

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consent Recommendations

That Recommendation Nos. 1 to 11 (identified by ►) be adopted by consent.

► Recommendation No. 1

That with a view to having their attendance recorded, each commissioner, young adult and student representative be requested to register with the Assembly Office. (see p. 5.1.2)

► Recommendation No. 2

That the sederunts and worship of Assembly be held in the gym of the Tail McKenzie Centre of York University on Friday from 1:00 pm to approximately 4:30 pm, Saturday from 8:30 pm to approximately 11:30 am, Saturday from 2:00 pm to approximately 5:00 pm, Saturday from 7:00 pm to approximately 8:30 pm, Sunday from 9:00 am to approximately 12:00 noon, Sunday 2:00 pm to approximately 4:00 pm, Sunday 7:00 pm to approximately 8:30 pm, Monday 8:30 am to approximately 12 noon; and the worship and celebration of communion on Friday at 7:30 pm noting that other times of worship are scheduled throughout the Assembly. (see p. 5.1.2)

► Recommendation No. 3

That the agenda for the first and second sederunts be approved as printed (see p. C-1 to C-2). (see p. 5.1.2)

► Recommendation No. 4

That all announcements be given in writing to the Business Committee no later than 20 minutes prior to the end of each sederunt. (see p. 5.1.2)

► Recommendation No. 5

That in order for the Assembly Office to prepare reports for projection, commissioners who have knowledge that they will be presenting additional motions or amendments prepare them in a preceding sederunt for presentation to the Business Committee. (see p. 5.1.2)

► Recommendation No. 6

That the committees of Assembly be constituted as follows: (see list of names below on p. 5.1.3).

► Recommendation No. 7

That the Committee to Nominate, Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency's Ministry and Church Vocations' Committee on Education and Reception be granted leave to sit during the sederunts. (see p. 5.1.3)

► Recommendation No. 8

That permission be granted to distribute, if necessary, the supplementary report of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees when prepared. (see p. 5.1.3)

► Recommendation No. 9

That conveners and staff members of committees and agencies be given permission to speak during their reports. (see p. 5.1.4)

► Recommendation No. 10

That the young adult representatives and student representatives be permitted to participate in the debates of this General Assembly and be granted an advisory vote in the terms above. (see p. 5.1.4)

► Recommendation No. 11

That any request for permission to distribute handouts to the General Assembly be directed through the Business Committee. (see p. 5.1.4)

Notices of Motion

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the terms of reference for the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education be reconsidered (Assembly Council Rec. No. 6, see p. 2.1.14).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the terms of reference for the Assembly Council be reconsidered (Assembly Council Rec. No. 13, see p. 2.1.23).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the Constitution of the Pension Fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be reconsidered (Pension and Benefits Board, Rec. No. 3, see p. 16.1.6).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the terms of reference for the Life and Mission Agency Committee be reconsidered (Life and Mission Agency, Rec. No. 19, see p. 12.1.85)

REPORT

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

The Committee on Business presents the following report.

Recommendation No. 1 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That with a view to having their attendance recorded, each commissioner, young adult and student representative be requested to register with the Assembly Office.

Recommendation No. 2 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That the sederunts and worship of Assembly be held in the gym of the Tail McKenzie Centre of York University on Friday from 1:00 pm to approximately 4:30 pm, Saturday from 8:30 pm to approximately 11:30 am, Saturday from 2:00 pm to approximately 5:00 pm, Saturday from 7:00 pm to approximately 8:30 pm, Sunday from 9:00 am to approximately 12:00 noon, Sunday 2:00 pm to approximately 4:00 pm, Sunday 7:00 pm to approximately 8:30 pm, Monday 8:30 am to approximately 12 noon; and the worship and celebration of communion on Friday at 7:30 pm noting that other times of worship are scheduled throughout the Assembly.

Recommendation No. 3 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That the agenda for the first and second sederunts be approved as printed (see p. C-1 to C-2).

Recommendation No. 4 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That all announcements be given in writing to the Business Committee no later than 20 minutes prior to the end of each sederunt.

Recommendation No. 5 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That in order for the Assembly Office to prepare reports for projection, commissioners who have knowledge that they will be presenting additional motions or amendments prepare them in a preceding sederunt for presentation to the Business Committee.

CLERKS OF ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp, Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly, is unable to attend this year's General Assembly due to ill health. Therefore, this Assembly will be served by the Principal Clerk, The Rev. Stephen Kendall and Deputy Clerk, The Rev. Donald Muir. Please see Clerks of Assembly report, Recommendation No. 1, (p. 7.1.2) for a historic note regarding Dr. Plomp's service as a Clerk of Assembly.

