

**Agenda for Classis Heartland**  
**Wednesday, September 20, 2023 - 8:30 AM**

Location: Immanuel Christian Reformed Church  
1405 Albany Ave NE  
Orange City, IA 51041

1. Check-in 8:00 – 8:25 AM

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

**Morning Session, 8:30 – 11:45 AM**

2. Welcome and Constitution of Classis

- a. Welcome, Announcements, and Instructions
- b. Classical Credentials and Attendance Report
- c. Chair declares Classis Constituted with the following officers serving
  - 1) Chairman: **Rev. Kevin Muyskens**
  - 2) Vice-Chairman: **Rev. Ben Wiersma**
  - 3) Stated Clerk: **Rev. Phillip Westra**
  - 4) Treasurer: **Dr. Randy Smit**

3. Worship, Meditation, and Prayer led by Rev. Cody Statema and Immanuel CRC Team

4. Additions to the Agenda from Classical Credentials

5. Classical Interim Committee (CIC)

- a. Welcome Ministers who are new to Classis Heartland
- b. CIC Summary Reports from May 11, July 6, and August 22 of 2023 (**pp. 3–4**)
- c. Rev. Steve Boersma request for retirement (**p. 5**)
- d. Stated Clerk Report (**p. 6**)
- e. Communication to Classis from the CRCNA leaders (**pp. 7–8**)

6. Presentation by Zachary King

7. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)

- a. CSC Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2023 (**p. 9**)
- b. 2024 Classical Ministry Shares Proposal (**p. 10**)

8. Report from Dordt University by Rev. Todd Zuidema

**Morning Break, 10:00 – 10:15 AM**

9. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) verbal report

10. Examination of Pastor Jon Keyer for the Office of Commissioned Pastor at Northern Lighthouse Church
  - a. Verbal examination led by Rev. John Klompien
  - b. Sermon and worship evaluation led by Rev. Garry Nyenhuis and Pastor Bill Thornton

11. Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)

- a. CHMC Written Report (pp. 11–12)
- b. Pastor Keo Phommarath from Siouxland Unity CRC
- c. Pastor Jeff Heerspink for Resonate Global Missions

**Lunch Break, 12:00 – 12:30 PM**

**Afternoon Session, 12:30 – 2:30 PM**

12. Classical Education Committee (CEC)

- a. CES Written Report (pp. 13–14)
- b. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network Written Report (p. 15)
- c. Dr. Tara Boer, coordinator of Safe Church Team, Update on Church Contacts

13. Church Visitors verbal reports

- a. Rev. Chad Van Ginkel and Rev. Sam Keyzer, visitors to the north
- b. Rev. Brian Dunn and Rev. Nathan Kuperus, visitors to the south

14. Regional Pastors verbal reports

- a. Rev. Brian Dunn, pastor to the north (p. 16)
- b. Rev. Sam Keyzer, pastor to the south

15. Classical Nominating Committee (CNC)

- a. CNC Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2023 (p. 17–18)
- b. Ballot for Servants on Classical Committees (p. 19)

16. Church Counselors verbal reports

- a. Hawarden CRC – Rev. Nate Kuperus
- b. First CRC in Hull – Rev. Brian Dunn
- c. Northern Lighthouse in Lincoln – Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
- d. Ochededan CRC – Rev. Ben Wiersma
- e. First CRC in Orange City – Rev. John Klompien
- f. Immanuel CRC in Orange City – Rev. John Klompien

17. Other Reports to Receive as Information

- a. Resonate Global Mission (p. 20)
- b. World Renew (pp. 21–22)
- c. Calvin Theological Seminary (p. 23)

18. Adjournment: Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024, location TBD

**Classical Interim Committee- Heartland**

**May 11, 2023**

**Via Zoom**

1. **Membership: All present Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Brian Hofman (Vice-chair), Rev. Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk)**
2. **CIC receives request from the Ocheyedan CRC for classis to approve excluding a person from membership (ex communication) per C.O. Supplement 78-81 c-d.**
3. **CIC decides to call a special classis meeting (Classis Contracta) to deal with the matter. This meeting will be held during the summer months depending on schedule of the Chairman (Rev. Brian Dunn) and Vice-Chair (Rev. Muyskens)**
4. **Rev. Westra (Stated Clerk) reports that minutes for the previous meeting are forth coming.**

