

Agenda for Classis Heartland
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Location: Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church
 3111 S 119th St
 Omaha, NE 68144

1. Check-in 8:00 – 8:25 AM

All delegates should check-in with the stated clerk prior to the meeting. All delegates must sign “The Covenant of Officebearers” to participate in the meeting.

Morning Session, 8:30 – 11:45 AM

2. Welcome and Constitution of Classis

- a. Welcome delegates and guests
- b. Give announcements and instructions for the day
- c. Classical Credentials and Attendance Report
- d. Chair declares Classis Constituted with the following officers serving
 - 1) Chairman: **Rev. Keith Hoekstra**
 - 2) Vice-Chairman: **Rev. Brian Hofman**
 - 3) Stated Clerk: **Mr. Pete Van Velzen**
 - 4) Treasurer: **Dr. Randy Smit**

3. Worship, Meditation, and Prayer led by Rev. Chad Van Ginkel.

4. Classical Interim Committee (CIC)

- a. Welcome Rev. Seth Atsma (Hawarden CRC) to Classis Heartland
- b. CIC summary reports from July 22, 2025 and August 11, 2025 (**pp. 4-5**)
- c. Stated Clerk report (**p. 6**)
- d. Additions to the agenda from Classical Credentials
- e. Communication to Classis from Zachary King, CRCNA General Secretary (**pp. 7-9**)

5. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)

- a. CSC meeting minutes
- b. 2025 Classical Ministry Shares Proposal

6. Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)

- a. Cornerstone Prison Church report by Rev. Scott Van Voorst
- b. Areopagus written report (**p. 10**)
- c. Resonate Global Missions - Pastor Jeff Heerspink (**p. 11**)
- d. CHMC written report (**pp. 12-14**)

7. Article 14e interview of Rev. Luke Wynja

Morning Break, 10:00 – 10:15 AM

8. Examination of Matt Dengler for Ordination as Commissioned Pastor at Hospers CRC.
 - a. Introduction of candidate and opening prayer
 - b. Sermon Evaluation led Rev. Nathan Kuperus and Rev. Brian Hofman with motion to proceed following
 - c. Biblical and Theological Examination led by Rev. Stephen Terpstra
 - d. Executive Session declared followed by a motion to approve Matt Dengler
9. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)
 - a. CMLT written report **(p. 15)**
 - b. Approval of the job description (Art. 23-a) and learning plan for Scott MacDougall as commissioned pastor at New City Church **(pp. 16-20)**
10. Classical Nominating Committee – Ballot for Servants of Classis **(p. 21)**
11. Report by Rev. Joel Vande Werken – Director of Ecclesiastical Governance CRCNA
12. Council of Delegate (COD) report by Loren Veldhuizen

Lunch Break, 12:00 – 12:30 PM

13. Time of Sharing and Prayer led by Classis Prayer Coordinator Barb Hibma

Afternoon Session

14. Dordt University report **(p. 22)**
15. Restructuring of Living Water Churches
16. Classical Discipleship Committee (CDC)
 - a. CDC written report **(pp. 23-24)**
 - b. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network update **(pp. 25-26)**
 - c. Safe Church Team written report **(p. 27)**
17. Discussion of items from credentials
18. Church Counselor Reports
 - a. New City Church – Rev. Kevin Muyskens
 - b. Hawarden CRC – Rev. Nate Kuperus
 - c. First CRC in Hospers – Rev. Aaron Greydanus
19. Church Visitor Reports **(p. 28)**

20. World Renew - Kim Starkenburg is at a World Renew board meeting. She will send out an email in late September/early October to highlight some of the ongoing work of World Renew.

21. ReFrame Ministries report **(p. 29)**

22. Gems Report **(p. 30)**

23. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

2026 Dates and Locations for Classis Heartland

- March 7, 2026 (Saturday) at First CRC in Hospers
- September 16, 2025 (Wednesday) at Ocheyedon CRC

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

July 22, 2025

Calvary CRC, Orange City

1. Membership: Rev. Brian Hofman (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Aaron Greydanus (Vice-chair), Mr. Pete Van Velzen (Stated Clerk)
2. CIC celebrates the news that Hawarden CRC's call to Rev. Seth Atsema (Classis Columbia) has been accepted. He will be installed in early September, DV
3. CIC celebrates God's faithfulness to the churches of Classis Heartland as no churches are requesting classical pulpit supply.
4. CIC receives communication regarding Luke Wynja's desire to reenter ordained ministry in the CRC via CO Art. 14e.
 - a. Mr. Wynja will be invited to the fall 2025 meeting of classis to be interviewed, as prescribed by CO Art 14e.
 - b. Rev. Greydanus will conduct the interview paying special attention to the circumstances surrounding the honorable release from ministry, the renewed desire to serve in ministry, and the understanding of synodical regulations yet to be met.
5. CIC receives communication from Living Water CRC regarding the process of Living Water (Sheldon campus) emerging as their own congregation with emerging status.
 - a. Rev. Hofman communicated with the Director of Ecclesiastical Governance to get some direction.
 - b. Rev. Kuperus to speak with Rev. Walhof about presenting the request and a initial plan/timeline towards future sustainable ministry in Sheldon.
6. CIC makes arrangements for Mr. Matt Dengler to be examined for the role of Commissioned Pastor at the fall classis meeting.
 - a. As Mr. Dengler has recently had sermons evaluated and is actively licensed to exort, Rev. Hofman and Rev. Kuperus will present an evaluation of a prerecord sermon.
7. CIC asks Rev. Greydanus to connect with Rev. Terpstra as a first step toward council training adopted at the spring 2025 meeting of Classis Heartland.

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

August 13, 2025

Zoom

1. Membership: Rev. Brian Hofman (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Aaron Greydanus (Vice-chair), Mr. Pete Van Velzen (Stated Clerk)
2. CIC processes the proposal from Living Water Community Church.
 - a. The CIC will be communicating with Rev. Joel Vande Werken (Church Order Czar), Rev. Jesse Walhof (Minister, Sheldon Campus), and Mr. Gary Vande Vegt (Council President, Orange City Campus) to ensure the final proposal to classis is concise and in line with Church Order.
3. CIC forwards, with our endorsement, a request from Classis Iakota to the Classical Discipleship Committee regarding hosting a Simeon Trust conference together with Iakota and Minnkota.
4. CIC notes that Classis Heartland does not have any Synodical Deputies.
 - a. The Classical Nominating Committee communicates to CIC that this is due to an oversight in the timing of our classical nominations. Classical selections for Synodical Deputies need to be approved by Synod in June, but our nominations happen at our September meeting.
 - b. The CNC has new synodical deputies on the ballot for this coming meeting. The names of those chosen by classis will be sent to the Council of Delegates for approval.
5. CIC will look into the mileage reimbursement policy for the classis meeting in Omaha as well as the possibility of chartering a van for those who are interested.

