

Summary of Classis Heartland Meeting March 4, 2022 at Calvin CRC of Le Mars

On March 4, 2022 Classis Heartland gathered at Calvin CRC of Le Mars. Rev. Brian Hofman, who pastors Calvin CRC, led classis in a time of opening devotions and singing. Our business meeting followed and below are eight decisions made by classis.

1. Classis approved the organization of F Street Neighborhood Church. Classis celebrated the Lord's blessing upon the church plant. We met and prayed for Pastor Jeff Heerspink, Pastor Bill Thornton, Mr. Tad Stryker and Mr. Trevin Preble, who have been serving as elders of the church.
2. Classis elected Mrs. Kim Starkenburg to serve as our new World Renew board member representative.
3. Classis elected the following to serve as delegates to Synod 2023:

Rev. Jesse Walhof – pastor delegate	Rev. Ben Wiersma – pastor alternate
Mr. Mike Krommendyk – elder delegate	Pastor Jeff Heerspink – elder alternate
Mr. Dan Brunst – deacon delegate	
Rev. John Klompfen – at large delegate	Rev. Brian Dunn – alternate at large
4. Classis approved an overture to synod brought by Living Water, instructing synod to “withhold all denominational funding from Calvin University beginning on September 1, 2024, with the provision that the University will be funded after this date upon the full adherence, without exception, to our Covenantal standards by all faculty and staff members of Calvin University.” (Overture 61, pp. 561–2 in *Agenda for Synod 2023*)
5. Classis approved an overture to seat female deacons who are delegated by our churches to Classis Heartland meetings. This was brought by two congregations who have women serving as deacons and passed by over 2/3 majority of “yes” votes.
6. Classis acknowledged the Abide Project's work to resource our churches to uphold biblical and confessional integrity, and will extend the offer to host a future Abide Project event in our region either at a church or approved venue.
7. Classis Heartland will require those who obtain a license to exhort to sign the Covenant of Officebearers in the Christian Reformed Church. Even though they may not hold an office, preaching the word in our worship services warrants the same commitment to Scripture and our Confession as those who hold office.
8. Classis gave their approval to a proposal for creating and structuring a Classis Heartland Diaconal Task Force. Those interested in serving should contact a member of the Classis Interim Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland)