

THIRD SEDERUNT

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

On Monday, June 7, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. (EDT), the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS (cont'd from p. XXX)

Agenda

J.I.F. Barrett moved, duly seconded, that the agenda for the third sederunt be approved as presented.

Recommendation BUS-018

Life and Mission Agency - Listening Process Re Remits B and C, 2019

Remits A, B and C, 2019

Previous Moderator addresses the Assembly

Amendment

S.K. Bell moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation BOV-010 be discussed before the discussion on the report of the Special Committee on listening (LMA Listening Process) and the Committee on Remits (REM) in the third sederunt.

Immediate Vote

A.E. Coulter moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly take an immediate vote on the amendment. Adopted.

Amendment adopted

The amendment was adopted.

Agenda amended

The agenda for the third sederunt, as amended, included the following:

Recommendation BUS-018

Recommendation BOV-010

Life and Mission Agency - Listening Process Re Remits B and C, 2019

Remits A, B and C, 2019

Previous Moderator addresses the Assembly

Amendment

D.A. Robinson moved, duly seconded, that the report of the Rainbow Communion precede the consideration of the Remits.

Immediate Vote

R.W. Darjes moved, duly seconded that the Assembly take an immediate vote on the amendment. Adopted.

Amendment adopted

The amendment was adopted.

Agenda as amended adopted

The agenda for the third sederunt, as amended, was adopted as follows:

Recommendation BUS-018

Recommendation BOV-010

Life and Mission Agency - Listening Process Re Remits B and C, 2019

Rainbow Communion

Remits A, B and C, 2019

Previous Moderator addresses the Assembly

Recommendation BUS-018 (p. XXX) was moved by J.I.F. Barrett, duly seconded. Adopted.

Dissent with Reasons

Recommendation BUS-018: S. Kwon (p. XXX)

(cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, as printed on p. XXX–XXX to deal with Recommendation BOV-010. V. Kim, convener, commented on the recommendation.

Recommendation BOV-010 (p. XXX) was moved by V. Kim, duly seconded.

Amendment

A.M. Cornell moved, duly seconded, that the words “to be appointed by” follow the words “special committee” and replace the word “of” and the words “approved by this Assembly, and that this special committee report to the 2022 General Assembly” replace the words “to report to a future Assembly”.

Immediate Vote

A. Van Nest moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly take an immediate vote on the amendment. Adopted.

Amendment adopted

The amendment was adopted.

Recommendation BOV-010, as amended, was adopted as follows:

That Petition Nos. 1 and 2, 2021 re confession to ethnic contingent of denomination be received and referred to a special committee to be appointed by the 2021 General Assembly, with terms of reference approved by this Assembly, and that this special committee report to the 2022 General Assembly.

Dissent with Reasons

Recommendation BOV-010: S. Kwon (p. XXX)

(cont'd on p. XXX)

LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE (cont'd from p. XXX)

Listening Process Re Remits B and C, 2019

C. Stephenson, convener of the Life and Mission Agency Committee, and I.A. Ross-McDonald commented on this portion of the Life and Mission Agency Committee report.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE LISTENING (LGBTQI PEOPLE) RAINBOW COMMUNION

The Assembly called for the report of the Special Committee Re Listening (LGBTQI People) Rainbow Communion which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was introduced by B.N. Faris and S. Senior, co-conveners.

Omnibus Recommendation RCL-OMB was moved by B.N. Faris and duly seconded.

Amendment

J.T. Hurd moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation RCL-016 be removed from the omnibus recommendation. Defeated.

Amendment

S. Kwon moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation RCL-011 be removed from the omnibus recommendation. Defeated.

Omnibus Recommendation RCL-OMB, was adopted, thereby approving the following recommendations.

RCL-001 – (p. XXX)
RCL-002 – (p. XXX)
RCL-003 – (p. XXX)
RCL-004 – (p. XXX)

RCL-005 – (p. XXX)
RCL-007 – (p. XXX)
RCL-008 – (p. XXX)
RCL-009 – (p. XXX)

RCL-010 – (p. XXX)
RCL-011 – (p. XXX)
RCL-012 – (p. XXX)
RCL-013 – (p. XXX)

RCL-014 – (p. XXX)
RCL-015 – (p. XXX)
RCL-016 – (p. XXX)
RCL-017 – (p. XXX)

RCL-018 – (p. XXX)
RCL-019 – (p. XXX)
RCL-020 – (p. XXX)
RCL-021 – (p. XXX)

RCL-022 – (p. XXX)
RCL-023 – (p. XXX)

Dissent with Reasons

Recommendation RCL-OMB: C.D. Cameron, A.M. Cornell, J. Hong, D. Jennings, D. Krunys. (p. XXX)
Recommendation RCL-011: S. Kwon (p. XXX)
Recommendation RCL-014: S.K. Bell (p. XXX)
Recommendation RCL-015: S. Kwon (p. XXX)
Recommendation RCL-016: S. Kwon, J.T. Hurd (p. XXX)
Recommendation RCL-019: S. Kwon (p. XXX)

Recommendation RCL-006 (p. XXX) was moved by S. Senior, duly seconded. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

B.N. Faris moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted.

Additional Motion

S. Meyer moved, duly seconded, that the Moderator of the 2021 General Assembly write letters of apology to the Rev. Darryl Macdonald and St. Andrew's Lachine (through Summerlea United) in light of the Rainbow Communion Listening Committee report. Adopted.

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ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to reconvene on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (EDT), of which public intimation was given.

