

LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE

(A&P 2016, p. 388, 20)

OVERTURES, 2015 RE HUMAN SEXUALITY

In 2015 the General Assembly referred to Justice Ministries Overture Nos. 4 and 5, 2015 requesting statements recommending full inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender. Overture No. 21, 2015 requesting a study paper on human sexuality that affirms the statement made in 1994 was referred to Justice Ministries in consultation with the Church Doctrine Committee. Overture No. 23, 2015 was directed to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries re gay and lesbian candidates for ministry and same-sex marriages. Overture Nos. 24, 30 and 35, 2015 requested statements recommending full inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender and were directed to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries. Overture No. 15, 2015 was referred to Justice Ministries and the Committee on Church Doctrine and requested a statement that would lead to a “fresh round of listening” in the church. Overture No. 29, 2015 referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries requested a review of the traditional exegesis of the biblical texts that speak to homosexuality alongside revisionist readings of the same texts and prepare a report to guide the church. Overture Nos. 14, 21, 26 and 33, 2015 were referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries and requested a statement affirming the Statement on Human Sexuality (1994). Overture No. 32, 2015 was referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries requested a statement upholding marriage as between one man and one woman.

Recommendation No. 10 (adopted, p. 20)

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) to present a response to the above Overture Nos. 4, 5, 14, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 2015 to the 2017 General Assembly.