

October 31, 2021

My Beloved Consistory  
Provident Protestant Reformed Church  
Provident Village, Marikina City

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ!

I write to you to relate the reasons why I stopped attending the worship services of the Provident Protestant Reformed Church (PPRC) from August 2021 until now. In so doing, I will also express my stand on the current controversies hounding our sister-denomination, the PRCA, which also pierced through our denomination, the PRCP, as evidenced by the bolting out of our sister church in Bulacan.

The main reason that I ceased from attending is my loss of confidence in the PRCA denomination. As a consequence of this, I also lost confidence in the Missionaries of the PRCA who are in our midst alternately providing us with sermons, and occasionally from recorded video sermons from ministers of the PRCA.

I have nothing against the preaching of the PRCA Missionaries and the video sermons being provided. So far I never heard a sermon preached that is not orthodox. But in the course of my studies regarding the controversies within the PRCA camp, my conscience was bothered. There were issues and accusations being hurled at the leaders of PRCA which are not answered clearly. The missionaries cannot answer them, because they were not present there. The answer that they will provide will only come from the official statements of the PRCA, from the men who are being accused of wrong-doing.

Forgive me for not going to the consistory and bring this up the church-orderly way. Maybe because I thought, how can I protest on somebody who is not part of our church nor on issues which are not part of our denomination. I keep hearing that what is happening in the PRCA is not our concern because we are not part of that denomination. So I thought also.

When Bulacan separated, the issues became ours. I was offended when Bulacan left. Who wasn't? Why so sudden? Why did they not follow the church order? I was grieved because Bulacan rifted the unity of the denomination. My sudden impression was to look down upon the office bearers of Bulacan. I have long repented of this.

As I study further, and as more and more issues are coming to light and are becoming clearer, I understood the stance of Bulacan. Being a member of a denomination is not forever. When a church wants to get out of it, it may do so for whatever valid reasons she may know of. The congregation is autonomous not the denomination. Bulacan may not be perfect, but she made a stand. She made a stand for the truth.

This is my stand as well. I want to stand for the truth. But since I am very much a member of PPRC, I need to know her stance.

I heartily confess Article 28 of the Belgic Confession. Out of the church of Jesus Christ there is no salvation. I may not withdraw myself to live separately from her. But issues are at hand, between the truth and the lie, I need to know where the church I belong stands.

Where does PPRC stands on the following matters?

1. Were the PRCA Ministers of Jesus Christ properly and lawfully expelled from His church?
2. Is the Church Order part of the confessions vowed upon by Ministers in the Formula of Subscription of Office Bearers?
3. May a classis depose or expel a consistory?

4. Does PPRC subscribe to the current teaching of Professor Engelsma?

*That in a certain aspect of salvation man's activity precedes God's activity.*

*Justification, or forgiveness, follows faith, as the end follows the means. Faith precedes justification. Repentance precedes remission of sins. But because it pleases God to justify by means of faith (believing), and to forgive in the way of the sinner's repenting, justification is not caused by faith. Neither is repentance the cause of forgiveness. Faith is the (God-worked) means. It is not the cause.*

5. What about the faulty doctrines preached by some Ministers of the PRCA directly contradicting the decision of Synod 2018; does PPRC agree to these?

Dear Brethren, when Bulacan, in the last classis they attended, requested that the PRCP Denomination assign a committee to study the controversies surrounding the PRCA, they were denied. The classis made a promise to discuss this matter on its next session. I hope she will.

Help me make a decision my brothers in the faith. I cannot go against my conscience. Evil has happened in the churches of the Lord. It is of the Lord's doing. To do nothing in the face of evil is to condone that evil.

Let us make a stand. We cannot be neutral between the truth and lie.

Brotherly yours in Christ,

Edgar Bansale

Hand-carried thru the kindness of Brother Ruel dela Fuente, Deacon PPRC