**Classical Interim Committee- Heartland**

**July 6, 2023**

**Calvary CRC, Orange City**

1. **Membership: All present Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Brian Hofman (Vice-chair), Rev. Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk)**
2. **CIC celebrates that Rev. Cody Statema has accepted the call to Immanuel CRC, Orange City.**
3. **CIC understands that Rev. Statema has been “on loan” to CRC congregations from the RCA and will be coming through Church Order Article 8. Supplement D. His credentials will continue to be held by the RCA Classis (North Grand Rapids) and will not be transferred to Immanuel CRC (per RCA Church Order). The RCA Classis (North Grand Rapids must give their approval before Rev. Statema may be installed at Immanuel CRC, Orange City. Rev. John Klompier (Church Counselor to Immanuel) is aware and will pursue this further.**
4. **CIC received brief reports on vacant churches including First CRC, Hull; First CRC, Orange City; Hawarden CRC and Ocheyedan CRC.**
5. **CIC duly passed the motion to transfer the credentials of Rev. Steve Boersma to Hawarden CRC. The papers have been sent to Hawarden CRC for their council to complete.**
6. **CIC duly passed the motion to approve the minutes of the special classis meeting of June 6, 2023.**
7. **CIC received and processed a communication from a church in classis with the questions, concerns and experiences that came from engaging in the Safe Church process. CIC is making a number of recommendations to CEC and Safe Church for how to better the process.**

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

August 22, 2023

88, Orange City

1. Membership: All present Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Brian Hofman (Vice-chair), Rev. Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk)
2. Rev. Westra (Stated Clerk) notes that many ministries have requested time to share at a classis meeting. CIC will be in contact with representatives from Cornerstone Church, Dordt, Resonate Global Missions for presentations at upcoming classis meetings. Other ministries will be considered for later classis meetings.
3. CIC organizes the classical examination and sermon evaluation for John Keyzer as he seeks ordination as a Commissioned Pastor (Article 23 of the Church Order and Commissioned Pastors Handbook.) Rev. John Klompien will be asked to conduct the classical examination and Rev. Garry Nyenhuis with Pastor Bill Thorton will be asked to do sermon evaluations. This will be added to the agenda of the Fall 2023 classis meeting.
4. CIC makes a one-time exception for the process of sermon evaluation: While CIC believes the in-person sermon evaluation is extremely important, due to time and geographical limitations, if Rev. Nyenhuis is unable to evaluate "in-person", CIC suggests that he evaluate the sermon online later. At least one evaluator must be present for the preaching to evaluate the parts not available through online evaluation (i.e. congregation engagement).
5. CIC receives and signs the ministerial credential transfers of Rev. Cody Statema (Immanuel CRC, Orange City) and Rev. Lee Khang (Ocheyedan CRC), and celebrates God's faithfulness in providing pastors for these congregations. (note: CIC previously understood that Rev. Statema was ordained in the RCA and would be on loan. This was incorrect. Rev. Statema is ordained in the CRCNA.)
6. CIC notes that Rev. Aaron Greydanus has accepted the call to First CRC, Hull and awaits the transfer of his ministerial credentials.
7. CIC encourages First CRC, Orange City and Hawarden CRC as they continue to search for their next pastor.
8. CIC sets the dates and locations for upcoming classis meetings.
  - a. Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, 2024 hosted by the New City CRC and Pathway CRC in Kansas City.
    - i. CIC will begin examining options for travel, lodging and the schedule for the weekend. Classical Stewardship Committee has indicated that they have allocated additional funds to Classical Expenses for covering this cost.
  - b. Wednesday, September 18, 2024
9. CIC decides to continue with the spring meeting on a weekend and the fall meeting on a Wednesday. CIC appreciates all feedback regarding this schedule.

8/25/23

To: Classis Heartland of the CRCNA

Dear Delegates of the September 2023 meeting of Classis Heartland

Pastor Steve Boersma's ministerial credentials are being held with the Hawarden CRC. Pastor Steve is requesting permission to exercise his privilege of retiring from active ministerial service in accordance with article 18a of the Christian Reformed Church Order on the grounds that he is over 55 and there is a provision that allows for this with a reduced pension benefit.

