

SUMMONING THE SYNOD OF RCH

The General Convent of 19-20 June, 2012 held in Szombathely proposed that the new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism be adopted by the joint churches of the Hungarian Reformed Church. The translation was commissioned to a special committee at the council of 2011. On this occasion, the General Convent ruled that a Common Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church be summoned in June 2013, to mark the 450 years anniversary of the first publication of the Heidelberg Catechism, to adopt the new Hungarian translation, and to modify the constitution. The ruling of the General Convent at Szombathely – with respect to the fact that in accordance with the Constitution of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Common Synod may only be summoned in cases that have previously been discussed and suggested for further negotiation at the synods of the joint churches – called upon the Synod of the joint churches to discuss the issues on the agenda beforehand, and inform the Presidency of the General Convent on their agreement by 31 January, 2013.

Adopting the new version of the Heidelberg Catechism is among the main issues on the agenda of the General Convent. A proposition on this issue was submitted at the Synod in spring. At this time, however, the final version of the text was not yet available for the body. Thus the only decision made concerned the addition of explanatory notes for Q&A 80, proposed by the Heidelberg Catechism Translation Committee, which was rejected by the Synod. Although the Synod supported the text of the Translation Committee to be the confession shared and uniformly used by the Hungarian Reformed Church, the proposition pointed out that resolution on the adoption of the text should be made at the autumn meeting of the Synod, after the final version is made available.

The second issue on the agenda calling for resolution is the modification of the Constitution of the Hungarian Reformed Church. The present meeting is the first one since the Constitutional Synod, and this issue is their competence. Three years have passed in the operation of the Hungarian Reformed Church, giving opportunities for examining our experiences concerning the shared constitution, and raising such issues (e. g. the synod representation of the Hungarian Reformed Church in America, openness towards other nationalities, clarification of 5 §) that make a modification of the constitution subject to deliberation. The General Convent calls upon the Church Constitutional Committee of the General Convent to prepare the proposal for modification.

Motion for resolution

- 1. The Synod adopts the new text of the Heidelberg Catechism - prepared by the committee commissioned by the General Convent – as the official translation, and, confirming their previous decision, supports that this translation be uniformly used as the confession of the Hungarian Reformed Church.**
- 2. The Synod supports the Common Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church to be summoned for June 2013, with the following agenda:**
 - Ceremonial service**
 - Adopting the new Hungarian translation of the Heidelberg Catechism**
 - Modification of the constitution**
 - Commemorating the 450 years anniversary of the first publication of Heidelberg Catechism**