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## RESOURCES FOR PROCESSING 2024 SYNOD DECISIONS

[Next Steps](#) is undergoing a revision this summer that will reflect Synod's most recent decisions. We expect the revision to be launched by the end of August 2024. Like earlier iterations, the process will be designed to help a congregation take stock of what Synod's decisions are (particularly as they relate to same sex marriage) and what they mean for your community. Next Steps provides ways for churches to then discern and make decisions about what to do next that seek to build up relationships, and treat with respect and dignity even those individuals or churches who disagree or who feel they cannot stay within the CRC. This resource will be flexible enough to serve both churches that determine to remain within the CRCNA and live into the vision of human sexuality affirmed by Synod as well as those churches that determine they will disaffiliate.

For those who have already engaged an earlier version of Next Steps, we expect the biggest difference in the new version is that whereas pre-2024 Synod, there was a larger range of options for churches to find contextual, "compromise" positions and remain in agreement with our decisions at Synod, post-2024 Synod, there is a narrower range of options available to churches to attempt contextual, "compromise" positions and remain in agreement with Synod.

*Note: If your church has already gone through an earlier version of Challenging Conversations or Next Steps, the 2024 revision will provide ways to build off of earlier work without starting from zero.*

[Up and to the Right video](#) is for congregations, councils and delegates to classis in who are working to create space for healthy conversation related to recent Synodical decisions.

## DEACON ESSENTIALS

Deacon Essentials is a 5-hour training that orients deacon teams to the role of the deacon as described in Scripture, the Confessions, and the Ordination form for Deacons. Through teaching, reflection, and conversation, the course leads participants to explore how God is at work in your community and how the church can participate through its diaconal efforts. For more info, contact Thrive at [thrive@crcna.org](mailto:thrive@crcna.org).

