

Agenda for Classis Heartland
Wednesday, September 21, 2022 • 8:30 AM

Location: Hawarden Christian Reformed Church
 1515 16th St
 Hawarden, IA 51023

1. Check-In, 8:00 – 8:25 AM

All delegates must check-in with the stated clerk at the check-in desk. Any delegates serving for the first time in their respective office must sign the Covenant of Officebearers prior to the meeting.

Morning Session, 8:30 – 11:45 AM

2. Welcome and Constitution of Classis

- a. Welcome Delegates and Recognize Visitors to Classis
- b. Announcements and Instructions
- c. Classical Credentials and Attendance Report
- d. Chair declares Classis Constituted with the following officers serving
 - 1) Chairman: **Rev. Jesse Walhof**
 - 2) Vice-Chairman: **Rev. Brian Dunn**
 - 3) Stated Clerk: **Rev. Phillip Westra**
 - 4) Treasurer: **Mr. Randy Smit**

3. Opening Devotions led by Rev. Thomas De Does and Rev. Loren Kotman

4. Classis Interim Committee (CIC)

- a. CIC Meeting Summaries from March 30, May 3, May 19, and July 20 (**pp. 4–11**)
- b. Ratify CIC's recommendation to the COD that Mr. Loren Veldhuizen serve as our interim COD Representative to finish Rev. Mark Vande Zande's term.
- c. Stated Clerk Report (**p. 12**)
- d. Summary of Synod 2022 (**pp. 13–18**)
- e. Proposed CRC Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders (**pp. 19–23**)

5. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)

- a. CSC Report (**forthcoming**)
- b. Proposed 2023 Budget and Ministry Shares (**p. 24**)

6. Minister Retirements

- a. Letter from Ocheyedan CRC requesting classis approve the retirement of Rev. Thomas De Does effective November 4, 2022 (**p. 25**)
- b. Letter from First Christian Reformed Church of Hull requesting classis approve the retirement of Rev. Loren Kotman effective December 15, 2022 (**p. 26**)

Prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for our retiring ministers

Break, 10:00 – 10:15 AM

7. Church Counselors

- a. Hope, Hull – Rev. Loren Kotman (p. 27)
- b. Northern Lighthouse – Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
- c. Immanuel, Orange City – Rev. John Klompfen
- d. Hawarden – Rev. Nate Kuperus

8. Information and Requests from Churches via Classis Credentials

- a. Calvary CRC: Communication regarding Neland Ave CRC and Synod 2023 (**forthcoming**)
- b. Sibley CRC: Leadership structure with a small council
- c. Sibley CRC: Guidance on how to minister to people where they are at rather than just bringing them to church events.

9. Overture from Calvin CRC: Seat Female Delegates at Classis Heartland Meetings (p. 28)

10. Classical Education Committee (CEC)

- a. CEC Summary (pp. 29–30)
- b. Heartland-Iakota Safe Church Team – Ms. Tara Boer (pp. 31–32)
- c. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network – Ms. Lee De Groot (p. 33)
- d. Clasis Prayer Coordinator – Ms. Barb Hibma
- e. Abide Project and the Conference of Confessional CRCs
- f. Dordt University

Devotions and Prayer for our Churches, 11:45 AM

Lunch, 12:00 – 12:30 PM

Afternoon Session, 12:30 – 4:30 PM

11. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

- a. Written report dated August 15, 2022 and Addendum (pp. 34–36)
- b. Request Approval for Commissioned Pastor at Northern Lighthouse
 - i. Letter of Request from Northern Lighthouse (p. 37)
 - ii. Letter of Recommendation from Rev. Chad Van Ginkel (p. 38)
 - iii. Job Description (p. 39–40)
 - iv. Learning Plan (**forthcoming**)
- c. Request Approval of Updated Job Description for the Lead Pastor at F Street (p. 41)
- d. Letter of background information for Rev. Jordan Helming (p. 42)

12. Examination of **Mr. Matt Dengler** for License to Exhort

- a. Review of Sermon Manuscript (**forthcoming**)
- b. Interview led by Rev. Nate Kuperus

Break, 2:00 – 2:15 PM

13. Classis Nominating Committee (CNC)
 - a. CNC Meeting Minutes, 01/04/2022, received for information (pp. 43–44)
 - b. Servants of Classis Heartland (p. 45)
 - c. Ballot for Classis Heartland (p. 46)

14. Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)
 - a. CHMC fall 2022 report (p. 47)
 - b. Ethnic Ministries
 - c. Residency Program for Leadership Development
 - d. Areopagus Campus Ministry at Iowa State University

15. Written Report from World Renew, receive for information (pp. 48–49)

16. Adjournment

2023 Dates and Locations for Classis Heartland
Saturday, March 4, 2023 – hosted by Calvin CRC in Le Mars, IA.
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 – Kansas City

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

March 30, 2022

First CRC, Orange City

Summary Report

1. Membership: Rev. Mark Vande Zande (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Vice-chair), Rev. Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk)
2. CIC receives available updates on vacant churches (Immanuel, Orange City; Northern Lighthouse, Lincoln; Hawarden CRC; Friendship CRC, Sergeant Bluff)
3. CIC receives the task from Classis Heartland to look into the progress being made by the Diaconal Taskforce.
 - a. CIC has connected with the Heartland Diaconal Taskforce (Mr. Jon Hellinga) and will connect with Lakota Diaconal Taskforce (Rev. Cliff Hoekstra) on this.
4. CIC instructs the Nominating Committee to find a replacement for Rev. Mark Klompien on the Heartland Diaconal Taskforce.
5. CIC instructs Rev. Westra (Stated Clerk) to include the members of the Heartland Diaconal Taskforce on the list of Servants of Classis.
6. CIC receives the task from Classis Heartland to look into returning some or all of the classis meetings to Saturday instead of midweek.
 - a. CIC decides to maintain the planned date of Wednesday, September 21, 2022 for the fall classis meeting.
 - b. **A motion was duly made and carried: The spring 2023 classis meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023**
 - i. Grounds:
 1. Some churches asked to return to Saturday meeting dates due to challenges of getting delegates.

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

May 3, 2022

First CRC, Orange City

Summary Report

1. Membership: Rev. Mark Vande Zande (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Vice-chair), Rev. Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk)
2. CIC receives available updates on vacant churches (Immanuel, Orange City; Northern Lighthouse, Lincoln; Hawarden CRC; Friendship CRC, Sergeant Bluff)
3. CIC receives brief update on previous items: Diaconal Taskforce, Membership Counts for Classical Treasurer
4. CIC instructs Rev. Westra to determine the locations and which pastors will serve as chair/vicechair of upcoming meetings of Classis Heartland according to agreed upon schedule.
5. CIC instructs Rev. Kuperus to contact neighboring Classes regarding the stipend for Classis Treasurer and Classical Stated Clerk and report this to the Stewardship Committee.

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

May 19, 2022

1. **Motion was duly made and carried** to approve the work of the CHMC regarding the future of Friendship CRC, Sergeant Bluff.
 - a. The agreement (below) has been agreed to by Friendship Community CRC, Sergeant Bluff and Elevate Community Church and the Classical Home Missions Committee who has been shepherding Friendship Community CRC through discerning their future ministry plans.

AGREEMENT REGARDING CHURCH PROPERTY

This Agreement is made on this ____ day of May, 2022, by and between Friendship Community Church of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa and Elevate Community Church.

Recitals

Whereas, Friendship Community Church of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa and Elevate Community Church have agreed to enter into a merger, wherein the surviving corporation will be Elevate Community Church; and

Whereas, Friendship Community Church of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa is a church plant of the Christian Reformed Church of North America and has received funding from the Home Missions Committee of Classis of the Heartland; and

Whereas, Friendship Community Church of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa has requested that Classis Heartland consent to the merger; and

Whereas, Classis Heartland has consented to the merger on the condition that certain provisions be made for the disposition of the real property of Friendship Community Church of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa in the event that Elevate Community Church discontinues use of the property for public worship within a certain time period; and

Whereas, Friendship Community Church of Sergeant Bluff and Elevate Community Church desire to enter into this Agreement to accept the conditions requested by Classis Heartland.

Now, Therefore, the Parties agree as follows:

Agreement

1. Division of Sale Proceeds. Following the merger of Friendship Community Church of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa and Elevate Community Church, if Elevate Community Church:

- a. ceases to use the real property located at 305 Sergeant Square Drive, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa for public worship on a weekly basis, and
- b. within five years after the effective date of the merger,
- c. sells the real property located at 305 Sergeant Square Drive,

then the net proceeds of the sale of the real property shall be divided equally between Elevate Community Church and Classis Heartland of the Christian Reformed Church of North America.

2. It is understood and agreed by the parties that there will be a period of time, commencing in June 2022, when the building located at 305 Sergeant Square Drive will not be used for public worship on a weekly basis while the parties prepare to re-launch a new church plant. This re-launch period shall be counted, for purposes of determining the five year period following the effective date of the merger. The failure to use the property for public worship during the re-launch period is expected, and does not by itself give any rights to Classis Heartland of the Christian Reformed Church of North America. Only cessation of public worship following the re-launch, within five years after the effective date of the merger, will trigger the obligation to split sale proceeds with Classis Heartland of the Christian Reformed Church of North America.

3. Third Party Beneficiary of Agreement. While it is not a signatory to this agreement, Classis Heartland of the Christian Reformed Church of North America is an intended third-party beneficiary of this agreement and will have the right to enforce the agreement if the circumstances identified in paragraph 1 occur.

Dated this ____ day of May, 2022.

Friendship Community Church of Sergeant
Bluff, Iowa

By: _____
Verlyn Schaap, President

Elevate Community Church

By: _____
Christopher Ver Steeg, President

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

July 20, 2022

1. Membership: Rev. Mark Vande Zande (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Vice-chair), Rev. Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk), Brian Hofman (alternate)
2. CIC selects Rev. Muyskens as Chairperson effective August 8 upon Rev. Vande Zande's move to Classis Zeeland. CIC wishes Rev. Vande Zande the Lord's blessing as he follows the Lord's leading.
3. CIC receives available updates on vacant churches. First CRC, Orange City; Immanuel CRC, Orange City, Hawarden CRC; Northern Lighthouse, Lincoln; Friendship CRC, Sergeant Bluff.
4. CIC duly made and approved the motion: **Transfer ministerial credentials of Rev. Vande Zande to Classis Zeeland.**
5. Upcoming Classis Meeting Dates, Locations and Chairmen were reviewed.
 - a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 21 @8:30 AM @ Hawarden CRC. Rev. Jesse Walhof will be asked to chair the meeting.
 - b. Spring 2023: Calvin CRC, Le Mars.
6. CIC instructs the Stated Clerk to look into which churches have been not sent any delegates to Classis meetings for the last 3 years and communicate this with the church visitors.
7. The Stated Clerk reports that Rev. De Does's retirement date is Nov. 4, 2022 and Rev. Kotman's retirement date is Dec. 15, 2022.
8. Hospers CRC requests Classis Heartland examine Mr. Matt Dengler for licensure to exhort according to Art 43.b. *"The classis may grant the right to exhort within its bounds to persons who are gifted, well-informed, consecrated, and able to edify the churches. When the need for their services has been established, the classis shall examine such persons and license them as exhorters for a limited period of time."* (Art. 43b)
 - i. It is agreed by CIC that due to the number of vacant churches we have need of more who can exhort the churches of Classis Heartland.
 - ii. Revs Hofman and Walhof will evaluate a sermon based on the assigned text of Ephesians 3:20-21. Rev. Kuperus will do conduct the theological evaluation.
9. Rev. Jordan Helming, an ordained RCA minister who serves as Pastor of Congregational Care at First CRC, Orange City, is seeking ordination in the CRC by way of Art. 8
10. CIC duly made and approved the motion: **to nominate Mr. Loren Veldhuizen to fill the Council of Delegates position vacated by Rev. Vande Zande at the recommendation of the Classical Nominating Committee.**
 - a. CIC instructs the stated clerk to forward the nomination to the denomination.

- b. CIC has made this decision on behalf of classis so classis will have representation at the September meeting of the Council of Delegates.
 - c. CIC seeks ratification of this decision by classis.
11. CIC duly moved and supported the motion: **to increase the stipend of Classis Treasurer and Stated Clerk \$500 in the upcoming budget.**
- a. Grounds:
 - i. It has been several years since the stipend has been increased.
 - ii. The increase keeps our stipend in line with neighboring classes.

Stated Clerk Report Classis Heartland, Fall of 2022

Below are tasks I completed as the stated clerk since our March of 2022 Meeting.

1. Completed and submitted synod credentials and election results to the synodical services office. I responded to questions and forwarded messages to our synodical delegates leading up to Synod.
2. Participated in several Classis Interim Committee (CIC) meetings and carried out tasks the CIC requested I fulfill.
3. Corresponded with Jeff Bolt about ministry share pledging and directing gifts toward certain ministries through denominational ministry shares.
4. Served an advisory role in phone calls and email correspondence regarding Jon Keyzer's Commissioned Pastor journey.
5. Forwarded several items of email communication from classis committees or denominational ministries to our churches of Classis Heartland.
6. Completed classis meeting minutes and classis meeting summary for our March 2 meeting, distributed this information, and updated our website accordingly.
7. Researched previous classis meeting information in response to requests from a church and the CIC.
8. Updated the servants of classis document, participated in the Classis Nominating Committee, and followed up with some nominees.
9. Participated in the Abide Conference in Oak Lawn, IL on August 2-3.
10. Completed Ministerial Credentials paperwork for Rev. Mark Vande Zande.
11. Participated in an Orientation for New Synodical Deputies Sept. 7.
12. Participated in Stated Clerk Connect online meeting Sept. 8.
13. Gathered information and compiled the agenda for the fall classis meeting.
14. Serving as a syndical deputy to Classis Wisconsin (March 15 and July 5), Classis Minnkota (Sept. 15), Classis Central Plains (Sept. 16), and classis Lake Superior (Sept. 20) meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Phillip Westra

Summary of Synod 2022 Decisions for Classes

1. Study of and input regarding the CRC Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders

The Council of Delegates, acting in lieu of Synod 2021 in June 2021, adopted the CRC Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders and decided to develop an implementation plan for its use. Synod 2022 considered the proposed implementation plan (see *Agenda for Synod 2022*, pp. 83-90) and decided to forward the amended Code of Conduct and the implementation plan to the classes for study and input because the churches would need more time to consider them and offer feedback. The executive director will facilitate a mechanism to receive feedback and report to Synod 2023 for its consideration. (See *Acts of Synod 2022*, pp. 931-32.)

2. Upholding the teaching of the Scriptures and confessions on the nature of Christ's substitutionary work

In response to an overture deferred from 2021, synod affirmed that "it is a serious deviation from the teachings of the confessions of the Christian Reformed Church to in any way deny that Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection provide a substitutionary work of bearing God's wrath on our behalf because of the just punishment we deserve for our sin." To deny this is to "take away from the glory of our Savior." Thus, any officebearer who explicitly denies penal substitutionary atonement is worthy of special discipline in accordance with Church Order Article 83. Read the full decision in response to the overture in the *Acts of Synod 2022*, pp. 895-96.

3. Revisions to appeal process and "Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader"

Synod took action to clarify and strengthen the appeal process as provided in the Church Order Supplement, Articles 30-a and 42-b, adding the involvement of classis church visitors at the council level in situations of abuse by a church leader, and the involvement of synodical deputies as advisers at the classis level.

In addition, orientation and training on due process, abuse awareness, and response are required for a classis and a synod advisory committee, if applicable, prior to handling an appeal regarding abuse allegations against a church leader. Additional changes regarding investigation, responsibility to the claimant and the accused, and follow-up care were also adopted.

Revisions to the "Guidelines for Handling Abuse Allegations Against a Church Leader" were also adopted (see *Acts of Synod 2022*, Appendix C2, pp. 746-53, for these guidelines; and *Acts of Synod 2022*, pp. 851-53 for the adopted Church Order changes).

4. Campus ministers as delegates to classis

Synod adopted changes to Church Order Supplement, Article 40-a, allowing councils to delegate campus ministers, who are ordained officebearers under their care, to the meetings of classis. Grounds provided for this change include the following: "such a delegation will benefit classes by the expected presence and contributions of campus ministers at classis meetings,"

and “such a delegation will give greater recognition and encouragement to these officebearers in classis.” (See *Acts of Synod 2022*, pp. 847-48.)

5. Proposed revision in delegation to synod

Synod 2022 is proposing a revision to Church Order Article 45 for consideration for adoption by Synod 2023. The change being recommended is that “each classis shall *ordinarily* delegate one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other officebearer to synod. *A classis may send no more than two delegates bearing the same office*” (proposed changes indicated by italics). Churches/classes have the opportunity to respond to the proposed Church Order change by way of overtures to synod by the March 15 deadline for consideration by synod in June. (See *Acts of Synod 2022*, p. 848.)

6. New regions for Calvin University Board of Directors

Upon the adoption by synod of proposed revisions to the bylaws of Calvin University, new regions for delegates on the Calvin University Board of Trustees go into effect immediately. The Calvin University board has transitioned from a twelve-region representation to a six-region representation. *Note:* The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees continues to be represented by twelve regions. See the **Appendix** for the respective board regions for your classis. (See *Acts of Synod 2022*, p. 841.)

7. Addressing white supremacy and systemic racism

Following extensive introductory comments by the advisory committee regarding racism, justice, and systemic injustices, synod responded to Overture 8 regarding white supremacy and systemic racism as summarized below. (See *Acts of Synod 2022*, pp. 943-46, 952.) Classes are encouraged to ask questions of all candidates for ministry regarding their commitment to preach a biblical and Reformed perspective on race and justice.

- *Calvin Theological Seminary* will give a report to the COD on how they are teaching a biblical and Reformed perspective on issues of race and justice.
- *Classes* are encouraged to ask questions of all candidates for ministry regarding their commitment to preach a biblical and Reformed perspective on race and justice.
- *Elders* are responsible to defend the faith and doctrine taught from their church pulpit, including our denomination’s position on a biblical response to matters of racism and justice.
- *Deacons* are responsible to seek justice and work to change exploitative structures and systems for the flourishing of all people.
- *Worship Ministries* is to continue to curate and provide resources to the churches that help congregations in matters of racial injustice to lament, confess, and receive assurance of pardon in corporate worship.
- *Leaders at all levels* of the church are to continue to provide opportunities for listening, learning, and practicing civil dialogue on the difficult conversations needed to better understand one another’s perspectives on racism and biblical justice.
- *Churches* are encouraged to make use of denominational resources.

- *The general secretary* will solicit input from all the classes on providing the above opportunities and report to Synod 2023, including praise reports about positive progress and prayer requests regarding challenges and concerns.

8. Updates related to Church Order Article 8 regarding *need* and to the Church Order Supplement, Article 24-a

Classes should take note of the following two matters adopted by synod as presented by the Candidacy Committee (see *Acts of Synod 2022*, pp. 837-38):

- The Journey Toward Ordination document will be updated to include the strategy of requiring the Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (MEPMC) in Article 8 cases when it seems debatable that a “sustained and realistic” search effort has been put forth or that the situation is in need of contextualization.
- The Supplement to Article 24-a, which addresses calling a commissioned pastor to a solo leadership position, has been revised (noted by *italics* and ~~strike through~~):

“Commissioned pastors may serve in positions of solo leadership in an established church only in specific circumstances. *Three of these* circumstances were specified before 2019 in Church Order Articles 23-b, 23-c, and 23-d. *A fourth was adopted by Synod 2018. All four* ~~and~~ are now presented and explained in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook (*sections IV, I and J*). A classis may decide to make such appointments contingent upon implementation of a learning plan leading toward meeting the qualifications for minister of the Word, as described in Church Order Article 24-b. In all cases in which a commissioned pastor serves in a solo leadership position in an emerging or organized church, it is mandatory that such a person, in cooperation with classis, shall develop and complete a contextualized learning plan for denominational orientation, adopted by classis and approved by the Candidacy Committee, as described in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook.”

