

Byron Center  
**Protestant Reformed Church**

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January 6, 2021

Dear Brother Dewey Engelsma,

The consistory informs you that after many Elder meetings and counsel from several ministers, we have come to agreement that we erred in the manner in which we relieved you of your duties as Elder in the Byron Center PRC on November 28, 2020. For this we deeply apologize. The official decision with grounds are as follows:

A. That in response to the protest and letters of disagreement from Dewey Engelsma, the consistory declare it's decision on November 28, 2020 in Art. 5 to be in error.

Grounds:

1. The consistory erred in ground 1 by making an immediate judgment.
  - a) The consistory was taken by surprise by your refusal to pray with the consistory that night and responded to this behavior too quickly.
  - b) The consistory was of the opinion that you would no longer pray with them in the future as well. However, the consistory should have taken the time to inquire further and verify this assumption.
2. The consistory erred in ground 2 by making the declaration that you could not serve as long as you maintained the charge against the consistory that "it has the blood of a prophet on its hands".
  - a) The fact that you charged the consistory with sin in its decision to suspend Rev. Lanning, does not necessarily prevent you from serving as elder.
  - b) The consistory should have responded by telling you that you could hold this position and still continue to serve as elder, provided that you brought your charge by way of an official protest, without militating publicly.

Dewey, we pray that you receive our humble apology with the understanding that we love you and are hopeful that the Lord leads you to accept our apology and that He directs all these matters in a way that restores you to the office of Elder. An announcement will also be made to the congregation regarding our apology at the appropriate time.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

In Christ,

BCPRC Consistory

Josh Lubbers, Clerk

