


Synod 2022

Decisions Regarding the Human Sexuality
Report

A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the page.

The Human Sexuality Report

- Synod voted to recommend the HSR to CRC churches as “providing a useful summary of Biblical teaching regarding human sexuality.”
- In other words, Synod voted to adopt the report.

Human Sexuality Report

- The next day, Synod voted to affirm that “unchastity in the Heidelberg Catechism encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extra-marital sex, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex, all of which violate the seventh commandment.”
- 123 yes, 53 no, 2 abstain.
- Because this definition now officially applies to the Heidelberg Catechism, the CRC’s stance to not affirm same-sex relationships holds confessional status.

Neland Avenue

- This past year, Neland Avenue CRC of Classis GR East ordained a deacon who is in a same-sex marriage.
- Synod has directed Neland to immediately remove that deacon from office.
- In the coming months, a team has been set up to meet with Neland - and eventually with Classis East - to monitor their compliance.
- It is not yet clear what exactly will happen if Neland refuses to comply.

Dissent

- Synod did not address specifically what they plan to do with congregations or office bearers who dissent the synodical decisions.
- Synod passed a motion tasking Synod 2023 with setting up clear guidelines and procedures for dealing with dissent - or splits - on individual, congregational, and classical levels.

Moving Forward

- Our discussions here at Alger will continue.
- Full Council will meet tomorrow night to begin that discussion.
- As we continue to sort through what all of this means on a practical level, we will be relying on the wisdom of experts, other churches, and our own congregation.
- Stephen will be on Sabbatical through September. In the meantime, you can reach out to Sam, Jamie, or a member of your Care Team if you have immediate questions or concerns.

Contact Info

Sam: samg@algerparkchurch.org

Jamie: jamielynnreynolds@gmail.com

Care Teams:

Cathy VanDyken & Mary Uken: *Anderson - DeBie*

John Kruithof & Earl Bristol: *DeBoe - Eppinga*

Jan VanDrie & Cara Snyder: *Ezinga - Koops*

Melanie VanderWal & Rob VandeGutche: *Koster - Peters*

Jim VerHoef & Sara Workman: *Pietras - VandenBosch*

Don VandenBerg & Faith VanOss: *VanderHeide - Zokoe*