9. Use of *Our Journey 2025 (Ministry Plan)* resources encouraged

Classes are encouraged to make use of the *Our Journey 2025 (Ministry Plan)* resources, including visuals, conversation cards, and other tools to aid in engaging in the excitement and ownership of the ministry plan—crcna.org/OurJourney/resources (see *Acts of Synod 2022*, p. 856).

Appendix

Calvin Theological Seminary and Calvin University Board Regions

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees

Note: Members of the Calvin Theological Seminary regional board (that follows) are elected from the following twelve regions:

Region 1—Classes B.C. North-West and B.C. South-East

- Region 2*—Classes Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, and Lake Superior (Canadian congregations)
- Region 3*—Classes Eastern Canada, Quinte, and Toronto
- Region 4*—Classes Hamilton, Huron, Niagara, and Ontario Southwest (formerly Chatham)
- Region 5*—Classes Columbia, North Cascades, Pacific Northwest, and Yellowstone
- Region 6*—Classes California South, Central California, Greater Los Angeles, Hanmi, and Ko-Am
- Region 7*—Classes Arizona, Red Mesa, and Rocky Mountain
- Region 8*—Classes Central Plains, Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior (U.S. congregations), Minnkota, and Northcentral Iowa
- Region 9*—Classes Chicago South, Illiana, Northern Illinois, and Wisconsin
- Region 10*—Classes Georgetown, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, and Zeeland
- Region 11*—Classes Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Lake Erie, and Thornapple Valley
- Region 12*—Classes Atlantic Northeast, Hackensack, Hudson, and Southeast U.S.

Calvin University Board of Trustees

Note: Members of the Calvin University regional board (that follows) are elected from the following six regions:

- Region 1*—Classes Alberta North, Alberta South/Saskatchewan, B.C. North-West, B.C. South-East, and Lake Superior (Canadian)
- Region 2*—Classes Eastern Canada, Hamilton, Huron, Niagara, Ontario Southwest (formerly Chatham), Quinte, and Toronto
- Region 3*—Classes Atlantic Northeast, Hackensack, Hudson, and Southeast U.S.
- Region 4*—Classes Georgetown, Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids North, Grand Rapids South, Grandville, Holland, Kalamazoo, Lake Erie, Muskegon, Northern Michigan, Thornapple Valley, and Zeeland
- Region 5*—Classes Central Plains, Chicago South, Heartland, Iakota, Illiana, Lake Superior (U.S.), Minnkota, Northcentral Iowa, Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, and Yellowstone-Montana
- Region 6*—Classes Arizona, California South, Central California, Columbia, Greater Los Angeles, Hanmi, Ko-Am, North Cascades, Pacific Northwest, Red Mesa, Rocky Mountain, and Yellowstone-Utah

Summary regarding Human Sexuality Report Decisions

Following is a summary of Synod 2022 decisions in response to the Human Sexuality Report; additional information is available in an FAQ format at crcna.org/synod/hsr-faq.

What did Synod decide with regard to the human sexuality report?

Synod 2022 made a number of decisions related to the HSR, which was on its agenda in June 2022, along with more than seventy overtures and communications from various classes and councils related to this topic. All of Synod 2022's decisions related to the HSR can be found in the [forthcoming] *Acts of Synod 2022*, pp. 904-24. Please review those pages for a fuller understanding and record of synod's decisions.

Some of synod's decisions, summarized below, were recommended by every member of the advisory committee that was assigned the HSR materials. This includes the following:

1. "That synod thank": the members of the HSR committee; those who courageously shared their stories through the HSR report, the agenda for synod, and many overtures; and those who gave many hours to pray, engage with the committee, and write overtures.
2. "That synod solemnly take note of the pervasive sin of pornography and its harm, and lead our churches into repentance and healing."
3. "That synod encourage the churches to make use of the curriculum prepared by Pastor Church Resources, in conjunction with members of the committee, to help small groups study and discuss aspects of the committee's report which may be controversial."
4. "That synod recommend the pastoral care sections in the HSR as offering sound, introductory guidance to the churches and strongly encourage continuing conversations around the complex items within the HSR and how to faithfully implement these practices in the life of the church." Those continuing conversations should include:
 - consideration of what it means to live a healthy Christian sexual life for both married and single persons
 - continued dialogue among scholars and research into the fields of biblical studies and the biological and social sciences, especially related to the topic of gender dysphoria
 - listening and supporting conversations ... with a variety of unique cultural settings and geographic regions
 - the contributions of those representing different generations, different cultural and geographic contexts, and different roles (areas of expertise that include social scientists, teachers, pastors, elders, counselors, students, young adults, and health care providers) will be essential for developing guidelines for pastoral care
 - continued conversation around pastoral care might have a powerful influence on elements of congregational life like gospel preaching, faith formation, the diaconate, our missional calling, the sacraments, and church discipline
 - the churches need help balancing Scripture and the confessions with regard to the more difficult portions of Scripture. The church needs wisdom to preach and teach the solemn warning texts (i.e., 1 Cor. 6 and 11) in a way that is consistent with the confessions. Indeed, we need a better balance of radical hospitality and radical obedience as an outpouring of the lavish grace of God."

5. Synod did not accede to overtures that asked to appoint new committees, adopt a new statement of faith on sexuality, or change the position the CRC has held since 1973 and declare that same-sex orientation is in itself sinful. The 1973 position stands, based on the biblical interpretation of the CRC, that same-sex orientation is not considered sinful, but same-sex sexual behavior is considered sinful.

Synod received both a majority and minority report from the advisory committee on the matter of human sexuality. As presented by way of the majority report, synod also adopted the following recommendations:

1. "That synod recommend the HSR to the churches as providing a useful summary of biblical teaching regarding human sexuality."
2. "That synod affirm that 'unchastity' in the Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extra-marital sex, polyamory, pornography and homosexual sex, all of which violate the Seventh Commandment. In so doing, synod declares this affirmation 'an interpretation of [a] confession' (*Acts of Synod 1975*, p. 603). Therefore, this interpretation has confessional status."
3. "That synod affirm that 'unchastity' in the Heidelberg Catechism Q. and A. 108 encompasses 'sexual violence within and outside of covenantal marriage.'"
4. "That synod declare that Church Order 69-c is to be interpreted in the light of the biblical evidence laid out in this report." [Note: Article 69-c says: "Ministers shall not solemnize marriages that are in conflict with the Word of God."]

Synod did not adopt a recommendation of the majority report to add a footnote to Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 108.

Though the minority report from the advisory committee was not debated, it was presented on the floor of synod and will be printed in the Acts of Synod. Some of the recommendations of the minority report that were not dealt with include, "That synod urge churches to prayerfully reflect on the trauma experienced by many in our congregations (ex. LGBTQ+, divorced, single, abused, and addicted individuals) as we struggle to live out our call to love God and love our neighbors," and "that synod receive the report for information, but not adopt it," and "not accede to Recommendations C and D," regarding confessional status and Church Order Article 69-c.

CRC Code of Conduct for Ministry Leaders (amended by Synod 2022)

Preamble

In Philippians 2 the apostle Paul brings to his Philippian readers the words of a hymn in which Christ Jesus is acknowledged as being, in his very nature, God. Among other things, this means that Christ is the one to whom all power belongs.

The hymn goes on to say that Christ did not consider equality with God as something to be used to his own advantage. In fact, he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, and humbling himself toward a life-sacrificing kind of obedience. In other words, he used his power for the thriving of others.

All of us who are united to Christ by faith and who serve in the life of the church are called, in this passage and others, to this way of being. Jesus himself, in response to the desire for power expressed by his disciples, called them (and us) to use power to serve people, a way of holding power that confronts and contrasts with the ways that the world uses power.¹

Not only do we have this call from Christ, but we actually have Jesus living and growing within us (Gal. 2:20). As a result, we find ourselves being transformed into the kind of people who hold and use power in a Christlike way.

That being said, until Christ returns and brings us to perfection, we will continue to wrestle with the urge to misuse power and abuse others. Ugly realities such as verbal, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, and spiritual abuse are found among us. The power that we hold by virtue of our person or our position can always be twisted into the project of building our own kingdoms at the expense of others. This is true for pastors, lay ministry leaders, and church members alike.

In awareness of these ugly realities and in the beautiful hope of Christ's transforming work, the following code of conduct is offered for ministry leaders. It is shaped by Scripture and by

¹ See Mark 10:35-45. Note that there are other Scripture texts that address the use of power to bless, such as 1 Peter 5:1-4. In addition, there are texts that describe abuses of power and the damage that such abuses cause (see, for example, 2 Sam. 11 and Ezek. 34).

commitments found in our confessional statements and contemporary testimonies.² It emerges out of a response by Synod 2018 to patterns of abuse that had been brought to its attention³ and is aimed at preventing such abuse in the future. May God's peace be among us.

Code of Conduct

Abuse of power is a misuse of position, authority, or influence to take advantage of, manipulate, or control. Abuse of power occurs when a person with power, regardless of its source, uses that power to harm and/or influence another for personal gain at the other's expense. All abuse by faith leaders within the church is also spiritual abuse and has spiritual impacts that often heighten the harm caused to individuals and to the family of God. (For more background, see *Acts of Synod 2019*, pp. 587-615).

As a ministry leader, I commit to the following:

Confidentiality

I will use confidentiality appropriately, which means I will hold in confidence whatever information is not mine to share.

