



Saint Peter

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Mr. Moderator and Brethren of Westminster Presbytery:

In light of our desire to teach and practice paedocommunion, and because of the complaints that have been submitted to the presbytery, we believe it is our duty to respectfully submit the following letter.

As you know, when R.C. joined the RPCGA, it was on the understanding that he would neither teach nor practice paedocommunion. When Laurence was examined the same night he had not yet determined his final position on paedocommunion. Since that time the Session of St. Peter Presbyterian Church has come to the conviction that we can no longer abide by the vows of the RPCGA. We acknowledge that for some time we have been in violation of our vows on this issue and humbly repent and seek your forgiveness for failing to inform the Presbytery and for teaching and practicing that which was agreed not to be taught or practiced. If we had been aware of the 1997 General Assembly Act on paedocommunion, which forbids even holding to the paedocommunion doctrine and practice, let alone not teaching or practicing it in our ministries and church, it is likely that we may have never considered joining with the RPCGA. We know that failure to inform us of this Act was an unintentional oversight by Presbytery and we harbor no grievances on the matter. However, we now realize that given our current teaching and practice we can no longer stay within the denomination.

In consideration of the above, we, the Session of St. Peter Presbyterian Church of Bristol, Mendota and Abington, Virginia, request to be dismissed from the Westminster Presbytery of the RPCGA while deposed from office w/o censure and to be hereby released from any association or affiliation with the RPCGA.

In addition, we confess that because of instances where our offices and authority have been mishandled, some families have been hurt and others unknown to us could have been offended. To those that have made it known to us we have apologized. Further, we are aware of the embarrassment that this has caused to the good name of the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly. Consequently, we repent and apologize, and ask for your forgiveness as well as from those unknown families who have been affected.

We want to thank you and the brethren of Westminster Presbytery (RPCGA) for your friendship, kindness, and gracious patience shown to this Session over the past four years.

Furthermore, as a result of the Declaratory Judgment of January 26 2006 having been deposed without censure from the ministry of Westminster Presbytery we request that you dismiss us from the jurisdiction of the Westminster Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly.

Laurence Windham

R.C. Sproul Jr.