

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

3495 University Street
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2A8
514-845-2566



presbytery.of.montreal@gmail.com

**Overture from the Chinese Presbyterian Church of Montreal
Concerning Restructuring the Presbyterian Church in Canada**

Minute extract of an overture transmitted by the Presbytery of Montreal

At Montreal, on the internet by Zoom, the 16th 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 effects of the remits on marriage and ordination adopted by the 145th General Assembly and submitted to presbyteries under the Barrier Act are to enshrine in church law and culture two very different understandings of marriage which if ultimately adopted require that space be found for those holding these different understandings to live and practice the same with integrity in Christian community, in both congregations, presbyteries and synods; and

WHEREAS the above-mentioned remits are examples of a more general theological divide within the Presbyterian Church in Canada; and

WHEREAS this theological divide is impairing the abilities of congregations on both sides to carry out their work effectively; and

WHEREAS there are already existing presbyteries formed along a combination of geographical and non-geographical considerations (Eastern and Western HanCa); and

WHEREAS there are some national functions that are common to all, regardless of theological considerations (e.g. pensions and benefits, Leading with Care policy, archives, PWS&D relief efforts, etc.):

THEREFORE, the session of the Montreal Chinese Presbyterian Church, humbly overtures the Venerable, the 146th General Assembly to mandate a committee that will research the issue and prepare for the 147th General Assembly, recommendations for the restructuring of the Presbyterian Church in Canada into non geographic synods and presbyteries in such a way that

- (a) local congregations are given full liberty of conscience and action in matters relating to human sexuality and
- (b) vital central administrative functions (such as the pension plan, the trustee board, etc.) and key shared ministries (like PWS&D, Presbyterians Sharing, the campgrounds and retreat facilities, the seminaries, etc.) can be preserved and maintained, 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 that reads 'Michael Pettem'.

Michael Pettem, Clerk of Presbytery