

## **Reasons to Seek Restoration**

It is challenging to be in the position of having taken a public stand on a particular issue and then reconsidering or even reconfiguring that position. This is particularly true in a charged environment such as the CRCNA's conversation about human sexuality. The decision to shift gears, and move towards or away from the CRCNA's long-established position on SSM can be challenging emotionally, spiritually, and politically.

Specifically, the gravamen process may lead an officebearer or congregation's council to move towards the CRCNA's position on human sexuality. The following is a list of possible reasons for doing so:

- A desire to maintain the well-being and unity of the church by moving towards the historic position of the global Church and the official position of the CRCNA on these matters.
- A recognition that the decision to move away from a faith community such as the CRCNA brings challenges to long-standing relationships with individuals and organizations within the denomination.
- A sense that there is a loving mission to LBTQ+ people that gives expression to the Kingdom of God and reflects key teachings of scripture on human sexuality without claiming that SSM is permissible.
- An experience of re-engagement with the Holy Spirit, with Scripture, and with the confessions that has resulted in a new perspective on the issues related to human sexuality, one that reflects the perspective long adopted by the CRCNA.