. We still think we have power.
- Modernism and rationalism is collapsing.
- Traditional loyalties are declining.
- Where did the Reformed Church started? The RCC had the power. People started to read the Bible again. That started new processes.

Elder Kgosi Thlowe

- The world is not static. Many changes.
- The question how do we position ourselves.
- We focus on theology but **economics** and **politics** were always there.
- Cultural **dislocation** very evident. We need to ask who we are. Our identity.
- The radio and TV churches are having a big influence.

Rev Gabriel Maratachibota

- Preaching is still good. Doctrine is still sound
- The lack of influence.
- Members in society in high places not having an influence. They forget their principles and their church.
- After independence the churches should have a new agenda.
- After independence communism had a strong influence. Churches did not react to that.
- Now the doors have been opened for the churches but we are not prepared.
- Churches are now busy with infighting. Membership

The Registrar of Justo Mwale University, Dr Kakungu, is welcomed in meeting

TEA

Welcome by Registrar of Justu Mwale University, Dr Kagungu.

Rev Vasco Kachipapa CCAP Nkhoma Synod Malawi:

- Biblical based. We produce very good teachers and minister grounded in the Bible.
- We are seen as **reactionary** to the challenges of the world. We are not setting the pace. We should be pro active.
- We do not change easily.
- We are not good in dissemination the good doctrine to members
- Old generation did not do a good job in passing on Jurgens Henriks
- It is about who we are to the young people.
- Contextualise the reformed faith.

Prof Jurgens Hendriks

- About power used in the church

Rev Libia Boloma

- Having pastors properly trained.
- People trained at Universities

Rev Carlos Juro

- We need to learn from one another

Dr Willam Zulu

- Why this meeting?
- What makes us reformed in Zambia?. What makes us different from the other churches?
- Where should we keep our reformed identity?
- Music and the songs. The current modern songs without content.
- Common heritage. Applying the Bible.

Prof Jurgens Hendriks

- **How** do we teach the Bible?
- Different approach. **How** do we communicate the Bible?

Rev Charles Juro

- We are bound together with tradition and heritage
- How are we going to address the challenges that affect our common heritage?
- Cross and inter-generation discussions and dialogue
- How do we incorporate differences?

Dr Willam Zulu

- Challenge about having different liturgies. Conflict and judging?

Rev Vasco Kachipapa

- Young people left the church
- Started fellowships
- You preach repent. What next?
- Other churches help us with the next.
- We started with another approach and it paid huge dividends.
- How we can be relevant? Methodology important.

Dr Willam Zulu

- We will lose out.
- Literature was available in my days in Sunday school.
- We do not have literature that address the current context

Dr Andries Hoffman

- The impact of the quality of the congregation in the context is important.
- Our calling in our context.
- People who can discern what is important in our times.

Dr Gideon vd Watt

- Four things mentioned
- How can us in our context deal with our history and confessions. This is under strain. How can we unpack it in our own context?
- Not clinging to power. More of discerning.

Rev Timoteo Fabiao

- The pressure we are living with. Fear of losing members
- We are part of globalising.
- We need to analyse our situation before we react.
- We need one another to do this.

Rev Charles Juro

- What is what we called reformed? Is it known at grassroots level? Or only within the collar world?
- How do we impart that knowledge with the church at all levels?

Rev Gabriel Maratachibota

- Some issues are very sensitive.
- Members will say that is our identity.
- Receiving back members who left to Pentecostal churches. Here they encourage us to read the Bible. You take the context of a text in the Bible serious.
- Key principles between our churches need to be identified to move together.

Dr Kobus Odendaal

- Is there a strong enough **commitment** amongst the delegates to keep this forum going? Are we willing to make sacrifices for this family of churches?
- **How** are we going to deal with others with different views on issues?

Dr Dawid Kuyler

- Communion of churches. What does that mean?
- Different expressions of communion
- Not tolerate but embrace

Kobus Gerber

- Vasco asked: Make a list of the challenges.

