

Acts of Classis Heartland
Christian Reformed Church in North America
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Saturday, September 26, 2020

001. **Constitution of Classis.**

- A. Stated Clerk Rev. Robert Drenten calls the roll. Chairman Rev. Kevin Muyskens declares Classis Heartland to be constituted. Rev. Muyskens welcomes the delegates, including Rev. Phillip Westra who was recently installed at Sanborn CRC. The chairman notes that most motions will be adopted by consensus, given the constraints of a Zoom virtual forum.

<u>CHURCHES</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Hawarden	Rev. Mark Klompier	Mr. Lyle Myers	Mr. Harv Van Ballegooyen
Hospers: First		Mr. Roger Jacobsma	
Hull: First	Rev. Loren Kotman	Mr. Dave Te Slaa	Mr. Kyle Pollema*
Hull: Hope	Rev. Todd Zuidema	Mr. Stewart Vander Stoep	Mr. Chris Raman*
Ireton	Rev. Nate Kuperus	Mr. Mike Vander Wundt	Mr. Scott Miedema
Kansas City: New City**			
Le Mars: Calvin		Mr. Mike Van Otterloo	
		Mr. Dave Hector	
Lincoln: Northern Lighthouse	Rev. Sam Keyzer	Mr. Jon Keyzer	
Lincoln: F Street Church**			
Ocheyedan	Rev. Tom De Does		Mr. Brad Hellinga*
Olathe: Pathway	Pastor Kevin Schutte (C.P.)	Mr. Kurt Rietema	
Omaha: Prairie Lane	Rev. Chad Van Ginkel	Mr. Duane Elgersma	Mr. Brian Kramer
Orange City: Calvary	Rev. John Klompier	Mr. Loren Veldhuizen	Mr. Darin Dykstra*
Orange City: First	Rev. Mark Vande Zande	Mr. Bruce Lefever	Mr. Ryan Noteboom*
Orange City: Immanuel	Rev. Robert Drenten	Mr. Gerry Bomgaars	Mr. Nick Van Dam*
Orange City/Sheldon:	Rev. Jesse Walhof	Mr. Adrie Groeneweg*	Mr. Gaven Zomermaand*
Living Water Comm. Ch.			
Sanborn	Rev. Phillip Westra*	Mr. Keven Van Meeteren*	Mr. Larry Hofman
Sheldon: First		Mr. Chad Pettit	Mr. Adam Van Meeteren*
		Mr. Kent Nieuwendorp	
Sheldon: Immanuel	Rev. Kevin Muyskens	Mr. Lynn Vande Brake	Mr. Justin Rosenboom*
Sergeant Bluff:	Rev. Scott Van Voorst#		
Friendship Comm. Ch.			
Sibley		Mr. Jeff Vande Griend	Mr. Leon Runia

*Gives verbal assent to the *Covenant for Officebearers* as a first-time delegate.

#Seated as an emerging church delegate, as requested in the credentials of the sponsoring council.

**Absent.

B. **Officers of Classis.**

Rev. Kevin Muyskens, Chairman	Rev. Robert Drenten, Stated Clerk
Rev. Todd Zuidema, Vice Chairman	Mr. Mike Van Surksum, Classis Treasurer

C. **Guests and those reporting to Classis Heartland on behalf of their ministries:**

Ms. Barb Hibma	Classis Heartland Prayer Coordinator
Pastor Keo Phommarath	Siouxland Unity Church, Sioux City, Iowa
Mr. Tyler Helfers	Areopagus Campus Ministry, Ames, Iowa
Dr. Tom Wolthuis	Geneva Campus Ministry, Iowa City, Iowa
Ms. Tara Boer	Director, Safe Church Team of Classis Heartland & Classis Iakota
Rev. David Heilman	Inspiration Hills, Inwood, Iowa
Rev. Dan De Groot	Synodical Deputy, Classis Iakota
Rev. Tim Ouwinga	Synodical Deputy, Classis Minnkota
Rev. Rus Boersma	Synodical Deputy, Classis Northcentral Iowa

D. **Opening Worship.**

1. Vice Chairman Rev. Todd Zuidema leads an opening prayer.
2. Rev. Zuidema offers a meditation based on Philippians 1:3-6, focusing on the portion, "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." He draws attention to Christ as the author and giver of shalom, calling for confidence in the work of Jesus Christ in the face of present, divisive challenges.