Hawarden CRC Council approved Pastor Steve's request on August 14, 2023, to be effective Dec 31, 2023. Therefore, we the Hawarden Christian Reformed Church are asking for Classis Heartlands approval.

In Christian Love and Service,

  
Brian Obbink, President of Council

  
Dave Dorhout, Clerk of Council

Article 18 a.

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.

Supplement, Article 18 a.

Early Retirement Option

Ministers of the Word shall be granted the privilege of retiring at the age of fifty-five years, with the approval of the classes involved, under the reduced pension scale adopted by Synod 2011. (Acts of Synod 1993, p. 579) (Acts of Synod 2011, p. 813)

## **Stated Clerk Report Classis Heartland, Fall of 2023**

Below are tasks I completed as the stated clerk since our last meeting in March of 2023.

1. Completed the paperwork for our synodical delegates and submitted it to Synodal services
2. Send our overture regarding Calvin University to Synodical services
3. Drafted summary of classis meeting document for our March 4, 2022 meeting, uploaded it to the website and shared it with church leaders.
4. Updated the Servants of Classis document, uploaded it to the website and shared it with church leaders.
5. I was involved in several communications via phone call and email about a situation which called for a special meeting of classis. It was challenging to navigate maintaining appropriate confidentiality while getting pertinent information to the appropriate classis functionaries.
6. Created an agenda and communicated to churches for a special meeting of classis on June 6, 2023 at Calvary CRC in Orange City.
7. Completed two versions of meeting minutes from June 6, 2023 meeting, one to remain confidential and the other for a more public record. I submitted them to CIC for approval and obtained advice from a couple denominational leaders about how their content and how to best handle them.
8. Since we were sent an incorrect form earlier this year, we had to re-process the credentials transfer for Rev. Steve Boersma from Dispatch CRC to Hawarden CRC.
9. Forwarded several email communications from classis committees or denominational ministries to our churches of Classis Heartland.
10. Communicated September 20 classis meeting hosting information to Immanuel CRC.
11. Participated in meetings of the Classical Interim Committee and Classical Nominating Committee.
12. Processed ministerial credentials transfers for Rev. Lee Khang and Rev. Cody Statema.
13. Sent out and processed submissions of classis credentials for our September 20 meeting.
14. Obtained materials and compiled the agenda for our September 20 classis meeting. I distributed this via email and published it on our website.

I apologize for missing my goals of having classis meeting information published within a week of the meeting and getting meeting agendas out at least two weeks before meetings. Since guest preaching has been a common question the past few months, please remember our current recommended compensation for those who are guest pastors is \$125 per service plus mileage expenses at the IRS rate, which is \$0.655 per mile in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Phillip Westra



Dear Classis Leaders of the Christian Reformed Church:

Greetings in the name of Christ.

Jesus loved seeds. He wove them into his teaching, and especially, into his parables. During this new ministry year, God has laid on our hearts Jesus' parable of the wheat kernel (John 12:24): "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Jesus was talking about his death and resurrection. but he was also talking about discipleship – that God calls his followers to die to themselves, and rise with Christ to a life of abundant fruitfulness. These are challenging words for us as disciples and leaders. We suspect they also challenge you. And yet, we want you to consider what God may be calling you to "surrender and bury," as classes and church leaders, so that your ministries may grow and bear more fruit for the Lord. And, as you think about that for the coming ministry year, we also want to provide you with a few quick updates.

### **Synod 2023**

Last June, Synod 2023 met in the chapel at Calvin University. We are thankful for the fruitful prayer and worship that characterized the advisory committees and the plenary sessions. Synod 2023 had a heavy agenda that resulted in the delegation of many ministry tasks to the classes, the Council of Delegates, and the general secretary. Like Synod 2022, there were also challenging discussions around human sexuality. In order to serve the classes and congregations with the best information, the Office of General Secretary has carefully crafted a Frequently Asked Questions document about Synod 2023 and posted it [here](#). Our aim is to post the *Acts of Synod 2023* electronically on or around September 1 and share summaries with the classes and congregations soon thereafter. Hardcopies of the Acts will take some more time to get to you! Please encourage churches and leaders in your classes to use these resources in their conversations and reflections about synod.

