



MODERATOR OF THE 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris, B.A., M.Div., M.Th., Ph.D.

August 3, 2022

TO: Clerks of Presbytery

FROM: The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim, Principal Clerk

RE: Actions of the 2022 General Assembly for the Attention of Presbyteries

Dear Friend in Christ,

Please find below, the General Assembly referrals for your attention and action. Once again, this year, the Assembly Office will send the session referrals directly to Clerks of Session. This will save you the task of reproducing and distributing these referrals through your presbytery. I am, however, including a copy of the session referrals letter in your material for your information. Electronic copies of the referrals letters (and the documents noted for study and report) are available online at presbyterian.ca/referrals.

1. INFORMATION/ACTION

1.1 Recommendation ASC-010 (A&P 2022, p. 70–71, 33)

That Overture No. 4, 2020 be granted through the action of obtaining and publishing a legal opinion based on the wording of the remits in advance of decisions on Remits B and C, 2019.

OVERTURE NO. 4, 2020 (A&P 2021 p. 734–35)

Re: Legal implications of Remits

In the overture, which was received prior to the 2021 General Assembly, the following request was made of the Assembly:

To clear the path to a transparent decision on Remits B and C by making everyone aware of the pertinent information on legal opinions based on the full wording and facts, understand by the legal decisions offered and by the wording of the remits, so that the 2020 General Assembly may be fully competent and confident in its legal understanding before the vote is taken at the 2020 General Assembly.

The Assembly Council considered a response to this overture at its January 2021 meeting but it was rejected in favour of a motion asking instead, that:

The Executive be instructed to retain independent counsel with constitutional expertise to address the matters contained in Remits B and C, 2019 and to report back to the May meeting (January 2020).

This was done and through the services of Supreme Advocacy LLP, a detailed (52 page) legal opinion was obtained and considered by the Assembly Council, which in turn, made sure that commissioners had the legal opinion (and a four page executive summary) in time for the 2022 General Assembly. The opinion and summary are available at <https://assembly.presbyterian.ca/#/search/3001208>.

This action fulfilled the request of the overture, that a legal opinion based on the exact wording of the remits be made available to commissioners in advance of making a decision on the remits at the General Assembly.

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim and The Rev. Donald G.A. Muir

- 1.2 Recommendation ASC-012** (A&P 2022, p. 73, 34)
That a national registry of ministers and congregations that are willing to celebrate same-sex weddings be created and maintained by the General Assembly Office.
- 1.3 Recommendation ASC-013** (A&P 2022, p. 73, 34)
That the names and contact information of ministers willing to conduct same-sex weddings be recorded in the registry on a voluntary basis.
- Further information about the registry described in the above recommendation will be sent to presbyteries and congregations once it is ready for use.
- 1.4 Recommendation ASC-021** (A&P 2022, p. 84, divided, amended in part and adopted, p. 36)
That the proposed approach for congregations wishing to depart from The Presbyterian Church in Canada on a voluntary withdrawal basis and retain a stipulated portion of assets be approved, including determination of the value of church property that may be distributed upon withdrawal and related procedures to effect voluntary withdrawal from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, but that the time for sessions to register their intention to leave The Presbyterian Church in Canada be November 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.
- A separate document from the Clerks of Assembly will be sent out with more details about the process.
- The information is found at presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2022/2022referrals.
- 1.5 Recommendation ASC-024** (A&P 2022, p. 97, 33)
That the resources of the Life and Mission Agency and Justice Ministries regarding the work of Healing and Reconciliation be commended to the wider church for education.
- These resources can be obtained directly from the Justice Ministries department and online at presbyterian.ca/healing.
- 1.6 Recommendation CLK-009** (A&P 2022, p. 129, 37)
That it is the policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada that ministers and congregations are free to set wedding policies that follow either of the accepted definitions of marriage (Book of Forms Appendix L).
- 1.7 Recommendation CLK-010** (A&P 2022, p. 129, 37)
That it is the policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada that in the case of a same-sex couple requesting marriage by a minister or congregation that does not host same-sex weddings, the couple shall be referred to a minister or congregation willing to consider conducting the wedding.
- 1.8 Recommendation CLK-011** (A&P 2022, p. 129, 38)
The guidelines can be found at A&P 2022, p. 126–29, also at presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2022/2022referrals.
- That the above revised guidelines to facilitate calls and election of LGBTQI candidates and considerations regarding marriage be commended to sessions, congregations and presbyteries.
- 1.9 Recommendation EIR-001 (A&P 2022, p. 131, 19) and in the Ecumenical Shared Ministries Handbook** at Ecumenical Shared Ministries Handbook (presbyterian.ca)
- That sessions and presbyteries consider ecumenical partnerships and consult the Ecumenical Shared Ministries Handbook when planning social enterprises and the life and witness of congregations.
- 1.10 Recommendation EIR-004** (A&P 2022, p. 132, 19) and at Korea Peace Appeal, en.endthekoreanwar.net
That sessions study the materials from the National Council of Churches in Korea's Korea Peace Appeal.
- 1.11 Recommendation EIR-006** (A&P 2022, p. 134, 19)
That sessions be encouraged to nurture relationships with our Jewish neighbours by sharing written greetings on their holy days.

