

## **Chairperson's Report – DEGNOS Annual General Meeting 2022**

The Governance Body of DEGNOS held five meetings in the past year using the Zoom electronic platform, given the logistical challenges. The five meetings took place on 16 August 2021, 8 November 2021, 14 February 2022, 13 April 2022 and 16 May 2022. The minutes of each meeting were meticulously kept and are available at the DEGNOS office on request should any delegate to the Annual General Meeting 2022 wish to obtain it.

The Governance Body of DEGNOS for the period July 2021 to June 2022 was constituted on 3 July 2021 after conclusion of the Annual General Meeting 2021. The Governance Body consisted of the following members with voting rights:

- Rev. Johan Nieuwenhuizen
- Rev. Japhet Moyo
- Zjaan Burmeister
- Gert Lubbe
- Petrus Meiring
- Herman Fuls (Deputy Chairperson)
- Estelle Alberts (Chairman)
- Andries Gous (DEGNOS Manager)

\*As co-opted members without voting rights:

- Rev. Leon Fourie as missional diaconate representative of the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church of Namibia
- Rev. Dirk de Vos
- Rev. Koos Engelbrecht as representative of Kharas Christi
- Rev. Pieter Conradie as representative of Kharas Christi

During every meeting the DEGNOS Manager, Andries Gous, gave detailed feedback about the state of the congregations and the schools, the progress with theological training and community projects and the many other activities of DEGNOS. At every one of the quarterly meetings (excluding the meeting held on 13 April 2022) the DEGNOS Manager presented the financial position and movements and it was discussed in detail in the meetings. The meeting of 13 April 2022 was a special meeting that focused exclusively on the challenges and strategy of DEGNOS. This meeting was attended by the Governance Body members as well as two representatives from the San congregations.

As chairperson of the Governance Body I can give you the assurance that the donations and contributions that DEGNOS received from partners, founding members, involved communities and donors, were managed and used with care.

The area of ministry of DEGNOS is large and challenges stretch from spiritual to physical need, from individuals to whole San communities. Therefore the distinguishing of priorities for the spending of limited time and financial resources is often very difficult, like you would also be able to deduct from the preceeding conference and the management report following hereafter. As chairperson I can confirm that there has been good control over the finances of the institution over the last year and that the funds available have been used with care and as per the mandates provided by the members. The Governance Body has endeavored to do the work of DEGNOS in deep dependence on the Lord by both supervising and supporting the DEGNOS Manager in its tasks.

The Governance Body implemented the following resolutions passed during the Annual General Meeting of 2021, namely:

1. The audit report for the year 2020/2021 was not ready for approval at the Annual General Meeting on 3 July 2021, and was subsequently finalized, approved by the Governance Body at the meeting of 8th November 2021 and distributed by e-mail to members.
2. The Governance Body has investigated a new auditor for DEGNOS and its San Congregations and PKF fcs auditors have been proposed by the Board of Directors to the members and partners as new auditor via email on 24 January 2022. No counter-proposals were received and the Governance Body appointed the new auditor from the audit for the financial year 2021/2022.
3. Permission has been granted to the Governance Body to use some of the capital to purchase a vehicle for the work of the DEGNOS Manager. At the meeting of 16 August 2021, the Governance Body decided on the appropriate vehicle and a committee was formed to finalize the details of the vehicle's equipment. The vehicle was purchased and put into service. The Governance Body also set out the travel allowance of the DEGNOS Manager for the use of his private vehicle, where necessary, as requested by the AGM.

DEGNOS' origin and name are intended to be of service in the congregations where we work, and to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. As Chairman and Representative of the Governance Body, I can testify to the zeal with which Andries Gous undertook and performed the work during this year, as well as the loyalty with which Tracey Gous supported him, both as Administrative Officer of DEGNOS and as his wife. Despite setbacks and illness and being overwhelmed by the scope and complexity of the ministry, they persevered with their tasks and developed new approaches to meet the many challenges. On behalf of the Governance Body and the San Congregations, I would like to thank them for their selfless service and encourage them to continue this important work.

We thank the partners, donors and supporters of DEGNOS for your contributions in the form of donations, and also in the form of prayer and words of encouragement. Please also convey this gratitude to everyone in your congregations or organizations who are involved and have been involved with DEGNOS over the years.

DEGNOS's finances have decreased over the last year due to contributions and donations that have decreased significantly, and an increase in expenses that is inevitable. The service area is large and requires the travel costs of thousands of kilometers per year to reach the congregations and schools. With fuel prices rising drastically, ministry costs have also increased by so much. Funds are also needed to support the teachers and the schools and to ensure the necessary support through an Education Development Officer. Furthermore, there is also a great need to support the proclamation of the gospel through the community development projects. As the Governance Body, we ask you as the partners and supporters of DEGNOS to help us continue the work of DEGNOS. We appeal to you to become more involved with DEGNOS through projects, fundraisers, outreaches and prayer opportunities.

I was part of an outreach to Mangetti Dune with Dutch Reformed Church Tsumeb congregation and can testify to the difference that an outreach makes to understanding the areas and congregations and would like to encourage you as a congregation group or as partners to visit Andries and Tracey and the San congregations and thus experience first-hand how the Lord works and understand what a great task it is.

In summary, I can only emphasize that an overview of the last year makes it clear that the Lord led and carried DEGNOS and provided for His work. Above all, we want to thank and honor Him for His faithful provision and guidance.

Presented by:

Estelle Alberts

DEGNOS Chairperson 2021/2022

9 July 2022