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March 12, 2025

To the Faithful Representatives of the Presbytery of Baltimore, PCUSA

Subject: Letter of Support for Rev. Laurie Hogge

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to you in my capacity as president of the council at Grace Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to offer my strong support for Rev. Laurie Hogge as she seeks to transfer into the Presbyterian Church (USA). Given her gifts for ministry and her calling as a hospice chaplain, I believe this transition is both well-suited to her vocation and beneficial to the PCUSA.

There are, however, certain **denominational circumstances beyond Laurie's control** that I hope will not hinder her transfer. Laurie is a minister in good standing at Grace CRC and, under normal circumstances, would be well-positioned for an uncomplicated transition. However, as you may be aware, the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) is undergoing [significant upheaval](#) regarding matters of human sexuality. Recent synodical decisions have placed unprecedented demands on churches like Grace, requiring us to either retract our beliefs or rapidly disaffiliate. As a result, **our congregation is in the process of disaffiliating from the CRCNA, a transition expected to be finalized by May 20, 2025.** Many ministers, [including myself](#), are also navigating rapid credential transfers to more hospitable church bodies.

The unique **polity of the CRCNA adds complexity to Laurie's case**. Unlike most Reformed traditions, CRCNA clergy credentials are held **not** by the denomination or a regional body but **by the local congregation**. This means that, despite Laurie correctly following all procedural steps—including requesting release from the CRCNA and approaching you in good faith—she may find herself in an ambiguous **intermediary period** where her formal CRCNA status could be questioned. This is due solely to the fact that **Grace CRC, the council that holds her credentials, will soon no longer be CRCNA-affiliated.**

I write, therefore, **to request that you treat her transfer as generously as possible.** Laurie is a minister in good standing who has done everything required of her in good faith. The complications surrounding her credentials are not of her making but rather a result of broader denominational turmoil. I hope you will recognize her as a minister in good standing and facilitate her smooth transition into the PCUSA.

If you have any questions about these matters, I am happy to serve as a resource. I can also arrange a consultation with Rev. Kathy Smith, the CRCNA's former professor of church order, who has been instrumental in guiding those of us transitioning out of the CRCNA. This season is truly historic for our denomination, and my sincere hope is that Laurie may find stability and support among you as she continues her faithful work as a hospice chaplain.

May God bless you in your ministry, and may the Lord who sees all things grant us wisdom, mercy, and peace.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Ryan Schreiber

President of Church Council

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