

HUDSONVILLE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHURCH

5101 BEECHTREE AVE. HUDSONVILLE, MI 49426



July 20, 2020

Dear Congregation of Hudsonville PRC,

The Consistory is writing to you regarding the magazine the Sword and Shield, that many if not all of you have received. The Consistory believes that this magazine is causing and promoting division in the Protestant Reformed Churches, and because of that felt that we should send out a letter to address our concerns with this.

We are concerned that the editorial in the June 2020 issue states that the writers will be “able to condemn doctrines, attitudes, and practices within them that are false. This is true even regarding the ecclesiastical assemblies of the Protestant Reformed Churches.” They go on to say that the magazine will “comment on the decisions that the assemblies make.” This is not following the orderly way that members of our churches must follow when addressing issues within our denomination, or when one would like to voice their objections of a decision of ecclesiastical bodies. The way in which they are voicing their opinions and objections will not promote unity in our denomination.

We are also concerned that the magazine is stating that there is a controversy between a “works principle” and a “grace principle” doctrine. They contend that the controversy has “been between an error out of hell, and God’s own truth from heaven” (July 2020 issue). They state that the magazine’s desire is to engage in this doctrinal controversy. Our consistory does not believe there is a controversy that exists between these two principles in our churches. Our consistory believes that only the grace principle is preached in our churches and is part of our doctrine.

The consistory brings these concerns to you because we are concerned that you are receiving a magazine that is not promoting unity in the PRC, and is making very strong accusations against many of her members. We want you to be aware of this, and desire that when reading the Sword and Shield, you will exercise discernment, wisdom, patience, and charity. We caution against developing an attitude of suspicion and distrust of our pastors, consistories, fellow members, and ecclesiastical assemblies. We pray for peace and unity in our churches and that the Protestant Reformed Churches will continue to preach the good news of the Gospel, to the glory of God’s Name.

Finally, as your consistory, we ask for your prayers as we try and guide our congregation in the way of truth and understanding. We pray for wisdom for us all to discern what is right and to live according to the truths of Scripture. We also remind the congregation that the consistory is available at any time to talk about this matter or any other issues that are of concern to the members of the congregation.

I Peter 3:8-9 – “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

Heb 12:14 – “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord”

The Consistory Of Hudsonville PRC - Doug DeBoer, clerk