

May 3, 2023

Dear Fathers and Brothers of the AIC,

The Hetherton Congregation has been in existence for over 120 years. During that time, she has weathered many storms and had many ups and downs. At this point, although we are in a good location to minister to a large section of Northern Michigan (indeed, there are no confessional reformed churches within an hour and a half of our congregation), the church appears to be on the brink of closing her doors for the last time.

We, a ruling elder and a deacon of the congregation, believe that there is a good possibility that the congregation may once again flourish, that we might be a light to the surrounding communities. We are thankful for the blessings we have received at Hetherton. However, we believe that changes need to be made in order for this regrowth to happen. Specifically, we are concerned that for some time as a congregation we have been consistently failing to 'hit the marks' according to the reformation definition of a church.

Although for over a year we have sought to stay in the trenches, seeking to do what we could to remedy some of the root issues for this, we have realized that our local efforts have failed, and we need to call upon our brothers in the Presbytery for assistance. Thus, we are asking that the AIC appoint a visitation committee to assess the situation and help us as a congregation to move forward. We believe that this is an urgent matter and desire to see resolution as soon as feasibly possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bryan Dage, Ruling Elder  
Mr. Jason LaPointe, Deacon