

GLOBAL MISSION AND DENOMINATIONAL UNITY

Chair: Stephen F. Terpstra
Reporter: Robert J. Toornstra

Council of Delegates

A. *Materials* - Council of Delegates (section II, A, 17, b, including Appendix F), pp. 41-42, 83-90

B. *Privilege of the Floor*: Mr. Andy DeRuyter, chair of the Council of Delegates; Rev. Michael TenHaken, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Mr. Colin P. Watson, executive director; and members of the executive staff as needed.

C. *Recommendation*

That synod direct the General Secretary to forward the proposed Code of Conduct as amended by Committee 5 (see underlined below) and implementation plan recommended to Synod 2022 to classes for study and input, and that they be revised in light of feedback received for consideration by Synod 2023.

Spiritual

I will acknowledge the use of Scripture and the Spirit's work in the community of the church and, therefore, refrain from presuming to be the sole "voice of God."

I will teach, admonish or discipline in ways that are biblical, Christlike, and seek other people's well-being. (Matthew 18, Colossians 1:28; 3:16).

I will use my position as a way to serve the body of believers, rather than myself, for the common good and the cultivation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Grounds:

1. Adequate time has not been given to churches and classes to read the report, and to offer feedback on the implementation of the Code of Conduct.
2. The proposed Code of Conduct modifies the covenant of office bearers without input from the broader church.
3. In order to create broad support and buy-in from the denomination, churches must feel as though they have been given the opportunity to speak into the Code of Conduct and the implementation plan.
4. Some of the language of the Code of Conduct is unclear, and could be misinterpreted or misapplied.
5. The Code of Conduct does not adequately define terms like "power" or "abuse."

Christopher N. Cassis
Jenny Douma
Mark A. Ebels
Benjamin L. Gandy

Darwin K. Glassford
Jeffery A. Hough
Mark L. Houskamp
Irene Y. Kraay
Eric Lamfers
Stephen F. Terpstra, chair
Robert J. Toornstra, reporter
Daniel D. Yi