DISSENTS – THIRD SEDERUNT

Commissioners asked that their dissent be recorded as follows:

Recommendation BUS-018

S. Kwon: Many of the Rainbow communion recommendations are contrary to the doctrine of the church before voting on the remits. They should necessarily be considered after the voting on the remits. The Rainbow Communion recommendations should not be heard before the remits, though the reports can be received and heard without the recommendations.

Recommendation BOV-010

S. Kwon: I had submitted an amendment to the motion, but it was not heard. I agree with the spirit of this recommendation, but as a member of the Han-Ca presbyteries that wrote the petitions, the resulting recommendation was not fully in line with the spirit of what we desired. My amendment called for a letter of repentance from the Moderator and a special committee to be formed with the terms of reference to be to design an action plan for ensuring the future of the ethnic congregations within the PCC so that their voices will not be silenced.

Recommendation RCL-OMB

C.D. Cameron: That the recommendation was adopted before the Remits and therefore before any formal change in our doctrines of sexuality, marriage and ministry, and therefore was out of order; That several of the recommendations contained within this omnibus recommendation run counter to the diversity of opinion on matters of sexuality, marriage and ministry which are enshrined in the Remits; That because they were contained within an omnibus recommendation, these recommendations could not be discussed and debated by the Assembly; nor could their implications for the life of congregations which hold a traditional view of sexuality and marriage be explored or questioned before they were adopted.

A.M. Cornell: I recognize the harm and the hypocrisy. I accept the moderator's 2018 letter of repentance. And I support many of the recommendations in this report. I need to point that an exercise such as this should recognize everyone. That begins with the victims, along with those who are responsible for the pain and hypocrisy. But what

about those who identify with the middle ground? Because I do not support church blessing of same-sex unions, one would think I'd identify with the groups blamed for the harm. Yet I don't fit into the glossary definition of homophobic. I don't fit the definition of heteronormative. So where does someone like me fit? This is how someone like me thinks. With God as my help, I love all people, especially those who are same-sex attracted. With God as my help, I would love to create a space in my congregation that includes the LGBTQI community. At the same time, with God as my help, I want to proclaim what I fervently believe is a God-centred interpretation of scripture, which calls on us to live lives that are radically submitted not to the desires of our heart by the holy and perfect will of God. I find no recognition of this view. Too much of this debate has been divisive – putting us on one side or another. I'm suggesting that there are many in the so-called traditional wings who are tired of being labelled as homophobic when we don't fit the definition.

J. Hong: The recommendations contained in RCL-OMB at the time of voting went directly against our polity and theology (subordinate standards). The remits should have been voted on first. Also recommendations contained in RCL-OMB are in contradiction to the recently approved remits (Remit B & C), ignoring that there are two valid definitions of marriage and not simply an inclusive one. Is the Principal Clerk not aware of polity, or perhaps it just doesn't matter (serious question)?

D. Jennings: I wish to register my dissent as there were recommendations contained in the omnibus resolution that assumed the passage of the Remits prior to the Remits being addressed by the Court, which presumed an outcome prior to any debate on the Remits. This error was noted in the debates but was not addressed.

D. Krunys: A number of the recommendations included are quite literally putting the cart before the horse. Passing this motion at this time was to implement a change in practice prior to making a change in polity. This seems equivalent to a congregation leaving the denomination now in anticipation of Assembly later providing permission because the process of responding has begun.

Recommendation RCL-011

S. Kwon: This recommendation is contrary to the doctrine at the time at which it was passed. Full inclusion is not in line with our doctrine at the time, and it would have been appropriate to pass it after the discussion on the remits.

Recommendation RCL-014

S.K. Bell: I believe that this recommendation is out of order. It assumes the passage of remits B & C. It is inappropriate and illogical to assume the full inclusion of LGBTQI people in all dimensions of the ministry of the church before considering the questions put forward in the remits.

S. Kwon: This recommendation is contrary to the doctrine at the time at which it was passed. Full inclusion is not in line with our doctrine at the time, and it would have been appropriate to pass it after the discussion on the remits.

Recommendation RCL-015

S.K. Bell: I believe that this recommendation is out of order. It assumes the passage of remits B & C. It is inappropriate and illogical to assume the full inclusion of LGBTQI people in all dimensions of the ministry of the church before considering the questions put forward in the remits.

S. Kwon: This recommendation is contrary to the doctrine at the time at which it was passed. LGBTQI persons in a same-sex relationship would not be permissible by our subordinate standards at the time, and it would have been appropriate to pass it after the discussion on the remits.

Recommendation RCL-016

S.K. Bell: I believe that this recommendation is out of order. It assumes the passage of remits B & C. It is inappropriate and illogical to assume to exclude discipline of LGBTQI people in the church before considering the remits. Further, should the remits fail this motion now closes the door to any discipline or correction should the church reaffirm the current definition of marriage and who is eligible for ministry and ordination. This can create confusion and possible harm for both LGBTQI people who seek ministry positions and calling congregations.

J.T. Hurd: I wish to register and record my dissent from the action of the 146th General Assembly in adopting Recommendation RCL-016 of the report of the Special Committee re Listening (LGBTQI People), on the grounds that the recommendation is not in keeping with the established and current confessional polity of The Presbyterian Church in Canada expressed in the subordinate standards of the Church which in turn I believe to be founded upon

and agreeable to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the written word of God, which both as a commissioner to the Assembly and as an ordained pastor of the Church I am bound to uphold.

S. Kwon: Identifying as LGBTQI in a same-sex marriage is grounds for discipline and censure at the time it was passed. This recommendation should have been considered after the voting on the remits.

Recommendation RCL-019

S. Kwon: This recommendation is contrary to the doctrine at the time at which it was passed. Full inclusion is not in line with our doctrine at the time, and it would have been appropriate to pass it after the discussion on the remits.