- 1.12 Recommendation IAC-004** (A&P 2022, p. 144, 45)
That congregations, presbyteries and synods be encouraged to amplify Canadian Foodgrains Bank's advocacy efforts to promote climate resilient food systems to support small-scale growers, improve food security, address the climate crisis, protect biodiversity and increase gender equality.
- 1.13 Recommendation LMA-011** (A&P 2022, p. 179, as amended p. 22)
That congregations and presbyteries write their Members of Parliament and their municipal and regional councillors encouraging their governments to increase affordable housing and provision of the following supports:
- increased priority access to housing for victims of domestic violence,
 - short-term financial assistance for victims of domestic violence so that they can access safe housing,
 - help for municipalities to tackle wait-lists and capacity issues for affordable housing,
 - promotion of services that are trauma-informed, victim-centred and culturally appropriate for those experiencing domestic violence, including shelters, housing, counselling and legal advice.
- 1.14 Recommendation LMA-014** (A&P 2022, p. 183, as amended, p. 24)
That sessions and presbyteries write their Member of Parliament encouraging the government to respond to Call to Action 21 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by providing sustainable funding directly or to non-profit agencies already supporting existing and new Indigenous healing centres to address the harms of residential schools and colonization.
- 1.15 Recommendation LMA-015** (A&P 2022, p. 183, 22) and presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/indigenous-justice
That sessions, presbyteries and committees of the General Assembly be encouraged to learn more about colonialism and the impacts of intergenerational trauma.
- 1.16 Recommendation LMA-018** (A&P 2022, p. 198, as amended, p. 24)
The guidelines can be found at https://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/Inter-Mission-Guidelines_Revised-2022.pdf
That the proposed revisions to the Inter-Mission Guidelines be approved except that eligibility be maintained as a five-year period of employment in the denomination.
- 1.17 Recommendation LMA-019** (A&P 2022, p. 202, as amended, p. 24)
That the above survey and report, along with the previous survey and report on "The Nature and Impact of Long-term Pulpit Vacancies" be commended to presbyteries, sessions and congregations for study and reflection and that presbyteries, sessions and congregations, be encouraged to experiment and innovate in the models of ministry they use to address the challenges outlined in the report.
- 1.18 Recommendation LMA-021** (A&P 2022, p. 228, 22)
That congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to mark PWS&D's 75th anniversary by inviting PWS&D speakers, using resources such as recorded sermons, Overflowing prayer booklet and promoting the book, *Practical Compassion: The Story of PWS&D*.
- 1.19 Recommendation LMA-027** (A&P 2022, p. 249, 26)
That the referral of the Pension and Benefits Board's response to Overtures No. 4 and No. 5, 2021 to the Life and Mission Agency by the 2021 General Assembly be answered in terms of this report.
- 1.20 Recommendation PAB-002** (A&P 2022, p. 269, 45)
That the increases to pensions in payment for at least one year as of January 1, 2023 be granted according to the above scale.
- 1.21 Recommendation PAB-005** (A&P 2022, p. 273, 45)
That effective July 1, 2022, the mental health provision under The Presbyterian Church in Canada's group benefits be increased from \$300 per benefit year to \$700 per benefit year and that the practitioner list be expanded to include the practitioners identified in the above response.

1.22 Recommendation SCC-001, p. 281–83, 19)

presbyterian.ca/2022/06/07/confession-to-god-and-lgbtqi-people (pdf and video)

That the Confession to God and LGBTQI People be adopted.

1.23 The 2022 minimum stipend schedule can be found at A&P 2022, p. 98–99 and at

presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2022/2022referrals.

2. Legislation (Declaratory or Interim Acts)

2.1 Recommendation CLK-008 (A&P 2022, p. 126, 37)

That the following amendment to Book of Forms 176.1 be approved.

176.1 Ordained ministers within the bounds, whose ministry is carried out on a minimum of a half-time basis and not as a complement to some other vocational pursuit and:

Thank you for your partnership in ministry and may God’s blessing be with you.

Yours sincerely,



The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim
Principal Clerk