

**Summary of Classis Heartland Meeting
March 7, 2026 – First CRC, Hospers**

1. Classis chairman, Rev. Brian Hofman, opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and visitors.
2. Mr. Matt Dengler led Classis in singing, and Rev. Nate Kuperus offered a meditation on the gospel. He reminded delegates that the gospel is the foundation of the work of Classis and the purpose behind all that is done. Rev. Kuperus then opened the meeting in prayer.
3. Dr. Randy Smit reviewed the 2025 Treasurer's Report, noting that 99% of ministry shares were received. He encouraged continued generous support from congregations.
4. Mr. William Aranas and Mr. Harold Willemstyn were examined for licensure to exhort.
 - Rev. Stephen Terpstra and Rev. Brian Hofman reviewed Mr. Aranas' sermon, including its delivery at Hope CRC (Hull) on February 9, 2026.
 - Rev. Steve Boersma and Rev. Nate Kuperus reviewed Mr. Willemstyn's sermon, including its delivery at Ireton CRC on February 22, 2026.
 - Rev. Brian Dunn interviewed both candidates, exploring their biblical and theological knowledge, sermon preparation, and practical wisdom. Delegates were given opportunity to ask questions.
 - Motions were approved to grant licensure to exhort to both Mr. Aranas and Mr. Willemstyn.
5. First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City presented an overture requesting that Synod continue to meet annually in person.
Motion: To adopt the overture. Adopted.
6. First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City presented an overture requesting that Synod set aside time at each annual meeting—coordinated with the celebration of new candidates for ministry—to recognize, give thanks for, and celebrate those who retired from ministry in the previous calendar year.
Motion: To adopt the overture. Adopted.
7. Ms. Elizabeth Akindejoye, Children's Ministry Director at Shalom CRC (Sioux Falls), highlighted the GEMS program and its impact. The video *Sharing Christ, Transforming Lives* was shown.
8. Ms. Kim Starkenberg highlighted the work of World Renew, sharing stories from around the world. She expressed gratitude for congregational support and encouraged continued engagement and prayer.
9. Rev. Keith Hoekstra shared how Hope CRC (Hull) and Immanuel CRC (Sheldon) are involving young leaders in planning and leading worship services. The video *Young Leaders and Evening Services* was shown and is available on the Classis Heartland website. The Classical Home Missions Committee encouraged other churches to involve youth in worship leadership.
10. Rev. Randy Raak, Resonate Regional Mission Leader for the U.S. Central Region, described the work of Resonate and its partnership with churches in gospel outreach.
11. Ms. Jessica Fox shared about the work of ReFrame Ministries, noting that its mission has remained consistent since its founding in 1939. She thanked Classis Heartland churches for their support and requested continued prayer.

12. Mr. Loren Veldhuizen described the work of the Council of Delegates, highlighting its focus on church planting and church renewal. He reported a continued decline in giving and encouraged increased support through ministry shares, along with ongoing prayer.
13. Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch, Safe Church Coordinator, shared about the work of the Safe Church Team. The team serves as a resource for abuse prevention and provides consultation in developing safe church policies.
14. Ms. Lee De Groot and Rev. Doug De Groot provided an update on the Minn-I-Kota Youth Network. They reported on the success of the MIK Young Adult program, launched one year ago, and noted that the annual junior high retreat will be held April 17–19. Appreciation was expressed for Classis support.
15. The Classical Interim Committee (CIC) requested an amendment to the Rules of Procedure to add one additional voting member.
Motion: To amend the Rules of Procedure so that the CIC consists of four members elected to three-year staggered terms, with the Stated Clerk serving as a non-voting ex officio member, and one alternate elected. Adopted.
16. The CIC also brought a related motion.
Motion: To appoint Rev. Stephen Terpstra to the newly created position and to instruct the Classical Nominating Committee to include an additional alternate on the ballot for the Fall 2026 meeting. Adopted.
17. Ms. Barb Hibma, Classis Prayer Coordinator, led a time of devotions focused on seasons of lament. The video *A Personal Testimony of Learning to Lament* was shown. Rev. Jesse Walhof led in prayer, drawing on Psalm 13.
18. The next meeting of Classis is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at Immanuel CRC (Sheldon).
19. The complete minutes of the meeting and all committee reports are available on the Classis Heartland website: <https://www.classisheartland.com>.

Pete Van Velzen
Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland