

## PREFACE

The unique composition of the Southern African society out of different groups and people and a variety of languages and cultures, places the church of Jesus Christ before great and exceptional challenges concerning the Kingdom of God.

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Aware of it's vocation, the Dutch Reformed Church (Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk) has, during the long years of it's existence in Southern Africa, endeavoured to understand and construe what demands these circumstances pose to the ministry of the Gospel. Consequently the Dutch Reformed Church has also wrestled intensively to give it's existence as a church, and it's ministry of the Gospel, a substance which would be in accordance with the norms of Scripture.

2

Knowing what has been done in this respect in the past, however faulty and full of shortcomings it may have been, the Dutch Reformed Church is nevertheless convinced that everything was not without significance, but was of service to the Kingdom of God. The call to draw closer to the Biblical demands concerning what a church ought to be, still remains a matter of grave concern for the Dutch Reformed Church. It wishes to continue in this way in accordance to its faith.

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