

NEWS AND UPDATES: WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNITY BIBLICAL GOVERNANCE

July 2013 Edition

The Verdict is In

The US Supreme Court has ruled on DOMA. DOMA (the Defense of Marriage Act) was a US federal law that allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages granted under the laws of other states. DOMA, in conjunction with other statutes, had also effectively barred same-sex married couples from being recognized as "spouses" for purposes of federal laws or receiving federal marriage benefits. But recently the US Supreme Court declared it un-constitutional. This is one additional sign of America's transformation from a homeland for reformed Protestants to a modern incarnation of Sodom and Gomorrah. But there is a higher Judge and Governor, and His Ten Commandments are immutable. We must continue to remind civil rulers at every level of their moral duty to comply with the verdict of the Universal Supreme Judge.

Communication to the Board of Byron Township

In July a request has been sent to the trustees of Byron Township encouraging the city officials to rule in accordance with Biblical principles. We can pray that God would move them in this direction.

Letter to be Sent to the Consistories of the NRC in the US

The Reformation Party is drafting a letter to the consistories of the Netherlands Reformed Churches in the US, encouraging them to promote explicitly reformed Christian politics here even as they have been so instrumental in doing in the Netherlands. In an upcoming Newsletter we shall provide the text of the finalized letter sent.

Persuading Reformed Christians Why They Ought to Believe in the Doctrines Outlined in Article 36 of the Belgic Confession and Chapter 23 of the Westminster Confession

Article 36 of the Belgic Confession reads as follows: "We believe that because of the depravity of the human race our good God has ordained kings, princes, and civil officers. He wants the world to be governed by laws and policies so that human lawlessness may be restrained and that everything may be conducted in good order among human beings. For that purpose he has placed the sword in the hands of the government, to punish evil people and protect the good. And being

called in this manner to contribute to the advancement of a society that is pleasing to God, the civil rulers have the task, subject to God's law, of removing every obstacle to the preaching of the gospel and to every aspect of divine worship. They should do this while completely refraining from every tendency toward exercising absolute authority, and while functioning in the sphere entrusted to them, with the means belonging to them. ***And the government's task is not limited to caring for and watching over the public domain but extends also to upholding the sacred ministry, with a view to removing and destroying all idolatry and false worship of the Antichrist; to promoting the kingdom of Jesus Christ; and to furthering the preaching of the gospel everywhere; to the end that God may be honored and served by everyone,*** as he requires in his Word. Moreover everyone, regardless of status, condition, or rank, must be subject to the government, and pay taxes, and hold its representatives in honor and respect, and obey them in all things that are not in conflict with God's Word, praying for them that the Lord may be willing to lead them in all their ways and that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all piety and decency. And on this matter we denounce the Anabaptists, other anarchists, and in general all those who want to reject the authorities and civil officers and to subvert justice by introducing common ownership of goods and corrupting the moral order that God has established among human beings.” And chapter 23 of the Westminster Confession agrees. But, sadly, most professing reformed Christians today, at least in the USA, do not agree. So a large part of our task as a branch of the Reformation Party must necessarily be devoted to explaining to the reformed Christian community why its historic doctrinal standards are Biblical and true, and why they should be applied today. “Blessed [is] the nation whose God [is] the LORD...”

This Newsletter is produced by the West Michigan Chapter of the Campaign for Community Biblical Governance. The Campaign for Community Biblical Governance is sponsored by the Reformation Party (www.ReformationParty.org) in an effort to promote Biblical reformation at the local level.

Chapter Coordinator and Newsletter Editor: J. Parnell McCarter

Email CampaignForBiblicalGovernance@gmail.com , Tel 616-457-8095