

**Overture 5**  
**Women Deacons in the CRCA, Hastings**

## **Overture from the Reformed Church of Hastings**

### **Re: Women Deacons in the CRCA**

The Session of the Reformed Church of Hastings respectfully overtures Synod with the following:


#### **Overture**

That Synod urge the CRCA to rescind their decision to ordain women as deacons.

#### **Grounds**

1. It is clear from Scripture that both men and women have important roles in the church.
2. In order that the whole church can know and support those who serve in special roles it is proper that they should be recognised by an appointment.
3. The CRCA Synod has acknowledged that only men are to be ordained to the ruling offices of the church. Thus in congregations where women are ordained to the office of deacon, the deacons are not to serve as part of the session and thus do not have an authoritative role. However ordination to an office confers authority upon those who are ordained in respect of their office. Thus ordaining a man or a woman to the office of deacon but at the same time saying this is not a ruling office is inherently contradictory.
4. In the report of our Interchurch Relations Committee on their meeting with the CER we are told that the term ‘ordination’ “does not carry any more significance than appointment for a specific task”. But such an understanding of ordination undermines the special authority of all the offices (deacon as well as minister and elder).
5. Such a view of ordination promotes a view of office which is merely functional rather than one carrying the authority of God. It leads to a low view of the authority of elders – rather than shepherds of the flock with the authority of Christ, they effectively become “care-givers”. It also leads to a low view of preaching – which is then no longer the authoritative proclamation of the Word of God as though Christ Himself were preaching but a “sharing” of the minister’s understanding of Scripture.

On behalf of Session,



Rev. Bruce Hoyt