

Report of the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business, Part 2

REGIONAL SYNOD OVERTURES

Overture 8: Empower Regional Synod of Canada to Form Independent Denomination

([Supplemental Report on Regional Synod Overtures](#))

In response to Overture 8 from the Regional Synod of Canada, the Advisory Committee on Overtures and New Business recommends the following:

ONB 24-6

To encourage the Regional Synod of Canada (RSC) to give voice to their needs as participants in the restructuring process to see whether the restructured model and definition of the middle assembly could accomplish their goals; and at the same time,

To encourage the RSC to begin exploring an outline of the structure and polity of their proposed new denomination as it relates to the RCA *Book of Church Order*; and further,

To direct the General Synod president, the general secretary, and their designees to engage in meaningful conversations with the RSC and its classes and congregations as the RSC engages the above processes, both to hear the needs of the Canadian churches and to encourage continued collaboration.

Reasons:

1. The original overture does not provide sufficient detail to know whether the proposed new denomination would be compatible with current RCA polity such that the RCA could enter into the requested agreements with the proposed new denomination.
2. The examples given in the reasons for Overture 8 regarding the change to affiliate status by the colleges and a seminary is not comparable to a change to covenantal relationships between a denomination and one of its constituent assemblies.
3. However, the committee feels hopeful that there could be an opportunity to remain in communion with the RSC in the developing context of the restructure and to learn from their experiences while offering them the self-definition the Canadian churches desire. The committee further wants to underscore the value of having the Canadian churches as part of the whole body and wants to facilitate further conversation.