

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 Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul  
Concerning a National Registry**

**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 a national office for the implementation of Remits B and C concerning same sex marriage and LGBTQI inclusion will be very helpful;

WHEREAS it will be helpful for clerks to ascertain which ministers are willing to celebrate same sex marriages in order to give same sex couples guidance as to who can offer them pastoral care, marriage preparation and the wedding ceremony, as well as congregations that will welcome them to their buildings;

WHEREAS an up-to-date list of those ministers willing to celebrate same sex marriages and a list of ministers not willing to celebrate same sex marriages will facilitate dealings with the État civil of the Québec Government, which otherwise might find refusals by some clergy to marry same sex couples as arbitrary under Quebec practice;

WHEREAS up-to-date national registries of ministers and congregations willing to celebrate same sex marriages and those not willing to celebrate same sex marriages would create two virtual communities, it would thus in part eliminate the need some feel to create new and separate presbyteries based on choice for or against same sex marriage, and would do so at much lower cost and within the present structure;

THEREFORE, the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul humbly overtures the Venerable, the General Assembly to form a working group to discuss the best ways to implement Remits B and C and to make recommendations to a future Assembly. Ways to be considered include:

1. establishing a national office to maintain both an up-to-date national registry of ministers and congregations willing to celebrate same sex marriages and an up-to-date registry of ministers and congregations not willing to celebrate same sex marriages;
2. requesting presbyteries to maintain such a registry;
3. forming guidelines by which a minister unwilling to celebrate same sex marriages would refer a couple to a minister who would,

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". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Michael Pettem  
Clerk of Presbytery