

On Tuesday, November 11, 2020, the Publication Committee consisting of Tim Block, Terry Kaptein, and Harlow Kuiper brought the following advice to the consistory for adoption:

Recommendation: That the Byron Center PRC consistory require Rev. Lanning to resign as editor of the Sword and Shield publication for a time, and until such time that the consistory may approve of his involvement as editor. This would include all activity normally required of, or assigned to, an editor's position.

Grounds:

1. BCPRCs congregation is in a fragile state. Rev Lanning has a flock that is in turmoil and at this time his focus must be on the preaching of the Word and care of the congregation. The position of editor requires much time as Rev. Lanning also ministers to the many needs of the congregation he is called to serve at Byron Center PRC. Included in the many additional activities required of an editor are: meetings, writing articles, reviewing articles, answering various forms of correspondence and letters that are typical for that position, and interacting with the governing board regarding general business activities and issues. Being an editor reduces the important time spent with members of his own congregation, getting to better understand her concerns and needs and being more involved in shepherding the flock. The additional time gained from not being editor would allow this aspect of his ministry to more greatly flourish. Jer. 23: 4. "And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord".

2. Rev. Lanning has not asked permission, been given approval, or sought the advice of his consistory to accept the position of editor. On June 17, 2020, the Byron Center PRC consistory ruled that "Rev. Lanning erred in not seeking the advice and approval of the consistory before agreeing to take on the work of being editor of the Sword and Shield publication". According to the Form of Ordination, it is the duty of the elders in regard to the welfare and good order in the church, "to be assistant with their good advice to the ministers of the Word" and "to have regard unto the doctrine and conversation of the ministers of the Word".