Stated Clerk Report Classis Heartland, Fall 2025

Below are tasks I completed as stated clerk since our last classis meeting on March 8, 2025.

1. I completed and submitted synodical delegate information to synodical services.
2. I forwarded overtures adopted by our classis to synodical services.
3. Completed classis meeting minutes for our March 8, 2025 meeting, distributed this information, and updated our website accordingly.
4. Forwarded First CRC of Hospers commissioned pastor learning plan and job description to the Candidacy Committee.
5. I participated in the Classical Nominating Committee meeting held on July 22, 2025.
6. I participated in the Classical Interim Committee meetings held on July 22, 2025 and August 11, 2025.
7. I participated in a Stated Clerks Connect Zoom meeting on July 30, 2025.
8. Forwarded several items of email communication from classis committees or denominational ministries to our churches of Classis Heartland.
9. Lined up synodical deputies for the fall classis meeting.
10. Met with Rev. Kevin Muyskens on August 21 and August 24 to plan fall classis meeting.
11. Emailed relevant updates and requests for credentials, reports, overtures, and other communications for our September classis meeting.
12. Compiled reports and communications into a meeting agenda for September 17.

Chairs and Co-Chairs

Sept 2025 – chair: Keith Hoekstra (Hull Hope) co-chair: Brian Hofman (LeMars Calvin)

Mar 2026 – chair: Brian Hofman (LeMars Calvin) co-chair: Lee Khang (Ocheyedan)

Sept 2026 – chair: Lee Khang (Ocheyedan) co-chair: Chad Van Ginkel (Omaha Prairie Lane)

Mar 2027 – chair: Chad Van Ginkel (Omaha Prairie Lane) co-chair: John Klompfen (O.C. Calvary)

Host Locations

Sept 2025 – Prairie Lane, Omaha

Mar 2026 – First, Hospers

Sept 2026 – Ocheyedan

Mar 2027 – Immanuel, Sheldon

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Van Velzen
Stated Clerk Classis Heartland



Dear Leaders of CRCNA classes:

Greetings in Christ's name. We pray that you are experiencing God's grace at the beginning of this new ministry year.

Sixty-six years after the destruction of Jerusalem, the prophet Haggai received a message from the Lord for Zerubbabel (the grandson of King Jehoachin) and Joshua, son of Jozadak (the high priest). These two exilic leaders had been called by God to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and renew the worship of the Lord, but sixteen years had passed, and in the face of intractable opposition and dwindling resources, building was at a standstill.

The Lord's message was simple: "'But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you'" (Haggai 2:4). The Lord had called them to this task and he would provide. The people only needed to work. Four years later the Second Temple was completed and dedicated to the Lord.

After a difficult period of COVID and three years of difficult conversations around sexuality, God is calling our congregations and classes to a time of rebuilding and renewal. Though we face challenges, God's message to us is the same: Be strong and work.

Synod 2025 was focused on the theme of, "Journeying with Jesus" on the path of renewal. As you seek to be strong, and to continue the journey with Jesus in your work, please take a few minutes to consider some of these important steps coming out of Synod 2025.

Next Steps on the Journey of Renewal

Synod 2025 received a summary of the results (*Acts of Synod 2025*, p.509) of the Gather Initiative, a series of ten gatherings of members and leaders from all 49 of our CRCNA classes (633 CRC leaders and members in total) that took place in 2024 and 2025. These events taught us many things about what God is already doing to renew the church. Synod encouraged classes and congregations to commit themselves to intentional prayer for the renewal of the CRCNA in 2025-2026. Resources to equip your classis in engaging with the results will be coming to you this month.

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Grand Rapids MI 49506-1208
616-241-1691

crcna.org

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8
905-336-2920

The Spirit's work of renewal begins with the heart, and we will be providing prayer and worship resources that classes and congregations can use this ministry year. Secondly, Synod 2025 requested that classes reflect on the results of Gather and share your feedback with denominational staff. This feedback will be invaluable in developing the "comprehensive unified strategy and plan" that we trust God to use to renew our congregations (*Acts of Synod 2023*, pp. 975-976). The final result will come to Synod 2026 for endorsement and dissemination.

Renewal in Church Planting

As part of its church renewal conversation, Synod 2025 spent time discussing church planting. We rejoice in God's provision of increased numbers of church plants in the CRCNA, especially among our immigrant leaders. Synod celebrated this positive development and declared, "Church planting is a key strategy in building the health and vitality of our denomination."

However, synod also acknowledged some changes. Church planting has always been a collaborative ministry partnership between a calling church (or churches), the classis, and Resonate Global Mission, our denominational mission agency. While this continues to be true, synod recognized that each partner has specific roles to play in this relationship. Resonate Global Mission supports church planting through recruitment, training, and advocacy for planters. Financial support for specific church plants, however, must come from the local calling churches and classes.

Synod 2025 encouraged classes to connect with Resonate on church planting, reach out to church planters to learn if they have adequate support, and develop (or strengthen) a church planting strategy in partnership with Resonate. In classes with few church plant opportunities, people may wish to extend financial support to other classes where there is greater need.

Synod also instructed the Office of General Secretary to coordinate with all classes and agencies "to develop a vision, plan, strategy and financial proposal for church planting for the CRCNA for the next decade" and report back to Synod 2026. The plan will specify the numbers of plants, the leadership development strategy, and the material resources needed.

Brothers and sisters, this calling to renew and rebuild the CRC through church planting is a large and consequential task, not unlike that of Zerubbabel and Joshua. Resonate Global Mission staff will be reaching out to classes this fall to share some important next steps. In the meantime, please review this synodical instruction and join us in prayer for this work.

We want to conclude with a few brief notes.

- The Office of General Secretary has made a helpful [FAQ document](#) containing a summary of synodical decisions. The *Acts of Synod 2025* has been published since the end of July, 2025.

- Synod 2025 made several relatively minor adjustments to Church Order Art. 5 Supplement and to the practice of affirming the Covenant for Officebearers at classis. More details can be found in the [FAQ](#).
- Synod received two taskforce reports this year (see Agenda for Synod 2025), one on assisted suicide and one on virtual churches. You can read a summary of these reports and recommendations in the [FAQ](#). The assisted suicide report includes helpful pastoral advice. The virtual church report encourages churches to network with other congregations and classes as they experiment with this type of ministry.
- Be on the lookout for an email from the Office of General Secretary requesting information about any congregations in your classis that may be involved in church planting, leadership training, and affiliation with churches outside of North America. This is part of the work of our Global Vision Implementation Team coming from Synod 2024.

