

August 21 1975

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hawley
Madoga, Indiana.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hawley,

It was so generous of you, so kind, and so unnecessary to give my wife and me the sumptuous gift with which you have delighted us. She will write to thank you, if she can find the words. But this letter has to do with far less pleasant matters.

In the light of the Commission's action, I do not know what you are going to do. You could attend the bible church once every two years. I make no comment. You could join Ed Steele's church, even though it is under the same Synod. I promised to advise you to join some church, though I told the commissioners that I thought such advice was superfluous. Otherwise I do not know what to say: I need advice myself.

Let me only advise you of my great respect and affection for you, and of our prayers for your comfort in time of trouble.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon H. Clark

*The Lord delighteth in
thee... Isa. 62:4*

September 29, 1975

Dear Dr. Clark:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Session of BPC of Indpls. which we received Saturday. Also a copy of the envelope to show how they sent it full of "International Women's Year" stamps and registered with return receipt requested. They must think we are about to take off for outer space.

We've also enclosed a proposed letter in reply to theirs for your consideration. We don't particularly want to ask them to take our names off, and yet, as we say in the letter, we feel we don't very well fit into the denomination any longer. Please give us your thoughts and honest opinion. If you will call us collect it would help, time-wise, for we should give them some warning (especially the Muncie people) as to what we intend to do about the suggested meeting.

We plan to send copies to Paul Alexander, Paul Gilchrist and Allan Baldwin (Moderator of the new Presbytery).

We hope Covenant is off to a good start. We'll hear about it from the Lynns next Sunday.

Our very best regards to you and Mrs. Clark,

In Christ,

Jane + Bill

"... for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" Rcv. 1:9

First Bible Presbyterian Church

(REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN, EVANGELICAL SYNOD)

5102 CENTRAL AVENUE INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46205
TELEPHONE (317) 283-4097

ROGER W. HUNT, PASTOR
438 E. 51ST STREET
TELEPHONE 283-7888

September 26, 1975

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hawley
202 East Main Street
Ladoga, Indiana 47954

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hawley,


With the prayer that God in his love would forgive past mistakes and give discernment in our present decisions, your Session expresses its sincere desire that there be a reconciliation of heart and mind between us. We believe that if each of us is open to the conviction of God's Spirit through his Word there can be healing.

You are familiar with the decision handed down by the Judicial Commission of Synod. Following its recommendations we have requested counsel from the newly formed Michigan-North Indiana Presbytery. Presbytery responded by appointing the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Muncie a committee to advise us. Westminster's pastor, Frank P. Crane, chairs this committee.

With the counsel of this committee we now desire to proceed with the resolution of the issue which weighs heavily on you and on us. Thus, in conformity to chapter VII, Par. 4 of our Book of Discipline, we request that you meet with us on the Lord's Day, October 19, 8:30 p.m. at the First Bible Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. The purpose of this meeting is to afford you the opportunity to show cause why your names should not be erased from the roll of communicant members.

You should know that members of the Presbytery committee will sit as observers in this meeting. Also, please be assured of our being open to what you have to say. We sincerely desire a reconciliation which respects the principles of Scripture which make for harmony and mutual edification within the Body of Christ.

In His name,


Roland W. Dykema
Clerk of Session

202 East Main Street
Ladoga, Indiana 47954

Dr. Roland Dykema, Clerk of Session
First Bible Presbyterian Church
5102 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

Dear Brethren:

We are responding to your registered letter of September 26, 1975, in which you propose to have us meet with you on October 19, at 8:30 p.m. to show cause why our names should not be erased from the roll of communicant members of the First Bible Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis.

First, we believe that our reasons for not attending the above-named church in recent years, and for requesting that our names remain on the roll have been carefully and completely explained on several occasions to the members of the Session.

Secondly, after our experience in the past few years of not being able to get prompt help from the denomination for the church when it was badly needed; not being fairly represented at Presbytery meeting, by its own committee, when that body voted on our case; and, finally, not having our case actually heard by the Judicial Commission of Synod, yet having that body hand down a decision without ever giving opportunity to present arguments or witnesses, our faith in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, has been badly shaken.

It was in the First Bible Presbyterian Church of that denomination that we came to know the Lord and we have very deep and fond memories of our membership there and our Christian growth with and through the members and pastor there. Bill tried very conscientiously to carry out his obligations as Elder, especially when it became apparent that the church was in serious trouble, but when there were yet enough members still attending that it could have been salvaged. From the first, we considered our case against the church as a class-action case representing the many other former members whose names had been taken from the roll, as well as ourselves. Many Christian lives have been seriously affected by the policies pursued by that church.

It is now obvious that the denomination is becoming more and more liberal. It has been shown that a pastor "can do no wrong" and that, at both Presbytery and Synod levels, there is no attempt to really try to find the facts and a fair and proper solution. When one of the officers of Synod says that Dr. Gordon H. Clark is "not really Presbyterian", we find ourselves very much out of step with that denomination.

We are truly sorry that this is the case, and we pray, that in the Lord's providence some good can come from it, we know not what.

Respectfully, in Christ's name,

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Hawley

The time suggested for a meeting would be a most inconvenient one for us, and impossible for our Counsel, and such a meeting is really unnecessary. We, therefore, shall await notice as to what action the Session takes.

