

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

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Overture Requesting Gracious Dismissal

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 research of the Gracious Dismissal Committee mandated by the Assembly Council has established that workable arrangements for “gracious dismissal” are possible;

WHEREAS it is very likely that some congregations on either side of the current debate will seek to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church in Canada;

WHEREAS the experience of other denominations has shown that a piecemeal approach with varied local litigations is not honouring to the cause of Christ;

WHEREAS this is an opportunity for the Presbyterian Church in Canada to proceed with grace and kingdom focus;

THEREFORE, the Presbytery of Montreal humbly overtures the Venerable, the General Assembly to chart a clear and non punitive way forward for congregations who feel they must withdraw from the denomination for theological reasons, or to do otherwise as the General Assembly, in its wisdom, deems best.

The Presbytery transmits this overture with approval.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike Pettem', followed by a horizontal line.

Michael Pettem
Clerk of Presbytery