



MODERATOR OF THE 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

August 16, 2023

To: Clerks of Presbyteries

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

Re: Actions of the 2023 General Assembly for the Attention of Presbyteries

Dear Clerk of Presbytery,

Please find below the General Assembly referrals for your attention and action. The remits from the Assembly are included in a separate email to you. The Assembly Office will send the session referrals directly to Clerks of Session. 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. 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 LMA-013 (A&P 2023, p. 176, 24)

That, in line with Call to Action 59, individuals, sessions and presbyteries be encouraged to continue learning about the harmful legacy of residential schools through resources provided on the Indigenous Justice web page of the Social Action Hub: presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/indigenous-justice.

3.3 Recommendation LMA-014 (A&P 2023, p. 179, 25)

That the minimum continuing education allowance be increased to \$1,000, effective January 1, 2024, and that it increases \$100 per year for following five years.

3.4 Recommendation LMA-021 (A&P 2023, p. 209, 24)

That gratitude be extended to congregations and presbyteries who commemorated PWS&D's 75th anniversary by inviting speakers, using resources and by all other creative means.

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- 3.5 Recommendation LMA-022** (A&P 2023, p. 209, 24)
That congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to name a champion for PWS&D to join its Champions Network.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Recommendation SCL-003** (A&P 2023, p. 241, 33)
That presbyteries be urged to be creative, bold and innovative as they imagine ways to be presbytery in this new time, especially in working across racial and cultural difference.
- 3.8 Recommendation SCL-004** (A&P 2023, p. 242, 33)
That geographically defined presbyteries (that are not Han-Ca Presbyteries) reach out to the congregations of Han-Ca Presbyteries within their bounds to build connections, listen and find contexts to express understanding and compassion.
- 3.9 Recommendation SCL-009** (A&P 2023, p. 243, 33)
That presbyteries coordinate services of repentance within their bounds in which this Confession can be presented in the context of worship.
- 3.10 Recommendation TRB-002** (A&P 2023, p. 262, 14)
That all congregations and presbyteries owning or managing a cemetery or cemeteries, send the name, location and a contact person for those cemeteries to the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada by August 15, 2023.
- 3.11 2024 Minimum Stipend**
The 2024 minimum stipend schedule can be found at A&P 2023, p. 63 and [presbyterian.ca/referrals](https://www.presbyterian.ca/referrals).

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:

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,



The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim
Principal Clerk

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