

OVT-001] On Amending G-3.0106 to Add an Antiracism Policy with Suggested Training for All Members of Each Council

Source: Presbytery
Committee: Unassigned

IOB Link: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000511>
Event: 224th General Assembly (2020)
Sponsor: Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery
Type: General Assembly Full Consideration

Recommendation

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley respectfully overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0106 (Administration of Mission) of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection policy, and an antiracism policy with suggested training for all members of each council.”

El Presbiterio de Sheppards y Lapsley respetuosamente propone a la 224ª Asamblea General (2020) dirigir al Secretario Permanente enviar la enmienda propuesta a los presbiterios para su voto afirmativo o negativo:

Se deberá enmendar el cuarto párrafo de G-3.0106 (Administración de la Misión) de la Forma de Gobierno como se muestra a continuación: [Texto a ser añadido se muestra en cursiva.]

“Todos los concilios deben adoptar e implementar una política de conducta sexual inapropiada y una política de protección de jóvenes y menores, y adoptar una política de antirracismo con un entrenamiento sugerido para toda la membresía de cada consejo”.

Rationale

From Selma to Montgomery, from Tuskegee to Tuscaloosa, from Auburn to Anniston, from the Black Belt to Birmingham, the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley knows the pain of our racist history and the difficulty of changing behavior. We recognize the General Assembly’s call for “Facing Racism,” for study and action, and give thanks for the resource materials provided. Nevertheless, we see that councils have been slow to respond. Councils have adopted and enforced sexual misconduct policies and policies to protect vulnerable populations. Why have councils not been doing the work of “Facing Racism”? Why have councils responded differently? The responses regarding sexual misconduct and protecting vulnerable people have been directed by “shall,” while “Facing Racism” merely urges, makes available, encourages, and commends. This presbytery, whose very name reflects black and white, women and men, working together in mission for education and health care, calls upon the General Assembly to turn overcoming racism into a “shall” for all our councils.

Concurrence

North Alabama Presbytery