

Statement of the Eastern Canada Presbytery (PCA) Regarding Teaching Elder Dan MacDonald

November 04, 2022, Revised November 22, 2022

On October 21, 2022, the Presbytery of Eastern Canada (henceforth, “the Presbytery”) of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) gathered for its fall Stated Meeting. As part of its proceedings, the Presbytery considered two docketed items, (1) a complaint filed against its ruling (April 22, 2022) regarding an investigation into Teaching Elder (TE) Dan MacDonald, and (2) a confession of guilt by Teaching Elder Dan MacDonald submitted on September 19, 2022.

The following are the key events that preceded the Presbytery’s fall 2022 meeting.

- Back on October 22, 2021, the Presbytery formed a commission to investigate the allegation that TE Dan MacDonald had failed to remain “above reproach,” especially in his interactions with church staff. In particular, TE MacDonald was accused of physical expressions of affection, “though not solicitous or overtly sexual,” which “made women feel uncomfortable.”
- In a special meeting on April 22, 2022, based on the findings of the investigation commission, the Presbytery judged that TE Dan MacDonald’s actions did not rise to the level of chargeable offenses.
- On May 2, 2022, a dissent was filed against this ruling by commissioners of the Presbytery.
- On June 17, 2022, a complaint was filed against this ruling by commissioners of the Presbytery.
- On September 19, 2022, a confession of guilt by TE Dan MacDonald was submitted to the Presbytery for its consideration.

In the course of its proceedings on October 21, 2022, the Presbytery found the complaint to be in order and proceeded to consider its merits. After deliberation, the Presbytery sustained the complaint (i.e., agreed with it) and acknowledged that it erred in its April 22, 2022 judgment regarding TE Dan MacDonald.

In view of TE MacDonald’s confession of guilt, the Presbytery determined that it would respond to the complaint by proceeding to address his confession. After deliberation, the Presbytery judged that a censure (disciplinary action) of admonition (a formal reproof of guilt) should be administered to TE Dan MacDonald in the presence of the Presbytery.

In the same meeting of the Presbytery, TE Dan MacDonald was formally admonished by the Presbytery. The matter was thus ended, and TE Dan MacDonald was restored as a minister in good and regular standing with the Presbytery.

Finally, the Presbytery determined that its actions regarding TE Dan MacDonald should be announced at a congregational meeting of the members of Grace Toronto Church.

The Administrative Committee of the Presbytery of Eastern Canada (PCA)