202 East Main Street
Ladoga, Indiana 47954

October 19m 1975

Dear Dr. Clark:

As you know, the session of Bible Presbyterian Church wrote us a letter on September 26th, which we received the next day, asking us to come show cause why our names should not be taken off the roll. They didn't invite us back or admit they had made any mistakes. One week later it became public knowledge that Roger Hunt had resigned and was leaving town on the 13th, but nothing had been said about that in their letter to us. This was, of course, after we had written our reply.

We learned that those involved in the meeting on Sunday evening, the 19th (tonite) didn't understand whether or not we were coming. So this afternoon Bill called Frank Crane at Muncie, in case the men were coming from there just to meet with us. When Bill mentioned that the session must have known about Roger's plans when the letter was sent to us, he didn't deny it. In fact, he finally admitted he had dictated the letter himself from the Book of Discipline. He stated that we were living in sin because we had separated ourselves from the church. He said the session members had admitted their mistakes, but, as you know, that was never to us. He also upheld the policy of "cleaning up" the church membership rolls.

Frank finally said he would see if a meeting could be arranged for next Sunday afternoon. We don't know what can be achieved by the meeting, but suppose we should make the effort. We shall take someone (we don't know who at this time) with us as a witness. If you have any instructions or words of wisdom for us, do send them on.

Billy Lynn was at church this morning and it was good to see him. He seems very pleased with Covenant.

Dave was hoping to be able to come see us next weekend, but we haven't heard a definite confirmation yet.

We've had a beautiful fall, but it has been very winterish the last three days--cold, rainy and blustery. The leaves have been gorgeous with all their colors.

I should have told you that no letters were received from BPC by the Sickerts, nor anyone else that we know of.

Our very best regard to you and Mrs. Clark,

In Christ,

Jane Hawley

Mrs. William R. Hawley
202 East Main Street
Ladoga, Indiana 47954
October 27, 1975

Dear Dr. Clark:

It seems I wrote to you prematurely, for I had no idea what was going to happen next. On Friday, October 24, we received the letter from the Session, a copy of which is enclosed. As you can see, no time was given for us to meet with them, and at no time was anything mentioned about Roger having left as pastor.

In spite of all that had happened before, this was a blow. So much so that for the first time in our lives, we just intentionally did not go to church Sunday morning. We simply stayed home and read scripture. We know of no church in this area that would be congenial for us. I don't know what we will decide to do.

This will complete your file and you will know what has happened. We shall always be tremendously grateful to you for all you have done for us. You have been a real blessing to us. This just seems to be another "sign of the times" and I guess we aren't in step with these times.

Greet Mrs. Clark for us, as Bill joins me in wishing for you both the very best of everything.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Jane W. Hawley

First Bible Presbyterian Church

(REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN, EVANGELICAL SYNOD)

5102 CENTRAL AVENUE INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46205

TELEPHONE (317) 257-3500

October 22, 1975

ROGER W. HUNT, PASTOR
438 E. 51ST STREET
TELEPHONE 257-5564

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hawley
202 East Main Street
Ladoga, Indiana 47954

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hawley:

At the meeting of the Session of the First Bible Presbyterian Church held October 19, 1975, the following action was taken:

It was moved and seconded that the names of William R. Hawley and Jane W. Hawley be erased from the roll of communicant members of the First Bible Presbyterian Church for the following reasons:

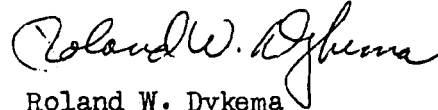
- 1) William R. Hawley and Jane W. Hawley have not participated in worship or communion services of the First Bible Presbyterian Church for more than two and one-half years.
- 2) They have failed to appear at the Session meeting of the First Bible Presbyterian Church held October 19, 1975, at 8:30 p.m. pursuant to notice to them mailed September 26, 1975, and received by them on September 27, 1975, a copy of said notice being inserted in this minute book immediately following the minutes of this meeting and marked "Exhibit A" and the receipt for said letter inserted in this minute book immediately following the minutes of this meeting and marked "Exhibit B".
- 3) A letter has been received by the Session from the Hawleys, a copy of said letter being inserted in this minute book immediately following the minutes of this meeting and marked "Exhibit C", stating therein that the time of the meeting of October 19 was inconvenient for them but failed to request any alternate meeting date.
- 4) Their letter of October 2, 1975, suggested a resignation but the qualifying remarks associated with the resignation prevent the Session from accepting it as a resignation.
- 5) The lack of any reference by the Hawleys in their letter of October 2, 1975, to a willingness to submit themselves to the discipline of the Session of the church.
- 6) The Moderator, Frank Crane, received a telephone call from the Hawleys during the afternoon of October 19, 1975, and while they indicated a willingness to meet with the Session at an alternate time, reasons given by the Hawleys for not meeting with the Session on October 19, 1975, at the stated

time, namely going to bed at 9:30 and their not knowing what to do for an hour and one-half between the service at First Reformed Presbyterian Church and the 8:30 meeting, were deemed insufficient by the Session.

Motion carried.

Please accept this action as an indication of our commitment to carry out our responsibility before the Lord with regard to the care of His people.

Sincerely in Christ,



Roland W. Dykema
Clerk of Session