

Update from BBK – 14th September 2020

Because of the coronavirus our work as BBK deputies had been postponed for some time. But early in September we were able to convene again. Our attention was especially drawn to the sister church of DGK in Abbotsford, the LRCA, because our mandate of synod Lansingerland was to enter talks with the LRCA.

In April 2018 synod Lansingerland decided three things:

1. GS admits that GS Emmen and GS Groningen unjustly stated that the possibility to continue with appeals in the ecclesiastical road has been taken away from the members of CanRC.
2. To enter talks with the sister church at Abbotsford on the catholicity of the church regarding the legitimacy of its secession and its present churchly position.
3. To further discuss with the Canadian deputies the start and existence of the LRCA.

Grounds for these decisions were:

1. Statements of the LRCA about churches which have the WS as confession, call for various questions as to LRCA's view on the catholicity of the church.
2. In a sister church relationship, when you have concerns, you can discuss them with each other.
3. In the statements of GS Emmen and GS Groningen accusations of LRCA made against CanRC on degeneration were repeated, but not all of these accusations have been proved.
4. During the investigation of the reasons of the LRCA to secede from the CanRC the CanRC have not been heard sufficiently.

Based on this mandate an extensive correspondence has developed between deputies and the consistory of LRCA. At present deputies reached the following conclusions, which have also been communicated with the consistory of LRCA:

With regard to the catholicity of the church you condemn the WCF in full as a document in which (along with many good things) false doctrine is taught. And you cannot acknowledge churches that consciously use the WCF unchanged and uncontradicted as their confession, as churches of Christ, simply and solely because of the fact that they confess their faith in the WCF. In this your vision is diametrically opposed to what our DGK church federation pronounced on this.

With regard to the ecclesiastical way: the LRCA didn't follow the ecclesiastical way to the end. The secession in 2007 from the CanRC was not in accordance with the church order and has therefore not been justified.

According to the instructions we as deputies BBK will now enter oral talks with the consistory of LRCA. Because it is not possible to go to Canada due to the corona restrictions, we intend soon to meet via Skype and so to be able to further discuss our written exchanges with the consistory of LRCA.