002. **Classical Nominations Committee** – *Rev. Mark Vande Zande.*

- A. Rev. Vande Zande presents the results of the ballot for classical positions. Ballots were submitted prior to the meeting. Term of service is October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2023.

Stated Clerk, Alt.	-	Rev. Mark Vande Zande
Classical Interim Committee (minister)	-	Rev. Mark Vande Zande
Classical Interim Committee (minister)	-	Rev. Kevin Muyskens
Classical Home Missions Committee (lay)	-	Dr. Allan Kramer
Classical Home Missions Committee, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. Jesse Walhof
Classical Education Committee (minister)	-	Rev. Phillip Westra
Classical Nominating Committee (lay)	-	Mr. Glenn Bouma
Classical Nominating Committee (minister)	-	Rev. John Klompfen
Classical Ministry Leadership Team (lay)	-	Mr. Darrel Teerink
Classical Ministry Leadership Team, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. John Klompfen
Church Visitor – North, Alt.	-	Rev. Sam Keyzer

- B. Rev. Vande Zande presents the written report of the committee.

Recommendations –

1. That classis extends all classical terms which expire March 31 by six months, so that all classical positions align with a September rotation cycle. *-Adopted.*
2. That classis approve the work of the Classical Nominations Committee. *-Adopted.*

003. **Classical Ministry Leadership Team** – *Rev. Loren Kotman.*

- A. Rev. Kotman presents the written report of the committee.

Recommendations –

1. That the classical ministry share be increased from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per professing member for the year 2021. This is referred for consideration within the Classical Stewardship Committee's proposed budget for 2021. The committee notes classis received \$2,755 and awarded \$10,000 in student aid in 2020.
2. That classis renew the licensure to exhort for Sherwin Bolkema, Kurt Rietema, and Greg Steggerda. *-Adopted.*
3. That classis take note of the availability of Dr. Jason Lief, Mr. Barry Miedema, and Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp for exhortation in worship. Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota continue to recognize each other's decisions granting license to exhort. *-Noted.*
4. That classis approve the work of the Classical Ministry Leadership Team. *-Adopted.*

004. **Classical Education Committee** – *Rev. Mark Klompfen.*

- A. Rev. M. Klompfen presents the work of the committee from May 6 and August 5, 2020.
- B. Rev. Sam Keyzer will lead a Timothy Leadership Training event October 8-9, 2020, at Prairie Lane CRC in Omaha, focusing on stewardship. This is open to members of the churches in Classis Heartland.
- C. **Minn-I-Kota Youth Network**. The report submitted by Director Ms. Lee De Groot is noted with gratitude. Rev. Scott Van Voorst from the MIK board commends the work of Ms. De Groot as COVID-19 limited options for events and ministry.
- D. **Classis Prayer Coordinator**. Ms. Barb Hibma reported on a pre-classis prayer gathering held prior to the classis meeting through a conference call available for delegates to join.
1. Recommendation – That classis approve the work of the committee. *-Adopted.*

004. **Classical Home Missions Committee** – *Rev. Kevin Muyskens.*

- A. Rev. Muyskens presents the written report of the committee. He highlights the grants from the Established Church Development Fund and encourages the churches of classis to consider this funding for their mission initiatives.

