



## OPEN DECLARATION OF THE SYNOD OF THE GEREFORMEERDE KERKE IN SUID-AFRIKA (REFORMED CHURCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA)<sup>1</sup>

The synod meeting of the Reformed Churches in South Africa declares openly and each member for himself as follows:

We wholeheartedly believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who reveals himself in Scripture. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Head of the church and that he rules his church through his Word and Spirit. We wholeheartedly and with good conscience hold to the Three Forms of Unity that were accepted at the 1618-19 Synod of Dort as our confession; namely the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession of Faith and the Canons of Dort. We promise to uphold this truth through the merciful guidance and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit according to God's Word.

For our worship services we accept the liturgical principles and guidelines as determined by the Synod of Dort and amended by the synods of the Reformed Churches in South Africa.

In church governance we adhere to the Church Order of Dort, as accepted in 1618-19 and amended by the national synods of the Reformed Churches in South Africa.

As a meeting we declare that we truly strive for a shared unity, and that we as body of Christ in the world testify to the true faith. All those who have received the same precious faith through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit, and who seek to uphold it together with us, are wholeheartedly called to ecclesiastical communion.

Our wish is to have the closest fellowship and ecclesiastical correspondence with all those church communities who profess and confess the same as us.

May the Lord in his mercy grant that many will accept his Word through the work of the Holy Spirit. May all the elect be called and as true believers unite in one ecclesiastical community.

This is our wish and prayer.

(Acta 1863:8; Acta 2009:498).

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<sup>1</sup> The official version of our open declaration is in Afrikaans. The English translation presented here differs in certain places from the English translation found on the cjb website. This is because it has been revised and updated to correct spelling mistakes, improve language clarity and be closer to the Afrikaans.