

*The Foreign Mission Committee  
of the  
Protestant Reformed Churches in America*

May 25, 2014

Dear congregations,

The Foreign Mission Committee and the Council of the Doon PRC as the calling church, desire to make the denomination aware of a development regarding the mission work in the Philippines.

Our missionary, Rev. Smit, has selflessly and faithfully labored in the Philippines since 2009. The Lord has brought much fruit upon his labors. However, with the growing and changing demands of his family, and in consideration of the ongoing needs of the mission field, Rev. Smit has become convinced that his particular labors in the Philippines are drawing to a close.

The Council of the Doon PRC, and then the FMC, each unanimously adopted the following: “That Rev. Smit be honorably released from his missionary labors and be returned to North America on or about July 1, 2015 in accord with the term of service policy adopted by Synod 2013. (cf. Acts of Synod, 2013, Art. 30).” Grounds: 1. There is a growing concern for his children who are reaching a high school graduation age. There is not a workable college or workplace solution to keep them in the Philippines, and to split the family between the Philippines and North America, in the Smit’s case, would adversely affect Rev. Smit’s work. 2. Rev. Smit believes his particular work on the mission field is drawing to a close. 3. Significant goals having been obtained, and for the sake of continuity, stability, and good order, now would be a good time to begin transitioning to another missionary in taking up the continuing, but changing, demands of the field. 4. This is in accord with the precedent of Rev. den Hartog being released from his call to labor in Singapore (cf. Acts of Synod, 1986).

Although Rev. Smit’s return will not yet take place for another year, Doon will soon begin calling another missionary to labor with Rev. Kleyn, and Rev. Smit will be recommended for a call to the pastoral ministry in our churches.

We give thanks to God for Rev. Smit’s faithful years of missionary service and his family’s devotion, as well as for the Kleyns who are continuing in their missionary labors. In humble gratitude for the years that the Lord allowed the Smits to labor diligently and without complaint, we also humbly submit to His way when it becomes evident that Rev. Smit’s work must begin drawing to a close. We and the Smits ask the congregation’s prayers and support during this time of transition, that all things may “be done decently and in order.” I Cor. 14:40.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. James Laning*

The Foreign Mission Committee of the PRC and the  
Council of the Doon PRC

Rev. James Laning, Secretary of the FMC