

## Sept. 21, 2022 Classis Heartland Meeting Summary

A classis in the Christian Reformed Church is a regional assembly of church leaders. At these gatherings, which usually take place twice a year, decisions are made that impact all our churches. Classis examines candidates for pastoral positions, forms committees to equip various ministries, and engages in denominational business. Classis is where congregations hold one another accountable in our faith and practice. Below are twelve highlights from the meeting of Classis Heartland on September 21, 2022 at Hawarden Christian Reformed Church.

1. Classis approved the appointment of Mr. Loren Veldhuizen to serve our classis as our representative on the Council of Delegates, the governing body of our denominational ministries.
2. Classis adopted a budget for 2023 which entails a classical ministry share of \$111.79 per professing adult member. Decreases were made to the student aid fund since we are not currently supporting any students and Friendship Community Church since they are no longer an emerging church. An increase was made to Minn-I-Kota Youth Network for staffing needs.
3. Classis discussed the proposed Code of Conduct for all ordained leaders in our churches. We recommend each church council discusses this and pass their input along to the General Secretary of the CRCNA, Rev. Zach King.
4. Classis approved the upcoming retirement of Rev. Thomas De Does from Ocheyedan CRC effective November 4, 2020 and the retirement of Rev. Loren Kottman from First CRC of Hull, IA effective December 15, 2022 We praise God for their work and pray for the Lord's blessings to go with them in this next chapter of their lives.
5. The Classis Deaconate Task Force reported their recommendation to create a resource team of deacons who will work together and serve the churches in our classis by responding to specific needs and inquiries. If your church has deacons interested in being a resource for other churches and joining this team, please contact the stated clerk of classis, Rev. Phillip Westra.
6. Classis approved a communication to the General Secretary and Council of Delegates urging them to reconsider having the Church of the Servant be the convening church for Synod 2023 in light of their recent statement questioning their future relationship with the CRCNA.
7. Calvin CRC of LeMars would like to hear from churches who are interested in collaborating on an overture requesting that Classis Heartland change their current rules about seating female delegates at meetings.
8. Heartland Classis granted a license to exhort to Mr. Matthew Dengler, a member of First Christian Reformed Church of Hospers. His contact information will be distributed to churches with an updated list of those licensed to provide pulpit supply.

9. Our Classis Education Committee encourages leaders in our churches to utilize Timothy Leadership Training (known as TLT) for personal development. Mr. Del Walinga shared that Calvary CRC of Orange City will host informative sessions for TLT on October 28 and 29.
10. Classis approved the need, job description, and learning plan for a Commissioned Pastor position at Northern Lighthouse for Mr. Jonathan Keyzer, who has been serving in a pastoral role there for several years. We anticipate conducting his examination in our meeting next Spring.
11. Classis approved an updated job description for Pastor Jeff Heerspink since he only has pastoral duties at F Street Community Church in Lincoln, NE.
12. Classis elected the following people to classis positions:
  - Rev. Nate Kuperus (Classical Interim Committee and Church Visitor to the South)
  - Rev. John Klompier (Classical Interim Committee Alternate)
  - Pastor Keith Hoekstra (Classical Home Missions Committee)
  - Mr. Curt Ahrenholz (Classical Home Missions Committee Alternate)
  - Rev. Aaron Gonzalez (Classical Education Committee)
  - Rev. Chad Van Ginkel (Church Visitor to the North and Classical Ministry Leadership Team)
  - Rev. Ben Wiersma (Church Visitor to the South Alternate)
  - Rev. Jesse Walhof and Ms. Kristi Habben (Classical Safe Church Team)
  - Rev. Brian Dunn (Regional Pastor to the North)
  - Rev. Brian Hofman (Synodical Deputy Alternate).

Since our meeting, we have worked out our plans for our meeting schedule in 2023. Lord willing, we will hold our Spring of 2023 classis meeting on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at Calvin CRC in Le Mars and our Fall of 2023 classis meeting on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Immanuel CRC in Orange City.

in sincere service,

Rev. Phillip Westra  
Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland