

Congregational Care and Justice

Chair: Rev. Rob Toornstra
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IX. Response to Overture 10: Reaffirm Authority of Local Consistory in Baptism

A. Materials

Overture 10, pp. 357-362

B. Recommendations:

1. That synod affirm that the authority for granting baptism is held with the local consistory in accordance with Church Order Article 55 and synodical decisions.
2. That synod remind churches that baptismal rites are not to be used to affirm that same sex marriage is ecclesiastically valid.

Grounds:

- a. The local consistory, adhering to the creeds and confessions, is best able to discern and make a decision regarding all the facts (including their faith) surrounding a request by any parent(s) to have their child baptized.
 - b. Article 56 of the Church Order provides that the primary criterion for baptism of a child is that the “the covenant of God shall be sealed to children of confessing members” who are not under discipline (C.O. Supplement, Articles 78-81, b).
3. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 10.

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