

Byron Center  
Protestant Reformed Church

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12/15/20

Dear Matthew,

We appreciate your letter to us on 12/14/20 regarding the submission of paperwork to Classis. We took this letter under advisement and have discussed it at our consistory meeting this evening.

We are aware of the commentary of Van Dellen and Monsma regarding this matter. However, this is done “as a rule”, not as the rule. While it may seem that the consistory is working rashly or hastily, we have in actuality been laboring with our pastor for several months on a number of issues, and recently in regard to the sermon on Jeremiah 23, many hours have been spent in deliberating on statements made.

You are right to point out Article 30 of the Church Order. All parties agree that we are at an impasse and therefore the following quote is accurate, “In major assemblies only such matters shall be dealt with as could not be finished in minor assemblies, or such as pertain to the churches of the major assembly in common” (*Art. 30 of the Church Order*). While it is not the opinion of the consistory nor our Pastor that we are working in haste by going to Classis on this matter, Classis will have ample opportunity to decide whether or not more time must be given to this charge before proceeding to deposition. The consistory has decided to take this matter to classis in January, and Rev Lanning has verbally thanked us for getting the matter to the January classis. He did not want to delay. When asking Rev Lanning about a fair day in court he states that the consistory has been charitable to him in this. We understand that this appears rushed but be assured we have worked carefully and diligently, not on emotion but with deliberation in love for Rev Lanning and our congregation.

Again, we appreciate your letter. We understand the points you bring up, and it is the sincere desire of this consistory to lead the sheep and not scatter them.

The consistory of Byron Center PRC,

Josh Lubbers, Clerk