

# Kanata Community Christian Reformed Church

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www.kccrc.ca

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Notice of Decision to Disaffiliate - 2025-10-09

To: Stated Clerk, Classis Eastern Canada

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you are aware, the congregation and council of Kanata Community Christian Reformed Church (KCCRC) have faced challenges in recent years due to Synod's decisions. Specifically, those decisions related to the adoption of the Human Sexuality Report's recommendations to recognise any homosexual activity as sinful and claiming 'confessional status' of that decision, limits on local council authority, limits on conscientious disagreement by office bearers, new processes for the discipline of churches, and changes to the understanding of the covenant of office bearers have challenged our church's understanding of the Bible, our confessions, and our denominational standing.

Our council has sent many communications and overtures to Classis with our concerns. Many of our communications and overtures have been adopted by our Classis.. We appreciated the support of our neighbouring churches, and we hoped that these could have shaped the conversation on a denominational scale. However, despite our best efforts, and Classis having sent multiple delegates to Synod from our congregation, our attempts to maintain a space for theological challenges, covenantal relationships, and working together despite different understandings of some biblical texts has failed. Synodical decisions have instead provided our church with no option but to disaffiliate, alongside many across the denomination.

Our council indicated to Classis on December 30, 2024 of our congregation's request to start the disaffiliation process. Following the steps outlined in the Church Order (Article 38), our council met with church visitors on February 4, 2025 and we appreciated the opportunity to discuss our situation and receive advice from Pastors Vis and Ypma. The report of this visit was received by Classis at their Spring 2025 meeting. Despite a shock CO Article 17 separation from Pastor Schevink occurring in the spring of 2025, our congregation voted for disaffiliation at the first disaffiliation vote on April 13, 2025.

Our congregation therefore, held the second disaffiliation vote on October 5, 2025. This vote showed increased support for disaffiliation. This letter is to inform Classis of the results of this vote and to request approval of the outcome that our congregation has indicated is our wish.

We send this letter recognizing that within our congregation, indeed, within individual members, is a mixture of emotions. There is a sense of loss and hurt that our relationship with the denomination has reached this stage. There is excitement and hope for the future to find churches who, like us, wish to make and keep a space safe for all people. A phrase popular in our church is “No matter who you are, no matter who you love, you are welcome here.” We hope to reflect the Kingdom of God with an open door to all, as Isaiah 25’s Messianic Banquet describes.

Despite the challenges we have faced with a simultaneous pastor and denominational departure our church has grown by receiving members from the community and other churches, with new families and individuals regularly attending and becoming more involved. At the same time, we recognize that we have lost members due to the departure of our pastor or the disaffiliation process. We mourn their absence from our community, but we ask that the other churches in our region be accepting and caring to any who may wish to join to continue worshipping in a CRCNA church.

After Paul and Barnabas parted ways in Acts 15, God used their disagreement to further the Good News of the gospel more quickly. Our efforts to support ministries, such as the Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy and the Ministry to Seafarers, in partnership will continue. We will also take this opportunity to forge and strengthen relationships with local ministries. We pray that we may depart from your presence into the world, becoming effective messengers of Christ, and that our paths may cross again as we work in the communities where God has placed us.

May the love and peace of Christ go with us all.

Council,  
Kanata Community Christian Reformed Church (KCCRC)