

Theses

1. The church service has a function of pastoral counselling, which is not a purpose but a possibility. Starting out from Jesus' guidance and from the practice of the Early Church, congregations can be prepared for the encounter with God purposefully and suitably, i.e. to preach God's word in the presence of the Holy Spirit in a clear and perfect way; to use the forms and elements which represent continuity according to their function; to act as a steward of spiritual gifts present in the congregation; to fill the form with current contents and to prepare the congregation for all these in the course of catechism. On the basis of the Holy Scripture the possibility of pastoral function can be made a purpose to achieve, i.e. to form the congregation to be open to God's love. (5 Deuteronomy 6,4; Matthew 5,3)
2. It is necessary for the Reformed congregation to have a character of piety which becomes visible and audible in the lifestyle of the community and in church services. They influence each other mutually, and they can promote the renewal and strengthening of confessional identity. Church services can fulfill a Christian counselling function in the life of the congregation, if it is determined by the dialectics of discipline and freedom.
3. Singing is a manifestation of church life. If church is a real church, it sings to its Lord: Singing at church is a response to the received word of God in the form of glorification, request, thanksgiving, teaching, consolation and exhortation. It is preparing a way for the Lord (Isaiah 40,1kk) in the recesses of the human spirit which can hardly be approached by any other means. If singing disappears, people become alienated and the church loses its means.
4. In our current church services believers participate in the sacred event in the first place by listening to it. This is a condition and a possibility on the basis of which all communicative elements— with special respect of the human organs of senses - at the church service should be used at the same time in order to achieve a more perfect hearing. The most obvious elements of these are the acquiring, teaching and applying of a spiritual-emotional mother tongue of faith through hymns. The culture of church services radiates to the whole of church life. Meanwhile, it creates the basis and prospect for church members to grow in faith and to become Christians.