

The Orthodox Presbyterian Church
The Commission of the General Assembly

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VIA EMAIL ATTACHMENT
July 6, 2017

The Rev. Dr. James Visscher, Corresponding Secretary
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES
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CANADA

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. We regret having to write you at this late hour, but the recent decision by Synod Meppel 2017 of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) to open the special offices of minister and ruling elder to women, contrary to the rule prescribed in Scripture, would seem to require us to do so.

We begin by officially informing you that, to satisfy the requirements of Article IV.4 of the *Constitution* of the ICRC, the 84th (2017) General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (which was dissolved before the adoption of the relevant actions by Synod Meppel 2017), adopted the following:

That, in the event the General Synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands Meppel 2017 (“the RCN”) determines, before the conclusion of the 9th (2017) Meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches (“the ICRC”), which is scheduled to meet in Jordan, Ontario, on July 12–19, 2017, to open the special offices of minister of the Word of God and/or ruling elder to persons who are biblically disqualified from such offices, the 84th (2017) General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, pursuant to *Form of Government* XII.3, constitute the four duly elected OPC delegates to that meeting of the ICRC a Commission of this Assembly until the next (85th [2018]) General Assembly, to act on behalf of and with the full power of the General Assembly on any and all matters pertaining to the membership of the RCN in the ICRC, including the authority to propose to the 9th (2017) Meeting of the ICRC, as the Commission deems appropriate, that the RCN be suspended, pursuant to Article IV.4 of the *Constitution* of the ICRC, from membership in the ICRC.

Ground:

While we pray that implementation of the proposed recommendation is unnecessary, given present circumstances, the recommendation represents a reasonable and prudent action to protect the integrity of the ICRC, which plays a vital role in the structure of our own ecclesiastical relationships.

Accordingly, I am now writing you on behalf of the Commission of the OPC General Assembly, which having been duly constituted, now proposes to the Conference:

- A. That the Agenda for the upcoming 9th (2017) Meeting of the ICRC be amended by adding an item regarding the membership, including the status thereof, of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) in the ICRC.
- B. That, with regard to the membership of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) in the ICRC, the Conference:
 1. Declare that the RCN—having recently acted to permit the ordination of persons to the offices of minister and ruling elder contrary to the rule prescribed in Scripture—is in its doctrine and/or practice no longer in agreement with the Basis of the Conference (*cf. Constitution*, Article IV.4);
 2. Pursuant to Article IV.4 of the *Constitution* of the ICRC, suspend the membership of the RCN in the ICRC, effective immediately;
 3. Encourage the RCN to reconsider the action of Synod Meppel 2017 in this matter and to restore the doctrine and/or practice of the RCN to be in agreement with the Basis of the Conference; and
 4. In the event that, by the time of the 10th (2021) Meeting of the ICRC, the RCN continues to permit the ordination of persons to the offices of minister and ruling elder contrary to the rule prescribed in Scripture, the status of the membership of the RCN in the ICRC be placed on the Agenda for that Meeting.

We pray that the Holy Spirit, working by and with the Word, will guide the ICRC in its deliberations later this month, to the end that Christ might be honored in all things. Thank you, and may our gracious Lord continue to use your labors for His own glory and the increase of His kingdom.

Your servants in Christ,



L. Anthony Curto, Chairman
FOR THE COMMISSION OF THE OPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Cc: The Rev. Dr. M. Oosterhuis, BBK General Secretary