### **Celebrating Our Growing "One Family"**

One important soil that God is calling the classes and congregations to sow into is the engagement of our ethnic minority leaders and churches. Did you know fully one-fifth (and growing) of the CRC's churches are predominantly non-White? Unfortunately, these leaders are greatly underrepresented in most of our classis meetings. The Council of Delegates has instructed the Office of General Secretary to assist classes during the 2023-24 ministry year in holding structured conversations (called "One Family Conversations") during their classis meeting to learn to better celebrate and support their entire family. The conversation plan can be accessed [here](#). If you need assistance in planning and implementing these conversations, please reach out to your [regional](#)

catalyzers who would be happy to assist you. We know your classis agendas are very full, but these conversations could be the most important way your classes join the Spirit in “planting for kingdom growth” in the coming years.

**Thank You for Your Generous Planting**

Christian Reformed members, churches, and classes sow generously in giving of their time and treasure to serve congregations, neighborhoods, and the world through ministry shares. In 2022-23 you gave \$10,030,000 USD and \$5,609,000 CAN to the agencies and institutions of the Christian Reformed Church. In addition to supporting the governance of CRCNA, we used these funds to form future ministry leaders, share the gospel through media and the work of our international and domestic missionaries, and to support your CRC congregations in their discipleship, education, worship, and mission. This fall we will be sharing more about changes and updates to the ministry shares program with classis treasurers that were approved by Synod 2023. We give thanks to and to God for this generous sowing and the harvest it has produced for the Kingdom!

**Thrive Pastors Conference**

We are excited to draw your attention to our newest agency, Thrive, which drew together 9 former congregational ministries under one new name. Thrive was officially recognized by Synod 2023 and charged with providing expertise, wisdom, and compassionate support to CRC congregations while remaining attentive to a wide range of opportunities and challenges facing the church today. Thrive is offering a conference for parish pastors, Regional Pastors, and chaplains to rest and grow in Albuquerque, NM on November 14 through 16. This event’s goal is to offer active CRC parish pastors and regional pastors a safe place in which to gather for support, encouragement, learning, worship and fellowship. Please sign up as soon as possible as registration is limited.

We do not make the seeds nor do we make them grow. Through the Spirit’s power, our calling is to plant and nourish the seeds (1 Cor 3:6). Planting is difficult as it involves the dying of the old and the coming to life of the new. But most of all, planting is an act of faith. May the God of the harvest give you the strength to plant well in this new ministry year.

Your partners in ministry



Rev. Dr. Zachary King  
General Secretary



Dan DeKam  
Director, US ministry operations



Rev. Al Postma  
Transitional Executive Director



Classis Heartland Stewardship Committee Agenda

Monday, August 21, 2023

11:00AM @ Four Brothers, Sioux Center

1. Opening Prayer by our Chair
2. Roll Call (clerk)
  - a. Present: Mr. Chris Dekkers (lay member), Pastor Keith Hoekstra (CHMC Rep.), Mr. Eric Kroese (lay member), Rev. Nate Kuperus (chair), Mr. Randy Smit (Classical treasurer), and Rev. John Klompier (Clergy alternate/Clerk)
  - b. Absent: No one. Leandra Hulstein (alternate) was invited but was unable to attend.
3. Review Previous Minutes
4. Old Business
  - a. Jamie Negus' repayment of funds (\$10,000) has been received and should be designated.  
**Motion** made and supported to place seminary repayment funds in "classical expenses".  
Grounds: We will have expenses coming up, especially as we bring Classis south to K.C. next March. (Motion passed).  
The committee expresses appreciation to Jamie and wishes him God's blessing in his life and ministry.
  - b. Outstanding ministry shares: A couple of churches reached out to us after our letter addressing care for their situation. Good conversations. We discussed whether or not to contact churches which haven't responded. Keith will be in contact with them to see how we may be an encouragement to them and grow in understanding of their needs/challenges.
5. New Business
  - a. Proposed Classical Ministry Shares
    - i. Our Treasurer reviewed the numbers he has received from ministries and committees. Proposed Ministry shares would increase from about \$112 to \$116 per classis member, an increase of 3.54%.
    - ii. It was noted that total membership in our classis went down from 2800 members to 2650. This could also be a contributor to the increased ministry share cost per member.
    - iii. A question was raised regarding giving to Dordt. About 60% of each classis member's ministry shares goes to Dordt. This is a significant number. How was/is this decided? For instance, if our local Christian schools received some of those moneys, they might be in a better spot. No motion made.  
  
