

Sanctuarychurch

1420 NW 80th St
Seattle, WA 98117

January 16, 2025

To Classis Pacific Northwest,

The council of Sanctuary CRC has unanimously determined that we would like to initiate, with regret, the disaffiliation process with the Christian Reformed Church denomination. This decision does not come lightly and has been lifted up in prayer for guidance.

The implications from decisions from Synod 2024 are not sitting well with Sanctuary's council. Specifically the requirement that our leadership sign the covenant for office bearers "without reservation". We perceive this requirement to be an elevation of our man-made Creeds and Confessions to be at the same level as God's Holy Inspired Scripture. While we are comfortable with our Creeds and Confessions being documents written for specific audiences in our global history, suitable for helping us interpret Scripture, and wonderful gifts to the church, we are not comfortable with every teaching that exists in them nor that our leaders be required to accept them "without reservation". Therefore, we do not see a way for our leadership in good conscience to continue to lead within the sphere of where the Christian Reformed Church has decided to go.

Our regrets stem from a recognition that Sanctuary Church would not exist were it not for the church planting initiatives in 2004. Some of our leadership team were a part of that initial church planting team. Others in our leadership team were born and raised within the Christian Reformed denomination. Still others have been supported and trained as Ministers of the Word within the Christian Reformed denomination. This denomination has been a nurturing home for us. It is thus no easy decision to leave that home; however, we perceive that this home has changed following decisions made in Synod 2024 and is no longer the same place that we once knew.

Please proceed with supporting Sanctuary as we move forward with disaffiliation from the Christian Reformed Church. We have discussed our disaffiliation intention with our church body and sought their inputs. Our church body has been supportive of our leadership in this matter. We anticipate holding a June congregational meeting to formally vote for a first time on disaffiliating.

Grace and Peace from the Council of Sanctuary Church,

Amy Mitchell - President

Steve Geelhood - Clerk

Luke DeJong - Treasurer

Bob Kunde

Sarah Hofman De Young

Mark Mohrlang - Pastor