

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

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## Overture Requesting Non-Geographic Synods

### 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 Presbyterian Church in Canada has accepted the reality that it is deeply divided on the issues surrounding human sexuality

WHEREAS an outright division of the church would risk putting both those who leave and those who remain in positions where key administrative functions and valued ministries would become unviable

WHEREAS the committee of former moderators had envisioned the possibility of an internally separate structure

WHEREAS the legal opinion provided by Kevin Boonstra, Kuhn LLC recommended an internal separation along theological lines as the surest way to provide legal protection for congregations and ministers not concurring to same gender marriage

WHEREAS a structure with theologically based synods would allow for functions like the vetting of new ministry candidates to be handled along theologically appropriate guidelines while allowing for continued local collaboration at the presbytery level

THEREFORE, the Presbytery of Montreal humbly overtures the Venerable, the General Assembly to begin the process of restructuring into non geographic synods along theological lines, 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 "Michael Pettem".

Michael Pettem  
Clerk of Presbytery