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Dear Hull PRC Consistory,

I am deeply troubled by the recent deposition of Marcus Andringa from office of deacon. I considered remaining a member of Hull PRC just to protest this decision. But since I have also attended worship services lead by Rev. A Lanning (although you have never admonished me or charged me with sin) it is very likely that you would put me under discipline rather than treat my protest. I write this as an open letter as an attempt to instruct you and the members of Hull PRC.

I think it is important to understand how serious this decision is and what it means. Deposition is the heaviest punishment the church give to an office bearer. The church must prove that the sin committed is so heinous that it is impossible for the office bearer to continue in his office even if he repents. Excommunication inevitably follows if he does not repent. By this action the church declares that he is cut off from fellowship with Christ “and is therefore to be accounted by you as a heathen man and a publican” until he repents. I would encourage you to read the form for excommunication to understand the extreme judgement you have taken against Deacon Andringa.

Something must also be said about how quickly you moved to depose. Deposition is normally preceded by a 3-6 month suspension during which time the consistory labors with the brother to show him his sin and bring him to repentance. The exception would be if an office bearer fell into a sin like adultery and confessed his sin and repented then there would be no reason wait to depose. You have stressed to me many times that things move slowly and that this is the orderly way. The “offences” listed in your grounds (June 27 worship service, June 29 letter, June 30 answered questions) are all within a few days of your decision to depose. There is no way you can honestly say you patiently labored with Deacon Andringa. If you insist you have, you should be able to provide proof of this. This would include letters and committee reports that contain instruction and admonitions.

If I were still a member in the PRC I would also consider protesting Calvary PRC’s decision to concur with your decision. The fact that you did not give Calvary’s consistory time to examine Deacon Andringa alone is extremely unjust and disorderly. Deacon Andringa was not given the opportunity to respond to the charges brought against him. This is clearly a sin against the 9th commandment. “that I do not judge, nor join in condemning any man rashly or unheard” LD43 Q&A 112 “ Judge not, that ye be not judged: condemn not, that ye be not condemned: forgive and ye shall be forgiven:” Luke 6:37 This clearly demonstrates the abusive and disorderly character of both consistories.

Decision 6-30-2021

MMS That Marcus Andringa be deposed from the office of deacon at Hull PRC according to CO article 79 & 80. Carries

Ground: Faithless desertion of office

- A. Marcus informed the consistory by letter dated 6-29-21, “I cannot in good conscience continue to perform my work as deacon in this church.”
- B. He has informed us that he does not intend to baptize his child (born 4-12-21) at Hull PRC. By his refusal to have his child baptized he is not showing himself to be a proper example as an office bearer is called to do.

- C. On June 27,2021, he did not attend either service at Hull PRC, but he publicly attended a worship service in Hull led by Andy Lanning, who has been deposed from the ministry. This service is posted on Youtube and thus can be seen by all.
- D. He informed us this evening (6-30-21) that he is militating against the decisions of our broader assemblies.
- E. He expresses his intention is to join the Reformed Protestant Fellowship of Northwest Iowa.

I will address each ground to explain how none of them support the charge of faithless desertion of office.

A. Marcus informed the consistory by letter dated 6-29-21, "I cannot in good conscience continue to perform my work as deacon in this church."

- 1. Since it is common practice to list the strongest grounds first apparently you feel this is your strongest ground.
- 2. This quote does not prove that Deacon Andringa deserted any part of his office. It seems to indicate that he is considering resigning from his office as deacon which is not a sin. It leaves me wondering what did the rest of the letter say? Note: Since you used this letter as grounds you must provide a copy of it to any member of Hull PRC along with all the other material related to this case if they request it.
- 3. The fact that you would use a private letter against an individual is brutal abuse. I have been instructed by you to write a letter if I want to address anything. You have refused to answer some of my letters in writing because you were afraid I would share those letters with others or use them against you. Your hypocrisy is very clear.

B.He has informed us that he does not intend to baptize his child (born 4-12-21) at Hull PRC. By his refusal to have his child baptized he is not showing himself to be a proper example as an office bearer is called to do.

- 1. Not partaking of the sacraments is very concerning, but it is not a punishable sin. Other churches in the PRC have delayed administration of the sacraments because of the division that exists in their churches.
- 2. You know full well that Deacon Andringa cannot at this time in good conscience answer the 2nd question of the Baptism Form. To force or pressure someone to act against their conscience is a grievous sin. I Corinthians 8 gives instruction on this. "But when ye sin against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ." 1 Corinthians 8:12
- 3. Deacon Andringa has expressed these convictions to you in letters to which you have not responded.
- 4. This ground does not prove that he has deserted his office.

C. On June 27,2021, he did not attend either service at Hull PRC, but he publicly attended a worship service in Hull led by Andy Lanning, who has been deposed from the ministry. This service is posted on Youtube and thus can be seen by all.

- 1.If not attending church for one Sunday is desertion of office you would have to press the same charge against other office bearers.
- 2.If attending a worship service at another denomination is desertion of office you would also have to press charges against other office bearers .
- 3.This should be very concerning to you but, it does not prove that he deserted his office.

D. He informed us this evening(6-30-21) that he is militating against the decisions of the broader gatherings.

- 1.Protesting is a form of militating. Every believer has the right to protest the decisions of the Broader Gatherings. In the council room the office bearers must be able to voice their disagreement or concerns with the decisions taken without fear of being charged with sin.

As office bearers you have vowed to exert yourselves in keeping the church free of errors. (Formula of Subscription & CO article 55)

2. The fact that he informed you of this in a private meeting is not a sin. If he did militate in a public and disorderly way the charge would not be faithless desertion of office.

E.He expresses his intention is to join the Reformed Protestant Fellowship of Northwest Iowa.

1.While it should deeply concern you that Deacon Andringa said this to you in a private meeting. It should motivate you to explain to him why this would be wrong rather than simply responding with charges of sin.

2.If Deacon Andringa had officially joined the fellowship you could logically press charges but, you can not depose him for something he has not done.

I pray that the Lord may grant you eyes to see the sin into which you have fallen. May He graciously turn you from the destructive path that you are leading Hull PRC down. I will wait a few days before I release this letter to the public to give you some time to consider what you have done. This will give you time to publicly apologize for your sin and restore Marcus Andringa to the office of deacon.

“Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21-24

In Christian Love,

David Rozeboom