

COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES

To the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures is made up of commissioners who are clerks of synod and presbytery and the Clerks of Assembly. This is one of the committees of this Assembly proposed by the Committee on Business during the first sederunt. As a way of expediting the committee's work so its report can be available to commissioners before the Assembly, the committee met by videoconference on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Book of Forms 308 describes the responsibilities of this committee. Briefly, it receives documents transmitted to the Assembly, such as petitions, unREFERRED overtures, references and appeals and prepares recommendations regarding how the Assembly might process them.

This year the committee received and considered five unREFERRED overtures. Four of them call for the formation of a Hungarian diaspora presbytery. The fifth requests a review of the denomination's sick leave policy. The committee proposes the following recommendations.

OVERTURE NO. 11, 2024 (See UnREFERRED Overtures, p. 1)

Re: Forming a Hungarian diaspora presbytery

OVERTURE NO. 12, 2024 (See UnREFERRED Overtures, p. 1)

Re: Forming a Hungarian diaspora presbytery

OVERTURE NO. 13, 2024 (See UnREFERRED Overtures, p. 2)

Re: Forming a Hungarian diaspora presbytery

OVERTURE NO. 14, 2024 (See UnREFERRED Overtures, p. 3)

Re: Forming a Hungarian diaspora presbytery

Overture Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2024 are almost identical and propose the formation of a Diaspora Missionary Presbytery in the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. Therefore, the following recommendation is made.

Recommendation BOV-001 adopted/defeated/amended

That Overture Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2024 re Forming a Hungarian diaspora presbytery be referred to the Assembly Council in consultation with the Clerks of Assembly.

OVERTURE NO. 15, 2024 (See UnREFERRED Overtures, p. 4)

Re: Review of the sick leave policy

Overture No. 15, 2024, proposes that the Pension and Benefits Board review and revise the current Sick Leave Policy. Since the prayer of the overture specifies protection of minister stipend and benefits, the committee decided the board is to consult with Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations). Therefore, the following recommendation is made.

Recommendation BOV-002 adopted/defeated/amended

That Overture No. 15, 2024 re review of the sick leave policy, be referred to the Pension and Benefits Board in consultation with the Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations).

Amanda Currie
Convener