



**Exhibit 22 to
Dardenne Petition**

PART I

Doctrine of the Church

CHAPTER 1

The Nature and Extent of Church Power

- § 1-1. Jesus Christ has ordained the Church, which is his body, for the edification of his people, their growth in unity, the propagation of the Christian faith and the evangelization of the world. The ordinances, officers and judicatories which Christ has given the Church are means to these ends.
- § 1-2. The power which Christ has given his Church is wholly moral and spiritual, and constitutes the Church a kingdom and government distinct from the civil commonwealth. This power rests not in individuals but in the Church as a whole.
- § 1-3. The sole functions of the Church are to proclaim, to administer, and to enforce the law of Christ revealed in Scripture. The exercise of Church power has divine sanction only when in conformity with the Word.
- § 1-4. Church power is exercised both by confirmed church members and by Church officers. It is exercised by the confirmed members of a church in choosing those whom Christ calls to office in his Church. It is exercised by Church officers individually, as in preaching the Gospel, administering the Sacraments, reproofing the erring, visiting the sick, and comforting the afflicted, and is called the Power of Order. It is exercised by the Elders jointly, in Church courts, in the form of judgment or administration, and is called the Power of Jurisdiction.

CHAPTER 2

The Visible Church Catholic

- § 2-1. The visible Church, before under the old Covenant, and now under the Gospel, is one and the same, and consists of all those who make profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, together with their children.
- § 2-2. The unity of the body of Christ, though obscured, is not destroyed by its division into different denominations of professing Christians. All denominations which maintain the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity are to be recognized as true branches of the Church of Jesus Christ.
- § 2-3. The visible Church catholic includes the local congregations, or particular churches. This is in accord with scriptural teaching.

- § 13-8. In the selection of members of all commissions, agencies, and in the selection of representatives to all higher courts, every Church court shall make sincere and diligent effort to achieve fair and equitable representation of women and ethnic minorities.

CHAPTER 14

Jurisdiction of Church Courts

- § 14-1. Church courts are altogether distinct from the government of the state and possess no civil jurisdiction or power to inflict civil penalties.
- § 14-2. Church courts have jurisdiction only for the purpose of serving Christ and declaring his will as it is related to his doctrine and law, to the good order of the Church and to the exercise of discipline.
- § 14-3. In the exercise of this jurisdiction:
- (1) A Church court can make no laws to bind the conscience, since Christ is the only Lord of conscience and the Scriptures are the only rule of faith and morals.
 - (2) Church courts may frame symbols of faith, bear testimony against error in doctrine and immorality in practice within or without the Church, give counsel in matters of conscience, and decide issues properly brought before the court.
 - (3) Church courts have power to establish rules for the government, discipline, worship, and extension of the Church. These rules must be agreeable to the doctrines relating thereto in the Scriptures, since only the circumstantial details of these matters are left to the Christian prudence and wisdom of Church officers and courts.
 - (4) Church courts possess the right of requiring obedience to the laws of Christ. Hence, they admit those qualified to sealing ordinances and to their respective offices and they exclude the disobedient from their offices or from membership or from both.
 - (5) Church courts possess whatever administrative authority is necessary to give effect to these powers.
 - (6) In order to fulfill its mission responsibilities, a court or agency of the Church may call into its service persons to function as executive or administrative officers. When a person is called to such office, the court or agency shall clearly define the person's duties, specifying the responsibilities and the authority of the office. The period and terms of such a call shall be specified and when the call terminates, the terms shall apply.