

## SYNODICAL SERVICES I

Chair: Rev. Peter Jonker  
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### **I. Response to Overture 21: Provide Steps of Accountability toward Churches and Classes in Defiance and Open Rebellion**

#### *A. Materials*

1. Overture 21, pp. 383-386
2. Communication 11, Agenda Supplement, p. xx

#### *B. Background*

The Committee met with representatives from Classes Lakota, Alberta North, Grand Rapids East, and Grand Rapids South to gain a deeper understanding about the substance of the overture and the actions of the named classes/churches. Based on these conversations, we note that these classes are on a positive trajectory toward compliance or are already in full compliance with the synodical decisions.

#### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 21.

##### *Grounds:*

- a. The overture provided was based on limited information pertaining to the actual process and current level of compliance present in the named entities.
  - b. The concerns of the overture have largely been addressed.
2. That synod remind all classes that “Decisions of ecclesiastical assemblies shall be reached only upon due consideration. The decisions of the assemblies shall be considered settled and binding unless it is proved that they conflict with the Word of God or the Church Order” (Church Order Article 29).
  3. That synod further encourage all classes to move toward accountability and trust by observing practices of good interpersonal communication.
  4. That synod instruct classes to utilize church visitors to engage and follow up with all churches who are working out the implications of synod’s decisions, including these findings in their reports to classis (Church Order Article 42-b).

### **II. Response to Overture 22: Celebrate the Repentance and Return of Disciplined Members**

#### *A. Materials*

Overture 22, pp. 386-387

#### *B. Recommendations*

1. That synod encourage classes and churches to celebrate whenever the lost are found, when people repent, and when God’s grace brings people home.
2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 22.