

WC = word choice
 mng. = meaning
 def. = definition (missing)
 stt. = statement
 ty. = they
 tt. = that
 ex(x) = example(s)
 dem. = demonstrate.
 arg. = argument
 abt. = about

Sardis Christian Reformed Church

Request for Article 17a, Release of Pastor Simon Templar and Sardis Church

Moved, Supported, and Approved by Council at a special meeting held on Wednesday, November 2, 2015.

Background and Process:

1. First, it should be noted that Pastor Simon works diligently on his sermons and is obviously scholarly in his Biblical work. Also, he has suffered much in his personal life and has done so with Godly faith and courage. Pastor Templar is certainly not accused of any moral failing. And so we can be thankful for him.

Relevance? appropriate-ness of inclusion message?
2. Along with that, it should be noted that Sardis Church is a good congregation. They have been faithful to Pastor Templar in his times of suffering and have been very supportive in his times of need. They have also been longsuffering in this extended time of stress. And so we can be thankful for the Sardis congregation.

def.?
mng.? In what way?
3. However, this motion comes after at least five years of mounting tension and frustration, and after a time of significant membership losses from the active-core of the congregation. As this tension was growing, the Council invited Stew Kelno (2011 -12) to help the congregation as a consultant. When Pastor Templar's illness struck, the Council "put a hold" on these discussions.

source? dev.? reasons? def. origin/explain? key events?
evidence?
fact-check reason.
fact-check - ST called in SK.
implies continuity of council members
4. Then this past May, 2015, the Council hired Stew once again to assist the church in a congregation-wide series of meetings. For these, elder and Deacon teams visited the congregation members, and Stew met with these teams and compiled a summary-report for the Council and the Church. In these Elder/Deacon visits, the people of Aetna congregation registered a high degrees of frustration with the pastor and the report urged church visitors be called. (These were/are: Pastor Middle Path and Pastor Kleon Mercer.)

For what purpose?
application of showing accurate reflection?
WC?
source? examples? Number of people? standing?
entire report summarized/adequately represented here?
for what purpose?

5. Also in this time, Stew, along with Nate Thornton (from Denominational Pastor/Church Relations) met with the Council and the Pastor. They both once again clearly noticed the widening divide between the Council and the Pastor.

> antecedent idea?
> source? dates?

6. In the last three months, there has been a deep searching for resolution; there have been many meetings. Pastor Mercer met privately with Simon. Pastors Mercer and Path, together, met privately with Pastor Simon. Pastors Mercer and Path met repeatedly with the Council also, and then with the Elders (with full deacon support). The Council has been diligent, humble, and abundantly hard-working.

examples/extracts from conversations?
counterexamples exist which have not been addressed.

① necessary?
② did the council members meet w/ the pastor individually?
↳ difference bet. ts. + diligent?
also, demonstrate w/ examples.

7. The Church Visitors, in this process, recommended that the Council create a set of clear expectations for Pastor Templar. The Church Visitors recommended to Pastor Templar that he weigh carefully, in his own heart and mind, his own vision for ministry in order to see if could agree with these expectations. The Council, with the support of Classis, also extended a generous offer to provide a brief, fully-paid sabbatical for counseling and healing. It was clear at the conclusion of that discussion that Pastor Templar was not at all of a mind to flow in accord with the Council's expectations or of a mind to receive the sabbatical recommendation.

> clear expectations:
appropriate to be one-way?
expectations for congregation / council? implicit. ty. are perfect?
↳ also, expectations biblical - based on material fm pastoral epistles in partic.?

8. The Council, at its meeting of 10/29/15, instructed Pastor Templar to not preach for the next three Sundays. Then the Council met again on 11/4/15 to initiate Article 17 proceedings.

↳ was subject of sabbatical consulted before recommendation was made? "very generous" to offer expensive sabb. to a vegetarian.

* This far no interaction w/ or mention of pastor's perspective? was there no consultation of him as a source?

The Grounds for the Council's decision for Article 17 are as follows:

↳ reasons given? interact with here.
↳ reasons given? authority/grounds in scripture + church order considered? Explain here.
↳ could rephrase - "was not willing to do what he was told"

9. 1. The core workers and givers of the congregation feel "lording over" by the pastor.

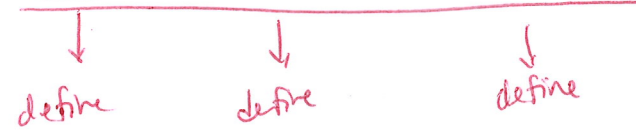
10. 2. The Council feels a lack of teamwork-respect from the pastor and detects from him an attitude of superiority. The pastor demonstrates either an inability or an unwillingness to listen, and then to interact as a full-faith partner in ministry. They feel there is no intent by the pastor to cooperate.

11. His view of God, the message of God, and the people of God, and how he

↳ why? examples? implications?

↳ assertion that this is legit, or simply the way it is? biblical?
> cf. end of passage 1. *
again, is this a validation of feelings or simply a st. ty. exist?

> subjective arg. abt. mind-reading?
> mng.? cooperate w/ what?



↳ passages 3, 7, 9-12 nullify passage 1?
↳ excuse for consistency.

these are?
what contributes clear?
seek God's pray?
lunky. WC? examples?
examples?
expand + explain.

WC? imprecision? again?

Can define this word view? Explain how it's diff. fm. (maj. of) Sardis.

un-packs that view in preaching, pastoral care, and administration are leaving the core of the congregation spiritually depressed and frustrated.

Attempts (some gently, others more direct) to peaceably negotiate, discuss, when? w/ whom?

or alter this worldview over these recent years have been met with an external shield of resistance. The pastor, for his part, has sought solace and direction from sources outside Sardis church that have only reinforced his own spiritual worldview and led him to a more entrenched position.

for what? source? who? Expl.

assumption is, then, that it is wrong?

mng?

WBD? what is this course?

who?

mng?

4. The Council unanimously believes that the Sardis Church cannot survive on its current course. A number of core people have left in frustration. The breakdown of ministry is severe, and the Council believes that more losses of core people are very likely to happen if the pastor stays. They are keenly aware that as they take this action, others from the church may leave, but the Council believes this is their only hope for the survival of the congregation.

again, state that this wv is wrong if believe so. what is the position in which he is 'entrenched'? Define. why? B/c of the pastor's wv? B/c they're serving half-off? implications here?

then explain? Illogical: can't lose more ppl. do x. do x = lose ppl.??

prayer? counter-arguments discussed, weighed, nullified?

implied diff in inherent value of contributions to congregation in this group? Need to clarify o/r wise seems contradictory -

And again define + defend 'core'!

13. Thus the Council, after much deliberation, and with firm conviction, unanimously requests the endorsement of Higher-Ups N-M-West and its Synodical Deputies for this action.

At a Council meeting with Pastor Templar on Thursday, November 5, the Council approved a severance package for Pastor Templar (attached),

Also the Council approved a request for HUMW funding to assist with the costs of the severance.

• Many assertions not only of what people do, but also of what they think, with no appeals to evidence or ~~explicit~~ derivation from examples or incidents. Impossible to defend w/o elaboration.

• Presupposition is that obligations are overwhelmingly on shoulders of pastor - author does not seem to realize this.

• O/r presupposition is that congregants' frustration is grounds enough for dismissal w/o addressing their character, maturity, ability to articulate the issues; + w/o explaining how PT is source of frustration + that it is bad by biblical standards.

- 'core' seems key, yet is never defined nor demonstrated.

- wv also seems key, yet neither wv of PT nor of Sardis majority is explained + thus neither is demonstrated biblical or even right.

- no appeal to Christian sources of moral tenor - most subjective, "feelings"-based reasons for condemning behavior that, if the allegations are true, should be called unchristian, immoral + unbiblical (contra passage 1. consistency?)

Grading Rubric

Assmnt: Req. f Art. 17a for Sardis Church

Author: Church Council

sources: none cited

STYLE. Including but not limited to: word choice; fluency of language; clarity of expression; variation in sentence structure; grammatical and mechanical competence; defining of terms, particularly jargon.

5 /10

writing is competent, but argument weakened by (over)use of ill- or undefined terms and awkward phrasing in key areas

RESEARCH. Accuracy in handling, thoroughness in collecting, variation in and critical assessment of source material.

3 /15

totally unclear who or what is the source of information or the breadth of variety thereof - also factual errors.

EVIDENCE. Profundity, range, validity, number, specificity, relevance of examples.

1 /20

ANALYSIS. Examination and interpretation of the evidence; critical, thoughtful approach yielding original and defensible argument. Must also interact with opposing viewpoint in thoughtful way.

0 /20

no questioning of others' or own assertions or prepositions

BIBLICITY OF THINKING. Must include evidence that interpretation of evidence and conclusions drawn are biblically weighted and informed, whether implicitly, by not contradicting Scripture or subverting biblical categories or ways of thinking, or explicitly, by appealing to Scripture (accurately and in a meaningful way) in course of argument.

0 /15

evidence of 1 or more 'witnesses' - false testimony - itching ears

emphasis on feelings not biblically credible; biblical inconsistency to say PT 'leads over' people & yet has 'no moral failing'. Biblical credibility? perspective on His Word as factor in deliberations. not take into account rejection of Word among congregant

EFFECTIVENESS OF ARGUMENTATION. Requires logic, clarity, credibility and consistency, as well as language and tone appropriate to the topic, and an easy-to-follow flow of thought from evidence to analysis to conclusion. Main points of argument must not be easily undermined by unaddressed counterexamples.

3 /20

only thing that is clear is that author believes PT is the only issue. But does not have evidence, examples, explanation of why, justification of assertions, defining of ambiguous terms. Actually provokes doubt of author's ability to see situation in objective way.

opposing source available to author; no interaction or acknowledgment.

Total: 12 /100

12