

November 30, 2020

Dear Elders of BCPRC,

We bring the following to you regarding your action on November 28, 2020, relieving us from our duties as elders until we “apologize for [our] rash charge and conduct” (Minutes from November 28, 2020).

We give the following explanation of our conduct in order for you to understand why we believe we should not have been relieved of our duties for our actions.

Men, even as we are allowed to record a negative vote in order to ensure that our conscience is not violated before God; so must we be allowed not to be present during a prayer that must surely ask for God's blessing on an action that our consciences were convicted was against God and His Word. This would be hypocrisy.

With respect to the charge that was brought (“this consistory has the blood of a prophet on [its] hands”), the perspective must be seen that for us to be in union with men who have made a decision that has harmed or killed a prophet would be impossible. We ask you brothers to consider this charge in the light of Scripture (see Jeremiah 38:4), see its rightness, and turn, so that you and your generations and this flock are not judged for this action.

We see the path forward as follows: 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. This repentance and turning (“For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength” Isa. 30:15) will lead us to the cross of Calvary which cleanses our hands from all of our sin. This would then restore Rev. Lanning to the pulpit and will allow us to do our work in the light of the Word of God.

Men, we pray that you will consider this request, and we want you to know that our love for our fellow elders remains, as well as our dedication to continue to work together with you in our office as fellow-elders and fellow watchmen on the walls of Zion; this for the salvation of this flock of Jesus Christ, and above all, for the glory of God's Name.

In Christ,

Elder Bryan Van Baren

Elder Dewey Engelsma