1. Strife/Conflict: dialogue. Intergeneration
2. Contextual analysis: Challenges
3. Changes for the sake of changes
4. Unpacking "being reformed"
5. Communication of Reformed doctrine /Bible
6. Dislocation from tradition and context culture
7. Public Theology
8. Decline of traditional loyalties
9. Collapse of Christian /power paradigm (modernism rationalism)
10. Identity struggle
11. Missional church (Kingdom focus)
12. Healing/signs/miracles
13. Church State relationships
14. Differences on sensitive issues
15. Different spiritualities in one church
16. Theological training. Contextual relevant
17. Prosperity gospel
18. Poverty economy and ecology
19. Discerning the times
20. Moral lives of pastors
21. Renaissance of religions
22. Contextual challenges
23. Reactive and not pro active

- 24. Black consciousness
- 25. Disparities in the family/ Pastors poor

LUNCH

Rev Vasco Kachipapa's summary

1. **Unpacking of "being Reformed"**
 - Communication of Reformed doctrine/tradition/Bible
 - Identity struggle
 - Reactive and not pro active
 - Black consciousnesses
2. **Contextual Changes**
 - Discerning the time
 - Changes for the sake of change
 - Church-State relations
 - Renaissance of religions
 - Poverty, economy and ecology
3. **Different spiritualities in one church, healing, miracles, signs, Prosperity Gospel**
4. **Theological Training – Contextual relevant**
5. Theological training/ the role of NetAct

Prof Jurgens Hendriks gives some background of NetACT. (see website <http://www0.sun.ac.za/netact/>)

What is the relation between the church and the seminary? Conference NetACTt started here at JMC at 2000. Jurgens tells the story how it developed.

- Build on relationships and trust
- All the seminaries have developed over the years
- Started with course on HIV/Aids
- Network for African Congregational training
- Seminaries to train leaders to train members of the local congregations
- New generation of leaders for Africa

Things did not change.

Curriculum had to change. Importance of General Secretaries for this change

- The power of the church in Africa lies with women.
- Since 2009: What does Scripture teach about women?
- Now **community development** is the new issue. We want lecturers at the seminaries to write a handbook on this issue. Three year project.

The role of General Secretaries concerning Seminaries is very important.

- Leadership development

Pastors in rural areas are becoming a big problem. Urban congregations also poor.

For a seminary to be viable you need about 60 students

Angola: Rebuilding a seminary. 50% theology and 50% skills. Tentmakers

Discussion on evangelists

Issue of power in offices.

Leadership problems

Dr Gideon vd Watt: What we can do?

A Discussion took place about: How theological seminaries better serve the church?

- Level of discussion in synods better where there is good training
- Define again relationship with seminaries.
- We need to define our identity.

TEA

How strong is the relationship within the broader Dutch church family?

Dr Kobus Gerber leads in prayer

Different churches and their relationships

- URCSA view. Formal relations and informal relations.
- Botswana: Formal Relations
- Mozambique. With DRC Cape. Zimbabwe. Will start with others
- RCA: We are free for relationships. We do not have capacity for relationships. Financial restraints
- Reformed Church Mozambique: Several relationships. DRC, Nkomo Synod. They visit us. Reformed Church in Zimbabwe relationship. Reformed Church in Zambia. No relationship. Also with RCA in America. Netherlands.
- Zimbabwe: Role of Commission of Witness has played an important role in getting us to know the other churches. Good relations with RCZ. Relationship is vital for the church family. Need for **formalisation** of the relationships
- Zambia: Good relationship with DRC Free State Synod for more than 100 years. Good relationship with Zimbabwe and Nkomo Synod. Busy with others like Botswana. Started with Mozambique
- CCAP Nkhoma Synod Malawi: Rev Vasco Kachipapa. Relationship with DRC. Starting relationship with others. Have not done much in visiting. We need to do more.
- CCAP Harare. DRC relationship. Commission of Witness. RCZimbabwe. RCZambia. Nkhoma Synod. Botswana. Glad to meet Mozambique delegates
- Kobus Odendaal. Good to hear the stories and the commitment. Bilateral agreements.
- Andries Hoffman: DRCA. Relationships with DRC family in SA
- Kobus Gerber DRC. Relationships with SACC, AACC, WCRC, WCC
- Gideon vd Watt: Relationships with DRC family in Africa.

DINNER

Dr Dawid Kuyler and dr Gideon vd Watt is requested to prepare a basis for a MOU for tomorrow

4.9 Matters from international ecumenical bodies

Different ecumenical bodies

- WCRC membership
- ACRC

- WCC
- AACC

Dr Kobus Gerber shares information.

- WCRC was formed 2010 in Grand Rapids. Function in 6 regions. Africa is one part with a sub structure as Southern Africa.
- Reformed World magazine from WCRC is available.
- WCRC General Council in July 2017 (500 year celebration of Reformation) in Germany.
- WCRC has a Reformed Partnership Fund for projects in local churches in regarding development in region. Applications can be submitted.
- WCRC 80 million Christians 230 denominations 128 countries
- WCRC Solidarity visits. Will be informed
- Churches addressing Racism.