May God bless you with strength and wisdom as he renews your classis and congregations,



Zach King
General Secretary



Al Postma
Executive Director, Canada

Dear Classis Heartland,

C.S. Lewis once observed that he believed in the gospel like he believed in the rising sun—not only because he saw the sun’s light, but because by the sun, he could properly see everything else. So it is for us—we desire that our students understand their research, labwork, athletics, relationships-- and all parts of their life --by the light that shines from Jesus Christ and His incandescent gospel. (Psalm 36:9)

So what does that desire look like in practice?

We have our Wednesday discipleship studies for the gathered group (this summer we studied Lewis’ *The Great Divorce*), and for those wanting to dig deeper, we engage in one-on-one Bible studies. (This spring, with three different individuals, we tackled Leviticus, Ezekiel, and Genesis; currently, we are in Romans and John.)

Beyond study, we gather for monthly meals, outdoor adventures, international student friendships, and service opportunities on campus and beyond. As ISU begins (even as I write this), we are excited to be meeting new students, to gear up for FaithFest and our Friday noon Campanile prayer time, to work afresh -with a whole new group of students and to faithfully, for Christ’s glory, respond to those He allows us to disciple.

Our student leadership team is a gem! Each student brings a different facet of university to the table; Grace is in her final year of a PhD, Matt’s a new Master’s student and Caleb’s our sophomore. We are also blessed to add a new role of “media manager,” and freshman Brenna Lockey will be helping to connect us to social media.

So we rejoice to begin another year of Areopagus ministry at Iowa State. We do so with hearts full of gratitude to God – and to you. We are humbled by your generous partnership – in finances and in prayer. We especially ask prayers:

- for new students, and for God’s leading for our study (we decide together)
- for our participation in ISU’s first “Faith Fest” on September 3,
- for upcoming board transitions (losing 3 of our 7 board members in 6 months)
- for Christ’s name to be honored, His gospel light to shine and for lives to be transformed by this mustard-seed ministry.

To Him be the Gratitude and the Glory!

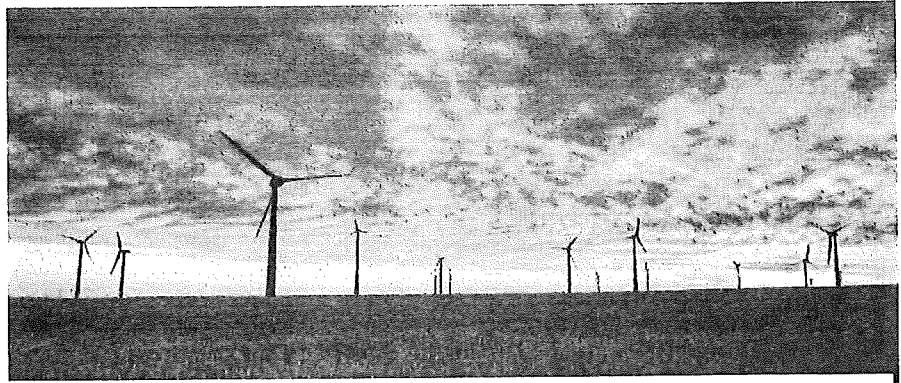
Yours and His,

Lora A. Copley

“With You is the fountain of life; in your light, do we see light.” Psalm 36:9



Areopagus
Student Fellowship



Ways to Engage Global Mission:

- Participate in a Witness Trip.
- Connect with missionaries on and after their ReConnect visit.

Ways to Engage Local Mission:

- Have a small group utilize the Witness Curriculum.
- Invite a US Central Team member to join your Mission Team or Council meeting.

Ways to Engage Church Planting:

- At synod 2025, there was a passion to support church planting endeavors in the CRCNA. One directive of synod was for churches and Classis to connect with their Resonate regional team. So please connect with us anytime!
- A Church Planting Vision Conference is being planned for November 8-11. One goal is to initiate strategic conversations with Classes and agency leaders that will help contribute to shaping the 10-year strategic plan for Church Planting in the CRCNA. Please consider attending. You can register at <https://conference.multiply222.com/>

Resonate US Central Team:

Brad Meinders (Regional Leader): bmeinders@crcna.org
Marianne Giebel (Administrative Specialist): mgiebel@crcna.org
Jeff Heerspink (Local Mission Leader): jheerspink@crcna.org
Adrianna Herrera (Local Mission Leader): aherrera@crcna.org
Dave Katsma (Local Mission Leader): dkatsma@crcna.org
Mac Sore (Local Mission Leader): msore@crcna.org

Personal Note:

As we partner together in God's mission, I want to thank you for all the Kingdom work in which you engage! If you have any questions or would like to talk, please reach out to me anytime.

~ Brad

Meinders

Committee Report to Classis

REPORT OF THE –Classical Home Missions Committee TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, - Wednesday, September 17, 2025 AT – Prairie Lane CRC Omaha, NE

Report filed: - August 4, 2025

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Home Missions Committee convened subsequent to the most recent Classis meeting, on July 24, 2025, at Dordt University, in attendance at that meeting were Kevin Muyskens, Keith Hoekstra, Allan Kramer, Gary Hibma, and Jeff Heerspink, while Mark Volkers was absent. The meeting was opened with prayer, held in accordance with the requirements of church order for classical meetings, and closed with prayer.

ITEMS FROM CLASSICAL HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committee continues to desire to encourage our congregations to utilize ECD grants to use for the purposes of outreach and ministry within their communities.

The committee also desires to be intentional and bold in seeking church plant opportunities within our served communities. The committee has engaged the conversation of desiring to connect with our surrounding classes in order to unite for the purpose of church planting. The Synod addressed openly the desire to identify and engage church planting opportunities, calling upon the classes and churches to be prayerful, diligent, bold, and faithful in the work of the gospel.

The committee continues to seek to highlight things that are going on in our congregations through video presentations to encourage each other and spur on effective ways of connecting for the purpose of the gospel. For this fall classis meeting we are requesting that the churches take time to share with the committee any of those opportunities, ministries, outreaches, or events that they feel would be encouraging, enriching, and enlightening to share with each other so that we can learn, be challenged, and celebrate the ways that God is working.

