



CEDAR HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

6455 E Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

May 4, 2022

Dear members and friends of Cedar Hills Community Church,

We are the kind of people who love partnerships. Collaboration helps us accomplish our mission. Cedar Hills has historically partnered with the Reformed Church in America (RCA). The RCA will face a major restructuring in 2024 and so every congregation must evaluate their partnership with the RCA. In light of the changes coming, the Elders began to study possible future partners. We believe that continued partnership with the RCA will limit our faithfulness and fruitfulness for two primary reasons:

1. The RCA's inability to defend Biblical authority.

We are saddened to see anti-Biblical beliefs filtering through the RCA at an alarming pace. We believe that partnering with congregations that hold these beliefs will undermine our mission. We cannot in good conscience support theological statements which we believe to be in error.

2. The RCA's bureaucratic gridlock.

We are saddened by the RCA's inability to resolve issues effectively. We are frustrated with a polity that does settle issues after lengthy discernment. This gridlock drains time, energy, and resources that we believe can be more effectively applied to the mission. We cannot in good conscience continue to pay the costs associated with this bureaucratic gridlock.

For these reasons, the Elders recommend leaving the RCA.

The second part of our discernment process has focused on finding a good partner that will help us move into the future with faithfulness and fruitfulness. We long to remain faithful in our call to make disciples who glorify God, love one another, and bless our neighbors with hospitality, authenticity, forgiveness, and restoration. (Matthew 28:18-20)

We recommend that the best future partner for Cedar Hills is the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC). We believe that partnership with the ARC addresses both of our primary concerns and matches our vision for ministry so that the ARC will help us move into God's preferred future for our congregation.

The Elders desire to hear input from the congregation and will be available for conversations in the Gathering Space on Sundays May 15 and 22 between services. Please bring your input and questions related to this issue. The Elders also invite you to join us in praying for clarity as we continue to discern the next steps for Cedar Hills.

The Cedar Hills Board of Elders

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