

Church Order II

Chair: Jason Ruis

Reporter: Todd Kuperus

Overture

I. Response to Overtures 56 and 59: Call Churches to Repent of Affirming Same-Sex Relationships, from Council of Trinity CRC, Fremont, Michigan and to Instruct Classes to Begin the Process of Special Discipline, from Classis Minnkota

A. *Materials*: Overtures 56 and 59, *Agenda for Synod 2023*, pp. 547-49, 557-59

B. *Recommendations*

1. That synod instruct all classes to guide into compliance the officebearers of their constituent churches who publicly reject the biblical guidelines affirmed by Synod 2022 regarding same-sex relationships.

Grounds:

- a. *Church Order*, Article 3 states that officebearers must meet the biblical requirements and Synod 2022 has clarified those requirements.
 - b. Regarding our confessions, the Covenant for Officebearers states that “We heartily believe and will promote and defend their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.” (Supplement, Article 5)
 - c. *Church Order*, Article 27-b assigns the classis authority over the councils of its constituent churches; therefore synod, which has authority over the classes, must instruct classes to discipline when their churches promote blatant heterodoxy, and hold the classes accountable for exercising discipline.
2. That synod remind all church visitors throughout the CRCNA of their authority and responsibility to, in a spirit of love and grace, guide officebearers into alignment with the biblical guidelines, including but not limited to all areas of human sexuality.

Ground: *Church Order* states that the task of church visitors “shall be to ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the *Church Order*, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God’s kingdom.” (*Church Order*, Article 42-b)