The committee continues to see and celebrate the work that God is doing through our residency program, it continues to train leaders and help to support our churches. Currently the churches in Lincoln are taking advantage of this program, the program offers “scholarships” to aid in supporting those who are exploring their call to ministry as they can learn the work of serving a congregation, community and the kingdom.

The committee rejoices at the work of God that has been occurring through our brothers and sisters at Siouxland Unity, Pastor Keo continues to lead the church and work in the community there, we want to let the wider body know that they are beginning a season of transition both for the church and for Keo. Over the next years the ministry there will look different, and we are excited to continue to partner with them in the work of the gospel.

The committee continues to connect with ministries that we partner with in the work of the gospel, such as the campus ministries of Areopagus (Iowa State) and Geneva (University of Iowa), Youthfront in Argentine, KS, as well as Cornerstone Prison ministries.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

The Committee approved the following regarding the subjects of the meeting outlined previously.

- a. Approved the proposed budget requests for the 2026 fiscal year
- b. Requests that our churches actively engage conversations about church planting within their councils and congregations. Casting a vision that we can share.
- c. Requests that congregations share opportunities for future videos highlighting ways in which God is working in and through your congregations, communities, and members.
- d. Request that we continue to identify and encourage candidates for the residency program of learning ministry, we have opportunities to serve all our churches as well as equip and encourage those who God is calling in the work of the ministry

Classical Home Missions Committee Report to Classis

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REQUESTED 2026 BUDGET

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		Column 1	Column 3
							Campus Ministry		
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	6,000	6,000	--Areopagus (ISU)	6,000	
<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	5,000	5,000	Geneva IS	5,000	
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	11,000	11,000	TOTAL CAMPUS MINISTRY		11,000
0	0	0	0	0					
							Church Planting		
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	10,000	10,000	Chaplain	10,000	
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	0	0	F Street- Lincoln	0	
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	5,000	5,000	Argentine (Franklin Center)	5,000	
\$10,000	\$10,000				0	0	Friendship Comm.	0	
0	0	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$-					
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	10,000	10,000	New Ministry Opportunities	10,000	
0	0	0	0	0					
			\$30,000	\$25,000	25,000	25,000	TOTAL CHURCH PLANTING		25,000
			0	0					
							Leadership Development		
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	5,000	5,000	F Street - Immerse	5,000	
	\$10,000				5,000	5,000	Residency Program	5,000	
	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000					
	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	10,000	10,000	TOTAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT		10,000
	0	0	0	0					
							Ethnic Ministries		
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	12,000	12,000	--Amistad Christiana	12,000	
0	0	0	0	0					
\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$18,250	17,700	17,000	--Siouxland Unity	19,000	
0	0	0	0	0					
\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,250	30,000	29,000	TOTAL ETHNIC MINISTRIES		31,000
0	0	0	0	0					
							Other Ministries		
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$5,000	7,500	7,500	Cornerstone Prison CRC	7,500	
\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000		\$3,000	3,000	3,000	--Establ. Church Dev.	3,000	
\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$1,000	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	--CHMC Expenses	<u>1,000</u>	
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			\$11,500	\$11,500	TOTAL OTHER MINISTRIES		11,500
0	0	0		\$9,000	0	0			
\$90,000	\$97,500	\$92,500		\$84,250	\$87,500	\$87,500	TOTAL		88,500
0	0	0		0	0	0			

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS

Classical Home Missions Committee Report to Classis

Page **3** of **2**

The Classical Home Missions Committee would ask that the Classis approve the work of the committee as presented in this report. We would encourage the churches of our classis to examine the ways in which they are seeing God move, and share those with the committee in order that we can document and encourage each other given the opportunity to share through presentations at future classis meetings. It is our desire also for the members of classis be prayerful and intentional in seeking to be missional as congregations and classis members.

Respectfully Submitted this – *August 4, 2025*
Pastor Keith Hoekstra
Pastor Keith Hoekstra

**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM
TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

WRITTEN REPORT

Esteemed Delegates:

1. Committee met with Scott MacDougal of New City Church of KS who is seeking to become a commissioned pastor through article 23. We, along with the church counselor, concur that there is a need for Scott to serve as commissioned pastor at New City Church.
2. Randy Smit reports a \$23,737 year-end balance for student aid for 2025.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

LICENSED TO EXHORT IN CLASSIS HEARTLAND

Mr. Dan Tracy (9/2025) (712) 395-8640 dctracy@hotmail.com

Mr. Matt Dengler (9/2025) (712) 221-5227 hatwiththematt@gmail.com

NOTE: Ministers, either retired or serving in non-parish ministry, within Classis Heartland and Iakota and may be available for pulpit supply. Contact information can be requested from the Classis Clerk.

Full list is available on www.classisheartland.com/servants-of-classis

Classis Heartland

classisheartlandstatedclerk@gmail.com

1. Rev. Sam Keyzer

2. Rev Steve Boersma

Classis Iakota.

iakotaclerk@outlook.com

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION

1. Request Approval for examination of Scott MacDougall for Commissioned Pastor at New City CRC of Kansas City, MO under article 23.
2. That the dues remain the same as last year
3. Renew the classical license to exhort for Mr. Tracy and Mr. Dengler
4. That classis approve our report.

Respectfully Submitted August 4, 2025
Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, Chair,
Classical Ministry Leadership Team

Job Description for Scott MacDougall
Pastor of Discipleship and Community Engagement at New city Church

1. Discipleship. Creating *multiple pathways* in the NCC family for spiritual growth and development.
 - Overseeing the City Group Ministry within NCC (healthy small group environments for hospitality, community meals, Bible study, prayer, service and pastoral care).
 - Overseeing Men's and Women's Groups and Bible Studies, DNA Groups (Discipleship, Nurture, Accountability), Youth and Children Ministries, Senior Saints Ministries, and the Justice Team Ministries. In other words, all things groups.
 - Actively seek out and train up individuals and leaders within the NCC family for ministry re: Eph. 4:12, "equipping [God's people] for works of service."
2. Community Engagement
 - Creating intentional plans and strategies to connect people into the life of the New City family. Along with the groups mentioned above, connecting individuals – with intentionality – into the life of New City Church in and through large group gatherings, seminars, service projects, church family meals, sporting activities, etc.
 - With Lead Pastor and Elders, and the help of the NCC family, actively follow-up on first time visitors and oversee the assimilation process for new believers and members into NCC.
3. Preaching/Teaching/Counseling
 - Preaching every 4-6 weeks on average.
 - With Lead Pastor and others so gifted, teaching in a variety of settings: New Membership and Discipleship Classes, Equip Nights (teaching leaders of City Groups), Bible Studies, classes, seminars, etc.
 - With Lead Pastor, provide discipleship classes (re: "first steps") for new believers.
 - With Lead Pastor, oversee the Sunday worship service in such a way that fosters an environment that draws people—both members and visitors—into the presence of the living God.
 - With Lead Pastor and Elders, be available to give guidance and wise counsel when and where needed.
4. Administration
 - Oversee Church Calendar and all Communication pieces in and for New City Church.
 - Schedule and chair all Elder and full Council Meetings—including setting agendas and follow up items.
 - Oversee and chair Deacon Meetings until Deacon Team Leader is found and trained. With Deacons, oversee and follow through on agenda items.
 - Accountable to the Elders. **Pastor Andrew Vanden Akker to be Scott's mentor.**
 - NCC will pay 100% salary, a percentage of health insurance, and provide monies for books, seminars, and conferences along with 3 week's annual paid vacation.
5. Character.
 - Last but not least, demonstrate Christ-like character in all matters—in word and in deed. Be light!
 - Overflow with joy ☺ (Re: The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians).

