



MODERATOR OF THE 146<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
The Rev. Daniel D. Scott, B.A., M.C.S., M.Div., D.Min.

August 26, 2021

**TO: Clerks of Synod**  
**FROM: Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk**  
**RE: Actions of the 2021 General Assembly for the 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/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals).

**1. INFORMATION/ACTION**

- 1.1 Recommendation ADV-003** (A&P 2021, p. 201, 12)  
That the thanks of the Assembly be extended to congregations, individuals, presbyteries, synods, organizations, international, ecumenical and inter-faith partners who warmly welcomed and graciously offered hospitality to the Rev. Amanda Currie.
- 1.2 Recommendation LMA-015** (A&P 2021, p. 421, 38)  
That congregations, presbyteries and synods be encouraged to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius by taking the actions suggested in this report.  
“Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery in Practice” can be found at A&P 2021, 419–21 and [presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals).
- 1.3 Recommendation LMA-044** (A&P 2021, p. 519, 38)  
That the above Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment in the Church be approved.  
The report “Workplace harassment” can be found in the A&P 2021, p. 515–19 and at [presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals).
- 1.4 Recommendation LMA-050** (A&P 2021, p. 543, 38)  
That the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth be endorsed.

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Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir

- 1.5 Recommendation LMA-051** (A&P 201, p. 543, 38)  
That the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth be circulated to congregations, worshiping communities, social ministries, camps, presbyteries, synods and colleges.
- The report on the “Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth” can be found in the 2021 A&P, p. 532–43 and at [cpha.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/resources/antibullying/joint\\_statement\\_e.pdf](https://cpha.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/resources/antibullying/joint_statement_e.pdf)
- 1.6 Recommendation RCL-001** (A&P 2021, p. 593, 22)  
That the gratitude of the General Assembly be extended to all who have told their stories as part of the Special Listening Committee re LGBTQI (Rainbow Communion).
- 1.7 Recommendation RCL-002** (A&P 2021, p. 617, 22)  
That The Presbyterian Church in Canada affirm that all people whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity are equally beloved by God.
- 1.8 Recommendation RCL-005** (A&P 2021, p. 654, 22)  
That members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be encouraged to participate in the service of worship that gives public expression to the confession for harm done to LGBTQI people and to work individually and as congregations and the courts of the church to live out this confession and commitment so that harm does not continue.
- 1.9 Recommendation RCL-007** (A&P 2021, p. 657, 22)  
That the Life and Mission Agency, together with synods, presbyteries, sessions and theological colleges encourage the development of organic networks of support groups and formalized pastoral care relationships across the church, both in person and online, to provide resources, guidance and care for people who identify as LGBTQI and in particular for serving and retired clergy and for family members of LGBTQI people.
- 1.10 Recommendation RCL-009** (A&P 2021, p. 658, 22)  
That The Presbyterian Church in Canada reject without qualification the false claim that those who identify as LGBTQI are any more likely to be involved in paedophilia or the molestation or abuse of children or vulnerable adults than any other persons.
- 1.11 Recommendation RCL-010** (A&P 2021, p. 659, 22)  
That The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through the Life and Mission Agency, provide a means for people to safely tell their stories of abuse and offer an appropriate pastoral response.
- 1.12 Recommendation RCL-011** (A&P 2021, p. 661, 22)  
That with the support of the resources from the Life and Mission Agency, the courts of the church, agencies, colleges and camps review and update their policies, procedures and practices, including the language used, by June 2022, to ensure they reflect the full inclusion of all people.
- 1.13 Recommendation RCL-014** (A&P 2021, p. 664, 22)  
That all congregations, presbyteries, synods and committees be encouraged to consult with the Program Coordinator Sexuality and Inclusion, concerning the ongoing work of resource and policy development, education and support for the full inclusion of LGBTQI people in all dimensions of the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

- 1.14 Recommendation RCL-015** (A&P 2021, p. 665, 22)  
That committees to nominate at all levels and in all courts of the church, be urged and encouraged to include LGBTQI representation in the membership of committees of the sessions, presbyteries, synods, colleges and the General Assembly.
- 1.15 Recommendation RCL-016** (A&P 2021, p. 667, 22)  
That identifying as LGBTQI and/or being in a same-sex marriage not be grounds for discipline and censure in The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
- 1.16 Recommendation RCL-017** (A&P 2021, p. 668, 22)  
That all congregations, presbyteries, synods and theological colleges be encouraged to use the Life and Mission Agency updated resources for worship and to review their own practices and the language that they use in worship.
- 1.17 Recommendation RCL-020** (A&P 201, p. 670, 22)  
That this report and its recommendations together with the supporting resources be commended to congregations, the Life and Mission Agency and the courts of the church to assist in the process of reconciliation.  
  
The full report can be found at [Rainbow Communion: Special LGBTQI Listening Committee | The Presbyterian Church in Canada.](#)
- 2. LEGISLATION (REMITS, INTERIM or DECLARATORY ACTS)**
- 2.1 Remits A, B and C (2019)** were approved, and the Book of Forms has been amended as follows:
- 2.1.1 Remit A, 2019 re Book of Forms Section 108-108.3 re Length of Term Service for Elders** (A&P 2021, p. 583)  
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)
- 2.1.2 Remit B, 2019 re Definition of Marriage** (A&P 2021, p. 27, 583–84)  
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.

**2.1.3 Remit C, 2019 re Ordination of LGBTQI persons (married or single)** (A&P 2021, p. 28)

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.

**2.2 Recommendation CLK-006** (A&P 2021, as amended, p. 55)

**Declaratory Act re active participation at ordinations, inductions and installations**

That Book of Forms section 11.2 be revised through a Declaratory Act to read:

11.2 The following Declaratory Act was adopted by the 1989 General Assembly and ordered inserted in the Book of Forms (A&P 1981, p. 90; A&P 1989, p. 271, 65) and was revised through an additional Declaratory Act adopted by the 2021 General Assembly: By virtue of their ordination vows, all ministers and elders are obliged to exercise full ministry including, among other things, active participation in the ordination of candidates to the eldership and to the ministry of Word and Sacraments. The one exception is that ministers and elders are granted liberty of conscience and action in active participation in the ordination, induction and installation of candidates to the eldership and to the ministry of Word and Sacraments who are LGBTQI persons (married or single). (Remit C, 2019 – A&P 2019, p. 5) Though presbyteries have no authority to grant permission to disobey church law and doctrine, yet they are enjoined to deal with cases of conscience on any question with pastoral care and understanding for the parties involved, with concern and sensitivity for the peace and unity of the whole church.