COMMITTEES OF THIS ASSEMBLY

In light of the schedule of the General Assembly, the Business Committee and the Committee on Bills and Overtures each met by telephone conference prior to the Assembly. These meetings enabled both committees to deal with their responsibilities and to be ready for the first sederunt of the Assembly.

Below is the list of committees and the membership proposed for this General Assembly.

Recommendation No. 6 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That the committees of Assembly be constituted as follows:

Committee on Bills and Overtures

Convener: the Rev. Susan Mattinson

Clerks of Assembly: the Rev. Stephen Kendall, the Rev. Donald G.A. Muir

Commissioners who are clerks of presbytery or synod: the Rev. Jinsook Khang, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey F. Loach, the Rev. Charles E. McPherson, the Rev. George S. Malcolm, the Rev. Shirley F. Murdock, the Rev. Dr. Cheol Soon Park

Committee on Business

Convener: the Rev. Dr. Peter D. Coutts

Members: the Rev. Keith A. McKee, the Rev. Deborah Rapport, Mr. Robert J. Shaw, Ms. Liz Stark

Committee to Confer with the Moderator

Convener: the Rev. Karen R. Horst

Members: the Rev. J. Wesley Denyer, the Rev. Dr. Alfred H.S. Lee, the Rev. Geoffrey M. Ross, the Rev. Lara Scholey, the Rev. Fred Stewart

A Clerk of the General Assembly

Committee on Courtesies and Loyal Addresses

Convener: the Rev. Kathy A. Fraser

Members: the Rev. Dr. Andrew J.R. Johnston, Mr. Young Jin Lee, Ms. Margaret R. Clow

Committee to Examine the Records

Convener: the Rev. Harry J. Bradley

Members: Ms. Ruth Chueh, the Rev. Peter D. MacDonald, Ms. Janet MacDowell

Committee on Remits

Convener: the Rev. Martin Baxter

Member: the Rev. Dr. J. Stanley Cox, Ms. Shirley Zehr

Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw

Convener: the Rev. Kristine E. O'Brien

Members: Mr. John Barrett, the Rev. M. Diane Ollerenshaw

Committee on Terms of Reference

Convener: Dr. Alexandra Johnston

Members: the Rev. Jeanie Lee, Ms. Linda MacKinnon, the Rev. George S. Malcolm

LEAVE TO SIT

Recommendation No. 7 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That the Committee to Nominate, Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency's Ministry and Church Vocations' Committee on Education and Reception be granted leave to sit during the sederunts.

AGENDA DOCUMENTATION

The following have been distributed at registration:

1. Original reports: Business Committee (p. 5.1.1–5), Biographical Information Ecumenical/Interfaith/International Guests (p. 9.1.1–2).
2. Supplementary reports: Life and Mission Agency (p. 12.1.85–96), Presbyterian Record (p. 18.1.3), Knox College (p. 23.1.6–7).
3. Replacement pages: Daily Schedule (A–1), Roll of Assembly (p. B–1 to B–5), Agenda (p. C–1 to C–4), Assembly Council (p. 2.1.27–30), Clerks of Assembly (p. 7.1.1, 7.1.5, 7.1.7), Life and Mission Agency (p. 12.1.81), Remits Under the Barrier Act (p. 19.1.1–2).
4. General Information Sheet, Presbyterian College Alumni Lunch, Knox College Reception, E.H. Johnson Reception, Pension and Benefits Board Gathering.
5. Voting Cards with Summary of Motions: yellow for commissioners.

Recommendation No. 8 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That permission be granted to distribute, if necessary, the supplementary report of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees when prepared.

Motion Papers

There are two copies of yellow motion sheets located at the front section in each Book of Reports which are to be used for any motions such as amendments, procedural motions or additional motions. Commissioners are asked to print legibly and to submit these to the Business Committee. Additional sheets can be obtained from the Business Committee table.

CONVENERS OF COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Each year, many of the conveners of committees and staff members of committees and agencies of the General Assembly are not commissioners. In such cases, the General Assembly has granted permission for them to speak to issues during the presentation of their reports.

Recommendation No. 9 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That conveners and staff members of committees and agencies be given permission to speak during their reports.

YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The 1997 General Assembly adopted a recommendation from the Clerks of Assembly requesting the Business Committee to ensure that a recommendation is presented to each successive General Assembly permitting young adult representatives and student representatives to participate in the debates of the Assembly but without vote. (A&P 1997, p. 261, 24, Rec. No. 6)

In 2009, General Assembly adopted a recommendation to grant an advisory vote to young adult representatives and student representatives that permits them to vote on matters selected by them or suggested to them by the Moderator or the Assembly itself. (A&P 2010, p. 283, 362–63,13 and A&P 2009, p. 261–63, 17) The procedure provides the representatives with voting cards of an alternate colour from those used by the commissioners. When they wish to give an advisory vote, the Moderator asks first for the advisory vote, then for the commissioner vote. While the advisory vote advises the court on the will of the representatives, only the commissioner vote is used to determine whether or not a recommendation is adopted.

Recommendation No. 10 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That the young adult representatives and student representatives be permitted to participate in the debates of this General Assembly and be granted an advisory vote in the terms above.

CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Any committee wishing to circulate material at the General Assembly must request permission through the Business Committee. Committees and Boards of the church may keep material in the display area.

Recommendation No. 11 Adopted/Defeated/Amended

That any request for permission to distribute handouts to the General Assembly be directed through the Business Committee.

OVERTURES

Referred Overtures

Referred overtures are those which are submitted by a presbytery or a session transmitted through the presbytery with a request that they be sent to one of the committees of the General Assembly. The following three overtures have been received by the Committee on Business and forwarded on to the referred committee (the first page reference is the overture and the second reference is where a committee has reported on it):

- No. 1 from the Presbytery of Paris re revising appointment protocols for associate secretaries (referred to Assembly Council, p. 2.1.28–29).
- No. 2 from the Presbytery of Winnipeg re timeline regarding overtures relating to human sexuality (referred to Assembly Council, in consultation with the Clerks of Assembly, p. 2.1.29–31, 7.1.12).

- No. 3 from the Presbytery of Winnipeg re Barrier Act and an individual's dissent (referred to Clerks of Assembly, p. 7.1.6).
- No. 4 from the Session of St. Andrew's, Moncton, New Brunswick re a policy for a congregation leaving the denomination (referred to Clerks of Assembly, in consultation with Trustee Board, Assembly Council and Pension and Benefits Board, p. 7.1.2–5, 2.1.28).
- No. 5 from the Session of Bethel, Riverview, New Brunswick re a policy for a congregation leaving the denomination (referred to Clerks of Assembly, in consultation with Trustee Board, Assembly Council and Pension and Benefits Board, p. 7.1.2–5, 2.1.28).
- No. 6 from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry re revise SASH Policy when complainant is minister in a congregation (referred to Life and Mission Agency Committee (Ministry and Church Vocations) p. 12.1.46–47).
- No. 7 from the Presbytery of Paris re policy for a congregation wishing to leave the denomination (referred to Clerks of Assembly in consultation with Trustee Board, Assembly Council and Pension and Benefits Board, p. 7.1.2–5, 2.1.28).
- No. 8 from the Presbytery of Paris re standing committees secretaries (referred to Assembly Council, p. 2.1.31).
- No. 9 from the Presbytery of Winnipeg re utilize and develop resources re “passive energy” (referred to Assembly Council and Life and Mission Agency Committee (Justice Ministries), p. 2.1.31, 12.1.39–40).

Unreferred Overtures

Unreferred overtures are those that are submitted by a presbytery, synod or a session transmitted through the presbytery to the General Assembly. These overtures are directed to the Committee on Bills and Overtures which recommends either the action to be taken at the General Assembly or the referral to a standing or special committee of the Assembly. (Book of Forms section 296.3) This committee's report is found starting on p. 4.1.1. There are 13 unreferred overtures (Nos. 10 to 22) and the text of these overtures are on pages 29.1.1–10.

Names to be placed on the Constituent Roll

There is no request for a name to be placed on the constituent roll.

Overtures received after April 1st (Book of Forms section 296.3)

The 2003 General Assembly adopted the practice for handling overtures received after the annual April 1 deadline whereby they will be held by the Clerks of Assembly for next year's General Assembly. The originator of the overture is given an opportunity to request to which committee or agency it shall be referred for consideration in following year. This year no overtures fall into this category.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, REFERENCES, CORRECTIVE CASES AND APPEALS

There are no memorials, petitions, references, corrective cases or appeals for this Assembly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the terms of reference for the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education be reconsidered (Assembly Council Rec. No. 6, see p. 2.1.14).

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I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the terms of reference for the Life and Mission Agency Committee be reconsidered (Life and Mission Agency, Rec. No. 19, see p. 12.1.85)

Peter Coutts
Convener