**Motion** made and supported to propose the 2023-24 ministry share numbers. (Motion passed).
  - b. Chris Dekkers was thanked for his three terms on this committee. Chris did his work very well. Any nominees to replace him other than the names received at Classis Nominating Committee?
  - c. Noted that we will have a healthy budget ready for Kansas City Classis meeting in March.
6. Next Meeting: January 29, 2024 11:00AM at Dordt University.
7. Closing Prayer by Pastor Keith Hoekstra
8. Meeting adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Klompier

**Classis of the Heartland**  
 2023 and 2024 Ministry Shares

	Per Member			
	2023	2024	% Change	
<b>Classical Ministry Shares</b>				
Dordt University	68.50	69.20	1.02%	60%
Classical Expense	6.00	6.00	0.00%	5%
Student Aid Fund	0.05	0.05	0.00%	0%
<b>Campus Ministries</b>				0%
Geneva Campus Ministry - U of I	1.78	1.89	6.00%	2%
Areopagus - ISU	1.78	2.26	27.20%	2%
<b>Church Planting</b>				0%
Lincoln - Chaplain	1.78	3.77	112.00%	3%
Lincoln - F Street	1.78	0.00	-100.00%	0%
Lincoln - F Street Immerse	1.78	1.89	6.00%	2%
Argentine (Kurt Rietema)	1.78	1.89	6.00%	2%
Cornerstone Prison	1.78	2.83	59.00%	2%
Ministry Opportunity Fund	3.57	3.77	5.70%	3%
Residency Program	1.78	1.89	6.00%	2%
<b>Ethnic Ministries</b>				0%
Laotian Ministry - Sioux City	6.52	6.68	2.44%	6%
Amistad Cristiana	4.29	4.53	5.55%	4%
<b>Other</b>				0%
Established Church Development	1.07	1.13	5.80%	1%
Education Committee	0.05	0.05	0.00%	0%
Youth Consultant	7.14	7.55	5.70%	7%
Classical Home Missions Committee	0.36	0.38	4.82%	0%
	<u>111.79</u>	<u>115.75</u>	<u>3.54%</u>	
	2,800	2650		

## Committee Report to Classis

### REPORT OF THE –Classical Home Missions Committee TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, - Wednesday, September 20, 2023 AT –Immanuel Christian Reformed Church Orange City, IA

Report filed: - August 29, 2023

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Home Missions Committee convened on one occasion subsequent to the most recent Classis meeting, meeting together on July 17, 2023, at Hope CRC in Hull, IA. In attendance at that meeting were Kevin Muyskens, Pastor Keith Hoekstra, Gary Hibma, Allan Kramer, and Jeff Heerspink, with Mark Volkers absent with notice. The meeting was opened with prayer, held in accordance with the requirements of church order for classical meetings, and closed with prayer.

#### ITEMS FROM CLASSICAL HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committee rejoiced at the report from Elevate Church, Friendship merger in Sgt. Bluff. Joel Vos reported that attendance is strong there, and they were able to collaborate with Elevate Sioux City for VBS during the summer.

The committee engaged in the process of evaluating and discussing the budget request on behalf of the CHMC, the approved budget request is presented in the subsequent section of this report.

The committee continues to seek to encourage our classis churches in promoting and participating in mission activities by moving forward with promotion of some of the activities that are going on within our classis. We look forward to preparing and presenting the first of these projects soon.

The committee intends to attempt a “fieldtrip” to the Kansas City area ministries following the classis meeting this fall. The committee looks forward to seeing the opportunities that the congregations there have in building the Kingdom, serving the church and the people and communities that surround them.

#### ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

The Committee approved the following in regard to the subjects of the meetings outlined previously.

