

Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery  
Rev. Dr. Nathan Eshelman, Clerk

Dear Sir:

Mrs. Lanning joins me in presenting to our presbytery a request that Mrs. Lanning's church membership be received and held by the presbytery as mine now is.

For over a decade Mrs. Lanning has been a communicant member of the Free Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. For many reasons, one year ago we decided it was in our best interest spiritually to seek another church fellowship in Grand Rapids. Our search led us to Providence Reformed Church, located in the Creston neighborhood of Grand Rapids, not far from our home. Providence is a Psalm-singing congregation, blessed with the faithful ministry of Rev. Johan Pronk. We have been warmly welcomed by the congregation, and greatly edified by the means of grace as dispensed in this church.

However, Providence Church is a congregation of the Reformed Church in America, a denomination that has, for the same reasons, and to the same degree, as the Presbyterian Church (USA), fallen away from its historic Reformed confession of faith and practice. We Lannings cannot in good conscience unite with the RCA, just as we have no wish to belong to the PCUSA. Providence Church is one of a handful of RCA congregations that, by way of exception, hold tenaciously to the faith and order of Scripture and the Reformed Confessions.

Mrs. Lanning is troubled by the fact that she no longer attends the church of which she is a confessing member. There is no Reformed Presbyterian congregation near enough to us that we could attend services regularly. In former days, Mrs. Lanning was a communicant member of First RP Church of Grand Rapids. If GL/G Presbytery would consent to receive a transfer of Mrs. Lanning's membership from the FRC of Grand Rapids, we would be grateful. It is not a perfect solution, but at least a workable one, in this imperfect world.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Ray B. Lanning  
Mrs. Linda J. Lanning