

ITEM C.107
ACTION ITEM

<i>FOR GAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>					
	A. Evangelism		D. Vocation		G. PC (USA), A Corporation
	B. Justice		E. Stewardship		H. Executive Committee
X	C. Discipleship		F. Audit		I. Personnel Committee
	P. Plenary				

Subject:

Comment to Overture 076 to 218th GA (2008)

Recommendation:

The GAC approve the following comment to the 218th General Assembly on Overture 076:

Overture 076 asks the General Assembly to direct the GAC to produce resources that would explore all facets of adolescent development including human sexuality.

Congregational Ministries Publishing previously produced a human sexuality curriculum that was withdrawn at the direction of the 216th General Assembly (2004). Currently, the PC (USA) does not produce, promote, or make available curricular resources that address issues of human sexuality. Development of new adolescent development resources that deal with human sexuality would be a multi-year process, necessitating significant additional staff and funds beyond those included in Congregational Ministries Publishing's current staffing rationale and budget.

Ovt 76

On Directing the GAC to Produce Adolescent Human Development Resources—From the Presbytery of Grace.

The Presbytery of Grace overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) to direct the General Assembly Council to produce adolescent human development resources based upon Scripture and the Reformed theological tradition. These resources would explore all facets of adolescent development including human sexuality.

Rationale

Due to the action of the 217th General Assembly our denomination currently offers no sexuality curriculum at all for our youth. If we take no action to provide such curriculum our youth will be deprived of guidance to help them navigate, with the eyes of faith, the challenging waters of our culture.

We live in a culture that constantly bombards its young people with confusing messages through the media and music about sex and sexuality. The issues of sexual activity among teens, teen pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases are vital ones to discuss with our youth. It is incumbent upon the church to speak to and educate our youth in this area of life, offering them sound teaching that is faithful to our Biblical understanding, faithful to our reformed heritage, and relevant to their lives today.

One of the basic struggles of youth is identity formation. Families and the church help Christian youth wrestle with “Who am I?” and “To whom do I belong?” These identity questions cannot be separated from their sexuality. Yet currently the church has no voice, with respect to curriculum, that will equip youth to deal with the reality that sexuality is a major developmental factor of adolescence as teens come to know who they are and what it means to be responsible as one who belongs to God.

Through the ages the Reformed church has dealt with important issue of the day, asking what the Holy Spirit would have us see and do about it. The 21st century is no different. Sexuality curriculum needs to be available to help the youth become informed people, as life and faith collide in their day-to-day world. It is imperative to address this important issue so that the church can empower our youth in the process of maturing faith and wisdom as they continue to develop into Christ’s beloved and responsible disciples.