

Pre- advice Committee Mandate

10/12/2007

Introduction:

The mandate of the Pre-advice Committee (PC) of classis is to serve Classis with advice on how best to process the overture before Classis. The PC is to consider the overture before Classis, possibly before the meeting day of Classis and present Classis with written advice on the best possible action Classis might take on the overture.

Definition of Overture:

An overture is a formal written proposal sent to an assembly requesting adoption or amendment of a policy or other legislative action by the assembly.

Matters Legally before Classis

Article 28 of the CRCNA Church Order defines the requirements of overtures to be legally before Classis.

Page 2 Article C of the Rules of Classis defines matters legally before Classis. The rules are attached below.

Overture Character and Focus

This area is ultimately settled by decision of Classis only. However, advice on how best to process the overture in view of its character and focus will facilitate the process and consideration by Classis. It is the pre-advice committee's decision as to how, if any, advice is to be offered to Classis in this area of character and focus.

Possible Considerations in Pre-advice:

1. What is the precise purpose of the overture? Is it clear?
2. What is the scope of the overture and is it doable as called for at this meeting of Classis?
3. Does the overture follow proper procedure as related to the parties involved?

Possible Recommendations as Pre-advice:

1. To adopt or reject the overture.
 - a. This requires appropriate grounds as pre-advice for the proposed action by Classis.
 - b. This action will allow Classis to take or reject the overture as its own.
2. To table for clarification at this meeting of Classis.
3. To refer back to its sponsoring congregation for possible improved focus and clarity.
4. To take no action and simply table the overture and so let it die on the table, without prejudice.

Preferred Motion to Classis as Pre-advice

Your committee advises Classis Huron at this meeting of _____ that
Classis.....

Grounds for our advice are:

C. CLASSIS AGENDAS - MATTERS LEGALLY BEFORE CLASSIS

1. ECCLESIASTICAL MATTERS - ecclesiastical matters, as stipulated in Art. 28 C.O.
2. MATTERS WITHOUT QUESTION - Matters acceptable without question are:
 - A REPORTS - Reports of all committees, delegates, officers and functionaries of Class is, which reports should normally be included in the Printed Agenda according to the following schedule:
 - B. SYNODICAL MATTERS - All matters referred to the churches or to Classis by Synod for action when they appear in the printed agenda
3. CRC Council. MATTERS - Matters brought before Classis by the councils that concern the churches in common or that could not be finished in the councils;
 - A. Overtures that are included in the Printed Agenda. If not included, they shall only be taken up by special decision of Classis in case of urgency
 - B. Matters of lesser importance as advised by the Officers of Class is 'c. Protests and appeals against classical decisions, requests for endorsement of protests, appeals to Synod and Synodical Boards.
4. . . . MATTERS BROUGHT BY MEMBERS - Matters brought before Classis by individual members:
 - A. Overtures, communications, protests and appeals against Classis, or Synod, all of which have been carried as far as possible through councils without receiving satisfaction
 - B. Protests and appeals by individual members who cannot yield to council's decisions and who have given notice and exact copies of such appeals to the councils concerned sufficiently early for preparing answers to them
5. OTHER MATTERS - Other matters which Classis declares acceptable by majority vote and which are in conformity with Art. 28 C.O.
6. FINANCIAL MATTERS - Matters which cause, or are intended to cause, a financial obligation to be assumed by Classis and or by the congregations shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk in advance of the announced deadline for inclusion in the agenda, and shall be communicated to all councils sufficiently in advance of the sessions of Class is to allow consideration and study by the councils.

7. AGENDA DEADLINES - All matters for the printed agenda must be in the hands of the Stated Clerk five weeks before Classis meets (the first Monday in December & April and the 2nd Monday in August).