

Donald Sinnema / Christian Moser / Erik A. de Boer / Herman J. Selderhuis (eds.)

# The Convening of the Synod of Dordt

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## Preface

As originally envisioned, when vol. I of the *Acta et Documenta Synodi Nationalis Dordrechtanae* was published in 2015, vol. II was conceived as one volume that would include both the convening and early sessions of the Synod of Dordt. However, as work proceeded on vol. II, it soon became clear that there were far too many documents to include in a single volume. Especially the many relevant States General resolutions and the numerous documents related to the convening of the synod made it necessary to divide vol. II into two parts. Thus, this volume, numbered II/1, focuses on the convening of the synod, and vol. II/2 focuses on the early sessions of the synod (published in 2018).

Volume II/1 is undoubtedly the most complex one in this series. This is due, first of all, to the challenge of transcribing the very difficult hand of the States General griffier Cornelis van Aerssen – a task capably done by Dr. Johanna Roelevink – but also to the challenge of locating a considerable amount of correspondence, scattered in a variety of archives in the Netherlands, England, Germany, France and Switzerland, relating to the invitations of foreign lands to send some theologians to aid the synod.

Adding to the complexity were unexpected circumstances in the process of preparing this volume. First to be mentioned is the passing away of Johanna Roelevink. With her we not only lost a devoted and amiable colleague, but also a unique expert on the seventeenth century – especially on the history and sources of the States General – and a scholar with wonderful skills in paleography. We lost her in the midst of work on vol. II/1, but we are grateful that her persistence to the end enabled her to complete most of the transcriptions and editing of challenging States General resolutions and supporting documents that she identified as relevant to the convening of the synod. In the second place, COVID-19 had its effect on this volume since it caused the closing of archives and libraries for a considerable time. A third circumstance was the decision of the directors of the Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek in Emden to withdraw from this project in 2020. Since the JALB was the leading institution to host this ADSND series, we needed to reorganise the project. This could be done successfully as the Theological University Apeldoorn offered to take over responsibility for the project. We want to thank the former director of the JALB, Dr. Marius Lange van Ravenswaay, for his