² See Belgic Confession, Article 28, and Heidelberg Catechism, Q. and A. 55, 107, 111. See also the statement in the Confession of Belhar that says, "We believe . . . that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others" (Confession of Belhar, Article 4). Further, in *Our World Belongs to God*, we read that the church is a "new community," gathered by God, in which "all are welcome" (para. 34); that the church's mission in this broken world is a mission of proclaiming the gospel and its implications for life today (para. 41); and that, "restored in Christ's presence, shaped by his life, this new community lives out the ongoing story of God's reconciling love, announces the new creation, and works for a world of justice and peace" (para. 39). Such statements describe the mission of the church in general and provide foundation for the specific code of conduct presented here.

³ Bev Sterk's overture to Synod 2018, titled "Address Patterns of Abuse of Power That Violate the Sacred Trust Given to Leaders and Recognize How These Hinder Due Process and Healing," and appendices specifically related to it, can be found in the *Agenda for Synod 2018*, pp. 282-307 (see crcna.org/SynodResources). The subsequent action of Synod 2018 was to form an "Abuse of Power Committee" to study "how the CRCNA can best address patterns of abuse of power at all levels of the denomination" (*Acts of Synod 2018*, pp. 523-24). The work of Synod 2019 related to this overture can be found in the *Acts of Synod 2019*, pp. 794-96 (see crcna.org/SynodResources). The particular recommendation calling for a code of conduct is recommendation 3, c (p. 795).

I will not use information shared with me in confidence in order to elevate my position or to depreciate that of others.

My use of confidentiality will also be guided by mandatory reporting as required by law.

Relational

I will speak and act, in all my personal and professional relations, in ways that follow the pattern of Christ, who used his power to serve (1 Pet. 5; Mark 10; Phil. 2; 2 Tim. 4:2).

I will conduct myself with respect, love, integrity, and truthfulness toward all—regardless of position, status, race, gender, age, or ability.

To the best of my ability, I will contribute to an environment of hospitality.

Financial

I will ensure that funds are used for their intended ministry purposes.

In all financial matters, including the acceptance of gifts, I will act with scrupulous honesty, transparency, and appropriate accountability.

I will appropriately use accepted accounting practices and regular reviews and/or audits.

Intimate Relationships

I will maintain standards and appropriate boundaries in all relationships, which are informed by the Scriptures.

I will keep all of my professional relationships free from inappropriate emotional and sexual behaviors. This includes not engaging in inappropriate intimate contact or a sexual relationship, unwanted physical contact, sexual comments, gestures, or jokes.

Safety

I will actively promote a safe environment where all persons are respected and valued, where any form of abuse, bullying, or harassment is neither tolerated nor allowed to take place.

I will report known or suspected cases of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect of minors to the proper government authorities.

I will support adults who disclose physical, sexual, or emotional abuse in a way that appropriately empowers the person who has been victimized.

Spiritual

I will acknowledge the use of Scripture and the Spirit's work in the community of the church and, therefore, refrain from presuming to be the sole "voice of God."

I will teach, admonish, or discipline in ways that are biblical and Christlike, and I will seek other people's well-being (Matthew 18; Colossians 1:28; 3:16).

I will use my position as a way to serve the body of believers, rather than myself, for the common good and the cultivation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Additional Commitments

I will work within my professional competence, especially in counseling situations, and I will refer individuals to other professionals as appropriate.

I will promote truthfulness, transparency, and honesty in all of my work.

I will disclose any perceived or actual conflict of interest.

In all that I do, I will seek to use my position, power, and authority prudently and humbly and in nonexploitive ways.

In the event that I misuse my power, either intentionally or unintentionally, as a ministry leader, I will acknowledge the harm that has been caused and the trust that has been broken, and I will actively seek restoration with justice, compassion, truth, and grace. I will humbly submit to the insight and accountability of others to ensure that I use any power entrusted to me fully in service to Christ.

Classis of the Heartland
 2022 and 2023 Ministry Shares

	Per Member		
	2022	2023	% Change
Classical Ministry Shares			
Dordt University	67.84	68.50	0.97%
Classical Expense	5.00	6.00	20.00%
Student Aid Fund	1.75	0.05	-97.14%
Campus Ministries			
Geneva Campus Ministry - U of I	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Areopagus - ISU	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Church Planting			
Lincoln - Chaplain	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Lincoln - F Street	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Lincoln - F Street Immerse	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Pathway - Argentine	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Friendship Community	1.75	0.00	-100.00%
Cornerstone Prison	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Ministry Opportunity Fund	3.51	3.57	1.71%
Residency Program	1.75	1.78	1.71%
Ethnic Ministries			
Laotian Ministry - Sioux City	6.56	6.52	-0.61%
Amistad Cristiana	3.51	4.29	22.22%
Other			
Established Church Development	1.40	1.07	-23.57%
Education Committee	0.05	0.05	0.00%
Youth Consultant	3.51	7.14	103.42%
Classical Home Missions Committee	0.35	0.36	2.86%
	<u>109.23</u>	<u>111.79</u>	<u>2.34%</u>

June 13, 2022

Classis Heartland of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America
In session Saturday, September 21, 2022 at the
Hawarden Christian Reformed Church
1515 16th St., Hawarden, IA 51023

Dear Delegates of the September 21, 2022 session of Classis Heartland,

By this letter we inform you that our pastor, Rev. Loren Kotman, has requested permission to exercise his privilege of retiring from active ministerial service on the ground that he will be reaching the normal retirement age of 66 years and 4 months this year. At the Council meeting held on June 13, 2022, the Council gave approval to this request. Rev. Loren Kotman's effective retirement date will be, D.V., December 15, 2022. (Council Minutes, June 13, 2022, Article 19-64).

Therefore: We, the Council of the Hull Christian Reformed Church overture Classis Heartland to approve Rev. Loren Kotman's request to exercise his privilege to retire effective December 15, 2022 in accordance with Article 18a of the CRCNA: "A minister who has reached retirement age, or who because of physical or mental disability is incapable of performing the duties of the office, is eligible for retirement. Retirement shall take place with the approval of the Council and Classis and in accordance with Synodical regulations". Ground: Rev. Loren Kotman will reach retirement age on December 13, 2022.

Rev. Loren Kotman's farewell will be, D.V. on Sunday, November 20, 2022, morning service.

In His Service,



Glen Scholten, President of Council



Rob Westra, Clerk of Council

Hull Christian Reformed church. 1121 5th Street, PO Box 803
Hull, Iowa 51239 (712) 439-1626

(Signed document on file with the Stated Clerk – Classis Heartland.)

Classis Heartland – (date)
Hull, Iowa, Christian Reformed Church



Christian Reformed Church

833 Fifth Street Ocheyedan, Iowa 51354-9603

Study Telephone
712/758-3273

Parsonage Telephone
712/758-3700

7/15/22

Classis Heartland of the CRCNA

Dear Delegates of the September, 2022 session of Classis Heartland,

By this letter, we inform you that our Pastor, Thomas De Does has requested permission to exercise his privilege of retiring from active ministerial service on the ground that he will be reaching the normal retirement age of 66 years this year. At the Council meeting held on May 2, 2022, the Council of the Ocheyedan CRC gave their approval to this request. The effective date for Pastor De Does' retirement will be November 4, 2022.

Therefore, we the Council of the Ocheyedan Christian Reformed Church request Classis Heartland to approve this request of Pastor Tom De Does to retire effective November 4, 2022 in accord with Article 18 of the Church Order of the CRCNA.

In His love and service with you,

David G. Bootsma, Chair of Council

Thomas De Does, clerk

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Classis Heartland
September 2022

Church Counselors Report:

In early August 2021, the congregation Hope CRC extended a provisional letter of call to Keith Hoekstra to become their next pastor. By provisional they mean that he go through the Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidates (EPMC) at Calvin Seminary in order to become ordained in the Christian Reformed Church. (Article 24b, Church Order of the CRC)

In addition, Keith would also apply to be ordained as a Commissioned Pastor in the CRC so that he will be able to administer the sacraments until he becomes ordained as a pastor in the CRC. Classis Heartland recognized the need at our September 2021, meeting approving of the job description. (Article 23) Keith sustained the examination by classis at its March meeting.

Currently, Keith has begun his third class (CRC History) at Calvin seminary, having completed a course in hermeneutics and church polity. He is meeting regularly with his mentor, Rev. Cliff Hoekstra. He has regular six-month zoom calls with a team at Calvin Seminary. He is building his ministry profile. His goal is to complete the program by December 1, 2023.

After he completes the EPMC program, he will be a candidate and seek ordination.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Loren Kotman
Church Counselor
March 2, 2022

Overture: Seat Female Delegates at Classis Heartland Meetings

Background

- Synod 2000 recognized two different perspectives in the CRC on ordaining women to serve in church offices and recognized both perspectives as honoring the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God. Therefore Synod 2000 decided (building on the decision of Synod 1995) that all CRC congregations may allow women to serve as ministers, elders, and deacons. Synod 2007 affirmed that individual classes may choose not to allow female delegates. Classis Heartland currently does not allow female officebearers to serve as delegates, though some congregations within Classis Heartland elect women to serve as elders and deacons.

Overture

- The council of Calvin CRC overtures Classis Heartland to seat female delegates at classis meetings and to adjust section I.D of the Rules of Procedure accordingly so that those congregations who choose to have women serving as elders and deacons may be more fully represented in classis.

Grounds

- We, the council of Calvin CRC, are committed to Classis Heartland and desire to fully participate in classis meetings. As a smaller congregation with a smaller council than many congregations within Classis Heartland, we have a smaller pool of currently serving church officers. We recognize that this issue affects not only Calvin but may also affect other churches in classis. Allowing smaller churches who are in a similar situation to ours the freedom to delegate female officebearers would increase the likelihood of us having both an elder and a deacon who are able to serve at each classis meeting.
- Since this matter was last discussed in Classis Heartland in 2019, more women have begun serving in leadership roles within classis. For example, Immanuel CRC in Sheldon recently ordained a female deacon.
- Women can be nominated for and serve on committees of Classis Heartland, and through their nominations and service we have seen women's gifts being utilized in many roles within classis. We believe that the seating of women as delegates would allow for classis to fully utilize the many types of spiritual gifts God has given to His church.

