

Proposal Protestant Church: organize pastoral care for students differently.

Category-pastoral care on synod agenda for the second time

Utrecht, March 31st 2009 – In a memorandum on category-pastoral care the Church-ministry of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands proposes changes in pastoral care for students. The intention is to link student vicars to the national church. Aside from that is proposed to finance projects for pastoral care among students. In the assembly of April the synod will discuss category-pastoral care for the second time based on the memorandum.

Up till now student vicars are linked to the local congregation. Although the alliance to the local congregation is important and will be maintained, it is the intention to link the vicars to the national church, in order to facilitate a flexible application.

Aside from the organization of pastoral care amongst students the report also describes other forms of category-pastoral care: amongst other for example pastoral care for bargees, pastoral care among the deaf and air traffic. Category-pastoral care comes up for discussion where people are, more or less obligatory, less within the reach of the local congregations. For example in a care-unit, in the army or in prison, on the way in commercial shipping or as traveler at Schiphol airport) or because of a training outside of the place of residence of the family.

Note for the editors not meant for publication:

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