

PROPOSAL REGARDING THE REQUEST OF THE BUDAPEST KOREAN CHURCH

Rev. Jeong Chae Hwa, senior pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church in Budapest, supervised by our partner-church, the Presbyterian Church in Korea, formerly approached the Presidium of the Reformed Church in Hungary with the appeal for the admission of the congregation into the RCH – one reason for this was because of the legal situation changed by the amendment of the “Law on the Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion, and on Churches, Religions and Religious Community” in Hungary. On behalf of the Presidential Council, the Synod office of the RCH started a discussion with the pastor of the Korean congregation about possible ways of the incorporation. We deemed it important that the initiative be officially confirmed by our partner church, as we wish to take responsibility for the Korean congregation together, e.g. the PCK continues to be entitled to assign the pastor. According to our request, Rev. Dr. Seong Gi Cho, general secretary of the PCK, confirmed the support of the “church of origin” in his letter of dated on 26 April.

At the request of the Presidential Council, the Legal Questions Committee of the General Synod discussed the legal means and possibilities to incorporate the Budapest Korean Church into the Reformed Church in Hungary.

The Legal Questions Committee has suggested the following legal solution regarding the above issue:

For the incorporation it is necessary to amend the Constitution and issue the following Synod resolution, based on the bilateral agreement between RCH and PCK.

For the **incorporation** the following is necessary:

- **Amendment of the constitution of RCH, as the current wording only allows the foundation of congregations with territorial duties (territorial ministries) requiring approval from the competent presbytery and church district.**
- Synod resolution based on the former bilateral agreement, comprised of the following statements

1. Legal status of the Congregation:

Mission congregation that has an autonomous legal status with all rights included (tax number, bank account etc.)

2. Organisational characteristics of the Budapest Korean Congregation:

- Is established as a congregation of the RCH through the Synod resolution
- Is embedded into the structure of presbyteries and districts
- Acknowledges the confessions and teachings of the church
- Acknowledges the constitutional order of the church
- It's a unique ministry which does not have territorial character
- Its language is Korean
- Elects its consistory out of its members – along its own rules

3. The pastor of the Korean Reformed Congregation:

- Assignment and revocation occurs according to the rules of procedure of the PCK in prearrangement with the Presiding Bishop of RCH
- Salary is covered from Korea
- Revocation can be initiated by either the Bishop of RCH and/or the Moderator of PCK - he/she is under the jurisdiction of PCK
- Registered by the competent presbytery of RCH
- Not automatically member of the Pension Institute of RCH
- Non-voting member of the Assembly of the Presbytery with the right to speak

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

- I. The General Synod of the RCH amends the 13th paragraph of its Fundamental Law on the constitution and governance of the church by addition as follows:

“the Synod is entitled to establish and recognize new congregations based on other considerations than mentioned above”

- II. **The Synod recognizes the Korean Reformed Congregation, supervised by the Presbyterian Church in Korea (PCK) as a congregation of the Reformed Church in Hungary**

- III. Legal status of the Congregation: Mission congregation with autonomous legal status
The Korean Reformed congregation disposes, within the Reformed Church in Hungary, as “internal” legal entity, an autonomous legal status and tax number, is entitled to open a bank account, and disposes all rights which are given to the congregations within RCH, having the same legal status.

- IV. Organisational characteristics of the Budapest Korean Congregation:

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- V. The pastor of the Korean Reformed Congregation:

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- Not automatically member of the Pension Institute of RCH
- Non-voting member of the Assembly of the Presbytery with the right to speak