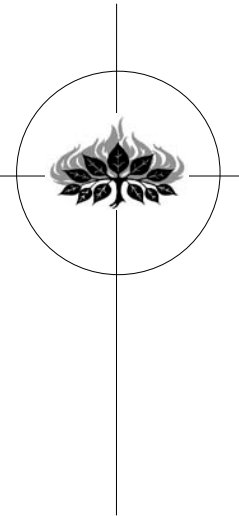


# The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 142ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage, B.Th., M.T.S. M.Div.

July 29, 2016

**TO: Clerks of Synod**  
**FROM: Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk**  
**RE: Actions of the 2016 General Assembly for attention of synods**

Dear clerks of synod,

Please find below, the General Assembly referrals for your attention and action. Electronic copies of the referrals letters and the documents noted for study and report are available online at [presbyterian.ca/referrals](http://presbyterian.ca/referrals).

## 1. STUDY AND REPORT

### 1.1 Presbyterian Polity: Its Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century

**Committee on Church Doctrine, Rec. No. 1** A&P 2016, p. 258, (adopted, p. 26)

That the document “Presbyterian Polity: Its Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century” be commended to the courts and, in particular, to the clerks of those courts for study and response to the Committee on Church Doctrine through the Assembly Office by August 31, 2017.

“Presbyterian Polity: Its Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century” can be found on the website and at pages 251–58 of the 2016 Acts and Proceedings.

## 2. INFORMATION/ACTION

### 2.1 Minimum Stipend and Allowance Schedule for 2017

The Minimum Stipend and Allowance Schedule is found on pages 234–35 of the 2016 Acts and Proceedings.

### 2.2 Strategic Plan

**Assembly Council, Rec. No. 9** (A&P 2016, p. 220, adopted, p. 25)

That the Strategic Plan be approved for guiding the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Strategic Plan can be found on the website and at pages 219–20 of the 2016 Acts and Proceedings.

### 2.3 Committee on Church Doctrine, Rec. No. 3 (A&P 2016, p. 264, as amended and adopted, p. 28)

That all courts of the church be required to deal with all people with tender pastoral care.

### 2.4 Committee on History, Rec. No. 3 (A&P 2016, p. 303, adopted, p. 19)

That the General Assembly and the courts of the church actively promote the “Solus Christus” event to take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 29, 2016, and encourage their members to either attend this event or to join via internet.

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Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp

**2.5 Committee on History, Rec. No. 4** (A&P 2016, p. 303, adopted, p. 19)  
That the General Assembly and the courts of the church promote the “Soli Deo Gloria” event in celebration of the 500th Anniversary year of the Reformation to take place at Knox College in Toronto on Saturday, October 28, 2017, and encourage their members to attend.

**2.6 Committee on History, Rec. No. 5** (A&P 2016, p. 304 as amended and adopted p. 19)  
That the congregations within The Presbyterian Church in Canada be encouraged to contribute to the National Presbyterian Museum and that presbyteries be encouraged to assess their congregations \$50 to this end.

**2.7 Presbyterian Record, Inc., Rec. No. 2** (A&P 2016 p. 461, adopted, p. 24)  
That the ministry of the *Presbyterian Record* be commended to the courts of the church with the request that those courts discuss the financial situation of the *Record* and seek ways to assist the *Record* financially in the coming year.

### **3. LEGISLATION (BARRIER, INTERIM, OR DECLARATORY ACTS)**

**3.1** Please note that Remits A and B 2015, found at (A&P 2016, p. 461–62) were adopted and the relevant sections of the Book of forms have been amended accordingly as follows:

32. Every book enjoined to be kept by any court is ordered to be reviewed and attested yearly by the next higher court, save that a presbytery if it is desired may call for the session records once every two years for attestation, and in the case of a presbytery where its synod has been dissolved, another presbytery is empowered to attest its records according to the dissolution plan approved by General Assembly at the time of dissolution. (see section 259.2, Appendix K, Declaratory Act: A&P 1991, p. 254, 37)

259.2 The General Assembly may dissolve any synod upon its request provided it is satisfied with the synod’s plan to apportion the various responsibilities and assets among the presbyteries within its bounds. The plan for dissolution shall be approved by the General Assembly and included in the Acts and Proceedings. (see Appendix K)

**3.2 Clerks of Assembly, Rec. No. 6** (A&P 2016, p. 286, adopted, p. 40)  
That Book of Forms section 12.1 be deleted.

Section 12.1 was deleted from the Book of Forms.

**3.3 Clerks of Assembly, Rec. No. 9** (A&P 2016, p. 289, adopted, p. 16)  
That Book of Forms section 312 be amended to read as follows:

312. The Clerks of Assembly shall be responsible for producing the minutes of the General Assembly and making them available to the church.

This amended legislation has the effect of allowing for more flexibility in the distribution of electronic versions of the minutes of Assembly.

**3.4 Book of Forms Appendix G**  
A revised Book of Forms Appendix G (Archives and Records Management) was approved (A&P 2016, p. 209, adopted p. 25) and will be included in the 2016 edition of the Book of Forms.

The revised Book of Forms Appendix G may be found on the website and at pages 207–209 of the 2016 Acts and Proceedings.

**3.5 Book of Forms Appendix K**

A new Book of Forms Appendix K (A&P 2016, p. 290) was added to outline the process for considering and achieving the dissolution of a synod.

The revised Book of Forms Appendix K may be found on the website and at page 290 of the 2016 Acts and Proceedings.

**4. DECLARATORY ACT**

The following Declaratory Act was adopted (Clerks of Assembly, Rec. No. 5 p. 285, p. 16) and will be added to Book of Forms section 198.1:

Ordained minister of churches that are members of the World Communion of Reformed Churches are permitted to preside at the Lord's Table at the discretion of the moderator or interim moderator of the relevant session. (A&P 2015, p. 255)