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MODERATOR OF THE 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Mary M. Fontaine, M.Div.

August 16, 2023

**To: Clerks of Synods**

**From: The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim, Principal Clerk**

**Re: Actions of the 2023 General Assembly for the Attention of Synods**

Dear Clerk 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/referrals](https://presbyterian.ca/referrals).

**1. STUDY AND REPORT**

There are no items to study and report from the 2023 General Assembly.

**2. EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION**

**2.1 Recommendation ADV-005** (A&P 2023, p. 46, 12)

That the thanks of the Assembly be extended to congregations, individuals, presbyteries, synods, organizations, as well as the international, ecumenical and inter-faith partners who warmly welcomed and graciously offered hospitality to the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris.

**3. INFORMATION/ACTION**

**3.1 Recommendation HIS-006** (A&P 2023, p. 101, 27)

That church courts attend to the Book of Forms, Appendix G, and 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 staff.

**3.2 Recommendation NIM-001** (A&P 2023, p. 220, 28)

That, as a matter of urgency, congregations, ministries, colleges, camps, presbyteries, the national office, Archives and the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre examine their holdings to ensure they have no Indigenous cultural or spiritual artefacts taken without informed consent and if they do, that they are repatriated.

**4. LEGISLATION (REMITTS, INTERIM OR DECLARATORY ACTS)**

**4.1 Declaratory Act:** Section 251 re understanding of a Letter of Standing

**Recommendation CLK-005** (A&P 2023, p. 89, 15)

That the following Declaratory Act, affirming what the Assembly understands to be the law of the church regarding the issuance of a Letter of Standing, be adopted:

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

Declaratory Act, section 251

While in most cases, a Letter of Standing shall only be issued upon the application of the minister, a presbytery, having pastoral responsibility and jurisdiction over ministers, may also issue a Letter of Standing on its own initiative, provided efforts are made to contact and discuss the issuance with the minister.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Kim', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim  
Principal Clerk