

Unity Protestant Reformed Church

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”

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March 3, 2020

To: Rev. A. Lanning

Dear Brother in Christ,

As the servants the Lord has appointed to be the watchman and protectors for Unity PRC, we bring this decision we have made to you.

We do not want you to preach the sermon “The Tears of Bochim” based on Judges 2:1-5 in our church, nor any other sermon dealing with the recent controversies in our churches. The reason we do not want any sermons dealing with the recent controversies is because we do not agree with your application, and not because we disagree with your doctrine. We say this not only for the sake of our church and denomination but also because we care about you. We believe this sermon contains misapplication of the word of God and erroneously inserts the opinion of man into the preaching of the word of God. We fear the results of this sermon would be further sinful division, further sinful suspicion of office bearers, and distrust of our godly leaders. We believe the devil would delight in this and we as watchman on the walls of Zion must not allow this.

For example, the extra-scriptural story given in the sermon of the 2 Israelites plowing and eating lunch together is an illustration that misrepresents the situation we have in our churches. It implies that those who do not agree with your assessment, the assessment that we as churches are minimizing the error corrected at Synod 2018, are those who tolerate the altars to Baal. You imply that those who are not “roaring” as you suppose they ought to be roaring at this time are tolerating the altars to Baal. Your sermon clearly leaves the impression therefore that nearly all of our leaders, except a few, are presently tolerating the altars to Baal. This is unwise, divisive, and wrong.

It is our prayer that the Lord will use this to lead you to prayerfully reconsider your teachings in this sermon. May He help you to see the unwarranted damage it is causing the beloved church of Christ.

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6

In Christ’s service,

The Consistory of Unity PRC
Larry Looyenga, Clerk