



December 14, 2022

Dear Stated Clerks of Classes,

As we conclude 2022 and look forward to 2023, I want to thank you all for your faithful service to your churches and to our denomination. The task of leadership and administration is heavy, and we are thankful to God for the support he gives you every day.

As you look forward to your winter/spring classis meeting(s), we recognize that you will have full agendas due to all of the ordinary, but critical work of your classes. Also, you will likely be processing communications and overtures for Synod 2023. While we don't want to increase your load, there are several matters from 2022 that we would like to draw your attention to. Please keep the following in mind:

1. Ministry Share Pledges are due by the end of 2022 (January 31, 2023 at the latest). **Please encourage your member churches to convey their pledges to you in a timely manner so that ministries can develop their budgets and serve you well.** We know times are challenging, but these funds are so necessary for our collective obedience to God's big mission.
2. Don't forget to share your feedback on the Code of Conduct and its implementation by December 31. Instructions for this task can be found in this [letter to stated clerks](#).
3. Synod 2022 instructed the General Secretary to facilitate a conversation with the churches and classes **on our unity as a denomination** (*Acts of Synod 2022*, p. 858). I have written a pastoral letter to the classes and congregations about this matter which you can [find here](#). Please give it a read and draw the attention of your congregations to this matter. **Feedback can be sent directly to general-secretary@crcna.org by March 15, 2022**, so that it can be collated and provided to Synod 2023.
4. Finally, I want to draw your attention to **Synod 2022's response to Overture 8** (*Acts of Synod*, pp. 946, 952). Synod asked the general secretary *"to encourage leaders at all levels of the church to continue to provide opportunities for listening, learning, and practicing civil dialogue on the difficult conversations needed to better understand one another's perspectives on racism and biblical justice; encourage the churches to make use of denominational resources; solicit input from all the classes on providing the above opportunities; and report to Synod 2023, including praise reports about positive progress and prayer requests regarding challenges and concerns."* I encourage you to **communicate with your congregations and request them to share their input with your classis at its winter or spring meeting for discussion and forward the tabulated input from the classis to the general-secretary@crcna.org by March 15**, so that it can be forwarded to Synod 2023. This reflection will help us as a denomination be more faithful to Christ's vision of the church as one body made up of all nations, tribes, tongues, and peoples (Rev. 7).

I look forward to meeting many of you in person at the January Stated Clerk Gathering in Southern California. It will be wonderful to spend some time together after several years of separation because of COVID and other disruptions.

May God give you and your family a blessed Advent and a Happy New Year,

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