Please note, we are NOT asking any congregation to change its practice when it comes to ordaining women to serve on its council. We respect that there are two perspectives and deep convictions, and we want each council to have full authority to nominate its own minister, elder, and deacon delegates according to Church Order Article 40a. We simply ask that Classis Heartland acknowledge all the elders and deacons ordained and delegated by the council they serve—whether they are male or female—and allow them to speak, vote, and represent their congregation at meetings of Classis Heartland.

**REPORT OF THE –CLASSICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE- TO
CLASSIS IN SESSION, - SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
AT –HAWARDEN CRC, HAWARDEN, IA**

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CEC

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Education Committee met on May 18 and July 6, 2022. Members present at each meeting were Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, Rev. Jesse Walhof, and Rev. Ben Wiersma. Rev. Gonzalez opened with prayer at each meeting and Rev. Walhof closed with prayer at each meeting.

Topics discussed at the meetings 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 (Dr. Tara Boer)
3. Financial Reports

Details of items discussed:

1. Providing Continuing Education
 - a. **Timothy Leadership Training** – The CEC has been in contact with Sam Keyzer, Del Walinga (T.L.T. facilitators in Heartland) to help promote and support upcoming T.L.T. events.
 - i. Next planned event is October 28-29 at Calvary CRC in Orange City, IA. All pastors and leaders are invited to come see how God is working in this ministry. More information to come.
 - b. **Abide Project Convention** has taken place August 2-3, 2022. The CEC provided up to \$400 per church to help with the cost of the event and travel. Classis heartland had five pastors and one elder attend this event.
 - c. **Dordt and Classis Heartland Opportunities** – The CEC will remain in contact with Rev. Todd Zuidema at Dordt University in order to partner with them in educational events.
2. Ministry Support on behalf of Classis Heartland
 - a. **Classis Prayer Coordinator (Ms. Barb Hibma)**
 - i. Classis Prayer Zoom calls for Heartland churches resuming in September 2022.
 - b. **Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (Ms. Lee DeGroot)**
 - i. Due to a lack of applications, Ms. Lee DeGroot will stay on as MIK director for the foreseeable future. Rev. Doug DeGroot was hired on to be an assistant for Ms. DeGroot.
 - ii. The CEC has approved the request to bring a budget increase of \$10,000 before Classis Heartland in September of 2022. Budget increase is due to inflation and hiring an assistant for Ms. DeGroot.
 - c. **Safe Church (Dr. Tara Boer)**
 - i. New information concerning Safe Church Policy compliance in the CRC will soon be sent out.
 - ii. The CEC has met with the Safe Church Team on May 24, 2022 to discuss assisting the Safe Church ministry.
 - iii. A recent incident brought to light that there is a significant need to restructure The Safe Church ministry in Classis Heartland. In order to implement a ministerially effective and legally sound approach, The C.E.C. and Safe Church ministries will propose to Classis several changes. Details will follow in future documents and in Sept Classis.

3. Financial Reports

- a. The CEC discussed the current balance of the CEC and how those funds could be stewarded to further the purpose and intent of the CEC.
 - i. The CEC has helped cover the cost of the Abide Project Convention.
 - ii. The CEC is looking to help with the cost of the TLT Summit.
- b. Current balances will be reported by the Classis Treasurer.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

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

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: That Classis approve the work and report of the Classis Education Committee.
Recommendation 2: That Classis approve the budget increase for the Minn-I-Kota Youth Network.
Grounds: To cover the cost of inflation and the hiring of an assistant.

Respectfully Submitted - 8/25/22

Rev. Ben Wiersma

Rev. Ben Wiersma, Clerk,
Classical Education Committee

Classis Heartland & Iakota Safe Church Report Fall 2022

Prepared by: Dr. Tara Boer, LISW
Iakota & Heartland Safe Church Coordinator

Date Prepared: 08/09/22

Iakota & Heartland Classical Safe Church Team Members: Pastor Henry Lengkeek (Trinity CRC-Iakota), Heidi Mulder (Bethel CRC-Iakota), Pastor Jesse Walhof (Living Water CRC-Heartland), Dr. Tara Boer (Hope CRC, Heartland).

Classical Safe Church Team Tasks:

- The Safe Church Team serves as a consultative role for churches who are developing (or reviewing/revising) congregational safe church policies.
- 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 regarding abuse awareness, prevention, and response.

Team Meeting:

The team met on 05/24/22 at Hope CRC in Hull. This meeting also included Pastor Aaron Gonzales and Pastor Ben Wiersma (Heartland) to discuss how to support church health, church order, and advisory panel recommendations. Follow up meetings were had via zoom on June 7 and July 1 to consult with safe church team lead, Amanda Benckhuysen, to discuss best practices, church order, and ways to appropriately and effectively advocate for victims.

Safe Church Committee Activity

Team members continue to review church policies, provide education and consultation, and serve as advocates for victims.

Safe Church Team Goals:

The safe church team goals remain that each church in Iakota and Heartland establish a 2-3-person safe church team, have an updated policy, and implement background checks for all of those that care for children and teens in their ministry programs. For churches that have established this, please consider implementing the Circle of Grace curriculum in your Sunday school programming to teach children and teens about boundaries, safety, and healthy relationships.

We hope that all churches are making progress in ensuring that your ministries have clear policies and practices that aid in the protection of children and vulnerable people from being harmed. If you have any questions about what should be included in your policy or procedures, please familiarize yourself with the policy resources on the CRC Safe Church

website and contact one of our team members to help you. In August, safe church also released a model policy that can be downloaded and edited to fit your congregational needs. It's much easier to do the hard work of ensuring that you have good policies and practices now than it is to have to respond to abuse situations unprepared and unequipped.

The safe church team is asking that you consider appointing someone who might be willing to be trained as a panelist in the advisory panel process if a case of abuse or misconduct surfaces alleging a ministry leader by another adult. **Contact Tara if know of someone willing to serve in this way.**

***Please be reminded** that if a child/teen discloses physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or if a child/teen is present in a domestic violence situation, you should promptly report the incident to the Department of Human Services (1-800-362-2178). Also, contact safe church **BEFORE** approaching the accused if an allegation of abuse (adult or child) surfaces in your church.

Dr. Boer will be offering virtual office hours to ministry leaders on the last Monday of each month from 10-11am starting August 29. This is a good time and space to ask questions about policies, procedures, and best practices as it pertains to minors and vulnerable people. Please watch your email for a zoom link (and save the link as it will be used for all meetings). You may also email me to request the link or ask additional questions.

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of our committee if you would like to talk about any needs your church may have. You may communicate with any committee member or contact Tara directly at 712-898-6468 (cell) or tara.boer@dordt.edu. You're also welcome to visit drtaraboer.com for additional mental health education, resources, and services.

2022 FALL CLASSIS REPORT--MINNIKOTA YOUTH NETWORK

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO MINNKOTA, IAKOTA, HEARTLAND, SUPPORTING CHURCHES, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO, SINCE 1948, HAVE HELPED MAKE MINNIKOTA YOUTH NETWORK MINISTRY POSSIBLE THROUGH CLASSICAL SHARES, CHURCH OFFERINGS, PERSONAL DONATIONS, AND CONTINUED PRAYERS. IT HAS BEEN A TRUE BLESSING TO BE ABLE TO SERVE YOU, YOUR COVENANT YOUTH, AND THEIR LEADERS OVER THE YEARS!

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

MINNKOTA CLASSIS: REPRESENTATIVE-VACANT, CARMEN VIS (SEC), SARAH VAN DYKEN (SEC).

IAKOTA CLASSIS: REPRESENTATIVE PASTOR HENRY LENGKEEK, DAN ELGERSMA (PRES), SHELLI KOLLIS.

HEARTLAND CLASSIS: REPRESENTATIVE PASTOR BEN WIERSMA, KODY TESCH (TREAS), BETH HEERSPINK.

FYI: AFTER MUCH PRAYER AND DISCUSSION THE BOARD HAS HIRED PASTOR DOUG DE GROOT TO WORK PART TIME ALONG SIDE LEE, WHILE HE CONTINUES FULL TIME AS PASTOR OF ROCK RAPID, IA CRC.

2022-2023 RECENT EVENT:

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 FRIDAY NIGHT-THUNDER ROAD SIOUX FALLS, SD ALL NIGHTER (11PM-4AM) KICK OFF: OUTDOOR ATTACTIONS FROM 11PM-1AM, DEVOTIONS AND PIZZA FROM 1-2AM, AND INDOOR ATTRACTIONS (EXCLUDING AXE THROWING) FROM 2-4AM.

2022-2023 UPCOMING EVENTS:

TRAVELLING LESSON PLAN TITLED "WOULD YOU RATHER...?" FROM NUMBERS 22:21-39. WE ARE AVAILABLE TO LEAD THIS LESSON THE 2nd and 4th WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OF EACH MONTH. WE HAVE ABOUT A DOZEN WEDNESDAY NIGHTS STILL AVAILABLE IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR TO SHARE THIS LESSON IN YOUR CHURCH/COMMUNITY. "IF YOU WOULD RATHER" HAVE MIK YOUTH COME IN ON A SUNDAY NIGHT WE HAVE A FEW OF THOSE OPEN AS WELL. CALL, TEXT, EMAIL SOON TO PUT THE TRAVELLING LESSON PLAN ON YOUR CALENDAR. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT- WOULD YOU LIKE MIK YOUTH TO HOST A WEDNESDAY NIGHT DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, OR NOVEMBER? LET MIK YOUTH KNOW AND THEY WILL DO ALL THE ORGANIZING. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT (JANUARY, 2023) ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT- WOULD YOUR CHURCH/COMMUNITY LIKE TO HELP HOST A P&W NIGHT? LET'S TALK ASAP AND GET IT ON THE CALENDAR. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com.

PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND-FEBRUARY 17, 18, 19, 2023-THE HIGH SCHOOL GATHERING

APRIL 21, 22, 23 2023-JR HIGH (6TH-8TH GRADE) RETREAT AT INSPRIATION HILLS INWOOD, IA.

