

Congregational Ministries

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Thrive (Congregational Ministries)

I. *Materials*

- A. CCG/Centre for Public Dialogue Report, pp. 149-51
- B. Chaplaincy & Care Report, pp. 123-24
- C. Disability Concerns Report, pp. 152-54
- D. Diversity Report, pp. 128-29
- E. Faith Formation Report, pp. 121-22
- F. Indigenous Ministry Canada Report, pp. 155-57
- G. Pastor Church Resources Report, pp. 130-31
- H. Race Relations Report, pp. 158-60
- I. Safe Church Report, pp. 161-63
- J. Social Justice Report, pp. 164-165
- K. Worship Report, pp. 192-94

II. *Recommendations*

- A. That synod acknowledge the reports of these denominational ministries: CCG/Centre for Public Dialogue; Chaplaincy and Care; Disability Concerns; Diversity; Faith Formation; Indigenous Ministry (Canada); Pastor Church Resources; Race Relations; Safe Church; Social Justice; Worship; and thank them for their work.

Overture

- I. Response to Overture 11: Classis Quinte, Revise Church Order Article 61; Encourage Churches to Include Lament in Their Public Prayers, pp. 385-89

II. *Recommendation*

- A. That synod not accede to Overture 11.
Grounds

- 1. While laments are an important part of life and worship, it need not be required in every worship service.
- 2. Prayers of lament fall under the portions of confession and intercession in our worship resources and therefore are already included in Church Order article 61.

- B. That Synod encourage congregations to include prayers of lament in their public prayers.

Grounds:¹

- 1. Our practice of prayer follows the practice and instruction of prayer in Scripture. Throughout Scripture we see evidence of prayers of adoration,

¹These grounds are from the original overture. We found that they strongly move us to utilize prayers of lament, even as we are not wanting to add them to Church Order Article 61.

confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession. We also see significant evidence of prayers of lament, both personal and communal.

- a) Almost one third of the Psalms are psalms of lament, and almost one third of those are communal psalms of lament.
 - b) Job, Jeremiah, and Habakkuk all display prayers of lament.
 - c) Jesus prayed prayers of lament in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross.
2. Lament recognizes our pain and struggles while acknowledging God as sovereign.
 3. Lament brings authenticity to our struggles and gives permission to move beyond simple obedience into a covenant relationship with God.
 4. Sharing prayers of lament brings the body of Christ together in the reality of life. This practices authentic faith and demonstrates to our children how God is our refuge, even when we can't see him.