

Michael Vermeer
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May 11, 2021

PRCS/HCHS School Board
10790 Calumet Ave
Dyer, IN 46311

Dear fellow board members,

As you may already be aware, I am no longer a member of a Protestant Reformed Church. This change in church home does not reflect a change in my beliefs, and I will gladly discuss with anyone interested why I had to lead my family as I did. Knowing the anguish of my own heart in making this decision, I judge no person for their decision to stay within the PRC or to leave it.

I understand that by willingly separating myself from churches with the "Protestant Reformed" name, my full membership within our school association is at risk. Without a change to our Constitution, I understand that my membership may be terminated "*by a majority vote of those present at a legally constituted meeting of the Association.*" Until this action is taken by the association, the constitution does not preclude me continuing to serve as a member of the board. You have the power to remove me, for cause, by two-thirds vote of the full board; however, note that the constitution does not require this, and also note that taking this action at the board will not remove me as a full member of the association.

As a member of Second Reformed Protestant Church, I earnestly desire to continue to work with you to teach my children at this school which God has so graciously provided. This sentiment is shared within my church, demonstrated by the fact that without my knowledge, my church has planned regular collections for our school. Our commitment to covenantal education and our understanding of the value of Reformed, Parental schools does not waver with membership in a new church.

I do not desire to resign from the school board, but rather would like to continue working with you in my commitment to teach our children in the fear of the Lord. I had been planning to continue my regular board duties unless and until action of the association prevents it; upon request and in a spirit of brotherliness, I am willing to withdraw myself from active participation in board and committee work to give you space to consider bringing the below proposal to the association.

I request the board consider recommending to the association the following change to Article 4 of the constitution: after "Full membership is limited to male members of the Protestant Reformed Churches in America," add the statement "and Second Reformed Protestant Church."

The grounds I provide are as follows, but others may find additional reasons to agree:

- 1) We have a shared commitment to the truth of God's Unconditional Covenant, which is the basis for the education found in this school.
- 2) Bringing this proposal will allow the full association members to consider a path forward for continuing the work that we as parents have begun together, rather than taking unnecessary and rapid action at the school board.
- 3) If you recall the history of education in our area, for years members in the Protestant Reformed churches held board positions at Illiana, and we supported that school through collections as well as participation in the life of the school.
- 4) The wisdom of Gamaliel: "...if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Acts 5:38b-39

I bring this proposal to you in the spirit of meekness, not for myself, but for the sake of the parents and children in my new church home. If resigning from the board could have meant an effective path forward together, I would have welcomed the opportunity. I only ask that you truly and honestly consider the above proposal, before you consider any action to remove myself from the board or propose termination of the membership of others in our Association.

In Christian Love,

Michael J Vermeer

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