Future: Swaziland, Kenia and Nigeria are historically part of the DRC but they are not here. We also need a delegate from Namibia

WCC Busan 2013

- Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
- Prof Mary Anne Plaatjies van Huffel, moderator of URCSA is one of the presidents and represents Africa.
- Dept Gen Secr from Malawi: Dr Phiri

AACC

- Nairobi

Celebrations of 500 years of Reformation in 2017

- In the various churches.
- Something together
- Awareness

Ecumenical bodies in countries

4.7 Publications/ literature

Dr Gideon vd Watt: CLF (Christian Literature Fund)

- What we do not have:
 - Zambia hymnbook?
 - Catechism. No material available to teach children
- Create new material on different levels
- Joint projects
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Dr Kobus Odendaal: Translations of material is needed.

Good feedback where it is used in Zimbabwe and Malawi

CAWA: Gerhard Breytenbach will be available also to churches in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. Churches to bring their needs as well as material they are using.

Should we not develop a Generic Catechism book for all the churches?

Closing: Rev Gabriel Maratachibota close the day

Announcement: Invitation to CCAP Nkoma Synod 25 Aug -3 Sept. Greetings will be on 1 Sept.) Chongoni Lay training Centre

DAY THREE 3 July 2015

Opening devotion:

Rev Charles Juro leads with a prayer and Rev Timoteo Fabiao reads from 2 Kings 23:1-7. The previous two kings did bad things. A new king with good leadership. Helping people to serve God.

Letter to churches in the DRC family

Dr Gideon vd Watt reads the letter to churches in the DRC family and it is accepted with a few changes.

Zomba Theological Seminary. (website <http://www.zombatc.org/>)

The issue of Zomba Theological Seminary is put on to the meeting for advice.

In 1977 the three synods in Malawi formed a Board and started a Seminary. Zomba also serves CCAP Harare. It is a good story

Tension developed between the three synods. All three started their own seminaries while keeping Zomba Seminary. The financial support for Zomba deteriorated to such an extent that lectors did not get salaries.

Prof Jurgens Hendriks visited them a few weeks ago and had good discussions with the staff.

Three structural issues

- Theological seminaries who do not keep up with the context and demands deteriorate. A Board is important for guidance in this regard. An Effective Board with Moderators and General Secretaries who are fighting one another is not good.
- Every two years each Synod nominate two ministers to lecture. These ministers are not always the best.
- They get their degrees from the University of Malawi. Conflict with the process. Dept of Education has now made it possible to register directly with them. This need to be done.

(Renting some hostels to raise money)

Rev Vasco Kachipapa: Internal conflicts within Synods. The lecturers sent is causing big problems. Need restructuring of Board.

Dr Kobus Odendaal: Very sad situation. The Seminary needs to be under administration.

The parties involved have no commitment to peace.

The meeting decides that we task three members to start negotiations with big sponsors and the leadership of each synod. The meeting delegates dr Kobus odendaal, Dr William Zulu and Prof Jurgens Hendriks to address the issue and write a letter on our behalf.

4.8 Continuous communication with one another

- Appoint a convenor: dr Kobus Gerber is appointed as convenor while dr Gideon vd Watt's office will act as the hub for communication.
- Articles that has been written on the various churches will be made available.

Closing: Dr Kobus Gerber reads Philliphians 1: We all be filled with the fruit of righteousness.

Rev Charles Juro leaves the meeting

TEA

4.9 Ministry to and care for members of the family living/working in other countries where there are churches of the family.

We need to convey to our members who visit or stay in other countries where to attend church.

- RCZ (Zimbawe) has 5 congregations in SA and one minister
- CCAP Livingstonia: One minister in the Cape

4.10 Xenophobia

We as South Africans are very sorry what happened.

If you know about your members involved, please let us know their names to assist.

URCSA press statement, DRC and SACC statements will be distributed to all the churches.

Dr Kobus Odendaal, dr Andries Hoffman and rev Kovilan Moodley leaves the meeting for their flight home

4.11 Radical Islam in Southern Africa

How should we deal with it?

Ignore or over react. Dialogue

Prof Jurgens Hendriks In Nigeria the theological seminaries and churches have very able people to assist us on Islam.

Rev Kgosi Tlhowe: In Botswana we see in poor areas how young people are joining Islam.

