

Annual accounts of the Protestant Church and of the Church Ministries show positive results.

Utrecht, May 28th 2009 – The annual accounts 2008 of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands and of the Church Ministries show a positive result for 2008. Mainly by higher income from bequests and the positive result of the Church Ministries the assets of the Protestant Church increased by 2,6 million Euros. The Church Ministries recorded a balance of € 643.000, which could be added to the risk reserve. 4,6 million Euro is added to various destination reserves. Herewith work will be paid, for which obligations have been made or work that can only be started up in the future.

This shows from the financial annual records and the annual records which the management of the Church Ministries presented to the small synod of the Protestant Church. This will be discussed on June 26 by the small synod. General manager Haaije Feenstra of the Church Ministries is pleased with the numbers of the first record year after the transformation of the organization: "It is a good result. In Friesland they would coolly say: could be worse. It is an encouragement for all the hard work we have performed together."

Not just the bare figures can be found in the annual account of the Church Ministries, but also a description of the work that has been accomplished in the past year. Over 67,4 million Euros were available for the work of the Church Ministries in 2008, of which nearly 28 million was available for the work of Kerk in Actie (Church in Action).

The major part of the money is assembled by voluntary fund-raising, another essential part comes from the contributions of the congregations to the Protestant Church.

The annual report also shows that the number of personnel has decreased again. By the end of 2008 there were 319 fte (apposed to 347 at the end of 2007).

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands has about 2,3 million members who are member of one of the over 1800 local congregations.

The Church Ministries is the work organization for the Protestant Church in the Netherlands. The tasks of the Church Ministries are to support the local congregations, support the synod and the classical assemblies, care for the Church Order and national tasks in the area of ecumenism, mission and world diaconal work under the name Kerk in Actie (Church in Action). Important parts of the work of the Church Ministries are the youth work of JOP, the missionary work and the work of the national congregation-advisors. For more information: www.pkn.nl