B. Mission Reports

1. **Siouxland Unity Church**. Pastor Keo Phommarath notes the struggle of ministry due to COVID-19, including caring for members infected with coronavirus. The church partners with Zestos of Alton, Iowa, in a food distribution ministry. New members are joining the church. Pastor Phommarath asks for prayers for Buddhist neighbors, COVID-19 struggles, and for those drawn to gambling. He thanks Classis Heartland for its support.
2. **Pathway Community Church**. Pastor Kevin Schutte reports the facilities are now used by a number of church plants representing several denominations. This serves to bear witness to Christian unity in the community and connects Pathway to diverse Christian communities. They also continue to enjoy their ministry partnership with Mr. Kurt Rietema in the Argentine neighborhood of Kansas City.
3. **Areopagus Campus Ministry**. Mr. Tyler Helfers reports on his ministry at Iowa State University in Ames. A strong core of ISU students have returned to Areopagus this year. Students are facing isolation and uncertainty due to

COVID-19. The ministry is exploring new ways to connect with the student body given the limitations of the pandemic. They request prayer as Mr. Helfers completes his M.Div. degree and Areopagus will be served by an intern; for international students who struggle with concerns due to COVID-19; and for “David,” a law student who is returning to Christian faith.

4. Geneva Campus Ministry. Dr. Tom Wolthuis reports on the presence of their ministry at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Much of the work of ministry has been done online recently as COVID-19 prevents many in-person connections. Past lecture series, Bible studies, and resources are available online. The churches of Classis Heartland are invited to explore and make use of these resources.

- C. Rev. Muyskens offers a prayer for the Lord’s blessing on these ministries. It is recommended that classis approve the work of the committee. -Adopted.

005. **Communications and Overtures.**

A. Rev. Marvin Leese.

Classis Heartland received a request from Rev. Leese to “release (his) ministerial credentials and that they be forwarded to the Sioux Center United Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa.” Rev. Leese sustained a colloquium doctum of Classis Central US of the United Reformed Church on September 15, 2020. In accord with Church Order Article 14-b, it is moved and supported to release Rev. Marvin Leese from the office of Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church, and to declare that he be honorably released. Hospers, Iowa, First Christian Reformed Church holds the credentials of Rev. Leese, and indicate support for this motion. -Adopted.

Synodical deputies Rev. Dan De Groot (Iakota), Rev. Tim Ouwinga (Minnkota), and Rev. Rus Boersma (Northcentral Iowa) concur with the decision of Classis Heartland.

Classis Heartland directs Hospers First CRC and its Classical Interim Committee to send a statement of Rev. Leese’ release from ministry to the Sioux Center United Reformed Church, to satisfy Rev. Leese’s request for a transfer of his credentials.

B. Le Mars: Calvin CRC.

Overture: “After reviewing Rev. Nevada De Lapp’s 4-1/2 years of support, partnering, outreach, guidance, and faithful ministry to Calvin CRC; and after consultation with our Church Visitors; Calvin CRC hereby recommends that Rev. De Lapp be honorably released from the office of Minister in the Christian Reformed Church, to begin his affiliation with the Reformed Episcopal Church, according to Church Order Article 14-b.”

Materials:

1. Overture – Le Mars, Iowa, Calvin CRC.
2. Letter of Thanks to Classis Heartland – Rev. Nevada De Lapp.
3. Church Visitors’ Report – Rev. David Heilman, Rev. Mark Klompier.

Rev. Nevada De Lapp accepted a call to serve the Jackson, Mississippi, parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

It is moved and supported to adopt the overture of Calvin CRC. -Adopted.

Synodical deputies Rev. Dan De Groot (Iakota), Rev. Tim Ouwinga (Minnkota), and Rev. Rus Boersma (Northcentral Iowa) concur with the decision of Classis Heartland.

C. Ireton CRC.

Overture: To release Rev. Norlyn Van Beek from his ministerial service as Executive Director of Inspiration Hills, Inwood, Iowa.

Materials:

1. Overture – Ireton CRC
2. Correspondence – Inspiration Hills Camp and Retreat Center.

Rev. Norlyn Van Beek served as Executive Director of Inspiration Hills in a position declared to be consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word (Church Order Article 12-c.) by Classis Heartland. The Ireton CRC served as the calling church. A letter from Inspiration Hills (August 13, 2020) informed “ministry friends and partners” that, due to unforeseen economic downturns, the Board of Directors released Rev. Van Beek from his position. The release included a three-month severance package. In this context the Ireton CRC overtures Classis Heartland to adopt the following:

1. To release Rev. Norlyn Van Beek from active ministerial service to Inspiration Hills in accord with Church Order Article 17-a. -Adopted.

