

## **Supplementary Report Church Choir Association of the ELCSA(N-T)**

The Church Choir Association faces some challenges. Choirs are ageing, and it is difficult to find persons that will lead the choirs. The genre of music performed by the Choirs is still appreciated in the congregations, and if it does not happen, the loss is felt. Can we imagine a Christmas Service without a Choir? It would be a severe loss if no Choir could comfort the relatives at a funeral! A wedding with a choir is very special!

An attempt to counter the development described above, we need to arrange courses for the choir leaders and conductors to empower them to fulfil the duties. As happened in the Brass Band Association, we need to arrange courses for interested persons to be qualified and empowered for their duties. These courses can be done in Association with the FELSISA, who face similar challenges. Their leader has verbally agreed to such cooperation.

The arrangement of courses unfortunately goes hand in hand with costs. The Brass Band Association has for a considerable time collected an annual “Membership Fee”, from which these endeavours are financed. The Church Choir Association unfortunately did not follow the same route – their expenses were in the past paid from the Church Music Fund. The consequence is that the Church Choir Association has NO FUNDS.

We respectfully request that funding be made available for the Church Choir Association to conduct the courses, at least as bridging financing. From the Church Choir Association, I intend to implement a system similar to the Brass Band Association, where a “Membership Fee” is collected. In the majority of cases, this fee is paid by the congregations – it would be great if the choirs in the congregations can be assured of this support. This needs to be proposed and accepted by the Church Choir Association at their bi-annual meeting in 2017.

The costs for such courses are roughly estimated at R 20 000 per course. In addition, the Association requires further R 15 000 for running its business (2 meetings per annum). It is only fair to reimburse travel costs of the participants of meetings to organise the activities of the Association.

Walter Johannes  
Leader Church Choir Association