

Gracious Dismissal Overtures

2015 - 1 Overture - answer: addressed along with with 2016 overtures

2016 - 7 Overtures - answer: summarily told that congregations cannot leave with their assets

2017 - 18 Overtures

- Chapel place's overture - results in Church Doctrine proposing that they provide substantive answers for 2017, 18, 19 and 20 GA's.

p. 514 A&P 2017 - Committee on Church Doctrine proposes presenting substantive answers at the following General Assemblies:

2017 – Biblical Rationale; Repentance

2018 – Unity and Diversity of Church; Relationship of Church and State

2019 – Ordination; Discipline; Pastoral Care

2020 – Gender Identity

It seems that the results of the vote on the Options A, B, C & D presented by the Committee of Former Moderators meant that the Church Doctrine Committee is not necessarily addressing these topics any longer.

- 17 overtures answered by a special committee named by the moderator in the second sederunt, which brought an answer in the seventh sederunts. Special Committee report.....**pp. 39-42 of the 2017 A&P.**

Many of the considerations articulated in the overtures and petitions gather around several key themes:

- 1. Heritage (Scripture and History)*
- 2. Ways and Means*
- 3. Harm to Ministry*
- 4. Peace and Timing*
- 5. Unity*

2021 - 31 Overtures

- 26 of them asked that the report of the Gracious Dismissal Subcommittee of AC be received and prayerfully discussed. - didn't happen.
- Remaining 5 ask for non-punitive means to withdraw from the denomination. Various suggestions of how that might be structured are offered.
- All referred to the Assembly Council in consultation with the Clerks of Assembly (BOV-002)

Theological Separation... AKA “Alternate Governing Bodies”

2017 - 2 Petitions

- From the Han-Ca presbyteries, asking how they can remain as one body in the denomination.
- Answered p. 216, 2018 A&P: “That we as a church seek unity in Christ in our dealings with one another, in the spirit of the experience of the workshop engaged in by representatives of the Han-Ca Presbyteries, the Committee on Church Doctrine, the Life and Mission Agency, the Assembly Council and the Clerks of Assembly.”

2018 - 2 Overtures

- “Where from Here”, a suggested Option D.
- Answered by Pathway C among the options presented by Committee of Former Moderators

2020 - 3 Overtures (submitted for 2020 GA which was not held. Unreferred overtures submitted in 2020 were included with Referred Overtures for 2021 GA)

- Two referred to Assembly Council; one referred to Clerks of Assembly

2021 - 21 Overtures

- Two overtures (one from Western Han-Ca Presbytery; the other from a congregation in Western Han-Ca Presbytery) ask for the establishment of a sister denomination. These also asked for “immediate action of this Assembly”.
- Remaining 19 overtures ask for non-geographic presbyteries or synods to be established along theological lines.
- All referred to the Assembly Council in consultation with the Clerks of Assembly and that the Clerks and Assembly Council be **directed to bring forward their response and recommendations to the 2022 General Assembly.** (BOV-001)