

CCW Report to the Synod 2023

The CCW consists of the following 9 Congregations:

Bellville – Kreuzkirche – Pastor Schalk Treurnicht

Cape Town - Philippi – Zionsheuvel – Pastor Michael Denner

Cape Town - St. Martini – Locum Tenens Pastor Walter Schwär

Cape Town – Strand Street – Pastor Sybil Chetty

Cape Town – Vasco – Pastor Walter Schwär

Cape Town – Wynberg – Pastor Michael Denner

Southern Cape – Garden Route – Pastor Dr. Ronell Bezuidenhout

Stellenbosch/Somerset West- Locum Tenens Pastor Beate Willard-Bidoli

Worcester – Locum Tenens – Bishop Gilbert Filter

CCW exco: At the CCW AGM in October 2020 the following persons were elected:

Martin Detering (chair)

Pastor Schalk Treurnicht (vice chair)

Detlev Ahlert (Treasurer)

Raymond Kok (Church Council representative – elected in Jan. 2022)

I would like to thank my exco team for their time invested into the CCW. All of them were very committed to work for our common goal, the wellbeing of our Circuit. The Exco meets at least 4 times a year, mostly via zoom and sometimes in person. A new CCW exco will be elected at our next AGM in January 2024.

Activities:

It has been identified that one of the imminent shortfalls in the CCW is the lack of interaction between congregations and knowledge about each other. Seeing this as main task, we tried to build our activities around this issue. Pastor Schalk did several presentations on the theme **“Church in Motion”**. It is aimed to provide a platform for congregants to interact and come to terms with some new realities of being Church in today`s world. The **yearly combined worship service** of all CCW congregations, which is always well received, contributes to the same task of interaction. The **pulpit exchange** on the month with 5 Sundays is another way of sharing capacities. To promote our Lutheran music attributes, we celebrated **“Music days”** in different congregations. This is still very much developmental and by using Church music, this could be a good communicator.

Finances:

The CCW is in the fortunate position to benefit financially from the proceeds of the Bainskoof Funds, which is reflected in our financial statements and budget. Being a fund originally earmarked for youth work, we extended the use, with the permission of our AGM, to other congregational activities, as well to be used for the financing of social media platforms within congregations. By knowing that the distribution of available money is sometime emotionally loaded, we made a set of rules with a relevant application form. The basic principles for distribution of the funds were dealt with in a separate subcommittee which met in May 2022 in Philippi.

Motions:

To fulfil our constitutional obligations in terms of possible motions to the Synod we developed and proposed two motions at our 2023 AGM. One deals with the connection between the Church Council and the CCW exco to improve their interaction. The other motion was born out of our observations regarding the lack of communication and cooperation within our Cape Church. Both motions have been accepted by the 2023 AGM to be forwarded to the Synod meeting.

Closing remark:

I believe that it is enriching and worthwhile to invest time and offer our expertise to the Circuit. Where Christians are together there is always hope for a better future. It is expected from each of us to support and be part of this Cape Church Community. That is what we as CCW are striving for, to build the Kingdom of God, today here on earth.

Martin Detering – Chairperson

(Aug. `23)