

Synodical Services and Structure

Chair: Derek Zeyl

Reporter: Neil Jasperse

Council of Delegates

I. Materials

- A. Council of Delegates Report (section I, A-D), pp. 23-33
- B. Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 1-5), pp. 33-35
- C. Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 7), p. 36
- D. Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 8), p. 36
- E. Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 11), pp. 38-40
- F. Council of Delegates Report (section II, B, 1-4), pp. 42-45
- G. Council of Delegates Report (section II, B, 12-13), pp. 47-49
- H. Council of Delegates Supplemental Report (section I, A-C), including appendix A, pp. 631-34, 645-711
- I. Council of Delegates Supplemental Report (section I, E), p. 634
- J. Council of Delegates Supplemental Report (section I, F), p. 635
- K. Council of Delegates Supplemental Report (section I, H-J), pp. 635-36
- L. Council of Delegates Supplemental Report (section II, C), including appendices H, I, J, p. 637, 771-73, 773-75, 775-77
- M. Council of Delegates Supplemental Report (section II, E), including appendix L, p. 638, 779-82
- N. Council of Delegates Supplemental Report (section II, F), p. 638

II. Privilege of the floor

Andy de Ruyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Michael L. Ten Haken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Zachary J. King, general secretary; and members of the executive staff as needed

III. Recommendation

That synod ratify the organizational concept and structure in the revised COD Governance Handbook (Appendix A) and receive the draft handbook for information (COD Supplement section I, C).

Overture

I. Response to Overture 2: Classis Zeeland, Make a Statement on Assisted Suicide

A. Materials: Agenda for Synod 2023, Overture 2, pp. 354-56

B. Recommendations

- 1. That synod task the office of General Secretary to promptly create a position statement on euthanasia based on the good work of previous synods on abortion (*Acts of Synod 1972, 1997, 2010*, etc.), life issues (*Acts of Synod 2000, 2003*), and previous pastoral advice given (*Acts of Synod 2000, 2003*).

Ground: A position statement does not currently exist for euthanasia. Since good synodical work exists on this subject matter such a statement can be created prior to the work of a task force.

2. That synod appoint a Task Force to make a definitive and comprehensive report on the practice of assisted suicide in all its forms. This report will give guidance and pastoral advice on end-of-life matters. This bi-national task force will consist of two theologians, two health care professionals, two lawyers and two additional ad hoc members. This task force is to utilize, but not limit their study to, Scripture, the confessions, the existing studies done on abortion, life issues and previous pastoral advice given. This task force will shape its work acknowledging that there is a “unique value of all human life” (*Acts 1972*), that there is a “special relationship of man to God as his image-bearer” (*Acts 1972*) and in concert with the previous declaration of Synod that we “condemn the wanton or arbitrary destruction of any human being at any stage of its development from the point of conception to the point of death” (*Acts 1972*). Further, the Task Force will take special care to address the concerns noted in Overture 2. The Task Force will submit its report by February 15, 2025, to be printed in the *Agenda for Synod*.
3. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 2.