Rev Vasco Kachipapa: Majority of people in Malawi is Christians but you do not see christian values. At grassroots level difficulties. Muslims use money and marriage to gain a foothold. Open air crusades.

4.12 Scheduled meetings of our different synods

- Newsletter every six months. Dr Gideon vd Watt and dr Dawid Kuyler is tasked with a newsletter to provide information.

5 When will we meet again?

- 1-3 July 2016 Nkoma Malawi at the Lake

6 Closing

Dr Gerber conveys our thanks to dr William Zulu and JMU for hosting us.

The meeting sings a prayer for Dr Zulu: Laat Heer u seen op hom daal

Letter to Churches in the DRC Family
from
The meeting of General Secretaries, Lusaka, 1-3 July 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters

On 1-3 July 2015 the General Secretaries of the following churches have met in Lusaka: Dutch Reformed Church, Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, Dutch Reformed Church in Africa, , Reformed Church in Africa, Dutch Reformed Church in Botswana, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Nkhoma Synod), Reformed Church in Zimbabwe, Reformed Church in Zambia, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Harare Synod), Igreja Reformada em Mozambique (Mphatso Synod), Igreja Reformada em Mozambique (Tumbini Synod), Igreja Reformada em Mozambique (Synod Nova), as well as the executive officers of Commission for Witness (DRC Family Cape Region), Partners in Mission (DRC Free State) and NetACT. (Representatives of NKST Nigeria, RCEA Kenia and RC Swaziland were unfortunately not present)

It was with great gratitude and joy that we rediscovered our family ties as sister churches. It was indeed a historical meeting! We celebrated our shared history and our shared Reformed identity. We reflected on our calling to discern our missional identity in an ever-changing context. We listened to the stories of the different churches and realised how much we need each other. We committed ourselves to take hands in many practical facets of our joint calling in the Southern African context, where borders became perforated and our countries increasingly interdependent.

We identified some of the most urgent challenges we face:

- Unpacking of “being Reformed”: new ways of communicating our Biblical (Reformed) identity amidst the identity struggles (traditional vs modernity, between generations, being “dutchy” or “penty”, reactive vs proactive, black consciousness, African and global, being dislocated, etc.)
- Discernment of contextual changes and challenges in our region: church-state relationships, poverty, economy, ecology, renaissance of religions like Islam, Buddhism, etc.
- Different, emerging spiritualities: Prosperity Gospel, healing, miracles, signs, prophecies, etc.
- Relevant theological training: contextual, missional, leadership (moral values, power and status, servanthood, empowering vs “in-powering”), public theology, church and community development, etc.
- How to deal with sensitive issues on which we may differ: sexual identities, role of women in office, bio-ethical questions, re-emerging racism, human dignity, etc.

We committed ourselves to the formation of a forum/communion where executive officers (general secretaries) of the different churches will meet regularly. For this purpose, we envisage the formulation of a memorandum of understanding that will include:

- A statement on our shared history, our shared identity and shared calling within a shared African context
- The goals of the forum: joint reflection on different challenges, disseminating information, facilitating meaningful networks, partnerships, joint projects and programmes, mutual assistance, praying together, etc.
- Establishing a cost effective and functional administrative and information centre and coordinating structures.

- Agreement on basic values: respecting independence of church structures, mutuality, trust, consensus, accountability, etc.
- Some practical goals

Practical matters that will remain on the immediate agenda:

- Theological training and networking with NetACT
- Joint participation in regional and international ecumenical bodies and programs
- Development of literature for the ministry in the respective contexts
- Effective communication
- Celebration of 500 years since Reformation in 2017 (generic catechism, new church history of our region, etc.)
- Discussion of issues like xenophobia, ministry to migrants, racism, encountering radical Islam, economy and ecology, poverty, healing, etc.

Our prayer is that all the sister churches will appreciate our unity in Christ. May we, as sister churches, continuously pray for one another as we are all facing many challenges. May we find ways of working together in enhancing the Kingdom of God in our region.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now ... And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:3-11)

May God bless you!

Charles Juro (RCZ, Zimbabwe)
 Kobus Gerber (DRC, South Africa)
 Kobus Odendaal (CFW DRC Family, Cape Region)
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 Kgosi D Tlhowe (DRC, Botswana)
 Jurgens Hendriks (NetACT)
 Gideon van der Watt (Partners in Mission, DRC Free State, South Africa)

Lusaka
3 July 2015