

## APPENDIX III — (Acts, Article 60)

### REPORT COMMITTEE ON THE CHURCH BOOK (PSALM AND HYMN SECTION)

To the General Synod of Coaldale

Esteemed Brethren,

The Committee on the Church Book (Psalm and Hymn Section) herewith submits a report on their activities during the past three years, together with recommendations for the continuation of the endeavours to compile a complete Church book for the Churches.

#### I. Mandate (Psalm Section)

1. The General Synod of Toronto 1974, continued the Committee and gave it the following mandate:

With the consideration that the Psalm Section was not finalized yet and should be kept open for further improvement, Synod received the Psalm Section and decided to give the Committee the mandate:

- a. to write the Churches again to submit their possible remarks on the Psalm Section;
- b. to remain diligent with respect to a possible improvement of this section.

Your Committee has made a start with going through the Psalm book. At the time of writing this report we have come as far as Psalm 37. It was decided — in view of considerations by the Committee and of remarks received — to replace the versifications of some of the Psalms, e.g., 1, 2, 25, and 49. In an appendix attached to this report we present to Synod a few of these replacements.

It may be stated here that "being diligent with respect to improvements" is a painstaking and time-consuming work. This consideration will be one of the grounds for recommendations by your Committee.

2. Synod Toronto 1974 dealt with a letter of protest and complaint by Mr. D. Westra and charged the Committee to investigate these complaints and, if it appeared that certain terms of the contract had been violated, to find some form of restitution and satisfaction for the injustices incurred.

This matter has been investigated and resolved by correspondence with Mr. Westra. Although the contract was drawn between Mr. Westra and the Publication Committee, this matter should be clarified officially.

- a. the leaving out of initials was done on the basis of synodical decisions;
- b. the Committee has expressed that they "deplore the development and apologize for the fact that because of all the developments, and in the light of Synod decisions we did not and could not fully live up to all the provisions" especially as far as changes in the text were concerned.

#### II. Mandate (Hymn Section)

Synod Toronto 1974 received the Hymn Section and decided to give the continued Committee the mandate:

- a. to further improve the Hymn Section of the **Book of Praise** and for this purpose evaluate the remarks and criticisms which have been received already and may be received along the lines set out in consideration of the Reports of the Advisory Committees of the General Synods of Edmonton 1965 and Orangeville 1968;
- b. to compile, and make public, a list of Scripture passages suited to be rhymed and tone-set as hymns;
- c. to keep Deputies of the sister Churches abroad informed about the progress of the work.

The remarks which have been submitted to the Committee by General Synod 1974 and the ones which were subsequently received from Churches and individual members have been compiled and digested.

Mr. S. VanderPloeg submitted a "report" on the Hymn Section. This valuable contribution, together with the above-mentioned remarks, will receive due attention and consideration as soon as the work on the Psalms has been finalized.

On the basis of the remarks received it was decided to delete some of the Hymns. We cannot report on this matter since the Hymn Section has not been considered as yet in detail. Your Committee will try to submit to Synod some examples of Hymns to replace the ones that have been deleted.

Communications between the Committee and Deputies of sister Churches abroad have been received and acted upon.

### III. General Information

1. In May 1977, the Rev. D. VanderBoom left the Province of Ontario and could no longer take an active part in the work of the Committee. Since the General Synod Coaldale 1977 was forthcoming, the Committee did not consider a replacement.
2. We have been informed that there is a growing interest in the **Book of Praise**. Other Churches seem to have become interested in it.
3. Several requests have been received to print, with the Hymns, the full musical harmonization. The Committee, before submitting a recommendation, will first consider the cost of such an undertaking.
4. We foresee that some more time is needed before a Committee on the Church book can come with a proposal for a Definite Version of the Psalm and Hymn Sections.

In the meantime this Committee expects that other committees which deal with the **Doctrinal and Liturgical Forms** will be ready within a certain period of time (in or before 1980, the year of the next General Synod) that so the material can be coordinated.

### IV. Recommendations

On the basis of the foregoing your Committee recommends:

1. That Synod continue the Committee since the mandate has not been completed;
2. That Synod appoint the Rev. C. Van Dam as a member of this Committee;
3. That Synod set a deadline for reports of all the Committees whose work is related to the publication of a Definite Edition of the **Book of Praise**.

Respectfully submitted,  
w.s. M.M. DeGroot  
w.s. W. Helder  
w.s. D. VanderBoom, secr. i.t.  
w.s. G. VanDooren  
w.s. W.W.J. VanOene