Campus Ministry:	
Areopagus:	\$6,000 <sup>a</sup>
Geneva:	\$5,000
Church Planting:	
Chaplain (Northern Lighthouse)	\$10,000 <sup>b</sup>
F Street	\$0 <sup>c</sup>
Argentine	\$5,000 <sup>d</sup>
New Ministry Opportunities	\$10,000
Leadership Development	
F Street (Immerse)	\$5,000
Residency Program	\$5,000
Ethnic Ministries	
Amistad	\$12,000
Siouxland Unity	\$17,700 <sup>e</sup>

Other Ministries	
Cornerstone Prison CRC	\$7,500 <sup>f</sup>
Established Church Development	\$3,000
CHMC Expense	\$1,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$87,200

- a. Approved \$6000 to Areopagus Ministries. At the request of Lora Copely and the Areopagus board and considering Lora's positive influence on this ministry and results of her work CHMC suggests raising support to \$6,000 from \$5,000
- b. Approved \$10,000 for Chaplain position with Northern Lighthouse. John Keyser continues to work in the Nebraska prison system, and this has resulted in positive ministry both for the prisoners and for the Northern Lighthouse congregation. We want to wholeheartedly support this important work that receives little outside funding.
- c. Approved Change for as F-Street. Due to their organization F-Street church is no longer eligible to receive funding via the church planting line item. We will continue to support the Immerse program. It is also worth noting that classis will expect F-Street to contribute to classical ministry shares on a graduated basis 25% year 1; 50% year 2; 75% year 3; 100% year 4.
- d. Approved \$5,000 for Argentine, KS. Kevin contacted Kurt Rietema to get an update regarding the Franklin Center and his continuing work. Regarding the ways that God is blessing Youth Front, they have been gifted a building from a closing church and Kurt will be seeking to get volunteers down to Argetine.
- e. Approved \$17,700 for Siouxland Unity. Siouxland Unity is making a concerted effort to increase their contribution to Pastor Keo's salary, so they have asked for this reduced amount. They are hoping to bring a younger person onto the ministry staff. Gary will encourage them to explore the possibility of a residency grant to help support that position.
- f. Approved \$7,500 for Cornerstone Prison CRC Cornerstone Prison CRC is experiencing some of the additional costs that come from general inflation, they have additional costs related to access to the prison. The encouragement of additional funds to ease the financial burden is a blessing we can offer.

## ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS

The Classical Home Missions Committee would ask that the Classis approve the work of the committee as presented in this report, and we would ask for the prayers of the members of classis in seeking to be intentionally missional as congregations and classis members.

Respectfully Submitted this –August 29, 2023

*Pastor Keith Hoekstra*

Pastor Keith Hoekstra

**REPORT OF THE –CLASSICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE- TO  
CLASSIS IN SESSION, - SEPTEMBER 20, 2023  
AT –Immanuel CRC, Orange City**

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CEC**

**Esteemed Delegates:**

The Classical Education Committee met on May 3, 2023 and August 30, 2023. Members present at each meeting were Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, Rev. Jesse Walhof, Rev. Ben Wiersma and Ms. Barb Hibma (for a brief visit with the CEC). Barb opened with devotions and prayer at the May meeting. Rev. Gonzalez opened with devotions and prayer at the August meeting. Each meeting was closed in prayer.

**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. No future dates have been given to the CEC at this time.
  - b. **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.
  - c. **Abide Project** – The CEC is in conversation with the Abide Project Convention planning committee and Dordt University to work out logistics of hosting the 2024 convention in Iowa.
2. Ministry Support on behalf of Classis Heartland
  - a. **Classis Prayer Coordinator (Ms. Barb Hibma)**
    - i. Barb is planning a quarterly prayer/ worship gathering to pray for Classis Heartland.
    - ii. Barb has assisted in helping plan prayer activities for the September Classis meeting.
  - b. **Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (Ms. Lee DeGroot)**
    - i. MIK Youth Network is asking for \$20,000 from each of the three classes for their 2023 budget. This is not a change from 2023.
    - ii. Lee and Doug have been continuing to plan youth leader events as well as facilitate the traveling youth group lesson plan. More information will be in her report.
  - c. **Safe Church (Dr. Tara Boer)**
    - i. The CEC has been working to assist Safe Church and Church Visitors when Safe Church is called in to a church. The CEC has stepped in as Special Church Visitors to assist Ocheyedan CRC.
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.
  - 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.**

Members of the CEC: Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, Rev. Jesse Walhof, Rev. Ben Wiersma

## 2023 FALL CLASSIS REPORT-MINNIKOTA YOUTH

Thank you for your continued prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support. MIK Youth truly could not do youth ministry without your support.

