

Advisory Committee 6, Global Mission and Ecumenical Matters, Rev. Aaron Greydanus reporting, presents the following:

VII. Response to Overture 15: Re-Examine Ecumenical Relationship with the Reformed Church of America

A. Materials

Overture 15, pp. 450-54

B. Recommendation

1. That synod instruct the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) to communicate with the Reformed Church in America CA General Secretary and Commission on Christian Unity on the following points and to report to Synod 2025 regarding the responses received:
 - A. A desire for shared commitment to our confessional Reformed heritage, doctrine, and practice.
 - B. A concern regarding the nature of churches that have disaffiliated with the RCA as being in alignment with CRCNA positions.
 - C. A request for clarification on the RCA's ongoing commitment in faith and practice to Heidelberg Catechism Q&A's 108 and 109, specifically as it relates to the forbidding of unchastity, which encompasses homosexual sex.
 - D. A request for clarification on whether RCA clergy have been, or are being, permitted to solemnize same-sex marriages, or to themselves remain in same-sex marriages or romantic partnerships, while remaining ministers in good standing.
 - E. The Report of the EIRC shall be submitted by March 15, 2025 and will be considered by Synod 2025.
2. That synod temporarily pause the new acceptance of ordained ministers through Church Order Article 8 B, along with its Supplement, 8 D. This pause will remain in place pending a vote from synod to resume.
Such a pause will not affect any existing relationships with ministers serving under the provisions of the orderly exchange of ordained ministers (CO Sup. Article 8D1), nor prevent ordained ministers in the RCA from entering ministry in the CRC through CO Article 8 C.
3. That synod propose that the EIRC provide a recommendation to Synod 2025 regarding the ecumenical relationship of "church in communion" with the RCA.

Grounds:

- a. Since the RCA report to Synod 2024 states that "The RCA is going through a season of change and restructure. In 2021, our General Synod reckoned with deep divisions in the RCA" we acknowledge

the RCA is no longer the same denomination as the one with whom the Pella Accord was formed in 2014 (Act 2014).

- b. Our faithfulness as a church in communion requires encouragement toward faithful statements and faithful practices related to our common Reformed confession.
4. That synod declare this to be its response to Overture 15.