

## CCE Synod Report

2023

As congregations within the CCE we realise that we form part of the larger body of Christ. We need each other and cannot remain isolated from each other. When working more closely together we can share our resources so that we may continue to be church here and now. Therefore, it is of vital importance to build bridges to each other so that we can strengthen each other and be there for one another. This happens within the CCE on different levels and within different forums:

### **AGM**

A forum that brings CCE delegates together from all congregations, giving us the opportunity to discuss matters of concern, to share our joys and the challenges we are facing with one another, to plan events and to be informed by church council about matters that need our combined attention. The last two AGMs have been very positive and well attended. We were especially grateful for the delegates from Bloemfontein, who joined us, despite the distance, this year for the first time. In 2022 the topic for the AGM was “building bridges”. For this year, the topic was “Church in Motion”, presented by Pastor Schalk Treurnicht from the Beville congregation. During this year’s AGM the CCE presiding committee also needed to be newly elected. The following persons were elected: Bettina du Buson (Treasurer), Le-Anne Hempel (Secretary), Nickolien Human (Treasurer in training) and Frank Schütte (Chairperson).

### **Family Day**

This is an annual event that takes place at different congregations within the border area. The aim is to build fellowship amongst the members from the different congregations. It takes place on a Sunday and begins with a combined church service. Thereafter we have time for games and socialising, while the braais are lit for a Bring & Braai lunch. In recent years this day has not been as well attended as hoped for, still it remains to be a great opportunity to get to know one another better and to reach out to fellow brothers and sisters in faith.

### **Confirmation and youth**

St Andrews, St Crucis, together with the inland parish are currently doing all their confirmation preparation meetings and lessons together. This means that we have a bigger group of confirmands, which makes it more enjoyable for the children and also teaches them that we belong together. Recently the parents from King Williams Town have also decided to join this group. At the same time, we have also started a combined YouCon (Youth & Confirmation) group that meets once a month on a Friday evening. This forms part of the confirmation preparation and aims at rekindling the youth work in our area.

### **St Luke’s Project**

The feeding scheme portion of St Luke’s that was started during the lockdown period of the pandemic has come to end in June/July this year. From now on support and help for the St Luke’s community will be more on an ad hoc basis, as specific donations are made towards the project, for example clothes or school uniforms and stationery.

### **Music Subsidy**

The CCE has decided to assist members from our congregations who would like to be musically trained to play during Sunday Services with a music subsidy. Currently there are 2 beneficiaries of this grant from St Crucis, Beacon Bay. There are certain terms and conditions that need to be met to qualify for this grant.

May we always be united in our calling to be one church, the body of Christ in the here and now for the benefit of the people we are called to serve within the communities God has placed us in.

Yours,

Frank Schütte (Chairperson)