

Advisory Committee 5, Congregational Care and Justice, Rev. Anthony DeKorte reporting, presents the following:

## **I. Response to Overture 17: Articulate What Is Expected of Confessing Members When Agreeing with the Confessions**

### *A. Materials*

Overture 17, pp. 456-58

### *B. Background*

Synod 1975 noted that “Full agreement with the confessions is expected from all members of the church” and Church Order 59 indicates that “public profession of faith includes a commitment to the creeds and confessions of the Christian Reformed Church.

We understand that when a person makes profession of faith they have not full comprehended all the nuances of the creeds and confessions. Sanctification is a continual process of growth.

“Full agreement” and “commitment” to the creeds and confessions is understood to mean increasing submission to the spiritual guidance of the church in a spirit of Christian love during the sanctification process.

### *C. Recommendations*

1. That synod task the Office of General Secretary to provide theological reflection and advice on the historical, biblical, and theological aspects of membership. After receiving thoughts from Calvin Seminary and appropriate CRCNA agencies regarding the differences in confessional subscription for members and officebearers, report back to Synod 2026.
2. That synod encourage councils to work out situations under the principle of original authority (Church Order Article 27) within their context and in submission to our creeds and confessions.
3. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 17.

*Ground:* The difference in the relative commitment to the confessions between a member and an officebearer needs clarification.