

Advisory Committee 3, Church Order and Related Matters, Rev. Michael Borgert reporting, presents the following:

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates Report (II. D. 3; III. B. 1; Including appendix B), pp. 30-31; 63-166

B. Privilege of the floor

Michael L. Ten Haken, chair of the Council of Delegates; Greta Luimes, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Zachary J. King, general secretary; and members of the executive staff as needed when matters pertaining to the Council of Delegates, ReFrame Ministries, Resonate Global Mission, or other ministries of the CRCNA are discussed

C. Recommendations

1. That synod adopt the proposed changes to Church Order Articles 14, 15, and 23 and their Supplements as proposed by Synod 2023 in support of bivocational pastors as amended below.

Proposed Supplement, Article 23-d

“Proper Support” Defined

Proper support of a commissioned pastor is to include as appropriate an adequate salary, medical insurance, disability insurance, a housing provision, payment to an appropriate pension or retirement plan, a continuing education stipend, and other employment-related items.

2. That synod adopt the proposed Recommendations A, B – Q, and R including the proposed changes to Church Order along with the addenda A – F. (*Agenda for Synod 2024*, pp. 63-166)

IV. Response to Overture 13: Do Not Adopt Proposed Addition of Church Order Article 23-d and Its Supplement

A. Materials

Overture 13, pp. 437-39

B. Preamble

Overture 13 raises a matter related to the report of The Study of Bivocationality Task Force which is recommended by Synod 2023 to Synod 2024 for adoption. The overture specifically asks that Synod 2024 not adopt Proposed Addition of Church Order Article 23-d and its supplement. The primary concern raised in Overture 13 is that the wording related to proper support is the exact same for Commissioned Pastors (Article 23-d) as it is for Ministers of the Word (Article 15). They believe that this may result in

diminishing the distinction between the offices and may place undue burdens on churches in nontraditional settings within the CRCNA.

While Advisory Committee 3 believed that it would be unwise not to adopt the proposed addition of Church Order Article 23-d and its supplement, we recognized the potential for confusion in Article 23-d. For this reason, we recommend that synod adopt the changes to the Church Order recommended by Synod 2023 with one amendment to Article 23-d.

C. Recommendation

That synod not accede to Overture 13.

Grounds:

1. The amendment to include, “as appropriate,” in the proposed supplement largely addresses the concern(s) raised by Overture 13.
2. The amendment takes into consideration the vastness of potential ministries that a Commissioned Pastor may be called to.
3. We recognize that there are many good recommendations in the proposed Church Order Article 23-d that benefit both Commissioned Pastors and churches and provide good guidelines for establishing a strong, healthy foundation for faithful, fruitful ministry.
4. Church Order Article 23-d is not establishing a parity between the offices of Commissioned Pastor and Minister of the Word for expectations of proper support.