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General Synod 1971.

Dear Brethren,

The Committee on the Revision of the Church Order submits the following report to you.

The Committee have been working on a revision of the first articles of the Church Order. Also due to the illness of the Rev.Scholten not as much has been achieved as we wished to produce.

The main reason, however, why not more tangible results are presented is, that within the Committee there is a difference of opinion about the question how far the revision shall go.

The answer to that question also will determine the "speed" with which a revision can be presented to the Churches.

If it is just a revision which concerns certain outdated expressions and/or institutions, then there would be no objection to submitting a revised translation and a revision of the Church Order itself by stages. To this Synod we could have presented a draft-revision of some ten articles.

If, however, as some members understand the mandate, the revision should be a general revision and if the Committee were to come with proposals regarding changing of the Church Order even there where also in the past no proposal for a change has been received, in other words, if the Committee has some "authority" of its own, then it would appear to be most practical to wait with presentation of a report until a complete draft could be submitted , and that for the obvious reason that, if a change should have been made in an artcile in the beginning of the Church Order, later conclusions might render it necessary to also change again some previously revised article.

It is for that reason that the Committee on Revision of the Church Order come to you with the request

I. To continue the Committee;

II. To further define the mandate and the authority of the Committee.

We must state that the Rev. Scholten did not co-operate in the composition of this report, but on the ground of discussions and correspondence with him regarding the above, we are also convinced that he heartily agrees with our request.

The Committee

H.A.Stel

W.W.J.VanOene