Commissioned Pastor Orientation and Learning Plan for Scott MacDougall

This is the Learning Plan for Scott MacDougall, of New City Church in Kansas City, MO, who is being mentored by Andrew Vanden Akker

Assessment of the Basic Denominationally Required Areas:

The candidacy committee has identified 10 required areas of competency that Scott will achieve prior to his examination in Classis Heartland. We have laid out goals Scott will achieve in his time of preparation with his mentor, Rev. Andrew Vanden Akker. Those are highlighted with an *. It is our understanding that the specifics to fulfill these 10 required areas need affirmation by the CMLT and the Candidacy Committee of the CRCNA in order to affirm Scott's Learning Plan.

NOTE: A paragraph of reflective essay with follow up discussion will provide the "form of accountability" for each area of study.

1. CRC Ministries

- Scott will read through the www.crcna.org/ministries prior to his examination and will write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

2. CRC History

- Scott will read through the booklet, "Who We Are and What We Believe" prior to his examination and write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

3. CRC Polity

- Scott will read through "Church Order Commentary" prior to his examination, work through questions of governance and church order with his mentor, and then write a one paragraph reflection of the role of church polity in the life of a pastor that will be reviewed by his mentor.

4. Reformed Creeds and Confessions

- Scott will read through "Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions" prior to his examination and will write a one paragraph reflection of the role of creeds and confessions in the life of the church that will be reviewed by his mentor.

5. Reformed Perspective

- Scott will read through the booklet, "What It Means to be Reformed", by Robert DeMoor, prior to his examination and will write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

6. Reformed Hermeneutics

- Scott will read "The Unfolding Mystery" by Edmund Clowney prior to his examination and will write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

7. Basic Bible Knowledge

- Scott will read through the, "The God Who is There" by D. A. Carson prior to his examination and will write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

8. The Art of Preaching

- Scott will read through the book, "Preaching", by Timothy Keller, prior to his examination and will write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

9. The Heart of a Pastor

- Scott will read through the book, "The Flourishing Pastor – Part One: The Shepherd" by Tom Nelson prior to his examination and will write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

10. The Call of a Pastor

- Scott will read through the, "Pastor Pete," from, "The Pastor" by Eugene Peterson prior to his examination and will write a paragraph of reflection of his impressions that will be reviewed by his mentor.

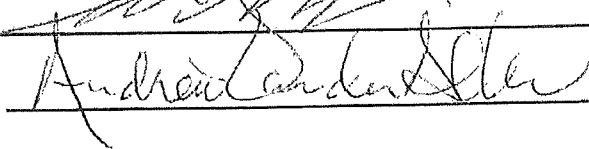
Mentor Role and Contract (Rev. Andrew Vanden Akker)

- Scott and Andrew will meet monthly for as long as necessary to fulfill requirements.
- Scott will continue to show his willingness to be teachable and grant his mentor access into all areas of his life.
- Andrew will come alongside, not only to bring encouragement and care, but guidance and advice regarding areas of life and ministry.

Reporting Process and Completion of the Plan

- Andrew will give a written progress report to the CMLT and the Candidacy Committee of the CRCNA with each requirement completed that Scott fulfills as part of this Learning Plan.
- Andrew will give a progress report to the CMLT and Candidacy Committee of the CRCNA every six months for the duration of Scott's preparation for the classical exam.
- Andrew will review with Scott the Covenant for Office Bearers which will be signed by Scott prior to his examination.

Signature of Applicant  Date 7/31/25

Signature of CMLT Mentor  Date 7/31/25

Signature of Candidacy Comm. _____ Date 1/1/



July 31, 2025

Classis Heartland and Candidacy Committee,

Serving as the classis appointed counselor for New City Church in Kansas City, MO, I have had opportunities to interact with Scott MacDougal in his ministry role at New City Church. Scott is an able administrator and serves the church well by overseeing calendar and communication for the church and council. Their ministries and calendar are well organized and information is regularly and clearly communicated.

Scott further oversees the small group ministry at NCC which has been one of their core ministries since the founding of the church. He is gifted at identifying and training leaders from NCC to head these small groups and other various ministries.

Scott's Christ-like character is demonstrated in his daily interactions with members of the congregation and community. He has served congregation, family, and community well for a number of years.

While I do not know Scott well living at a distance, my interactions with him and with the New City congregation give me confidence to recommend him for ordination as a commissioned pastor with the Christian Reformed Church and Classis Heartland.

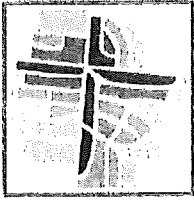
In Christ,

Rev. Kevin Muyskens

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Mailing Address: PO Box 114, Sheldon, IA 51201

Street Address: 601 Union Ave, Sheldon, IA 51201



NEW CITY CHURCH

August 1st, 2025

To Classis Heartland,

On behalf of New City Church, we are writing to Classis Heartland to request the beginning of the process to approve Scott MacDougall as Commissioned Pastor for our Church through Article 23 a.

Scott was born in Dover, NJ, grew up in Chester, NJ, and moved to Kansas City, MO in 2003. He graduated from the Nyack College with a B.A. in History and Philosophy in 1998 and then from Alliance Theological Seminary in 2008, with a Master of Professional Studies. In addition to serving in various ministry capacities over the years, Scott has a background working in higher education— most recently serving 8 years as an Academic Advisor with Metropolitan Community College of Kansas City.

