

Council Notes
April 5, 2018

It was brought to council's attention by the Byker family that Corrie had planned much of her funeral service in advance and it was her wish to have John Noordhof officiate. Subsequently, Council met on Thursday, April 5 to discuss this request.

The Byker family approached council with this information, recognizing the sensitivity of the request to have John officiate the funeral now that he had resigned as a minister of the CRC.

The result of the council discussion was that we did not permit John to perform the official acts of ministry in our sanctuary; including the procession, call to worship, sermon, and closing blessing that would all ordinarily be performed at a funeral. Council did not offer opinion on his involvement in any other way.

Pastor Joe offered to officiate the service, if it was the family's desire.

In making a decision, Council consulted our church counselor (Dan Zylstra from Athens CRC) who also provided wisdom from the office of Pastor Church Resources at the denominational head office. Pastor Joe also provided council with information on Church Order as well as thoughts from a biblical and theological perspective. After these discussions, it was council's desire to graciously and effectively communicate its decision to the Byker family and the congregation as a whole.

The family graciously accepted Council's decision and Pastor Joe led the funeral service this past Monday.

Council wrestled with the decision that was ultimately made, which is a reflection of our daily calling to walk in the tension of truth and grace. Please know that it was, and always is, council's intention to lead and make decisions from a scriptural and theological perspective.