LEADERS' NETWORKING NOON LUNCHES: ONCE A MONTH IN SIOUX FALLS OR SIOUX CENTER...WATCH FACEBOOK AND EMAILS FOR DATES/LOCATIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN EVENING NETWORKING SUPPER LET MIK YOUTH KNOW... WE WILL GET IT ON THE CALENDAR. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com.

STAY CONNECTED:

EMAIL-mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com, WEBSITE-minnikotayouthnetwork.com, FACEBOOK-Minnikota Youth

Alethea "Lee" De Groot~Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Coordinator &

Faith Formation Champion/Executive Team (Region #5)

712-470-4244 307 South Union Street Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246

"Christ Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone, by the Glory of God Alone!"

**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM
TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, Wednesday, September 21, 2022, AT
Hawarden Christian Reformed Church in Hawarden, Iowa.**

Report filed: August 15, 2022

WRITTEN REPORT:

Esteemed Delegates:

Since the last meeting of Classis of the Heartland on March 2, 2022, your Classical Ministry Leadership Team met on Wednesday, June 7, 2021, at Living Water Community Church in Orange City. Rev. Loren Kotman, Rev Garry Nyenhuis, and Darrell Teerink were in attendance. We also had a Zoom call on Saturday, August 6 with the same people in attendance. In those meetings...

1. We reviewed the financial statement for the committee.
 - The CMLT balance as of January 1, 2022, is \$18,241.45.
 - Nothing has been paid out for the 2022-2023 academic year leaving a current balance of \$18,241.45
 - Expected ministry shares for 2022 are \$5075.

2. We reviewed the status of students who have received assistance.
 Jamie Negus is still in the EPMC program for 18 more months. He is set to graduate Sioux Falls Seminary June 30, 2022
 No former students who have received aid have met the 10 year active ministry requirements for receiving assistance since those noted at last year's meeting.

3. CMLT has contacted the individuals who are currently licensed to exhort in our classis. Kurt Rietema would like to have their license renewed. Sherwin Bolkema asked that his license not be renewed. We are grateful for his years of service in our classis.

4. Our committee interviewed Jordan Helming for entrance into the CRC through Article 8, at First CRC Orange City. We concur that there is a need for First CRC of Orange City to call a minister ordained outside of the Christian Reformed Church. Since our meeting on June 7, Susan LaClear and the Candidacy Committee also concur with the "need" for Jordan to move forward with the process of Article 8 with his church and classis.

5. Our committee interviewed Jon Keyzer who is seeking to become a commissioned pastor at Northern lighthouse in Lincoln, Nebraska through article 24a. We concur that there is a need for Jon to serve as a commissioned pastor at Northern Lighthouse. Since our Zoom meeting on August 6, Susan LaClear and the Candidacy Committee also concur with the "need" for Jon to move forward with the process of article 24a with his church and classis.

6. **Reminder: Classis Heartland and Classis lakota recognize each other's exhorters, meaning that those licensed to exhort are allowed to exhort in either of these two classis.**

Those from Classis Heartland:

- Jamie Negus (712-363-0779)jamie.negus89@gmail.com
- Kurt Rietema (913-219-9498) krietema@youthfront.com
- Dan Tracy (712-395-8640) dctracy@hotmail.com

Those from Classis lakota are:

- Dr. Jason Lief (712)-441-2643 jason.lief@nwcsiowa.edu
- Mr. Barry Miedema (712) 540- 8131 barryamiedema@yahoo.com
- Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp (712) 395-8642 nathan.nieuwendorp@gmail.comh

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION

1. **Recommend that we decrease the per member classical share from \$1.75 to \$0.05 for the year 2023.**

Rationale:

- We are not currently supporting any students.
 - We have an adequate reserve should any students apply next year.
 - We suggest setting the amount to \$0.05 per member so as to keep it as a line item in the treasurer's report.
2. **Recommend that classis renew the licensure to exhort for Kurt Rietema (913-219-9498) krietema@youthfront.com**
 3. **CMLT requests that classis concur with the Council of First CRC, Orange City, the CMLT committee of classis Heartland and the Candidacy Committee of the CRC on the "need" for Jordan Helming to move forward with the process of article 8 with his church and with classis.**
 4. **CMLT requests that classis concur with Northern lighthouse, the CMLT committee of classis Heartland and the candidacy committee of the CRC on the "need" for Jon Keyzer to move forward with the process of article 24a with his church and classis.**
 5. **That classis approve our report.**

Respectfully submitted August 15, 2022
 Rev. Loren Kotman, Secretary
 Classical Leadership Ministry Team

Addendum to Classical Ministry Leadership Team report for the Heartland Classis Meeting on September 21 at Hawarden CRC

Jamie Negus has informed our committee that he is no longer going to pursue ordination in the CRC. The agreement with those receiving aid is that leaving the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church before 10 years of service requires repaying 10% of the money received for each year not served.

Jamie was granted \$7500 for the 2019-2020 academic year, \$7500 for the 2020-21 academic year and \$5000 for the 2021-2022 academic year at Sioux Falls Seminary.

Jamie has been hired as Youth pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Hartley. The following arrangements have been made with our committee.

- \$5000 will be coming from Sioux Falls Seminary.
- \$5000 will be coming from Grace Fellowship in this calendar year.
- \$10,000 will be coming from Grace Fellowship in 2023. An Elder from that church will send Garry Nyenhuis a promissory note for \$10,000 to keep on file.

We wish Jamie God's riches blessing as he continues in ministry at Grace Fellowship Church.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Loren Kotman

January 28th, 2022

Classis Heartland

Ref: Recognition of a ministry need for Ordained Leadership

Northern Lighthouse Church

On behalf of the Northern Lighthouse Church, we are writing to Classis Heartland to request that Classis Heartland begin the process to approve Jon Keyzer as Commissioned Pastor for our Church through article 24a.

After Sam Keyzer retired, we began a process of considering the future for the Northern Lighthouse. We have considered multiple candidates for this role, received input from the congregation, and spent time in prayer seeking discernment regarding the Lord's direction for our church family. The congregation voted unanimously for Jon to begin the process of pursuing Commissioned Pastor Status for our Church and our council voted unanimously for this decision as well.

Jon was born in Beaver Dam, WI, grew up in Seattle, WA, and moved to Lincoln, NE in 1997. He has been with the Northern Lighthouse Church since it was planted. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a B.A. in English in 2005. After graduating, he worked in the human services field for several years – at a shelter for kids, the local homeless shelter, and in group homes for teenagers. He was also the Youth Ministries Director at the NL for nearly 10 years. He has an extensive background with caring for hurting individuals who are in recovery and who have had struggles with homelessness, incarceration, abuse, and addiction.

Jon began a residency position with the Northern Lighthouse when F Street Neighborhood Church was planted in 2014 and has been a staff member with the NL since then. He has gained invaluable experience in this ministry, developing meaningful relationships within our congregation and receiving mentoring in various areas of leadership and ministry. He is excited to pursue the Commissioned Pastor Position. We are excited to move forward with filling our current vacancy through this process!

·Thank for your consideration of this matter.

In Christ,

The Northern Lighthouse Elders

Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church

A Family in Christ that Cares about You

3111 South 119th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

402-333-7173
www.omahacrc.org

8/1/22

Members of Heartland Classis

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend Jonathan Keyzer for Commissioned Pastor to serve at the Northern Lighthouse Church of Lincoln, NE following Article 24.A of church order.

Jon has been serving in the role of pastor of Northern Lighthouse (NL) for the past seven years and the congregation would like him to continue serving there. The desire of the NL congregation for Jon to continue shepherding the diverse context speaks to Jon's pastoral heart, calling, and giftedness.

Northern Lighthouse serves many who have been incarcerated and are now navigating civilian life, making their ministry context unique within the CRCNA. Jon has been with NL since it began as his father Sam Keyzer planted the church. Jon has been pastoring and unifying both those inside and outside the correction facilities. As an elder, Jon has demonstrated the skills of teaching, counseling, as well as a grasp of Biblical knowledge as he preaches in his ministry context.

Due to the NL's ministry with previous convicts, financially the church is served best by a pastor who can be bi-vocational. This bi-vocational situation and ministry diversity has resulted in a lack of candidates via the traditional pastor search process.

As the NL's church counselor, I strongly recommend Jonathan Keyzer for Commissioned Pastor allowing him to continue the service he has been already giving as an elder of the church.

Sincerely,

Pastor Chad Van Ginkel
402.333.7173
pastorchad@omahacrc.org



Job Description for Jon Keyzer - 2022

Leadership

- Chair the monthly elders meeting (set agenda, facilitate the flow of the meeting)
- Staffing work (residency proposals, hiring proposals, follow-up with resignations, staff evaluations)
- Facilitate the twice-monthly staff meeting
- Attend the monthly leadership team meeting
- represent the Northern Lighthouse at CRC Classis meetings in Iowa (2/yr.)
- Attend regional cluster meeting monthly
- Assist in preparing the annual budget proposal (2-3 meetings)
- Meet twice monthly with ministry consultant

Worship Service/Sunday mornings

- Set up ½ of Sunday Worship Orders, coaching those who lead elements of the worship service
- Coordinate the tech team (PowerPoint and Sound)
- coordinate with worship leader/oversee worship music for services
- coordinate sponsors/rides

Preaching

- Preach approx. 1/3 of the sermons on Sunday mornings
- Coordinate the preaching topics, schedule, and rotation
- Facilitate a monthly preacher's meeting
- Provide feedback and encouragement for preachers

Events

- Assist with planning and implementing special Sunday events (Christmas, Thanksgiving, summer BBQs)
- Assist with planning and implementing NL Retreats (Leaders Retreat, Couples Retreat, Men's Retreat)
- Assist in planning and putting together additional events (Volunteer Banquet, Donor Dinner, Fourth of July Party, etc.)

