

Byron Center
Protestant Reformed Church

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1-6-2021

Brother Dewey Engelsma,

The consistory comes to you with this letter concerning your actions during our meeting on November 28th. After your recent letters we better understand your reasoning for walking out of our consistory meeting that night, nonetheless, you not only walked out of the meeting before the church visitors prayed, but you left the meeting entirely. Our consistory meeting was unfinished when the church visitors closed with prayer and we met for a significant amount of time after that prayer was offered.

The statement that you made prior to walking out was, "I understand the ramifications for what I am about to do". This meant to us that you walked out of your office and that you understood the action you were taking was not orderly. On November 30th you and Elder Van Baren presented us two letters. In those letter's we read "...for us to be in union with men who have made a decision that has harmed or killed a prophet would be impossible", and then further down, "We ask you to repent and turn from the decision to adopt the recommendations of the church visitors to suspend Rev. Lanning from the office of minister of the gospel. This clears the path for us to again be received into full communion with you brothers and for us to be fully restored in our offices". However, in your letter dated December 20th you state, "The only reason I am not currently functioning in the office is because my fellow elders voted, in my absence, to strip me of my duties as elder." These seemingly contradictory statements left us confused as to reconciliation.

We have sent letters to you inquiring whether you were able and willing to serve with us and you state that you will not beg for your position to be returned to you. Brother, you know that is not our intent. However, for our consistory to be able to function as a consistory we must be able to pray together and submit to majority decisions.

The consistory has taken a decision that we erred in our decision to relieve you from your duties and has given you a letter of apology for the actions that we took. Our prayer is that you will consider the behavior that you exhibited and see that there were some actions that have not been brotherly toward your fellow office bearers nor orderly in church assemblies.

1 Corinthians 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."

In Christ,

BCPRC Consistory

Josh Lubbers, Clerk

