

St. Lawrence Lutheran Parish

Rev. Dr. C. H. Little, Pastor.

Morrisburg, Ont. Sept. 14 1916

Dear Mr. H.: - Your note was received last night. In reply I will say that I have no authority to dismiss any member of our Church to a Church of a different faith. If anyone leaves the Luth. Ch. for another Church, he or she must do so on their own responsibility. As a Luth. minister I cannot endorse such action by becoming a party to it in granting a dismissal. Before taking so important a step you should have consulted me as your pastor.

I do not think either that the Presbyterians have treated us kindly or fairly in this matter. I have never asked a Presbyterian, or for that matter a member of any other Church to leave their Church and join the Lutheran Church. And I think the Presbyterians are under a much obligation to desist from proselyting and to observe the Golden Rule as we are.

The two Churches have a different faith on the sacraments, since the Presbyterians believe neither in baptismal regeneration nor in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Holy Supper. They also differ on predestination and many other important points. So you see I cannot consistently give a letter of dismissal to a Church which teaches so differently. All that I can do is to strike your name from our roll as a proselyte to the Presbyterian faith. I would have called on you yesterday, only I was told that you had joined the Presbyterian Church, and I was no longer your pastor. I am sorry, but for the reasons

stated I can not comply with your request. If
you think that the reasons which induced you to
join the Presbyterians are sufficient, that is your
affair, and a matter between you and your God,
Believe me I have no feelings against you or
resentment in the matter.

Sincerely yours,
C. W. Little.

Verbatim copy of letter
sent to Mrs. Henry Knapp
Sept. 14, 1916