

# 1 **Report of the Committee for Bible Translation, Synod Aldergrove 2025**

## 2 **The Committee**

3 The Committee for Bible Translation (CBT) consists of two members:

- 4 1. Rev. Jeff Poort, Guelph, ON
- 5 2. Rev. Tyler Vandergaag, Guelph, ON

6 Rev. Jeff Poort has completed six of nine years on the committee. Rev. Tyler Vandergaag has completed  
7 three of nine years on the committee.

## 8 **1. The Mandate**

9 General Synod Guelph 2022 gave the CBT the following mandate:

- 10 1.1. To solicit, receive and evaluate comments from the churches on the ESV;
- 11 1.2. To submit worthy translation suggestions to the ESV editorial committee;
- 12 1.3. To serve the churches as a resource for Bible translation matters;
- 13 1.4. To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the General Fund all  
14 expenses being submitted for committee work;
- 15 1.5. To prepare and distribute a report to the churches six months in advance of the next General  
16 Synod.

17

## 18 **2. Material from the Churches**

- 19 2.1. On August 29, 2023, the CBT sent a letter (see Appendix A) to all the churches of our  
20 federation.
- 21 2.2. One church responded with some comments regarding the challenge of readability with the ESV.  
22 Another church responded with some specific translation issues of specific texts with the ESV.  
23 Though the committee appreciated the exegesis of those specific texts, we did not feel that the  
24 comments warranted a letter to the ESV editorial committee with translation suggestions.

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## 26 **3. The English Standard Version (ESV) since Synod 2022**

- 27 3.1. Since 2016 there have been no updates to the ESV translation of Scripture. Our report to Synod  
28 Guelph 2022 mentioned that the ESV editorial committee was planning on meeting in the near  
29 future. This appears to have taken place in July 2024, but the results of that work have not been  
30 made public at the time this report was finalized.

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## 32 **4. Submission of Expenses**

- 33 4.1. General Synod Guelph 2022 requested that one of our members “validate and submit” expenses  
34 accrued in the course of our work. We are thankful to report that we’ve been able to conduct our  
35 work without incurring any expenses of note.

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## 37 **5. Conclusion**

- 38 5.1. The CBT recommends that General Synod Aldergrove 2025 give the CBT the same mandate it  
39 was given by General Synod Guelph 2022.

40 **Appendix A – CBT Letter to the Churches**

41 Committee for Bible Translation (CBT)  
42 c/o Rev. Jeff Poort  
43 11 Eton Pl., Guelph ON  
44 N1E 3L6  
45 [jeffpoort@gmail.com](mailto:jeffpoort@gmail.com)

46  
47 August 29, 2023

48 To: The Church Councils of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches

49 Dear brothers in the Lord,

50 Greetings on behalf of the Committee for Bible Translation (CBT).

51 General Synod Guelph-Emmanuel 2022 mandated our committee as follows:

52 *Article 158*

- 53 *3.5.1 To solicit, receive and evaluate comments from the churches on the ESV;*  
54 *3.5.2 To submit worthy translation suggestions to the ESV editorial committee;*  
55 *3.5.3 To serve the churches as a resource for Bible translation matters;*  
56 *3.5.4 To appoint one of its members to validate and submit to the treasurer of the General*  
57 *Fund all expenses being submitted for committee work;*  
58 *3.5.5 To prepare and distribute a report to the churches 6 months in advance of the next*  
59 *general synod.*

60 The two points relevant to the churches are 3.5.1 and 3.5.3. To assist us in these points, the CBT  
61 requests that the churches:

- 62 1) Submit to the CBT comments on the ESV for evaluation (3.5.1)  
63 2) Be aware that the CBT is available to the churches as a resource for Bible translation matters.  
64 (3.5.3)

65 The CBT would ask that comments on the ESV and matters of Bible translation be brought to  
66 the attention of the committee no later than March 2024 in order to provide ample time to do  
67 the work mandated by Synod. You can submit these matters to the address provided above.

68 May the LORD bless his churches in working faithfully with his Word of Truth.

69 The Committee for Bible Translation  
70 Rev. Tyler Vandergaag  
71 Rev. Jeff Poort  
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