

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Chair: Scott Vander Ploeg
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I. Response to Overture 1 (deferred from 2020): Formally Allow Campus Ministers to Serve as Delegates to Classis, from Classis Huron

A. *Materials*: Overture 1 (Deferred Agenda), pp. 429-30

B. *Recommendation*

1. That synod amend the Supplement to Church Order Article 40-a to formally allow campus ministers to serve as delegates to classis as follows (deletions indicated by strikethrough; additions indicated by *italics*):

- b) ~~“...If a classis so desires, it may also invite emerging churches to delegate three officebearers to the meetings of classis.”~~
- c) *If a classis so desires, it may invite councils to delegate up to three officebearers from emerging churches under their care to the meetings of classis.*
- d) *If classis so desires, it may also invite councils to delegate campus ministers under their care to the meetings of classis.*

Grounds:

- a. Classis is a major assembly constituted by councils with original authority who are responsible to delegate members.
- b. Such a delegation will benefit classes by the expected presence and contributions of campus ministers at classis meetings.
- c. Such a delegation will give greater recognition and encouragement to these officebearers in classis.
- d. An amendment to the supplement would invite classes to implement this practice without obligating them to do so.

II. Response to Overtures 2 and 3 (deferred from 2020): Revise Church Order Article 45 to Permit Classes to Delegate an At-large Alternate to Synod, from Classis Chicago South and to Reduce Number of Delegates to Synod to Three per Classis, from Classis Muskegon

A. *Materials*: Overtures 2 and 3 (Deferred Agenda), pp. 430-34

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod amend Church Order Article 45 to allow greater flexibility to classes in formulating their delegations to synod (additions indicated by *italics*):

Synod is the assembly representing the churches of all classes. Each classis shall *ordinarily* delegate one minister, one elder, one deacon and one other officebearer. *A classis may only send up to two delegates of the same office.*

Grounds:

- a. This permits needed flexibility for classes in constituting their delegations to achieve full participation at synod.
 - b. Recent history has demonstrated the persistent difficulty in classes sending a full delegation to synod.
 - c. The principles of Christian fellowship and unity call us to act in ways that promote justice and equality and maximize the voices present at synod, especially from minority-majority classes, rural or geographically distant classes, and smaller classes that have struggled to send a full delegation under the present system.
 - d. Retaining four delegates while limiting to a maximum of two per office maintains diversity of office while also maintaining a full complement of deliberative voices at synod.
2. That synod declare this as its answer to Overtures 2 and 3.