

Reformed Church in America
Classis of the Southwest Leadership Team

Minutes of Leadership Team Meetings by e-mail on October 30, 2013.

MEMBERS PRESENT BY e-mail: Rev. Dr. Jim Poit, Rev. Dr. Randy Wieland, Rev. Gary Jarvis, Rev. Dr. Ted Vandeberg, Rev. Susan Hetrick, Pastor Richard Caballero, and Lynn Fischer.

Receipt of a demand letter:

Dr. Jim Poit, Classis President, Dr. Randy Wieland, President, Glass and Garden Trustee's, and Lynn Fischer, Stated Clerk, Classis of the Southwest, RCA, reported receipt of a demand letter from John Shannon dated October 28, 2013 attorney for Mr. David Nokes and others.

As we have processed this matter we have received input from a variety of sources. Paul Karsen RCA legal counsel has recommended that we hire an attorney to represent Classis and deal with the factual inaccuracies of this threatened legal action. One of the Firms suggested to us was Lewis and Rocca. They have a division that represents denominations in matters like this. They have successfully dealt with over a dozen such cases. They represent denominations not secessionists. Today Jim Point, Gary Jarvis, and Randy Wieland had a conference call with representatives from the firm. We were impressed with their background, with their experience, with their knowledge of the law as it relates to cases such as this. They were up front. They would need the following ASAP.....

- 1) Documents such as deeds, articles of incorporation, bylaws.
- 2) Documents such as minutes of the supersession, formation of the new board of trustees
- 3) A knowledgeable consultant on the book of church order.
- 4) Further conversation with whomever would be helpful.

They also said that different states land on different sides of precedent dealing with church matters. They would research where AZ lands and then know how to proceed. Finally they indicated that they have a really good team of at least three that would be working on this. They estimated the original research and response would be between \$8 and \$16K depending on the hours that have to be invested. They also indicated that often when the facts are presented and the plaintiff sees that a "real law firm" has been retained the problem goes away.

Recommendation: We retain the services of the Lewis & Rocca law firm to represent the Classis of the Southwest, RCA to bring this matter to a close.

The recommendation was approved by voice and e-mail vote 2013/42

Respectfully submitted

Lynn Fischer, Stated Clerk
Classis of the Southwest, RCA