

Advisory Committee 3B  
Majority Report  
Synod 2025

## Church Order

Chair: Mr. Michael Santarosa  
Reporter: Rev. K. C. Vande Streek

### I. Response to Overture 11 and Overture 13

#### A. *Materials*

Overture 11, pp. 363-364

Overture 13, pp. 367-369

#### B. *Recommendation*

1. That synod instruct all classes to require all delegates to affirm the Covenant for Officebearers at each classis meeting. The form of affirmation is up to the discretion of the classis. First time delegates to classis are to sign. This requirement replaces the requirement of Synod 2024 that all classes re-sign the covenant annually (see *Acts of Synod 2024*, p. 928).

##### *Grounds:*

- a. There is no distinction of weightiness among the signs of affirmation, with each communicating the same level of agreement. Options for affirmation may be signing, standing, the raising of a hand, or any other observable sign as determined by classis.
- b. Re-signing the covenant does not involve remaking the covenant but reaffirming the covenant that already exists. Scripture provides clear precedents, such as the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for regularly reaffirming covenants as a valuable part of church life.
- c. Each classis meeting is attended by a different grouping of delegates.
- d. The practice of affirmation at the gathering of the classical assembly is to be a celebration of that which unites us and can be observed as an act of worship.

2. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 11 and Overture 13.

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Brittany Clark  
Steve Datema  
Mel Elgersma  
Ben Hekman  
Bill Hoogland  
Mark Immink  
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