

## SAMPLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

### CLERKS OF ASSEMBLY

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### **Consent Recommendation**

That Recommendation Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 9 (identified by ►) be adopted by consent.

##### **Recommendation No. 1**

That the General Assembly express its profound thankfulness to the Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp for 29 years of extraordinary commitment to the office of Clerk of the General Assembly and to the courts of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. (see p. 7.1.2)

##### **Recommendation No. 2**

That the above be the response to Overture No. 37, 2015 and Overture Nos. 4, 5 and 7, 2016 re request for process for a congregation leaving the denomination. (see p. 7.1.5)

##### **► Recommendation No. 3**

That the above definition of the scope and purpose of a Declaratory Act be the response to Memorial No. 1, 2015. (see p. 7.1.6)

##### **► Recommendation No. 4**

That Overture No. 3, 2016, re Barrier Act and an individual's dissent be answered by the above response. (see p. 7.1.6)

### REPORT

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

There are three clerks of the General Assembly. The Rev. Stephen Kendall is the Principal Clerk. The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp and the Rev. Don Muir are Deputy Clerks. Mr. Kendall and Mr. Muir serve full time at the national office in Toronto while Dr. Plomp serves part time from his home in Richmond, British Columbia.

Throughout the year, the Clerks of Assembly respond to queries from officers and members of lower courts as well as from individual members of the church... In the spring they finalize their responses to overtures and prepare their report to the General Assembly. Matters of polity are discussed at both meetings.

#### **THE REV. DR. TONY PLOMP**

On April 4, 2016, the Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp became the longest serving Clerk of Assembly in the history of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Interestingly, Dr. Plomp was elected Moderator of that same Assembly.

The original appointment has been renewed five times in succession. He continues, however, to work closely with Mr. Kendall and Mr. Muir, providing wise council and unstinting dedication to our denomination.

##### **Recommendation No. 1                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the General Assembly express its profound thankfulness to the Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp for 29 years of extraordinary commitment to the office of Clerk of the General Assembly and to the courts of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**OVERTURE NO. 37, 2015** (A&P 2015, p. 610–11, 249, 17)

**Re: Process for a congregation leaving the denomination**

**OVERTURE NOS. 4, 5 AND 7, 2016** (p. 28.1.2–3, 28.1.4)

**Re: A policy for a congregation leaving the denomination**

These various overtures request the establishment of a means for congregations... Some of the overtures refer to current discussions around human sexuality as the source of the request.

The Clerks of Assembly are disinclined to create a process for congregations to withdraw from The Presbyterian Church in Canada... By God's grace, we remain brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Recommendation No. 2                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the above be the response to Overture No. 37, 2015 and Overture Nos. 4, 5 and 7, 2016 re request for process for a congregation leaving the denomination.

**MEMORIAL NO. 1, 2015** (A&P 2015, p. 611–12, 249, 17)

**Re: Process re changes to church's teaching on human sexuality**

**Definition of scope and purpose of a Declaratory Act**

This memorial was referred to the Clerks of Assembly by the 2015 General Assembly with the request that that the Clerks provide a definition of the scope and purpose of a Declaratory Act.

The memorial itself quotes the pertinent legislation regarding a Declaratory Act:

293. The Assembly may pass a Declaratory Act... must be dealt with according to the provisions of the Barrier Act (A&P 1877) that are as follows:

293.1 No prepared law or rule relative to matters of doctrine, discipline, government or worship, shall become a permanent enactment until the same has been submitted to presbyteries for consideration...

**Conclusion**

While past General Assemblies seem to have occasionally passed Declaratory Acts. The Clerks of Assembly would advise this and future Assemblies against passing Declaratory Acts that introduce new or revised legislation or doctrine into the life of the church.

**Recommendation No. 3                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the above definition of the scope and purpose of a Declaratory Act be the response to Memorial No. 1, 2015.