

CCC2 Communique and Motion for Classis Huron

Classis Huron, at our February 16 Classis Meeting, we were asked to come back to the February 23 Classis Meeting with:

- a) A Communique to the COD and Canada Corp naming both our thanks and concerns
- b) A Proposal to initiate a grass-roots study by Canadian Classes/Churches of this question: "What are the challenges and benefits of being part of a US-based denomination and what might be the challenges and benefits of being a separate Canadian CRC denomination?"

In that vein, we offer the following:

Motion #1 of 2: That Classis Huron send the following "Communique of Appreciation and Concern" to the Council of Delegates of the CRCNA and the CRC Canada Corp

"Communique of Appreciation and Concern"

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We give thanks for your love for Jesus and the church, demonstrated by the countless hours of diligent and faithful work on both the Council of Delegates and the Canada Corporation Board. We recognize that you do your work under difficult circumstances: Covid-19 which restricts your ability to meet in person, a shrinking denomination and shrinking ministry share giving, and significantly, long-standing under-addressed cultural and structural binational challenges. Before listing a number of concerns and questions we would like to see addressed and get answers to, we do have two significant items of appreciation: the establishment of the Canadian Office of the CRC and the Joint Ministry Agreements now being implemented as part of the Structure and Leadership Task Force Report implementation. These two realities, if empowered and enacted as we understand them, will go a long way toward truly being a binational denomination.

Joining you in your love for Jesus and the church, we recognize that part of our contribution to our shared work is to name remaining concerns that we ask you to address so that your work can be thorough and strengthen the church. We are concerned that the original model to have two national directors has been replaced by a model without a US Director. The absence of a distinct US office, effectively makes the denominational head office also function as the US office creating an unequal power dynamic structurally and a culture that is blind by design to the uniqueness of contextual Canadian ministry. Rather than naming and addressing our cultural challenges and structural imbalances, this model, which our Canada Corporation asked the Council of Delegates to pause on, exacerbates both the structural imbalance and the cultural blindness, doing serious harm to the binationality of our denomination. In fact, we would suggest that the Council of Delegates not pausing but overruling our Canada Corporation request to pause is exhibit "A" of our argument. We admit our limits of perspective. The SALT report is a complex document and implementation of its recommendations has many

implications that are not clearly understood by us at this time. Yet, Canada Corp's request to allow time for input from Canadian stakeholders was out-voted at the COD, with Canadian members having a minority vote. While certain recommendations have been put into action already, we respectfully submit that it is not too late to slow down, and reconsider the request of the Canada Corp.

Again, know that we are with you in prayer as you do your work. Please demonstrate that you are with us and respond favourably to our request to reconsider the request of Canada Corp for more time before fully implementing the SALT report.

In Christ Alone, on mission together,

Classis Huron

(end of communique)

Motion #2

For the Study, I'd suggest a motions such as this:

"That Classis Huron ask CRCNA Canada Corporation to appoint a study committee to comprehensively answer the question: "How does it help/hinder the mission of God through the CRC's in Canada to remain part of a US-based denomination and what things would need to be addressed in order to remain rather than forming a separate Canadian CRC denomination?"

Parameters:

1. This study team not be comprised of any members of Canada Corporation so that it can work independently.
2. This study should be done within one year, completed by April 15, 2023 so that it can be made available to each Classis for their Spring 2023 Classis Meetings.
3. This study committee shall engage all willing former Canadian Ministry Directors and shall find a way for all current Canadian ministry leaders to give anonymous input.

This study should include the following:

a) History:

1. What were the reasons and purposes for the CRC's in Canada joining the CRC in the US and are those reasons and purposes still valid?
2. Interview the past four Canadian Ministry Directors for their insights into the above question and use their responses to inform the study.

b) Address the following challenges:

1. Cultural Differences missionally between the CRC in Canada and US
 - a) The impacts of these differences on activities of Canadian CRCs - past, current and future.

b) Ways in which Canada-only ministries, such as OSJ, have experienced practical frustration and distraction because of critique by US Classes and churches.

2. Structural imbalances between the US and Canada offices

For example:

a) The lack of the existence of a US office (other than a head office) and how this has may have made US concerns trump Canadian concerns.

b) That after over 100 years of being a binational denomination, the head office has never been in Canada.

c) That efforts by the Canada Office which impact ministry in Canada can be overruled by the COD.

3. General cultural divergences between broader US CRCs and Canadian CRCs around issues of politics, justice, mission, and leadership style.