

Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford

C/O 2043 Jordan Place, Abbotsford, B.C., V3G 2C3

March 14, 2013

General Synod Carman West 2013
of the Canadian Reformed Churches
C/O Canadian Reformed Church at Carman West
P.O. Box 2009
Carman, Manitoba
R0G 0J0

Esteemed brothers:

**Re: Report of the CRCA Subcommittee Netherlands to Synod Carman
2013 regarding relations with the Reformed Churches - Restored**

We are writing to you to provide clarification regarding a number of serious inaccuracies and misconceptions which have been written in the above Report concerning the origin and membership of the Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford.

- 1) The Report gives the incorrect impression that one of the grounds for secession of the Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford was the use of the NIV Bible translation in the Canadian Reformed Churches.
- 2) The Report questions "*the manner in which the lawfulness of the liberation of the LRCA was confirmed*" but does not explain why. The claim is made that "*observations reported by deputies as recorded in the Acts of Synod Emmen are questionable at best and lacking substantiation*" (page 6). However the Report does not offer any proof to refute these observations.
- 3) The Report correctly claims that no deputy of the CRCA or the CanRC of Abbotsford was contacted (page 6). What this Report omits, however, is that deputies examined extensive correspondence from members of the LRCA and the CanRC of Abbotsford, as well as the Acts of General Synods in forming the basis for to its conclusions, and therefore needed no further clarifications.
- 4) The Report incorrectly claims that two deputies, Rev. S. de Marie and Br. Joh. Houweling visited Abbotsford in October 2010 and that these two deputies had the opportunity to meet with members of the subcommittee in Ontario at that time. It should be noted that it was Br. C. Houweling (brother of Joh.), who, not being a deputy, but in the capacity of a delegate

from Synod Emmen, visited Abbotsford at that time, and accompanied Rev. de Marie to Ontario.

- 5) The claim in the Report that “*disagreements with the CanRC and local consistories about totally different matters existed well before 2001 by some now within the LRCA*” (page 6) is not to the point. It should be emphasized that all members of the Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford understand and support the reasons for secession. Where members have become estranged from the CanRC because of disagreements with CanRC consistories, these are evaluated by consistory on a case by case basis.
- 6) It is incomprehensible that there is no mention in the subcommittee’s Report of the detailed studies made by Deputies BBK in November 2009 and May 2010 concerning the situation in Abbotsford. These Reports of Deputies have been available in English at www.reformedcontinua.nl since March 2011. Why has there been no interaction on the part of the CanRC subcommittee with the detailed information that has been presented in these Reports of Deputies?

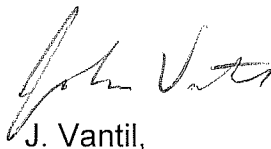
We request that General Synod consider the above information in connection with the Report of its deputies to come to an accurate evaluation of the Reformed Churches – Restored and the reasons for the relationship that they entered into with the Liberated Reformed Church at Abbotsford.

We wish you much strength and wisdom from the Holy Spirit as you study this matter, and we pray that together we may work for the restoration of the true unity of His Church in Canada and throughout the world.

Yours in His service,


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