

## Motion from Bethel CRC, Listowel

### **Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Listowel, Ontario would move that officebearers of Waterloo CRC not be seated as delegates at meetings of Classis Huron.**

#### Grounds:

In its Communication to Classis Huron, Waterloo CRC announces that it refuses to uphold “Synod 2022’s confessional declaration that all same-sex sexual activity is sinful, including same-sex sexual activity within a faithful, lifelong and legal marriage.” They maintain that “members and officebearers who disagree with Synod’s decision are still members in good standing in their church.”

With that declaration, the Council of Waterloo CRC is in violation of the vows they made when they signed the Covenant of Officebearers. In this Covenant they promised they “heartily believe and will promote and defend (our Confessions’) doctrines faithfully, conforming (their) preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.” (Covenant of Officebearers, 2012)

The past two Synods have made strong pronouncements regarding the correct interpretation of our Confessions, particularly Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #108, reaffirming what Synod 1973 had already declared.

But since Waterloo CRC is not willing to abide by those declarations, and since according to the Rules of Classis Huron (Article 2, 2.4), all delegates must sign (and therefore abide by) the Covenant of Officebearers, the delegates of Waterloo CRC cannot properly be seated as delegates.

We suggest that they be invited to attend Classis meetings as guests until such a time that they rescind their declaration and uphold their vows. Further, we suggest that we start a process to guide Waterloo CRC into compliance, as directed by Synod 2023 (p. 1029)

The Council of Bethel would ask that Classis Huron discuss the motion before the delegates of Classis Huron are seated, since it deals with whether or not particular delegates can be properly seated.