

November 19, 2020

To the Classical Committee
Of Classis East

Dear Rev. W. Langerak.

The Byron Center PRC consistory is seeking advice from the Classis East church visitors in regards to protests lodged against their decision to require their pastor, Rev. Lanning, to step down as editor of the Sword and Shield. They will be meeting this evening to deal with a controversial sermon that Rev. Lanning, preaching this past Sunday morning on Jeremiah 23:4&14. We anticipate a request for help in dealing with this as well. The trouble is that both Rev. Koole and Rev. Haak are involved in pursuing charges of slander and schism against Rev. Lanning. We are not sure at this point whether it will be advisable for them to meet with the consistory as we bring advice and attempt to set things on a right course. In the past we have involved all four church visitors in dealing with difficult circumstances of this magnitude. We therefore ask the Classical Committee to appoint another seasoned pastor who is not involved with pursuing charges against Rev. Lanning to be available to assist us in helping the Byron Center consistory in this matter. There is precedence for this. In 1992 circumstances left only one church visitor to conduct the visitation of the churches. He approached the Classis Committee with a request that they appoint a fill-in. This was done and approved by the January 1993 Classis. We would suggest either yourself or Rev. Spronk.

In Christ's service,
Rev. J. Slopsema