

January 24, 2023

Overture:

The Council of Community Christian Reformed Church requests that Classis Huron postpone declaring the end of the ordination of Toyosi Awesu as a commissioned pastor for a period of one year (Feb 2023 – Feb 2024) with the ability to extend for an additional year upon classical review and recommendation.

Grounds:

1. In response to an overture seeking clarification on the status of commissioned pastors between calls, Synod 2016 approved the following guidance of the Candidacy Committee regarding commissioned pastors transitioning out of a ministry position: *“Any commissioned pastor who leaves a ministry assignment and who intends to begin another ministry assignment should be encouraged to express their intentions and desires to the classis leadership. The classis leaders may then decide to postpone their declaration of a ‘ministry conclusion’ for an agreed upon period of time while the commissioned pastor involved searches for a new ministry assignment”* (Agenda of Synod 2016, p. 269 – emphasis added).
2. Toyosi has indicated to the Council of Community CRC a desire and intent to seek another ministry position.
3. The circumstances leading to the termination of Toyosi’s ordained position were not of his own choosing or agency. The abrupt nature of the loss of employment and ministry position are extenuating circumstances that need to be taken into account as classis considers when to declare the end of his ordination as commissioned pastor.
4. The postponement offers Toyosi the necessary time to process the ending of his congregation and to discern where God is leading him next while still being able to minister and preach within Classis Huron during this transition.



Larry Litgendorff – Chair of Council



Harry Oudman – Clerk of Council

Date - January 24/2023