### MIK YOUTH BOARD:

**MINNKOTA:** Classical Representative-Rev Greg Timmer (Prinsburg MN CRC), Secretary- Karmen Vis (Luverne MN CRC), Secretary-Sarah Van Dyken (Prinsburg, MN CRC).

**IAKOTA:** Classical Representative-Rev Henry Lengkeek (Rock Valley IA Trinity CRC), President-Dan Elgersma (Sioux Center IA Bethel CRC), Shelli Kollis (Rock Valley IA Trinity CRC)

**HEARTLAND:** Classical Representative-Rev Ben Wiersma (Sibley IA CRC), Treasurer-Kody Tesch (Orange City IA Immanuel CRC), Beth Heerspink (Lincoln NE F Street Church)

### REPORT:

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual

Jr High Retreat took place on April 21, 22, 23, 2023 and was truly a blessing for all involved. Our theme "Satisfied" was based off of John 4:14. We had the help of 26 Dordt University students and once again DU provided the transportation for these Student Leaders along with transportation to and from our Saturday afternoon service project. Bethel CRC also helped us out with transportation and opened up their beautiful youth building (The Light House) so we could enjoy our Saturday evening meal there. We had 90 Jr High Students from 13 supporting churches and 6 visiting churches: our highest number since before Covid. PTL!

The travelling Lesson Plan was shared with 5 supporting churches from January-April. Since we started presenting "The Talking Donkey" Lesson Plan after the New Year 2023 we will continue sharing this lesson through December 31. For those who already heard this lesson we are writing a new one for after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Thunder Road All Night Kick Off will be Friday-Saturday Sept 8-9 from 11pm-4am with pizza, pop, and devotions at 1am. Cost: \$35/person.

We continue to Zoom meet with Ryan Feltman (Synod of the Heartland RCA), Rick Zomer (Therefore Go Ministry), and Ron de Vries (Faith Formations CRCNA) about the Leaders event that we are hoping to have February 2024. It is our goal to share more information at the Fall Classis Meeting about this upcoming Leaders' event.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Jr High Retreat is April 19, 20, 21, 2024 at Inspiration Hills. Again we will be partnering with Student Leaders from DU. We will start meeting with the Student Leaders in October of this year and will continue meeting and planning until the week of the retreat.

We are "building" a portable Travelling Escape Room for 2024! The theme for the Escape Room is "GAMES". We will be starting the sign up around November 1<sup>st</sup> with the hopes of sharing it after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. There will be a small charge for this event.

There will be more youth/leader events during the 2023-2024 school year...please watch for announcements through the Minnikota Youth facebook page and our website at minnikotayouthnetwork.com.



~Thank you again for all your support! ~Lee & Pastor Doug De Groot

Re: Regional Pastor to the North Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as regional pastor here in Classis Heartland. I must begin by asking for your grace and forgiveness. I have been slow to get going in my role as regional pastor. Some of that has been due to other responsibilities I have taken on in the classis and other ministries. However, my expectation from here forward to engage in this ministry with full steam!

Over the past couple of months, I have begun doing simple lunch/coffees with a few of the pastors of our classis. It is a blessing to enjoy good conversation over lunch or coffee and discuss ministry and share resources if needed. We are blessed with good men and good churches here in Classis Heartland! My hope is prior to fall Classis to have organized a Pastor/Spouse evening. With new pastors coming to the Classis, this would be a good opportunity to connect. I will be happy to report on this at the classis meeting if all goes well.

I do appreciate the opportunity to serve as Regional Pastor. I appreciate your prayers for me and my church as well as for the pastors and ministries in our classis.

