

**Providence Canadian Reformed Church – Edmonton**  
**Rehoboth Canadian Reformed Church – Burlington/Waterdown**

September 9, 2024

General Synod Aldergrove 2025

**Report re: Days of Prayer ad CO Art. 54**

Via electronic transmission only

Dear brothers,

General Synod Guelph 2022 appointed the Rehoboth church at Burlington/Waterdown and the Providence church at Edmonton as the two churches to proclaim a Day of Prayer in accordance with Article 54 of our Church Order. Since that appointment, we have received no requests for a Day of Prayer and we have also not proclaimed a Day of Prayer.

However, we would still like to report on some activities which occurred after we sent our report, dated November 19, 2021, to GS Guelph 2022. We do so because no supplementary report was sent to GS 2022.

We received a letter dated November 24, 2021 from the Covenant Canadian Reformed Church of Grassie seeking clarification on the approval process and the criteria used for calling a Day of Prayer. In a letter dated February 8, 2022, we explained regarding the criteria used for calling a Day of Prayer that the discretionary part of our mandate is ruled by the words of CO Art. 54. We also pointed to *Acts* GS Chatham 2004, Art. 40 which indicates that “The examples mentioned in the Church Order make clear that these afflictions must be of an acute nature, of extreme severity and posing an immediate crisis for the life of the church and or the nation.” We explained regarding the process for calling a Day of Prayer that if either of the two churches appointed by General Synod thinks a matter is worthy of consideration, it may simply contact the other church and initiate a conversation. We explained further that if a matter is raised by a church within the federation, we allow the church from the Regional Synod within which the request comes to assess the request and that church then sends its assessment to the other church for corroboration or further consideration. If a matter is time-sensitive, the two churches may arrange for special meetings to speed up the decision-making process.

We received a letter dated February 14, 2022 from the Cloverdale Canadian Reformed Church and a letter dated March 26, 2022 from the Ancaster Canadian Reformed Church requesting that we call a Day of Prayer in light of the passing into law of Bill C-4 in December 2021 (forbidding conversion therapy regarding those dealing with issues of gender identity). Both churches expressed the concern that this new law makes it a punishable crime for churches to minister on the basis of God’s Word to those struggling with their gender identity. In both cases – in a letter to Cloverdale dated March 16, 2022 and a letter to Ancaster dated May 2, 2022 -- we declined the request to proclaim a Day of Prayer. Our rationale was that although Bill C-4 could have potentially serious consequences, we did not yet know how this legislation would be enforced and there remained many unknowns about it; as such, Bill C-4 in its infancy was not having an impact causing great affliction felt throughout the churches. The Ancaster church had as additional reasoning that it would be good to have a Day of Prayer about this because it

would serve to unite the churches in their understanding of this matter. We explained to the Ancaster church that the effort to inform and unite the churches is not the function of a Day of Prayer.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve the churches in this manner as we humbly submit this report on our activities, and we wish you the LORD's blessing in all your deliberations and decisions.

With brotherly greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian de Walle".

Brian de Walle, corresponding clerk (Rehoboth)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesse Meints".

Jesse Meints, corresponding clerk (Providence)