

L'ÉGLISE PRESBYTÉRIENNE AU CANADA -- THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
CONSISTOIRE DE MONTRÉAL -- PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL

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**Overture from the Chinese Presbyterian Church of Montreal  
Regarding the Report from the Gracious Dismissal Committee**

**Minute extract of an overture transmitted by the Presbytery of Montreal**

At Montreal, on the internet by Zoom, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 2021:  
Which day the Presbytery of Montreal met and was constituted with prayer.  
Among other matters addressed, the presbytery agreed to transmit the following overture to the General Assembly:

To the Venerable the General Assembly:

WHEREAS the 144th General Assembly (2018) commissioned the Assembly Council to examine the concept of “gracious dismissal” on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Assembly Council mandated the Gracious Dismissal Committee to examine the concept, considering the related overtures received since 2015 and consulting appropriate expertise both within and beyond the Presbyterian Church in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Gracious Dismissal Committee’s report was completed and prepared to be submitted to the Assembly Council at it’s meeting on October 27th 2020; and

WHEREAS no substantive and justified reasons have been provided for the Assembly Council’s refusal to receive and consider the report at its meeting on October 27th 2020; and

WHEREAS some on both sides of the human sexuality issue will want to know what reassurances will be offered to divergent voices through “gracious dismissal” options before pronouncing themselves on remits “B” and “C”:

THEREFORE, the Session of the Montreal Chinese Presbyterian Church, humbly overtures the Venerable, the 146th General Assembly to receive and consider the report of the Gracious Dismissal Committee before proceeding to discussions about Remits “B” and “C” from the 145th General Assembly (2019), or to do otherwise as the General Assembly, in its wisdom, deems best.

The Presbytery transmits this overture without comment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael Pettem", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Pettem, Clerk of Presbytery