



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 Session
FROM: The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim, Principal Clerk
RE: Actions of the 2022 General Assembly for the Attention of Sessions

Dear Friend in Christ,

Please find the General Assembly referrals for your attention and action noted below. Electronic copies of the referrals letters and pertinent documents are available online at presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2022/2022referrals.

1. EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION

1.1 Recommendation ADV-004 (A&P 2022, p. 55, 14)

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. Dr. Daniel D. Scott.

2. INFORMATION/ACTION

2.1 Recommendation ASC-003 (A&P 2022, p. 63, 33)

That congregations be urged to have their session minutes and church registers (marriages, baptisms, deaths/burials) microfilmed and/or digitized through the Archives in order to ensure a preservation copy is created for these vital records.

2.2 Recommendation ASC-004 (A&P 2022, p. 63, 33)

That congregations be urged to review their digital files (e.g., typed minutes, photos) and apply records management standards to them as they would physical records and frequently back them up to an external hard drive or USB, which should be stored in a secure location.

2.3 Recommendation ASC-005 (A&P 2022, p. 64, 33)

That congregations be urged to take part in the Web Archiving Program offered through the Archives to preserve histories, photographs, videos and other valuable material that is posted online to their websites or social media pages.

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 Recommendation ASC-014 (A&P 2022, p.73, 34)

That the names and contact information of congregations willing to host same-sex weddings be recorded in the registry on a voluntary basis.

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Further information about the registry described in Recommendations ASC-012, ASC-013 and ASC-014 will be sent to presbyteries and congregations once it is ready for use.

2.7 Recommendation ASC-017 (A&P 2022, p. 75, 34)

That all parish clergy, national church staff and college professors be encouraged to consider travel and its impact on the environment when choosing a place to live.

2.8 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.

2.9 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.

2.10 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).

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 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.

2.14 Recommendation EIR-002 (A&P 2022, p. 132, 19) and at the week of prayer website, weekofprayer.ca

That sessions be encouraged to plan a Week of Prayer Bible study during the year based on the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials.

2.15 Recommendation EIR-003 (A&P 2022, p. 132, 19)

That sessions be encouraged to plan a 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity event with neighbouring churches in January of 2023.

2.16 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.

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- 2.17 Recommendation EIR-005** (A&P 2022, p. 132, 19) and at www.acommonword.ca
That sessions review *A Common Word* materials as they reach out to their Muslim neighbours.
- 2.18 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.
- 2.19 Recommendation EIR-007** (A&P 2022, p. 134, 19) and at the Canadian Council of Churches resources, www.councilofchurches.ca/cearn
That sessions be encouraged to engage in intentional anti-racism work in their communities beginning with studying available resources through the Canadian Council of Churches and through resources of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
- 2.20 Recommendation EIR-008** (A&P 2022, p. 136, 19) and at World Council of Churches bible studies, www.oikoumene.org/resources/bible-studies
That sessions engage in Bible studies and prayer in preparation for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches.
- 2.21 Recommendation HIS-002** (A&P 2022, p. 138, 45)
That congregations be encouraged to celebrate Heritage Sunday on February 19, 2023 or on another Sunday, as a means of celebrating the unique faith journey and heritage we enjoy as Presbyterians.
- 2.22 Recommendation HIS-004** (A&P 2022, p. 138, 46)
That the General Assembly and the courts of the church celebrate the platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, marking her 70th anniversary on the throne.
- 2.23 Recommendation HIS-005** (A&P 2022, p. 139, 45)
That the congregations and others within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, be encouraged to contribute to the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre's Our New Home campaign over the next two years.
- 2.24 Recommendation HIS-006** (A&P 2022, p. 141, 45)
That church courts be encouraged to understand the importance of well-kept church records and be reminded to follow the advice and guidance provided by the Presbyterian Church Archives.
- 2.25 Recommendation IAC-001** (A&P 2022, p. 142, 45) and at Love My Neighbour, www.lovemynighbourproject.org
That Presbyterians learn about the Love My Neighbour campaign in support of global vaccine equity.
- 2.26 Recommendation IAC-003** (A&P 2022, p. 144, 45)
That congregations and individuals be encouraged to study the complexities of food systems – how food is made, shared and eaten – and advocate for governmental policies that protect the human right to food.
- 2.27 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.
- 2.28 Recommendation IAC-006** (A&P 2022, p. 145, 45) and Social Action Hub, presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action
That congregations be encouraged to use template letters available on the Social Action Hub as models to write personal letters to members of the Government of Canada about the State of Israel's occupation of Palestine, encouraging them to speak up for rights such as food security for Palestinians.

