

Overture from the Reformed Church of Christchurch

Re: Amendment to Church Order Article 75

Esteemed brothers,

The Reformed Church of Christchurch respectfully overtures Synod 2014:

Overture

From Church Order Article 75, strike out the words “Public offenses shall be reconciled” and substitute the words “Those who have committed a public offence shall be reconciled to the church” so that the article reads:

Those who have committed a public offence shall be reconciled to the church by the session upon sufficient evidence of repentance. In case of extremely grave offence a session may demand public confession of the sin. This shall not take place without the concurrence of presbytery.

Ground

The article in its present form does not make grammatical sense. One does not reconcile offences; one reconciles opposing parties.

The offences in question appear to be offences against Christ and his church, and the reconciliation envisaged is also with God and the church (and perhaps with particular individuals).