He, and his wife Sarah, helped to plant New City in 2010 and, along with the two boys— Liam and Aidan— have been a part of New City for the last 15 years. He has been on the board of Elders since 2017, and— after Andrew Vanden Akker retired in 2021— has been serving as our Associate Pastor (Pastor of Discipleship and Community Engagement).

He is excited to continue serving the Lord through his work at New City Church and we are excited to put him before you as our candidate for Commissioned Pastor!

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

In Christ,

Scott Rank, On Behalf of the Elders of New City Church

8/3/2025

**Ballot for Classis Heartland
September 17, 2025**

Classical Interim Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Brian Dunn, Sheldon First
_____ Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Ireton

Classical Home Missions Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Keith Hoekstra, Hull Hope

Classical Home Missions Alt. (vote for 1)

_____ Mr. Curt Ahrenholz, Orange City First

Classical Stewardship Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Mr. Eric Kroese, Hull First

Classical Discipleship Committee (vote for 2)

_____ Rev. Brian Dunn, Sheldon First
_____ Rev. Jesse Walhof, Sheldon Living Water

Classical Discipleship Comm. Alt. (vote for 1)

Church Visitor to the North (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, Omaha Prairie Lane

Church Visitor to the South (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Ben Wiersma, Sibley

Church Visitor to the South Alt. (vote for 1)

Classical Ministry Leadership Team (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, Omaha Prairie Lane

Classical Safe Church Team (vote for 2)

_____ Rev. Jesse Walhof, Sheldon Living Water
_____ Ms. Kristi Habben, Sheldon Living Water

Synodical Deputy (vote for 2)

_____ Rev. Brian Hofman, Le Mars Calvin
_____ Rev. Stephen Terpstra, Orange City First
_____ Rev. Phil Westra, Sanborn

DORDT
OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS

August 1, 2025

Dear Stated Clerk,

Greetings from Dordt University!

We are thankful to partner with you as we keep our covenant promises to provide an education where a “biblical, Reformed vision of Christ’s lordship over all creation is clearly taught.” (c.f. Art 71, Church Order of the CRCNA)

In the 2024-25 academic year, we welcomed 1,943 students, which is the largest enrollment in Dordt’s history. It was also the fourth year in a row that Dordt has seen an increase in headcount and full-time enrollment. Once again, we expect to welcome another large freshman class. Enrollment has grown to a point where six cottages, which resemble small houses without garages, have been added on the corner of 7th Street NE and 4th Avenue NE for upperclassmen. The Atrium—Dordt’s new dining hall—will transition to full service in August; students will enjoy the expansive views and updated kitchen facilities designed to enhance the campus dining experience. Then, in mid-October, the new performing arts hall will open, with advanced acoustic treatments and newly installed seating creating a state-of-the-art venue for concerts, lectures, and community events. These projects are donor funded, and we are grateful for their support. All the growth and building are challenging, but what a privilege to have to think about these “problems.” God is faithful. God provides. Soli Deo Gloria.

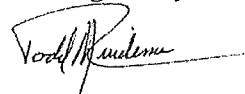
At Dordt, we are thankful for your steady support—and we humbly ask for our partnership to continue. Your ongoing classical contributions help to cover essential operating costs, allowing us to keep tuition more affordable for students. Dordt is a vital part of local and regional ministry; many of our graduates worship in your churches, lead congregational programs, and serve as pastors and council members. Our institution is deeply committed to the life of the church, and we are grateful for the ways you continue to invest in our shared mission.

Matching the Dordt University fiscal year of 2025-2026 the ministry share request is **\$71.65** (per professing member).

This figure was determined by looking at a combination of factors: student enrollment, professing members in historically supporting classes, and carefully evaluating the costs related to Christian higher education.

Thank you again for your faithful support both in prayer and gifts. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Serving with you,



Todd Zuidema
Director of Church Relations
todd.zuidema@dordt.edu
712-722-6081

Cc: Classical Treasurer

**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE TO
CLASSIS IN SESSION, - September 17, 2025
At Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha NE**

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CDC

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Discipleship Committee met on April 8, 2025 and July 22, 2025. Members present were Rev. Brian Dunn, Rev. Jesse Walhof, Rev. Ben Wiersma. Jesse opened with devotions and prayer for each meeting. Brian and Ben closed in prayer, one at each meeting.

Topics discussed at the meeting included:

1. Providing Continuing Education
2. Ministry Support on behalf of Classis Heartland
 - a. Classis Prayer Coordinator (Ms. Barb Hibma)
 - b. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (MIK) (Ms. Lee DeGroot)
 - c. Safe-Church Team Heartland and Iakota (Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch)
3. Financial Reports

Details of items discussed:

1. Providing Continuing Education
 - a. **Timothy Leadership Training** – TLT Leadership Summit will be held Sept. 26-28 at Calvary CRC, Orange City
 - b. **Abide Project** –
 - i. The Abide Project Convention was held August 13-14 at Redeemer University
 - c. **Dunamis** – There are two Dunamis Projects in the tri-state area for those who want to attend.
 - i. DP #3: The Power of Prayer held October 2-5 in Milford, IA. To learn more or register, visit www.primi.org/dpmilford
 - ii. DP #4: The Healing Ministry of Jesus held November 6-9 in Viborg, SD. To learn more or register, visit www.primi.org/dpviborg
 - d. **Dordt University** – The CDC has been in communication with Rev. Todd Zuidema concerning a couple of different education opportunities for pastors, lay leaders, and those licensed to exhort. More information will be forthcoming as these events are planned.
2. Ministry Support on behalf of Classis Heartland
 - a. **Classis Prayer Coordinator (Ms. Barb Hibma)**
 - i. The CDC is staying in contact with Barb to discuss ways to incorporate prayer in the work and ministries of the Classis.
 - b. **Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (Ms. Lee DeGroot)**
 - i. Please refer to the MIK-Youth report in the agenda.
 - ii. The CDC has approved the MIK-Youth budget to be presented to Classis.
 - c. **Safe Church**
 - i. Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch has been approved by both Classes Heartland and Iakota to be the Safe-church coordinator.
 - ii. The Safe-church team is looking to train people to be on Safe-church panels.
3. Financial Reports
 - a. The CDC continually discusses how to best steward the funds that have been provided through the Classis ministry shares.
 - b. Current balances will be reported by the Classis Treasurer.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

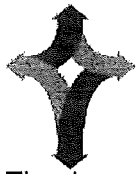
The Classical Discipleship Committee has been working to fulfill its calling to provide educational and discipleship opportunities for church leaders in Classis Heartland. The CDC has been working to support the Timothy Leadership Training team as well as Dordt University as it provides learning opportunities. The CDC has been offering ministry support to the Classis Prayer Coordinator, Minn-I-Kota Youth Network, and the Safe Church Team. The CDC has been working to be good stewards of the funds that have been allocated to the CDC as well as the Classis Prayer Coordinator.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: That Classis approve the budget request of MIK-Youth Network Board as presented by the Classis Treasurer.