Care/Relational Work

- Approx. 4-5 Lunch/coffee appointments weekly for care/discipleship
- Individual passes/visits with folks from CCCL (approx. 2-3/wk)
- Facilitate a twice-monthly "Care Team" meeting and send out cards/gift cards through the mail
- Facilitate weekly prayer meeting on ZOOM
- field occasional benevolence requests
- Crisis phone calls

-Hospital Visits (as needed)

-Weekly Bible Study

Fundraising/Donor relations

-Support letter for chaplaincy donors (3/yr.)

-Beacon Newsletter – coordinate content, write, and design (2/yr.)

-Thank you notes to donors

-Attend missionary conference every other year in Seattle, WA

Job Description
Lead Pastor
F Street Neighborhood Church

Job Title: Lead Pastor
Status: Full-time
Accountability to: Elders

Purpose: The Lead Pastor role exists to work in partnership with other staff and leaders to help the F Street Neighborhood Church fulfill its goal of becoming a healthy and growing congregation of believers offering acceptance and direction to all.

Job Expectations:

- F Street will pay salary and you will be considered self-employed.
 - 50% of this will be fundraised by the Lead Pastor each year.
 - Housing allowance must be set at the beginning of each year with the Elders.
- F Street will give 4 weeks of paid vacation
- F Street will supply an office space

Key Responsibilities:

- Preach
 - Preach 50% of the time in partnership with the Teaching Pastor
 - Work with teaching pastor to develop preaching series
- Leadership
 - Oversee the leading of the Elders
 - Oversee the leading of the Team Leaders with the Team Developer
 - Staff Meetings (Biweekly group, as well as regular one on ones, with staff and residents)
- Community Development
 - Leading new ventures (Church planting and ministry development)
 - On-going support to existing 501c3's/ministry partners
- Recovery Ministry
 - Serving currently as the Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader

Other Duties

- Personal Fund raising
- Pastors' meetings
- Communication (Emails, monthly newsletters, phone calls)
- Prayer meetings (Weekly)
- Elder Meetings (Wednesday 2nd and 4th Wednesdays)

First Christian Reformed Church

Orange City, Iowa

Rev. Mark Vande Zande



408 Arizona Avenue SW • Orange City, Iowa 51041 • Office: 712.737.4165 • Pastor: 712.737.2202

To Classis Heartland,

August 8, 2022

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. First CRC of Orange City has employed a Pastor of Congregational Care for several years. We first hired seminarian Gale Tien to do this position in 2017. We felt the need to create this position to take pressure off of our senior pastor. With two services each Sunday, the majority of the senior minister's time is devoted to sermon preparation and administration tasks. This leaves some time for pastoral care in moments of crisis, but almost no time for the ongoing, sustaining work of caring for our elderly and sick.

In 2019, Rev. Gale Tien received a call in Michigan. We began searching for another Pastor of Congregational Care, and ultimately hired Rev. Jordan Helming in August 2019. He was ordained in the Reformed Church in America in 2018 for service as a chaplain in the Iowa Army National Guard. He has served our congregation well, and we have benefited from having a second ordained minister on staff for help with preaching and the administration of the sacraments.

Pastor Jordan now seeks to transfer his ordination to the Christian Reformed Church in North America. He has little connection to the RCA and desires the accountability, support, and mentorship consistent with the church he has been serving. He plans to continue serving in his position as our Pastor of Congregational Care, an Army chaplain, and as the Hospice Chaplain for Sanford Sheldon. He has an individual Learning Plan approved by the CRNA Director of Candidacy, and desires to be a minister in the CRNA. We are expressing a need for his ordination for two reasons :

First, that Pastor Jordan fulfills an urgent need in our congregation, especially now that we are between two senior pastors. With the demographics of our congregation, we need a pastor dedicated to our loneliest members. With his familiarity to our congregation, he is effective in this need.

Second, Pastor Jordan has gifts and training uniquely suited to the position that he currently holds. He has received advanced training in pastoral care and counseling. Most importantly, God has gifted him with a passion and gifts for pastoral care ministry. He has been a beneficial complement to Rev. Mark Vande Zande whose gifts and calling are focused on the faithful preaching of God's Word. The two ministers have worked well together as a team to comprehensively and faithfully shepherd our congregation.

We humbly request you receive this letter for background information to the report given by the Classis Ministry Leadership Team.

In Christ,
Council of First Christian Reformed Church, Orange City, IA.

Mark Zylstra President Protem

Bruce Lefever Clerk

Classical Nominating Committee Minutes
July 19, 2022, 11:30 AM
Calvary CRC, Orange City

1. Mr. Steve Ver Mulm opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Rev. John Klompier, Mr. Steve Ver Mulm, Mr. Glenn Bouma, Rev. Phillip Westra, and Rev. Brian Hofman were present.
3. The minutes of the January 4, 2022 meeting had been previously reviewed and approved via email.
4. Due to the upcoming departure of Rev. Mark Vande Zande from Classis Heartland, some classis positions need to be filled immediately.
 - a. Council of Delegates: Classis Heartland Representative
We nominate Mr. Loren Veldhuizen. This nomination will go to the Classical Interim Committee to identify an interim representative to the COD.
Mr. Bouma will contact Mr. Veldhuizen.
 - b. Classical Interim Committee
Rev. Brian Hofman, the alternate member, will fill the rest of Rev. Vande Zande's term.
5. We nominate the following individuals to be renewed for another term of service. We propose nominating a single person for these positions because of the shortage of pastors due to vacancies and upcoming retirements.
 - a. Classical Interim Committee: Rev. Nathan Kuperus
 - b. Classical Education Committee: Rev. Aaron Gonzalez
 - c. Classical Safe Church Team: Rev. Jesse Walhof
 - d. Church Visitor to the North: Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
 - e. Church Visitor to the South: Rev. Nathan Kuperus
(Rev. Kuperus was elected to be an alternate, but has moved into active service.)
 - f. We propose not renewing Rev. John Klompier's term as an alternate for the Classical Home Missions Committee because Rev. Jesse Walhof is already an alternate.
6. We nominate the following individuals to fill vacant positions. We propose nominating a single person for these positions because of the shortage of pastors due to vacancies and upcoming retirements.
 - a. Classical Interim Committee (Alternate): Rev. John Klompier
 - b. Classical Home Missions Committee: Pastor Keith Hoekstra
Rev. Klompier will contact Pastor Hoekstra.

- c. Classical Home Missions Committee (Lay Alternate): Mr. Curt Ahrenholz
Rev. Klompien will contact Mr. Ahrenholz.
 - d. Church Visitor to the South (Alternate): Rev. Ben Wiersma
Rev. Westra will contact Rev. Wiersma.
 - e. Classical Ministry Leadership Team: Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
Rev. Klompien will contact Rev. Van Ginkel.
 - f. Classical Safe Church Team: Ms. Kristi Habben
Rev. Westra will contact Ms. Habben.
 - g. Regional Pastor to the North: Rev. Brian Dunn
Rev. Westra will contact Rev. Dunn.
 - h. Diaconal Task Force Chair: Pastor Kevin Schutte
Rev. Klompien will contact Pastor Schutte.
 - i. Synodical Deputy (Alternate): Rev. Brian Hofman
 - j. We propose leaving the Classical Nominating Committee Clergy Alternate position vacant because the committee has a full complement of members and we want to prioritize more urgent vacancies when there is a shortage of pastors.
7. We went around the table and had no more items to discuss.
8. The meeting was adjourned.
9. Mr. Glenn Bouma closed the meeting in prayer.

SERVANTS of CLASSIS HEARTLAND

Updated July of 2022

SERVING

TERM	ALTERNATE	TERM
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Rev. Phillip Westra

STATED CLERK

1st	9/30/24	Mr. Ed Starckenburg	9/30/24
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Mr. Randy Smit

TREASURER

1st	9/30/24	Ms. Katie Wierenga	9/30/24
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CLASSICAL INTERIM COMMITTEE

Rev. Mark Vande Zande

2nd	9/30/23	Rev. Brian Hofman	9/30/24
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Rev. Nathan Kuperus

1st	9/30/22		
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Rev. Kevin Muijskens

1st	9/30/24	Rev. Phillip Westra, <i>ex officio</i>	
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CLASSICAL HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Kevin Muijskens

2nd	9/30/23	Rev. John Klompjen	9/30/22
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Pastor Jeff Heerspink

4th	9/30/24	Rev. Jesse Walhof	9/30/23
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Rev. Tom De Does

1st	9/30/22		
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Mr. Gary Hibma

5th	9/30/24		
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Dr. Allan Kramer

8th	9/30/23		
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Mr. Mark Volkers

1st	9/20/23		
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CLASSICAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Rev. Nathan Kuperus

1st	9/30/24	Rev. John Klompjen	9/30/24
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Mr. Chris Dekkers

3rd	9/30/23	Ms. Leanda Hulstein	9/30/25
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Mr. Eric Kroese

1st	9/30/25	Mr. Randy Smit, <i>ex officio</i>	
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Rev. Tom De Does, CHMC Rep.

CLASSICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rev. Aaron Gonzalez

1st	3/31/22	Rev. Brian Dunn	9/30/25
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Rev. Ben Wietsma

1st	9/30/24		
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Rev. Jesse Walhof

1st	9/30/25		
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CLASSICAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. John Klompjen (ch)

2nd	9/30/23	Mr. Mike Byrker	9/30/24
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Mr. Steve Ver Mulm

2nd	9/30/24		
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Rev. Brian Hofman

1st	9/30/24		
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Mr. Glenn Bouna

2nd	9/30/23	Rev. Phillip Westra, <i>ex officio</i>	
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CHURCH VISITORS

To the North

Rev. Chad Van Ginkel

1st	9/30/22	Pastor Ryan Pelton	9/30/24
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Rev. Sam Keyzer

1st	9/30/24		
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To the South

Rev. Brian Dunn

1st	9/30/25	Rev. Nathan Kuperus	9/30/22
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Vacant

(North – Hawarden, Ileton, Hospers, Hull, and North) (South – Orange City (4), LeMars, and South)

CLASSICAL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Loren Kotman	3rd	9/30/22	Rev. John Klompjen	9/30/24
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Rev. Garry Nyenhuis	1st	9/30/23		
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Mr. Darrel Teetink	1st	9/30/23	(Classis Treasurer), <i>ex officio</i>	
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HEARTLAND-IAKOTA CLASSICAL SAFE CHURCH TEAM

Ms. Tara Boer, Director

Rev. Jesse Walhof	1st	9/30/22		
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Vacant

CLASSIS YOUTH CONSULTANT – MINNIKOTA YOUTH NETWORK

Mrs. Alethea "Lee" De Groot, Director – Classis Youth Consultant

Rev. Ben Wietsma, Board	1st	9/30/24		
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REGIONAL PASTORS (Appointed by CRCNA Pastor-Church Resources)

Rev. Todd Zuidema, North

Rev. Sam Keyzer, Nebraska and Kansas City Clusters

CLASSICAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Rev. Kevin Muijskens	9/30/24		
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PRAYER COORDINATOR (Appointed by CEC)

Ms. Barb Hibma

SIouxLAND UNITY CHURCH BOARD (Appointed by CHMC)

Mr. Gary Hibma

DIACONAL TASK FORCE MEMBERS (Ad hoc committee)

Chair: vacant; Members: Jon Hellenga, Jim Viet, and Pete Artema

CLASSIS DISABILITY ADVOCATE

Ms. Lauri Poppema

THOSE WHO SERVE THE CRCNA ON BEHALF OF CLASSIS

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES OF THE CRCNA

Rev. Mark Vande Zande	2nd	2025	
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SYNODICAL DEPUTY

Rev. Phillip Westra	1st	2025	Vacant
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WORLD RENEW BOARD OF DELEGATES

Mr. Rod De Boer	2nd	2023	
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THOSE WHO SERVE THE CRCNA ON BEHALF OF REGION 8

CALVIN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Kathleen Ridder	1st	2025	
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CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Robert Drenten	2nd	2024	
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Dr. Charles Veenstra	2nd	2024	Regional At-Large
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**Ballot for Classis Heartland
September 21, 2022**

Classical Interim Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Ireton CRC

Classical Interim Committee Alternate (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. John Kompier, Calvary CRC, Orange City

Classical Home Missions Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Pastor Keith Hoekstra, Hope CRC, Hull

Classical Home Missions Committee Alternate (vote for 1)

_____ Mr. Curt Ahrenholz, First CRC, Orange City

Classical Education Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, Hospers CRC

Church Visitor to the North (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha

Church Visitor to the South (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Ireton CRC

Church Visitor to the South Alternate (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Ben Wiersma, Sibley CRC

Classical Ministry Leadership Team (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha

Heartland-lakota Classical Safe Church Team (vote for 2)

_____ Rev. Jesse Walhof, Living Water, Sheldon

_____ Ms. Kristi Habben, Ocheyedan CRC

Regional Pastor to the North (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Brian Dunn, First CRC, Sheldon

Synodical Deputy Alternate (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Brian Hofman, Calvin CRC, Le Mars

CLASSIS HEARTLAND
HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE
FALL, 2022

As a committee, we have met twice since the Fall meeting of Classis Heartland.

SUMMARY OF OUR ACTIONS:

In April we had an on-site visit with Souxland Unity Church of Sioux City. Pastor Keo and four of his elders were present. They have weathered COVID. They were making plans to hold VBS again this summer. They are making improvements on the worship center. We also stopped at Amistad in Sioux Center. We met with Pastor Eddy and four members of his leadership team. There is great potential for this congregation. COVID hit this congregation hard and some have not returned. They did have a fundraiser this summer to raise extra funds.

Update on Friendship CC/ Elevate merge. There have been some joint times of worship. There has been a good response to be on the Launch team for the Sergeant Bluff location. Plans as of now to begin worship in Sergeant Bluff in September. We as a committee are glad for the merge and for the prospect for future ministry. We also acknowledge we have lost a member of Classis Heartland in this process.

We approved the 2023 CHMC budget (see attached).

We also approved a ECD grant to the Souxland Unity Church to help with VBS expenses of this year's program.

REQUESTS:

We request the following be able to report: 1 or 2 representatives from our ethnic ministries and one involved in the residency program for leadership development.

OUR MISSION: Our task in this Classis is to encourage the mission of our Lord and Savior in the local established churches as well as to encourage new and existing ministries that take place calling people to come to Jesus and to believe in Him. Please speak to a member listed below if you are looking for a financial grant or desire to mentor a future leader or begin a new ministry. We have funding and wisdom to share.

MEMBERS: Kevin Muyskens, (chair), Jeff Heerspink, Gary Hibma, Allan Kramer, Mark Volkers and Tom De Does (secretary).

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas De Does

Classis Report – Fall, 2022

Submitted by: Jodi Koeman, Church with Community Mobilizer, jkoeman@worldrenew.net

A. General Updates

Celebrate with us!! For 60 years God has blessed the work of World Renew and through that blessing and your support, literally millions of people around the world have realized their strength, regained hope, risen out of poverty and praise God for his mercy. 60 years ago, CRWRC (renamed World Renew in 2012) was established, and three years later, the first global worker was sent to Korea as an agronomist. Over time, that “direct implementation” changed to working with partners. The current Strategic Plan is looking to shift power even more, such that participant communities legitimately chart, manage and lead their own futures. Anniversary Celebrations are underway across North America to celebrate 60 years in existence and 50 years for Disaster Response Services!! To RSVP or get information about where and when we are celebrating, go here: [60th Anniversary RSVP](#)

In May we celebrated the Grand Opening of the new World Renew United States main campus. This place renews hope by bringing together Disaster Response Services and World Renew into one shared location.

B. Upcoming Church Giving Opportunities

Share with us! Thank you for your support of the work of World Renew. We have important congregational giving opportunities coming up. Check [Faith Alive](#) or [World Renew website](#) for more resources.

World Hunger Awareness - Oct. 23-Nov. 6: Join us in fighting hunger! The campaign comes with a devotional booklet, a video, online devotions with World Renew staff and more. (<https://worldrenew.net/blog/how-to-help-end-world-hunger>)

World Hunger Sunday - Sunday, Nov. 6: This day marks the end of the World Hunger Awareness campaign.

Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 25: Celebrate God’s abundance by remembering our global community.

Giving Catalog: Our annual Christmas Giving Catalog will be available soon! This opportunity connects you to people and places around the world as we celebrate Christ’s coming to set things right!

Christmas Day - Dec. 25: Give towards World Renew’s work in transformational community development.

C. Community Development

Partner with us! God has blessed World Renew with partners through whom his mercy flows; our agency has the opportunity to support their work.



In Kenya, we are excited about the initial success of our “Churches that Bless” initiative started in January 2022 training and accompanying churches in creating sustainable ministries that offer **counseling services** to their local neighborhoods. This program is in a city of over 100,000 people which previously had less than 5 free counseling options. Now, there are 6 churches that are offering free counseling, some of them in multiple locations! They have already had the opportunity to support their neighbors who are struggling with depression, suicidal ideation, domestic violence, and family conflicts.

Water is essential to live and water projects are giving hope to families in **Nicaragua**. Urania Jarquín takes pride in ensuring her family has safe food and clean water for their every meal. Since participating in World Renew's programs in her community, she has felt empowered to keep her family strong. She is also grateful for the many positive changes clean, accessible water has brought to her family, especially for her young son, Victor: "The benefit of having water here has changed the way we live, for example, now we can have plants and fruit trees in our gardens, we grow papaya and lemons, so now we don't buy those things."



D. International Disaster Response (IDR)

Pray with us! The assistance of and partnership with our donors and networks has allowed World Renew to support 463,534 participants in 87 projects in 26 countries last fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). One of the areas of great concern is the world hunger crisis, exacerbated by **conflict, Covid and changing climate** patterns.

The escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war is of particular concern. It has triggered surging food prices around the world. Did you know that Ukraine is one of the biggest exporters of grain in the world? Before the war, Ukrainian and Russian farmers were feeding 800 million people around the world. The intensified conflict has fueled rising costs of these staple foods, putting severe strain on the already-struggling economies of developing countries in northern Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. World Renew is working with its various networks in Ukraine and partners in affected countries to support and provide food, cash-based transfers for shelter, medicine and health resources to assist community members and displaced persons.

E. Disaster Response Services (DRS)

Serve with us! 50th Anniversary DRS celebration attendees were reminded of the role that they played in helping to restore lives, and rejuvenate hope. Three have taken place in the United States and more to come!



After two weeks of **heavy rain and days of extreme heat**, thousands of residents in **eastern Kentucky** are cleaning up mud and debris from their flood-damaged homes. Across thirteen counties, 3,400 homeowners have reported damaged property in the first days after the flood.

These two documents are descriptions of how churches and individuals can volunteer to continue that long legacy of making a difference: [Supporting Communities when Disaster Strikes](#) [Volunteer! Repair Disaster-Damaged Homes](#).

Visit [August Opportunity Link](#) to learn about volunteering with DRS.

F. Local Mercy and Justice

Take Action with us! World Renew and the Christian Reformed Church, through their **Climate Witness Project**, have received a **Sacred Spaces Clean Energy Grant**, funded by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, State of Michigan. The project will provide grants to 10 low-income congregations in Michigan of \$100,000 each to make their buildings more energy efficient. Read the feature article in the Holland Sentinel here: [Climate Witness Project Grant](#).

Join our Community Flourishing Cohort (starting January 2023) *Is your congregation interested in helping make your neighborhood and community a great place for ALL to live in, to be proud of and to thrive in, particularly those who have been marginalized? This cohort will help inspire and mobilize your congregation to love, listen to, and engage with your neighbors, neighborhoods, and local organizations as you seek to cultivate a place of flourishing.*

Contact Jodi Koeman, Church with Community Mobilizer, jkoeman@worldrenew.net for more information.

Please continue to pray for the world. May the God of peace grant wisdom and healing to the nations.