

# PASTOR DEPOSED; ACTION TO BRING PROPERTY FIGHT?

# ANCHOR POINT BIBLE CHURCH



February 21, 2021

CLASSIS MUSKEGON EX-  
PELS REV. BULTEMA AND  
CLASSIS OF FIRST CHRIS-  
TIAN REFORMED.

## SPEAKER IS NAMED

Ignores Action of Congrega-  
tion In Sustaining Pastor;  
Is Likely to Involve Owner-  
ship of Realty.

After deposing Rev. Harry Bul-  
tema as pastor of the First Chris-  
tian Reformed church, the Classis  
Muskegon, in special session yes-  
terday, appointed Dr. Samuel Vol-  
beda, a Grand Rapids professor,  
to occupy the pulpit of the church  
next Sunday, a move which places  
the question of the ownership or  
control of the church property  
squarely before the congregation,  
and which the consistory and pas-  
tor will combat.

After this action had been taken,  
Rev. Bultema put the question,  
"Shall I obey Christ, who says  
'Preach the word in and out of  
season,' or the Classis?" and when  
no answer was given, stated that  
he regarded himself as legal pas-  
tor of the congregation, and would  
preach Sunday. The consistory  
will meet tonight to take further  
action on this matter.

The action taken by the Classis  
yesterday not only suspends Rev.  
Bultema, until such time as he re-  
tracts his statements made in the  
book, "Maranatha," but deposes  
him as pastor of the First Chris-  
tian Reformed church, and as a  
minister in the Christian Reformed  
denomination. Rev. Bultema and  
his consistory were deposed on the  
charge of heresy. The congrega-  
tion, although it had sustained its  
pastor in the controversy, was not  
deposed.

The session was attended by not  
only pastors and delegates from the  
Muskegon district, but also by sev-  
eral Grand Rapids professors, in-  
fluential men from other classes,  
and representatives of the Chris-  
tian Reformed synod. A large num-  
ber of visitors were also present.



### Says it is Matter of Conscience.

In regard to the deposition of the consistory, which body has stood by the pastor since the trouble first started, Rev. Bultema says: "They were deposed because they could not and would not act against the dictates of their consciences."

The report of the classical committee, appointed to investigate the matter, stated that the committee had come to the conclusion that after suspending Rev. Bultema and the consistory, it could not legally appoint another consistory, as the matter of choosing this body was entirely in the hands of the congregation. For this reason the spe-

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cial meeting of the classis was called.

When the question of finally deposing Mr. Bultema, instead of merely suspending him, was brought up, a number of delegates spoke on the question, the large majority against the pastor, it is stated. The vote was also a one-sided affair. It was mentioned by Rev. Bultema that he believed, however, that there were many delegates among those present, whose convictions favored him.

### Only Removed from Office.

The deposition of the consistory provides for that body's being removed from office only; not for its members' being excommunicated from the church. Regardless of this action, however, the consistory will meet tonight with the pastor, to decide on a course of action for Sunday.

Judging by the increase in circulation of Rev. Bultema's pre-millennialist publication, "The Bereer," his belief is being seconded by many members of the Christian Reformed denomination throughout the country. This paper was first published four months ago with but a small circulation, and now is sent to over 1,000 homes throughout the country. It is read in almost every state in the Union; and with the present agitation is now making more rapid strides than before. It is apparent that through the whole denomination, there is some dissatisfaction with the decisions of the Classis. Rev. Bultema has received many communications endorsing his stand, and believes that although he has lost some friends, he has gained many more, he states.

The local church is also rapidly increasing in size. Its membership is now over 1,500, of which a large number are communicant members. Three services are held each Sunday, and according to Rev. Bultema, the church is well filled at all of these.

The consistory of the church, having stood by the pastor throughout the trouble, has stated that it will accept no responsibility for the action which the Classis has taken and is likely to take in the future.