Recommendation 2: That Classis approve the work and report of the Classis Discipleship Committee.

Members of the CDC: Rev. Brian Dunn, Rev. Jesse Walhof, Rev. Ben Wiersma



minn-I-KOTA
YOUTH NETWORK

&

MIK+
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY

Thank you for your continued support for our covenant youth, the adults that lead them, and the young single adults in the Minnkota, Iakota, and Heartland Classis. Below you will see our current board members and our travel calendar for the past half year. At the bottom of this report, you will see just a few of the dates that are on our calendar for this coming school year. During the Classis Meeting we would like to briefly share one or two items that have stood out to us this half year.

Minn-I-Kota Youth Board:

***Minnkota Classis:**

Representative-Pastor Greg Timmer-9/2022

Karmen Vis-Co Secretary-9/2017

Sarah Van Dyken-Co Secretary-5/2019

***Iakota Classis:**

Representative-Pastor Scott Van Voorst-9/2024

Dan Elgersma-President-1/2019

Shelli Kollis-1/2020

***Heartland Classis:**

Representative-Pastor Ben Wiersma-9/2021

Kody Tesch-Treasurer-11/2019

Scott deBoom-9/2024

TRAVEL CALENDAR-FIRST HALF OF 2025

JAN 18-MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING IN WORTHINGTON CRC-BIBLE STUDY & MEAL

JAN 21-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

FEB 1-MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING IN LUVERENE-BOWLING & PIZZA

FEB 4-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

FEB 11- MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

FEB 13-YOUTH LEADERS NOON NETWORKING LUNCHEON IN ORANGE CITY

FEB 13-MIK YOUTH/MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS BOARD MEETING ONLINE

FEB 15-MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING IN EDGERTON BETHEL CRC-BIBLE STUDY & MEAL

FEB 18-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RTREAT LEADERS MEETING @ DU

FEB 20-MIK YOUTH LEADERS ONLINE NETWORKING MEETING

FEB 23-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING LESSON PLAN-SANBORN CRC

FEB 24-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

FEB 26-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING ESCAPE ROOM IN SX CENTER BRIDGE OF HOPE CRC

MAR 1-MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING IN SX CENTER RJ INDOOR GOLF & MEAL

MAR 12-MIK YOUTH TRAVELLING ESCAPE ROOM & 9 SQUARE IN THE AIR IN WORTHINGTON CRC

MAR 17-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

MAR 19-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING ESCAPE ROOM & TRAVELING LESSON PLAN (OVERNIGHTER) IN PRINSBURG CRC

MAR 22-MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING IN HULL 1ST CRC- BIBLE STUDY & MEAL

MAR 24-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

MAR 26-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING ESCAPE ROOM IN SHELDON 1ST CRC

MAR 30-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING ESCAPE ROOM IN SANBORN CRC

APR 2-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING ESCAPE ROOM IN HULL HOPE CRC

APR 5-MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING-TRIVIA NIGHT & PIZZA IN ROCK VALLEY CALVIN CRC

APR 6-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING LESSON PLAN IN SX CENTER BRIDGE OF HOPE CRC

APR 7-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

APR 9-MIK YOUTH TRAVELING ESCAPE ROOM IN IRETON(HAWARDEN) CRC

APR 15-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS MEETING @ DU

APR 19-MIK+ YOUNG ADULT GATHERING IN SX CENTER BRIDGE OF HOPE CRC LESSON & MEAL

APR 24-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT TEAM LEADERS COMMISSIONING @ DU

APR 25-27-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT @ INSPIRATION HILLS OUTSIDE INWOOD IOWA

MAY 10-MIK+ YOUNG ADULT GATHERING-GAMES & GRILLING IN LUVERNE

MAY 21-MIK YOUTH/MIK+ YOUNG ADULTS BOARD MEETING ONLINE

JULY 12-MIK YOUTH/MIK+ YOUNG ADULT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN SX CENTER BETHEL CRC

SUMMER MONTHS-WORKING ON CONTACT INFO FOR EACH OF THE CHURCHES. WRITING NEW LESSON PLANS FOR 2026 AND WORKING ON BUILDING NEW TRAVELING ESCAPE ROOMS (HOPEFULLY) FOR 2026.

ON THE CALENDAR:

AUG 16-MIK+ GATHERING-BBQ, GAMES, & DISCUSSION FOR THE UP COMING YEAR

AUG 22-MIK YOUTH ANNUAL KICK OFF IN SX FALLS THUNDER ROAD 11PM-4AM.

APR 17-19-MIK YOUTH JR HIGH RETREAT @ INSPIRATION HILLS OUTSIDE INWOOD IOWA.

Thank you for your continued support and we covet your prayers for this coming school year.

All glory and honor to our Faithful Father!

~Lee De Groot & Pastor Doug De Groot ~

Classis Heartland & Iakota Safe Church Report Fall 2025

Prepared by: Abby Vanden Bosch, Iakota & Heartland Safe Church Coordinator

Date Prepared: 8/3/2025

Iakota & Heartland Classical Safe Church Team Members: Pastor Jesse Walhof (Living Water CRC- Heartland), Kristi Habben (Sibley CRC- Heartland), Haeley Faber (Trinity CRC Iakota), Abby Vanden Bosch (Living Water CRC- Heartland)

Classical Safe Church Team Tasks:

- The Safe Church Team serves in a consultative role for churches in the classes who are reviewing or revising congregational safe church policies. It is expected that all churches have an operating safe church policy and a safe church team within your church.
- The Safe Church team serves as a resource for churches dealing with allegations of abuse.
- The Safe Church Team serves as a clearing house of best practices and periodic trainings for Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota with regard to abuse awareness and prevention.

Team Activity:

The Safe Church Team met on 4/23/25 and 6/4/25 at Living Water, Sheldon. The team discussed agenda items regarding guidance in updating church policies and becoming familiar with general safe church policies and procedures. The team also continues the search for a pastor representative to serve as part of the safe church team.

The team has connected with Julia Rathbun at Thrive to assist with training on the advisory panel process for the team members, and training has been set for the evening of Monday, October 13. If you have interest in being a part of this training and have some background knowledge or willingness to understand this process, please feel free to contact Abby Vanden Bosch or any other member of the safe church team.

