

Advisory Committee 5B  
Majority Report  
Synod 2025

## **Congregational Care and Justice**

Chair: Rev. Rob Toornstra  
Reporter: Rev. Richard Grift

### **I. Response to Overture 9: Update the Covenant for Officebearers**

#### ***A. Materials***

Overture 9, pp. 356-357

#### ***B. Recommendation***

That synod not accede to Overture 9 regarding the Belhar Confession.

#### ***Grounds:***

1. In adding the Belhar Confession to the Contemporary Testimony category, synod specifically said “Adherence to the Belhar Confession shall not be included in the Covenant for Officebearers” (*Acts of Synod 2017*, p. 707).
2. The overture does not provide sufficient and new grounds for rescinding this decision (Church Order Article 29, 31).

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Joanna DeVries  
Andrea Drummond  
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David Huizinga  
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Brandon Seaver  
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