

Special Meeting of the Council of Delegates
June 2021

Advisory Committee 4

Chair: David A. Struyk
Vice Chair: Michelle J. Kool

I. Ministry presentations

A. *Materials: Agenda 2021*, Council of Delegates Report, section II, A, 13 (p. 26)

B. *Recommendation*

That the COD, on behalf of synod, allow time in its schedule to receive the presentations by ReFrame Ministries and Resonate Global Mission.

II. Ministry evaluation

A. *Materials: Agenda 2021*, Council of Delegates Report, section II, B, 5, including Appendix B (pp. 35-36, 43, 71-85)

B. *Recommendations*

1. That the COD, on behalf of synod, approve the evaluation report presented by ReFrame Ministries and Resonate Global Mission with regard to the Global Mission calling area (II, B, 5; Appendix B).
2. That the COD, on behalf of synod, instruct the executive director to review the four-year program evaluation process; clarify the purpose, outcomes, goals, and metrics to be used; and bring any recommended revisions to the COD for consideration to the current policy.

Grounds:

- a. Several clarifications are required to make this a more helpful process:
 - 1) Is this an “internal” or “external” evaluation (i.e., performed internally or with an external perspective)?
 - 2) What are the desired outcomes, goals, and processes for the evaluation?
 - 3) Who is the recipient of the evaluation and what feedback should be expected from it?
- b. It would be helpful to have a universal format and process for all the five calling areas to follow as they prepare their evaluations.

III. Challenging conversations and Overture 17

A. *Materials*

1. *Agenda 2021*, Overture 17 (pp. 390-92)
2. *Agenda 2021*, Communication 1 (pp. 473-75)

B. *Observations*

Overture 17 comes from Lantern Community CRC, a small urban congregation in Calgary, Alberta (Canada). The crux of Overture 17, though not overtly stated, is an intention to create an effective space for LGBTQ believers to share their perspectives on the recommendations that are coming to Synod 2022 as part of the human sexuality report (HSR). Lantern Community CRC has a concern that, given the predominant “profile” of CRC synodical delegates, there may be very few directly from the LGBTQ community that can share their viewpoints during the sessions of synod. As part of the response to Overture 17, the advisory committee discussed the Challenging Conversations toolkit produced by the CRCNA’s Pastor Church Resources for extended conversations about the HSR and its recommendations. This resource, which has been helpful for the congregations that have used it (approximately 40 CRC congregations in the U.S. and Canada), is not intended for classes and synod.

C. Recommendations

1. That the COD, on behalf of synod, accede to Overture 17 and instruct the executive director to develop and implement a mechanism or forum that would allow LGBTQ voices to be heard by the delegates to Synod 2022 with regard to the HSR report.

Note: The Challenging Conversation Toolkit is an effective tool for conversation within congregations, but would need to be adapted for use at classes and synod and be given more time.

2. That the COD, on behalf of synod, declare this to be its response to Overture 17.

The following negative vote is registered within the advisory committee: Mr. Bruce DeKam (Northern Michigan).