

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DOCTRINE (CCD)
and the LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY (LMA)
Joint Production of a Study Guide on Human Sexuality
Terms of Reference for the Design Team
July, 2015**

Purpose

The Design Team established by CCD and LMA Representatives will serve as the editorial body for the writer of a study guide that will be created to help equip the denomination for study and discussion on issues of human sexuality and sexual orientation in the life of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Team will offer guidance, direction, and advice as the writer prepares the resource. In working relationship with the writer, the Design Team will have the final authority about content, organization, and the presentation of the publication. The Design Team will submit the document to the LMA and CCD for their input before it is made available to the denomination.

Timeline

It is expected that this study guide will be available for distribution by October 31, 2015 (at the latest). Therefore, the following timeline is proposed:

- The Team meets and determines principles, values, and the scope, objectives and main components of the resource
- The Team meets with the writer to review principles, values, the scope of the study, the timeline, and to answer questions and determine some future meeting dates
- The writer creates the study guide and submits drafts periodically for feedback
- The study guide is presented to the CCD and LMA Committees for input no later than the first week of October
- Layout and or production
- By October 31, 2015 the final copy of the study guide is made available to the church on the web and in written form

Writer

The CCD and LMA Representatives will recruit and engage a writer who will prepare the study guide.

Framework for the Study Guide

This guide will address primary points of relevance for the church on this topic at this time, rather than being an exhaustive study on all aspects of the matter. The study guide will help the church move forward as it considers these matters. The Team may suggest that the writer employ an organizational frame like the The Wesleyan Quadrilateral¹ or the resource used at General Assembly (2015).

Elements

1. The study guide will have an introductory section that acknowledges the complexity of the issue and emphasizes the importance of respectful listening and speech. This section will refer to the process and material used at the meeting of the General Assembly (Vancouver 2015).
2. The study guide will reference PCC statements and study material on this subject, especially the 1994, 2000 and 2003 documents.

¹ The Wesleyan Quadrilateral is a methodology for theological reflection that is credited to John Wesley. The term was coined by the 20th century American Methodist scholar Albert C. Outler. This method based its teaching on four sources as the basis of theological and doctrinal development, scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.

3. The study guide will refer to scripture passages and theological principles cited in some of the overtures submitted to the General Assembly and those the Team considers relevant.
4. The guide will offer some reflection that engages material from relevant fields of scientific study.
5. The study guide will include a bibliography.
6. The study guide will include a means by which users of the study guide can submit responses to the CCD and LMA as the bodies prepare responses to the overtures.

Membership

The CCD and LMA will each name three members.

Members of the Design Team named by the CCD:

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