

taken place in the doctrine and the life of "De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland". Therefore your committee cannot recommend that Synod adopt Mr. VanderSchaaf's overture:" zij is van oordeel dat de kerkeraad van Breda (praeses Ds K.C. Smouter) als wettige raad van de Gereformeerde Kerk te Breda erkend dient te worden, en spreekt uit de hierboven genoemde kerkeraden, predikanten en kerken . . . te blijven erkennen en met haar de kerkelijke correspondentie te blijven onderhouden". Your committee points out that this would, in fact, mean breaking off the correspondence with the sisterchurches in the Netherlands in general.

The *ground* for our recommendation, not to adopt Mr. VanderSchaaf's *voorstellen* (pp. 17-19) is:

Even if the application of Art. 79 C.O. by *Synoden 1964* and *1967* in the Netherlands differ from what Synod Homewood-Carman decided in 1958, and even if there have been mistakes and shortcomings, this does not give legitimate ground for the conclusion that the Dutch sisterchurches do no longer abide by the accepted Creeds and Church Order, or that a new binding interpretation of them has been adopted and imposed upon the Churches.

For the same reason we cannot advise Synod "een schrijven te doen uitgaan" to the sisterchurches in the Netherlands with the purpose, "om God's wil en der broederen wil onze zusterkerken op te roepen terug te keren van deze schadelijke weg, en zich voor de HEERE en tegenover de broeders te verootmoedigen", Report pp. 7,8.

SUPPLEMENT 7

(Ag. Report I, 5; Art. 87)

Report of Deputies for an *English Calvinistic Psalter*

I. THE SUPPLEMENT.

Although the Synod Edmonton in its decision (see Acts. Art. 192) envisaged the completion of the "Book of Praise" and instructed its Deputies accordingly, it also authorized deputies, in case it appeared to be impossible to submit to the Churches a complete Psalter in the near future, to publish a "Supplement" in order to fill the gap between the present "Book of Praise" and a complete Psalter (Acts, Art. 192 3h).

When Deputies discovered that the publication of a complete Psalter in the near future was impossible, they focused all their attention on the second possibility, namely the publication of a "Supplement", which was forwarded to the Churches in the course of 1967.

The publication of the "Supplement" did not create any insurmountable problems, especially because the majority of the Hymns could be adopted from existing Hymnaries, while the publication of the Psalm section was greatly facilitated by the contribution from one of our church members.

Although the Supplement *per se* constitutes the Deputies' report, - a matter too often forgotten - and consequently does not need any particular introduction, Deputies will nevertheless mention in this report (as they already did in the Preface to the Supplement) that this "Supplement" embodies 34 Psalms and 18 Hymns. The majority of the Psalms is on the traditional "Genevan tunes". The Deputies also published three Psalms on a tune different from the traditional one. It is very much to be regretted that, as a result of a printing error, Psalm 41 was not published with the traditional Genevan tune. Psalms 94 and 112, however, clearly indicate what was the intention of Deputies, namely to present a Psalm on two divergent tunes.

Although Deputies have now come to the conviction not to proceed in that direction, they nevertheless like to give in this report account of this rather unusual procedure. It has been a matter of consideration why some Psalms are hardly ever sung and are virtually unknown, whereas other Psalms apparently constitute part of a "collection" of "beloved" melodies. To a certain extent this discrepancy may be explained by the subjective choice of the minister with his individual preference for a certain number of Psalms. However, it cannot be denied that in most cases the same Psalms are hardly ever sung in any Church. This indicates that the personal choice of the local minister is not the only cause of the existence of "favorite" tunes". Deputies have come to the conclusion that the unfamiliarity of a Psalm is the result of the unfamiliarity with the melody, and is not caused by the contents of the Psalm. Hence Deputies attempted to replace an "unfamiliar" by a "familiar" tune. However, in order not to forfeit the traditional melody entirely, Deputies decided to publish the first stanza on the traditional tune, and to distinguish the Psalm on the "alternate" tune" with an "a" added to its number; see e.g., Psalms 41, 94, and 112. Deputies took this decision in the conviction that many Psalms, now hardly ever used in the worship services, probably would become more popular among the Church members. However, Deputies would now rather suggest a different course of action, as this report will indicate.

Deputies express their deep disappointment with the little interest shown in their work on the part of the Churches; those, however, who submitted their critical remarks will notice how much Deputies appreciated their suggestions.

II. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

The ultimate aim of Deputies is to present to the Churches a complete Psalter comprising all 150 Psalms on the Genevan tunes. They would like to emphasize the phrase "on the Genevan tunes". Deputies do not anticipate any objections to the first part of this suggestion; all of us are convinced that the Churches are in need of a complete Psalter. The second part of the suggestion, however, implies that Deputies will no longer avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the Edmonton Synod, namely that they did not have to limit themselves to the Genevan tunes, but were at liberty to use different tunes so long as these served the purpose of the congregational singing: the praise of the Lord. Deputies are now of the opinion that they should not make use of this possibility. They have come to the unanimous conclusion, after many lengthy discussions, not to recommend to the Churches to add another one to the many existing Psalters, which are composed of a number of tunes well-known in the Anglo-Saxon world together with beloved Genevan tunes. If this were the result of their work, Deputies would consider the work previously done a waste of time and money since there are many of this type of Psalters available in our country. Instead, Deputies would like to suggest that the Churches once and for all forsake this concept of an eclectic Psalter and proceed to the completion of a *Genevan Psalter*. If our Churches achieved this - and Deputies are convinced that this is certainly possible within a reasonable period of time - then our Churches would not only possess a well-balanced Psalter, but would also have contributed in a unique manner to the culture of our nation, which is for the most part unfamiliar with the magnificent Genevan tunes. Deputies flatter themselves that thus they may contribute to the Psalmody of our nation. That they certainly do not aim too high may be inferred from the enthusiasm with which musicologists from many quarters have

received our still incomplete Psalter. This change of policy entails of course that the non-Genevan tunes of some Psalms in the existing Book of Praise will be replaced by Genevan tunes.

But since Deputies are convinced that many non-Genevan tunes are of a priceless value, to mention only Psalms 5, 11, 12, 127, they would like to suggest that these tunes be inserted in the Hymn section of the Book of Praise. The advantage of such a procedure would be that we retain a good non-Genevan tune, though not in the Psalm section.

The so-called "identical tunes" ("Doublures") constitute a different chapter. The Genevan Psalter, although comprising 150 Psalms, does not have 150 different tunes. A number of Psalms are sung on an identical tune; four times one tune is used for three different Psalms, and there is even one tune used four times, namely in Psalms 24, 62, 95, 111. These "identical tunes" create a specific problem since Deputies could not find any consistency in the three-or fourfold use of a melody: why is the tune of Psalm 24 used four times, and why the tune of Psalm 42 and Psalm 89 only once? Deputies would like to reserve to themselves a certain liberty in the choice of a melody for a Psalm belonging to this category. It may be superfluous to assure the Churches that Deputies, in the choice of a different melody for the Psalms traditionally sung on an identical tune, will limit themselves to the Genevan tunes.

Since Deputies feel that not all versification of the Psalms contained in the original Book of Praise may meet the requirements of complete conformity to Scripture and of linguistic correctness, it is their intention to submit these versifications to a close scrutiny before presenting the Churches with a complete Psalter. Thereby Deputies hope to ensure that all rhymed versions are faithful to the original text and are rendered in idiomatic English.

Contact of Deputies with foreign churches was extremely rare, partly because Deputies did not meet with any special problems in the publication of the "Supplement" which necessitated consultation. The Deputies appointed by the Australian Churches will not fail to notice that Deputies have gratefully adopted the suggestions made by them with respect to the tunes, and Deputies are convinced that, although they could not adopt everyone of their suggestions, they certainly assimilated the main tenets of the report of the Australian Deputies.

With deep gratitude Deputies acknowledge the assistance received from some members of our Churches, who contributed to the "Supplement". Their contribution opens vistas for the publication of a Psalter, originating from various sources. Deputies express the expectation that they will be able, within the foreseeable future, to conclude a contract with these contributors to our Psalter.

Deputies express their disappointment with the fact that one of the Deputies, Mr. J. J. Knegt, Rockwood, Ontario, for reasons of increased business responsibilities, could no longer serve on the Committee. Mr. Knegt, who so faithfully served as Deputy and who contributed so much with his musical talent, resigned as treasurer of Deputies as well. His place was taken by Mr. S. R. Smilde, Thornhill, Ontario. Deputies are very grateful for the worthwhile contributions of br. J. J. Knegt and for his active participation in the work of Deputies.

III. Attached please find a Report on the finances of our Committee.

S. R. Smilde,
F. Kouwenhoven.

Respectfully submitted,
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D. VanderBoom,
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