- 2.29 Recommendation IAC-007** (A&P 2022, p. 145, 45) and at the Olive Tree Project, gifttool.com/shop/ShopProductDetails?ID=2034&VER=1&LNG=EN&PID=57447&DID=1248&hJGJHGjH GjH GjH GKJuyt567765435EdGFCCbnjgut
That congregations be encouraged to support Palestinian farmers and olive tree planting through the Olive Tree Project and be encouraged to support the Olive Tree Project through The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Gifts of Change.
- 2.30 Recommendation IAC-008** (A&P 2022, p. 146, 45)
That Presbyterians be encouraged to write to their federal elected representative to advocate for cooperation among all elected officials together to meet Canada's carbon reduction targets and address the climate crisis as a matter of urgency.
- 2.31 Recommendation LMA-004** (A&P 2022, p. 176, 22)
That congregations be encouraged to identify and participate in a climate initiative in their community.
- 2.32 Recommendation LMA-006** (A&P 2022, p. 176, 22)
That congregations be encouraged to write the Minister of Environment and Climate Change urging a renewed push for lowered carbon emissions across Canada and increased funding for climate crisis impacts and adaptation, using the Moderator's letter as a template.
- 2.33 Recommendation LMA-008** (A&P 2022, p. 178, 22)
That congregations be encouraged, write to the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion to request an update on progress in planning and implementing solutions to housing issues using the Moderator's letter as a template.
- 2.34 Recommendation LMA-009** (A&P 2022, p. 178, 22)
That congregations be encouraged to choose an initiative dealing with housing that holds potential in their community and to write to or engage in dialogue with the elected officials at the appropriate level of government about progress in this matter.
- 2.35 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.
- 2.36 Recommendation LMA-012** (A&P 2022, p. 179, 22)
That congregations be encouraged to contact shelters and agencies providing support to people experiencing domestic violence:
- to learn more about domestic violence and its signs,
 - to learn what supports exist locally for people experiencing domestic violence, so that appropriate referrals can be made,
 - to consider supporting those shelters and agencies.
- 2.37 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.

- 2.38 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.
- 2.39 Recommendation LMA-017** (A&P 2022, p. 193, as amended, p. 24)
That members of congregations be encouraged to avoid, as far as possible, donating to causes with known white supremacist ties.
- 2.40 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.
- 2.41 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.
- 2.42 Recommendation LMA-020** (A&P 2022, p. 227, 22)
That congregations be encouraged to identify a PWS&D champion in 2022.
- 2.43 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*.
- 2.44 Recommendation LMA-022** (A&P 2022, p. 231, 22)
That individuals and congregations be commended for their response to PWS&D’s special appeals in 2021: COVID-19 and Haiti earthquake.
- 2.45 Recommendation LMA-023** (A&P 2022, p. 243, 22)
That appreciation be expressed to the congregations, individuals and groups who faithfully supported Presbyterians Sharing in 2021 with prayers, financial gifts, volunteering for committees and working groups, participating in programs and advocacy campaigns.
- 2.46 Recommendation PAB-003** (A&P 2022, p. 269, 45)
That effective January 1, 2023, the member pension contribution rate be reduced to 7.5 percent of pensionable income, the pension plan congregational assessment rate be reduced to 4.0 percent of dollar base and the employer contribution rate be reduced to 10.5 percent of pensionable income.
- 2.47 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.
- 2.48 Recommendation SCC-001** (A&P 2022, 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.

2.49 Recommendation SCP-001 (A&P 2022, p. 297, 26)

That the thanks of the General Assembly be expressed to all those who met with the Special Committee and who told their stories and about experiences within the church.

2.50 The 2022 minimum stipend schedule can be found at A&P 2022, p. 98–99 and at presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2022/2022referrals.

3. LEGISLATION (REMITTS, INTERIM or DECLARATORY ACTS)

3.1 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