

July 12, 2021

Dear Congregation of Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church,

Greetings in the name of the only head of the church, Jesus Christ.

I, the undersigned officebearer of Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church, provide the following letter of resignation and the calling out of those who are of like-minded faith to follow me out of this church, which is falling away from the pure preaching of the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

It is also my conviction that the deposition of Rev. Andy Lanning and the suspension of Rev. Nathan Langerak were unjust and ungodly. By these acts the denomination walks in ways of sin.

If a denomination clearly shows unfaithfulness to the word of God over some years, takes official decisions denying fundamental truths of the gospel and law of God, and refuses to heed protests delivered to the assemblies over a few years, the local congregation has the right, indeed the duty, with grief, to separate from the apostatizing denomination that is in the process of becoming a false church and to join a faithful denomination or to establish a new one.

The fault for the separation and disruption of the unity of the church is that of the unfaithful denomination, not that of the congregation that separates. The apostatizing body, of course, will scream "Schism." As patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels, appeal to church unity is the trump card of the false church. But the faithful congregation, or believer, separates on behalf of the unity of the church, which is always and only a unity in the truth of the gospel.

Every believer must insist on the truth in his or her congregation and in his or her denomination. This is not unreasonable. This is what God insists on. (David J. Engelsma, *Bound to Join*)

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

In Christ,
Elder Jim Geerlings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Geerlings", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.