

Congregational Ministries

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Study Committee

I. Materials

- A. Overture 40: Address Harm done to LGBTQ+ persons, pp. 493-497
- B. Overture 70: Commit to Love, Charity, and Grace in Disagreement; Equip Congregations to Minister Pastorally with LGBTQ+ People, p. 585
- C. Overture 71: Prevent and Reduce Harm to LGBTQ+ Persons, pp. 586-58

II. Recommendations

- A. That synod affirm our commitments to manage disagreements within our congregations, and among churches, with love, charity, and grace, and to ensure that all who seek to follow Christ are afforded a respectful place to honestly share their views and listen to those of others.
- B. That synod encourage our congregations to, in accordance with scripture and our confessions, be places of belonging for LGBTQ+ members seeking to follow Christ.
- C. That synod instruct all congregations of the CRCNA to show love to all minority groups, including our LGBTQ+ members and neighbors, by condemning hateful or demeaning speech and violent or demeaning actions.
- D. That synod direct the Office of the General Secretary to develop resources and tools, or endorse existing external resources and tools, that align with our Reformed doctrinal standards (as articulated in previous synodical decisions), to equip congregations for pastoral ministry with and to our LGBTQ+ members and neighbours.
- E. That synod consider this their response to Overtures 40 A&C, 70 & 71.

Grounds:

- 1. All people are created in the image of God and should be treated accordingly. This truth impels the church to show dignity and respect for every person.
- 2. The Christian Reformed Church has often failed in the way it relates to LGBTQ+ people. This is articulated in the discussion on homosexuality found in the HSR, which states: "It is a sad truth that the Christian community, including our Christian Reformed denomination, has failed in its calling to empathize with, love, and bear the burdens of persons who are attracted to the same sex, making it very difficult for them to live a life of holiness" (Agenda for Synod 2022, p. 407).