

October 4, 2005

The Consistory
Canadian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, B.C.
P.O. Box 66
Abbotsford, B.C.
V2S 4N7

Esteemed Brothers:

Re: Article 86 of the Acts of General Synod Chatham 2004

With concern for the integrity of God's Word, summarized in the confessions, and taught and maintained by the Canadian Reformed Church of Abbotsford, we address Consistory regarding the extension of a relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) as initially entered into by General Synod Neerlandia 2001 and maintained by General Synod Chatham 2004.

As you are aware, the Canadian Reformed Church of Abbotsford has appealed the initial extension of this relationship to Synod 2004. We attach a copy of this Appeal to General Synod 2004 (see Appendix A) for your information. Article 86 of the Acts of General Synod Chatham 2004 constitutes Synod's response to this appeal.

As former elders, who directly supported the submission of the Appeal to General Synod 2004, we consider the response of Synod 2004 contained in Article 86 to be incorrect and inadequate. Although we elaborate in detail our concerns in the attached Appeal to the Consistory (see Appendix B), we summarize them as follows:

- a) Synod 2004 does not substantively interact with either the requests or the considerations underlying the requests which Consistory submitted to it.
- b) The return to the original agreement that was proposed by the Committee for Contact with the OPC to Synod 1998 occurred without Synods 2001 or 2004 interacting with the reasons Synod 1998 gave for amending this agreement.
- c) Synod 2001's deletion of the amendments, which were added by Synod 1998, caused the agreement to fall short of the substance of what we confess.
- d) Based on the OPC's official position "*that the church is competent to determine as valid and credible a confession of the Christian faith for communicant membership that is not also in accord with the church's confession*" we cannot expect to find adequate supervision or unity of faith at the Lord's Supper in any OPC congregation.

- e) The agreement that was entered into by Synod 2001 is in conflict with Article 61 C.O. and Rules #1 and #4 of the Rules for Ecclesiastical Fellowship as defined by Synod 1992 (for additional reference regarding the application of Article 61 C.O. see excerpt from Joh. Jansen's Korte Verklaring van de Kerkenordening as translated by Rev. R.D. Anderson in the attached Appendix C).
- f) The implicit acceptance of an interview process as a basis for admission of guests to the Lord's Supper results in the practice of an open Lord's Supper table.
- g) The expression of Synod's objective that "*the OPC should become more consistent in how it supervises the Lord's Table*" is undermined by the extension of a relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship with the OPC.
- h) Synod 2004 inappropriately defends a relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship with the OPC by referring to a consideration of Synod 1995 that is inconsistent with the decisions of both Synods 1995 and 1998.
- i) Synod 2004's failure to specifically interact with all of the Considerations raised by the Church at Abbotsford, or to specifically answer the Requests made by the Church at Abbotsford, is an effective denial of the right of appeal the Church of Abbotsford has under Article 31 C.O.

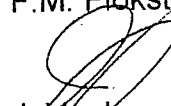
As a result of the above, we believe that Article 45 of the Acts of Synod 2001 and Article 86 of the Acts of Synod 2004 cannot be considered settled and binding. We believe that, in accordance with Article 31 C.O., the Canadian Reformed Church of Abbotsford must liberate itself from these decisions and appeal them to the next General Synod.

We would appreciate your written response to the Considerations and Requests that we have extensively detailed in the attached Appeal to the Consistory. In the event that you do not agree with any of these Considerations and Requests, we would appreciate receiving a detailed response based on Scripture, Confession and Church Order.

Brothers, we sincerely hope and pray that these very serious concerns will be resolved to the benefit of His Church. We wish you all the Lord's blessing upon your deliberations.

Yours in His service,


F.M. Flokstra


J. VanLaar
ensis.


M. Thalen


J. Vantil