2. To declare Rev. Norlyn Van Beek eligible for call for a period of two years in accord with Church Order Article 17-c. -Adopted.
3. That classis note Rev. Norlyn Van Beek's desire to transfer his ministerial credentials to Shalom CRC, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This church currently holds his professing membership. Ireton CRC and Classis Heartland will process this transfer upon the approval of Shalom CRC to serve as his calling church. -Noted.

Synodical deputies Rev. Dan De Groot (Iakota), Rev. Tim Ouwinga (Minnkota), and Rev. Rus Boersma (Northcentral Iowa) concur with the decisions of Classis Heartland.

D. Hull: Hope CRC.

Overture: That Classis Heartland approve the call of Hope CRC, Hull, Iowa, to Rev. Todd Zuidema to serve as Director of Church Relations at Dordt University, Sioux Center, Iowa, following the guidelines of Church Order Article 12-c and its supplements.

Materials:

1. Overture – Hope CRC, Hull, Iowa.
2. Job Description-Director of Church Relations – Dordt University
3. Document of Understanding Between Hope CRC, Hull, Iowa, and Dordt University (signed)

It is moved and supported to declare the work of Director of Church Relations at Dordt University to be consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word. Hope CRC, Hull, Iowa serves as the calling church for Rev. Todd Zuidema to serve in this position. -Adopted.

Rev. Nathan Kuperus registers his negative vote.

Synodical deputies Rev. Dan De Groot (Iakota), Rev. Tim Ouwinga (Minnkota), and Rev. Rus Boersma (Northcentral Iowa) concur with the decision of Classis Heartland.

006. **Classical Stewardship Committee**– *Rev. Scott Van Voorst.*

A. Rev. Scott Van Voorst presents the written report of the committee.

Recommendations –

1. That Classis Heartland accept the request of Mr. Michael Van Surksun to retire from the position of Classical Treasurer effective March 31, 2021, and that classis initiates a search for his successor. -Adopted.
2. That Classis Heartland adopt the budget and ministry share request of \$111.72 per professing member for 2021. (Appendix 1.) -Adopted.
3. That the churches of Classis Heartland take note of the new method for pledging denominational ministry share giving. The CRCNA asks councils to submit their pledge amounts to the stated clerk. These will be submitted by the stated clerk to the denomination by January 2021. -Noted.
4. That classis approve the work of the Classical Stewardship Committee. -Adopted.

007. **Classical Safe Church Coordinator** – *Ms. Tara Boer.*

Ms. Tara Boer, Classis Heartland & Iakota Safe Church Coordinator, presents her report. She invites churches to participate in a safe church training seminar hosted by Dordt University on October 31 from 8:30am – 12:00pm. Classis receives the report as information.

008. **Council of Delegates – CRCNA** – *Rev. Mark Vande Zande.*

Rev. Vande Zande, Classis Heartland delegate to the Council of Delegates, offers a review of their work. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Delegates 2020 is the account of the work of the COD on behalf of Synod 2020, which was not able to convene due to coronavirus. The CRCNA has distributed this to the churches.

009. **Inspiration Hills** – *Rev. David Heilman.*

Rev. Heilman addresses classis on behalf of Inspiration Hills. He notes the challenges faced by the camp and retreat center ministry due to the suspension of activities because of coronavirus. A number of staff have either retired, reduced hours, or have been laid off. Inspiration Hills has pursued creative ways to engage with those they serve (e.g. “Camp-in-a-Box”), which have been well-received. Classis receives this as information.

