

June 6, 2020

Dear Georgetown Congregation,

We write this letter to you concerning a magazine, *Sword and Shield*, which you may have received this past weekend. The Consistory wishes to inform the congregation of two concerns we have with this magazine.

First, we object to the origin of this magazine and the manner in which it was distributed. Our Consistory was not informed of this publication prior to its mailing. We were not told it would be mailed to the members of our congregation. We were not given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the reasons for this magazine or to pass a judgment as to the effect it would have on the unity of our denomination. The RBP (Reformed Believer's Publication), unannounced to us, decided to mail their magazine to the members of our congregation, and we assume our denomination. We believe that something done in the conviction of promoting truth in our denomination would have sought the support of consistories who are the very ones called of God to maintain the truth and watch over the faith and life of their members.

We find this disturbing. If a magazine purports to promote the truths of the Reformed Faith, why would it not give prior knowledge of its publication to consistories called by Christ to maintain the Reformed Faith? If the magazine's promoters intend to target the members of our church, why would they not seek the concurrence of the elders of our church before doing so?

This act has not produced confidence in the magazine.

Second, we object to the content of the editorial appearing in this magazine. We find that it lacks candor and transparency in stating the reasons for the publishing of another magazine in our denomination. No mention is made of the criticism and dissatisfaction with the Standard Bearer out of which this magazine arose. Rather, the editorial leaves the impression of a cordial relationship existing between these two magazines. This is misleading.

Further, we object to statements in the editorial which allude to "the lie" present in our churches, and declaration of the magazine's intent to set aside good order in the churches in addressing this supposed "lie", even maintaining the right to "condemn" in their magazine the decisions of "ecclesiastical assemblies of the Protestant Reformed Churches". These statements threaten to promote disorder and a divisive spirit in our churches.

We plan to address our objections to the consistories of the ministers involved.

We also intend to request that the publisher immediately remove the members of GPRC from their mailing list.

May our God preserve the peace of our churches in the way of truth, wisdom,
and humility.

town PRC Consistory

George