

February 28, 2023

Dear Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery,

I am sending this letter to you with an apology and an explanation. Last week you received a letter from me that I never intended to go to you. I had intended that letter to be a personal letter to Nathan Eshelman and Adam Keuhner, but I was not clear, and Adam assumed he should pass it on to the presbytery. I am in no way critical of Adam, but I apologize to you that the letter was passed on to you. My intention was to express my concerns to Nathan and Adam, and to enlist their help in addressing them in an effective way. I had intended to address presbytery later this week and was told I would be invited to speak. At that time, I would have expressed my concerns in a much less blunt and accusatory manner. Unfortunately, I now need to be in St. Louis this weekend, so I am writing this apology for the form in which my concerns were presented.

As a member of a sister reformed denomination (PCA) I have had good and warm relations with the RPCNA over the past 50 years. I willingly accepted an invitation to come to Immanuel Reformed Presbyterian Church to help a hurting congregation heal after enduring a horrible crisis. This would be the third time I have been called to help a congregation to heal that had been wounded by sexual abuse. By the time I began the congregation had voted to leave the RPCNA immediately and my assignment changed from helping them to heal to also consummate their action to leave. When I accepted the call to come to the church I knew only in a general way what happened but had no preconceived notion of the situation or presbytery's action. It has been interesting working with a congregation that no longer considers itself to be under the authority of the presbytery and denomination and yet to be working to end the ties that remained. It has been confusing.

While at Immanuel, I have heard from literally dozens of individuals who believe the congregation has been abused in the amount of discipline, how it was leveled upon the congregation, and how the congregation has been treated. These concerns came from those within the congregation and many members of your presbytery. What I have realized is there is no effective voice for the congregation to express their hurts and brokenness. Therefore, I resigned from my position as pastor so that I could be a voice for them. In my attempt to do this my original letter got passed on to you. I apologize for this.

As I have walked through these hurts, I have heard from many in the presbytery about their concern for the future of the presbytery and denomination. Generally, my sense as to why they haven't spoken up more clearly is out of intimidation that what has been done to Immanuel would be done to them. So, a secondary intention was to address these concerns to your presbytery. As a member of a sister Reformed denomination, I feel it incumbent on me to make you aware of the concerns that have been expressed to me. It is my prayer that despite the clumsy way in which these concerns came to you that you will be able to hear them.

I have a second apology to give to Kyle Borg and Keith Evans. It was not my intention to pass on to them these concerns in the way they were passed on. My intention was to ask their friends Adam and Nathan to help me to address these concerns in a way that would generate some helpful discussion. That also didn't work since the concerns came from me without any assistance. They complained that I had violated Matthew 18, and they are correct. I apologize deeply for that. It wasn't my intent, but that is the way that it came off. They gave an uncategorical denial of what I raised and labeled those things as wrong, untrue, and even slanderous. I accept their responses that the things are untrue, and their response will be passed on to others who raised the issues. I had hoped they would do more than deny these things and to enter into why they are untrue. They did somewhat, but not to the satisfaction of many. What I said is not slander, but a legitimate call to respond to the issues. What I wrote was the statements of at least a couple dozen who fully believe those things. Many of those individuals were eyewitness to what they told me. That is not slander but an honest call to explain what they had experienced. Anyway, I accept the denial and apologize that the concerns of the

many who spoke to me were communicated inappropriately and in a way that has short circuited the process, causing Kyle and Keith to feel unjustly attacked. So, I request their forgiveness for the way in which these concerns and accusations came to them and you, the presbytery members at the same time. I would also extend this same apology to Joshua Smith for the same reasons, although I believe the elders at Immanuel were planning on talking to him.

Finally, I want to say again that the fault in passing on to you what was not intended to be passed on to you is on me by not adequately expressing my intentions. I In no way blame Adam for passing them on and apologize to him for any embarrassment he may feel in this situation. I only grieve that it happened. I am praying for Immanuel to be fairly treated, and I am praying for GLG and the RPCNA.

Your brother in Christ Jesus, Rev. Daniel Perrin