010. **Classical Interim Committee.**

- A. Rev. Mark Vande Zande presents the reports of the Classical Interim Committee.
1. The CIC has appointed the following Classical Counselors for vacant churches.
 - a. Rev. Tom De Does – Sibley CRC, Sibley Iowa.
 - b. Rev. Nathan Kuperus – Calvin CRC, Le Mars, Iowa.
 - c. Rev. Loren Kotman – Hope CRC, Hull, Iowa.
 2. Recommendations –
 - a. That beginning in 2021, classis meetings will be held on Tuesdays.
Grounds
 1. Tuesday classis meetings provide hospitality to the churches who have to travel a longer distance for meetings.
 2. Tuesday classis meetings put us in line with other classes and helps the stated clerk secure synodical deputies.
 3. Advantages for having a classis meeting on a Saturday are negligible. *-Adopted.*
 - b. That classis approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee. *-Adopted.*
- B. Stated Clerk Report – Rev. Robert Drenten.
1. Rev. Drenten presents his written report. He notes that he will provide a form for the churches to submit denominational ministry share pledges in October. He also reports the following have agreed to serve on the Classis Heartland – Iakota task force to restore classis diaconal resources and to develop a classis ministry plan in keeping with Church Order Art. 75: Mr. Pete Attema, Mr. Jon Hellinga, Rev. Mark Klompjen, Mr. Jim Viet. These will join four members assigned by Classis Iakota.
 2. Chairman Rev. Muyskens instructs the stated clerk to solicit responses from the churches to questions submitted by councils on their credentials in accord with Church Order Art. 41.
 3. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the stated clerk. *-Adopted.*

011. **Classical Counselors.**

- A. Rev. Al Kuiper submits his written report. Sanborn CRC reports with gratitude the installation of Rev. Phillip Westra. It is moved and supported to approve Rev. Kuiper's work as counselor and to release him with gratitude from his service. *-Adopted.*
- B. Rev. John Klompjen reports on the progress of First CRC, Sheldon, in their pastoral search. They have been served in the interim by retired ministers Rev. Gil Kamps and Rev. J. William Van Der Heide. Classis receives this as information.
- C. Rev. Chad Van Ginkel reports on the search process of Northern Lighthouse Church, Lincoln. Issues due to cautions surrounding coronavirus have slowed their progress. Classis receives this as information.

012. **Correspondence and Reports.**

Classis Heartland receives reports from the following ministries and agencies supported by Classis Heartland, as information.

- A. Dordt University – Rev. Todd Zuidema, Director of Church Relations.
- B. Resonate Global Missions – Rev. Peter Kelder, Regional Director.
- C. Calvin Theological Seminary – Rev. Robert Drenten, Board of Trustees.
- D. Faith Formation Ministries – Ms. Trudy Ash, Midwest Regional Catalyzer.

013. **Adjournment.**

- A. Vice Chairman Rev. Todd Zuidema expresses appreciation to Chairman Rev. Kevin Muyskens for his work, and thanks the delegates for their cooperation in the first meeting of Classis Heartland convened virtually.
- B. Chairman Rev. Kevin Muyskens offers a closing prayer.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Rev. Robert Drenten
Stated Clerk, Classis Heartland

Classis of the Heartland
2020 and 2021 Ministry Shares

	Per Member		
	2020	2021	% Change
Classical Ministry Shares			
Dordt University	68.37	68.24	-0.19%
Classical Expense	5.50	5.00	-9.09%
Student Aid Fund	1.00	2.50	150.00%
Campus Ministries			
Geneva Campus Ministry - U of I	1.72	1.75	1.74%
Areopagus - ISU	1.72	1.75	1.74%
Church Planting			
Lincoln - Chaplain	1.72	1.75	1.74%
Lincoln - F Street	1.72	1.75	1.74%
Lincoln - F Street Immerse	1.72	1.75	1.74%
Pathway - Argentine	1.72	1.75	1.74%
Friendship Community	2.59	2.63	1.54%
Cornerstone Prison	1.72	1.75	1.74%
Ministry Opportunity Fund	3.45	3.51	1.74%
Residency Program	3.45	1.75	-49.28%
Ethnic Ministries			
Laotian Ministry - Sioux City	6.90	7.02	1.74%
Amistad Cristiana	3.45	3.51	1.74%
Other			
Established Church Development	1.38	1.40	1.45%
Education Committee	0.05	0.05	0.00%
Youth Consultant	3.45	3.51	1.74%
Classical Home Missions Committee	0.34	0.35	2.94%
	<u>111.97</u>	<u>111.72</u>	<u>-0.22%</u>