

REMITTS UNDER THE BARRIER ACT

Interim Report, May 2020

The following are the replies from the presbyteries to the remit sent down under the Barrier Act by the 2019 Assembly:

REMIT A, 2019 RE BOOK OF FORMS 108–108.3 – LENGTH OF TERM SERVICE FOR ELDERS

That Book of Forms 108–108.3 regarding term service for eldership be amended as follows and remitted to presbyteries under the Barrier Act (Clerks of Assembly, Recommendation No. 1, p. 261, adopted, p. 31):

108. Elders, once lawfully called to the office, and having gifts of God to exercise the same, are ordained for life. They may serve in the office for life unless deposed or suspended in process of discipline. They may, however, at the call of a congregation in which the session has instituted term service for elders, fulfill the duties of the eldership on the session normally for periods of six years but may stand for re-election at the end of each term.

108.1 Any session desiring to opt for term service for elders should consult with the congregation and must notify the presbytery of its intention and receive that court's permission.

108.2 In congregations that have instituted term service for elders, normally one third of the session shall be elected every two years. Sessions opting for an alternative term shall establish a consistent term of service and frequency of election, which shall be subject to approval by the presbytery.

108.3 Elders may resign the active exercise of the office at any time during their term of service. (Declaratory Act 1985, p. 261, 52)

Approved: 44 presbyteries (1,274 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll*)

Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Pictou, Halifax & Lunenburg, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Montreal, Seaway-Glengarry, Ottawa, Lanark & Renfrew, Kingston, Lindsay-Peterborough, Pickering, East Toronto, West Toronto, Brampton, Oak Ridges, Barrie, Temiskaming, Algoma & North Bay, Waterloo-Wellington, Han-Ca, East, Hamilton, Niagara, Paris, London, Essex-Kent, Lambton-West Middlesex, Huron-Perth, Grey-Bruce-Maitland, Superior, Brandon, Assiniboia, Northern Saskatchewan, Peace River, Edmonton-Lakeland, Central Alberta, Calgary-Macleod, Kootenay, Kamloops, Westminster, Vancouver Island, Han Ca West.

Disapproved: 0 presbytery (0 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll*)

No Response: 1 presbytery (24 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll**) Winnipeg.

Total Presbyteries: 45 presbyteries (1,298 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll***)

REMIT B, 2019 RE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

That the following be approved and remitted to presbyteries under the Barrier Act. (Special Committee on Implications of Pathway B, Recommendation No 2, as amended, p. 51):

The Presbyterian Church in Canada holds two parallel definitions of marriage and recognizes that faithful, Holy Spirit filled, Christ centred, God honouring people can understand marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman or as a covenant relationship between two adult persons.

That congregations, sessions, ruling and teaching elders be granted liberty of conscience and action on marriage.

Approved: 33 presbyteries (957 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll*)

Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Pictou, Halifax & Lunenburg, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Seaway-Glengarry, Ottawa, Kingston, Lindsay-Peterborough, Pickering, East Toronto, West Toronto, Brampton, Barrie, Temiskaming, Waterloo-Wellington, Hamilton, Niagara, London, Essex-Kent, Huron-Perth, Grey-Bruce-Maitland, Superior, Winnipeg, Brandon, Assiniboia, Northern Saskatchewan, Edmonton-Lakeland, Central Alberta, Calgary-Macleod, Vancouver Island.

Disapproved: 12 presbyteries (347 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll**)

Montreal, Lanark & Renfrew, Oak Ridges, Algoma & North Bay, Han-Ca East, Paris, Lambton-West Middlesex, Peace River, Kootenay, Kamloops, Westminster, Han-Ca West.

Total Presbyteries: 45 presbyteries (1,304 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll***)

REMIT C, 2019 RE ORDINATION OF LGBTQI PERSONS (MARRIED OR SINGLE)

That the following be approved and remitted to presbyteries under the Barrier Act. (Special Committee on Implications of Pathway B, Recommendation No 1, 2019 (A&P 2019, amended, p. 52):

That congregations and presbyteries may call and ordain as ministers and elect and ordain as ruling elders LGBTQI persons (married or single) with the provision that liberty of conscience and action regarding participation in ordinations, inductions and installations be granted to ministers and ruling elders.

Approved: 30 presbyteries (870 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll*)

Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Pictou, Halifax & Lunenburg, New Brunswick, Quebec, Seaway-Glengarry, Lanark & Renfrew, Kingston, Lindsay-Peterborough, Pickering, East Toronto, West Toronto, Brampton, Barrie, Temiskaming, Waterloo-Wellington, Hamilton, Niagara, London, Essex-Kent, Huron-Perth, Grey-Bruce-Maitland, Superior, Winnipeg, Brandon, Northern Saskatchewan, Edmonton-Lakeland, Central Alberta, Calgary-Macleod.

Disapproved: 15 presbyteries (436 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll*)

Prince Edward Island, Montreal, Ottawa, Oak Ridges, Algoma & North Bay, Han-Ca East, Paris, Lambton-West Middlesex, Assiniboia, Peace River, Kootenay, Kamloops, Westminster, Vancouver Island, Han Ca West.

Total Presbyteries: 45 presbyteries (1,306 ministers/diaconal ministers/elders on the constituent roll*)

NOTES * numbers reported by clerks.

** numbers estimated based upon number of pastoral charges and ministers and diaconal ministers on the roll. (March 2020).

*** numbers are the combination of approved, disapproved and no response.