Safe Church Team Recommendations:

The team continues to ask all churches to develop a safe church policy and add an age-appropriate abuse prevention curriculum in the Sunday school classrooms along with the training for the adults who teach it. The team will also be requesting updated information identifying a lead safe church team member with their contact information.

Current Team Members

Pastor Jesse Walhof: jsswalhof@gmail.com

Abby Vanden Bosch: abby.vandenbosch@westernchristianhs.com Kristi

Habben: khabben@premieronline.net

Haeley Faber: haeleyfaber@gmail.com

Opening Devotions

- Acts 12:1-3: Trust the Lord's power & purposes in the midst of sorrow and struggle.

Joys at Hawarden

- The congregation is eager to welcome Pastor Seth Atsma and his wife Jennifer and daughter Anneka to the congregation this August.
- There is gratitude that even in the midst of membership decline, volunteers are still stepping up to serve.
- Hawarden is enjoying a strong sense of unity and community in the body and on the council.
- The congregation continues to be generous and eager to bless those around them.
- The GEMS program is doing well with participants exclusively coming from the community.

Elders

- The elders in particular are eager to welcome a pastor and have an end to finding pulpit supply. They are thankful for God's provision for pulpit supply through Pastor Steve Boersma, Mark Tiemersma and others! Through the past few years of vacancy, it has been a joy to experience the comradery of the council in the work.

Deacons

- The deacons have enjoyed meetings that end in good spirits and unity and opportunities to visit with shut-ins and care for the elderly.

Challenges

- The Floods in 2024 were a challenge for the community but provided many opportunities for church members to be involved in the community.
- Declining membership over the last several years has been a constant stress on the council. There is a longing for younger families with children to connect with the church again.
- There is an acknowledgement among the council that growth that they long for must come through evangelism.

Other Notes

- Hawarden is looking forward, Lord willing, to the installation of Pastor Seth Atsma on September 14.
- The council would like to acknowledge the wonderful support, ministry, and care of Pastor Nate Kuperus as their church counselor.

We celebrate the Lord's blessing on this congregation and pray with joy the unity and generosity they are experiencing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cody Statema and Chad Van Ginkel



**ReFrame
Ministries**

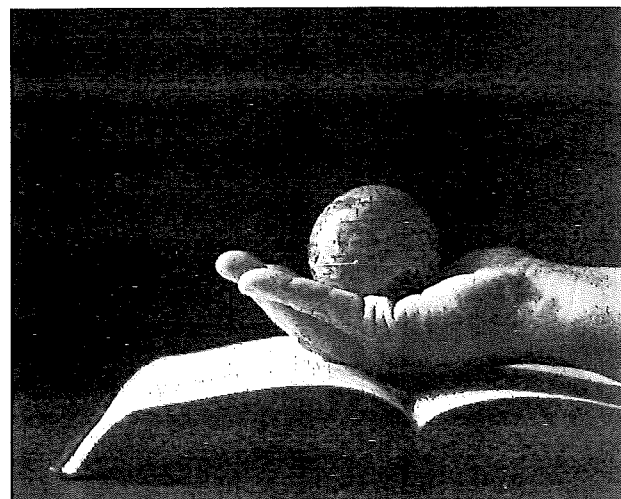
is the new name of
Back to God Ministries International

Fall & Winter Ministry Information

A Legacy of Global Media Ministry

From the first airing of "The Back to God Hour" on December 17, 1939, the CRCNA has shared the gospel through media, expanding over the years from English to include languages that cover nearly the entire globe. Now more than 85 years later, we praise God for the work he continues to do through generations.

15th Anniversary of Groundwork
60th Anniversary of Spanish Ministry
75th Anniversary of Today



We Are Here to Help

Today Subscription Questions

Canada:

Leonie Johnson, 800-263-4251

US:

Julie Hey, 616-942-9383

Church Relationship Managers

Canada West:

Nate Wright, 587-407-1970

Canada East:

Paul Vandersteen, 289-668-5612

US East and Great Lakes:

Joseph Curtis, 616-224-2423

US Central:

Jessica Fox, 616-224-0807

US West:

Andres Thimgan, 616-726-1154

ReFrame Offering Dates

Each year, the CRCNA recommends offering dates to help support the ministries and agencies of our denomination. Would you prayerfully consider adding one of these dates, or an alternative that works for you, to your church's offering calendar? We would be glad to arrange for one of our pastors to preach on a designated Sunday or for a staff member to share a brief ministry update with your congregation.

Recommended Dates:

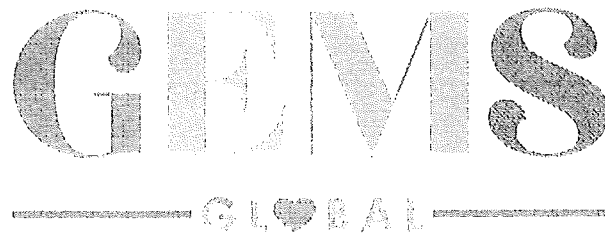
- **Sunday, November 9**
- **Sunday, December 7**

To learn more or to schedule a visit, please reach out to your church relationship manager.



Visit with International Ministry Leaders

Would you like your church to host a ministry leader this October? They are available on Sundays, October 12 and 19. You can also host a coffee hour or event - we'll bring the coffee and treats! Email info@reframeministries.org to share your interest.



GEMS Global Ministry Report to Classis

Fall 2025

GEMS Global continues the long-standing ministry of GEMS Girls' Clubs, equipping women and churches to disciple girls in grades 1–8 so they grow in faith, build Christ-centered relationships, and discover their God-given purpose. Our mission remains unchanged: to help girls know they are loved by God and created for His plan.

The needs of today's girls are urgent. Anxiety, loneliness, and confusion about identity are at record levels. Our newly revised curriculum—written from a Reformed perspective—addresses these realities while also responding to the decline in biblical literacy reported even in Christian schools.

We have renewed our emphasis on mentoring and leadership development through our Counselor-in-Training program and new initiatives for teen girls. Research shows that this kind of support helps young people remain engaged in their faith and the church.

GEMS is also expanding globally, with new partnerships launching—including 15 new clubs beginning in Liberia. At the same time, we remain deeply rooted in the CRC, where in some congregations we now see four generations of women shaped by GEMS and Calvinettes.

For churches already offering GEMS, thank you! We encourage you to consider how your club can be a tool for neighborhood outreach. For those without a club, we invite you to consider starting one—or partnering with a local school or ministry. The mission field is ripe, and GEMS Global stands ready to support you.

To learn more, visit gemsgc.org.