In Christ,

Rev. Brian Dunn

-Classis Heartland



Classical Nominating Committee Minutes  
August 15, 2023, 11:30 AM  
Calvary CRC, Orange City

1. Rev. John Klompier 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 July 19, 2022 meeting were approved.
4. We note that Ms. Kim Starkenburg has begun serving classis on the World Renew Board of Delegates.
5. We nominate the following individuals to be renewed for another term of service. Since most of these nominations involve only a second or third term and come by recommendation of their committee chairs, we present them as single nominees (in accordance with Classis Guidelines of Nominating Committee, b.).
  - a. Classical Home Missions Committee: Rev. Kevin Muyskens
  - b. Classical Home Missions Committee: Dr. Allan Kramer  
Since Dr. Kramer has already served past three terms, his nomination comes with the following grounds from CHMC: He provides great “institutional memory” along with his passion for missions and experience in different areas, including serving on the [former] denominational Home Missions committee. We accept these grounds.
  - c. Classical Home Missions Committee: Mr. Mark Volkers
  - d. Classical Nominating Committee: Rev. John Klompier
  - e. Classical Nominating Committee: Mr. Glenn Bouma
  - f. Classical Ministry Leadership Team: Rev. Garry Nyenhuis
6. We nominate Mr. Craig Stiemsma (Hope CRC, Hull) to fill a vacancy on the Classical Ministry Leadership Team. We did not have a second nominee, so we hope to receive another one through our communication to classis church councils.
7. We discussed the need to fill a vacancy on the Classical Stewardship Committee.
  - a. We nominate Ms. Leandra Hulstein.  
Since Ms. Hulstein is the current alternate, we propose a single nomination. Alternates are generally considered to be “next in line.” Ms. Hulstein would begin a new three-year term if elected.
  - b. If Ms. Hulstein accepts the nomination, this creates a vacancy for CSC alternate. We nominate Mr. Brian Obbink (Hawarden CRC).

- c. If Ms. Hulstein does not want a single nomination, we propose placing Ms. Hulstein and Mr. Obbink on the classis ballot. The person who receives the most votes will become the serving member, and the other person will become the alternate.
  - d. We will also contact Mr. Patrick Visscher (Calvin CRC, Le Mars) if needed.
  - e. Rev. Klompien will contact these individuals.
8. We discussed finding roles for new pastors coming to classis. We nominate the following individuals for new roles. We propose nominating a single person for each of these roles as alternates and replacing the current pastor alternates for these committees in order to more equally distribute the work among classis pastors.
- a. Classical Interim Committee: Rev. Aaron Greydanus.  
Rev. Klompien will contact Rev. Greydanus
  - b. Classical Home Missions Committee: Rev. Cody Statema  
Rev. Klompien will contact Rev. Statema
  - c. Classical Ministry Leadership Team: Rev. Lee Khang  
Rev. Phil Westra will contact Rev. Khang, and we may adjust the recommended position based on that conversation.
9. Rev. Hofman will communicate with Rev. Muyskens to determine who is the Classical Home Missions Committee representative for the Classical Stewardship Committee.
10. Rev. Westra will send an email to classis churches requesting any additional nominations for these positions. The deadline for submission will be August 31.
11. Rev. Hofman will prepare the ballot for the classis meeting and include space for nominations from the floor and/or write-ins.
12. We went around the table and discussed providing a summary of the mandate for each classical committee to nominees. This could be helpful for potential new members, particularly lay members.
13. The meeting was adjourned.
14. Mr. Glenn Bouma closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Hofman, CNC secretary

**Ballot for Classis Heartland  
September 20, 2023**

**Classical Interim Committee Alternate  
(vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Aaron Greydanus, First CRC, Hull

---

**Classical Stewardship Committee Alternate  
(vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Brian Obbink, Hawarden CRC

---

**Classical Home Missions Committee  
(vote for 3)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Kevin Muyskens, Immanuel CRC,  
Sheldon

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Allan Kramer

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Mark Volkers

---

**Classical Nominating Committee  
(vote for 2)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. John Klompien, Calvary CRC,  
Orange City

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Glenn Bouma, Calvary CRC,  
Orange City

---

**Classical Home Missions Committee Alternate  
(vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Cody Statema, Immanuel CRC,  
Orange City

---

**Classical Ministry Leadership Team  
(vote for 2)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Garry Nyenhuis, Living Water CRC,  
Orange City

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Craig Stiemsma, Hope CRC, Hull

---

**Classical Stewardship Committee  
(vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Leandra Hulstein, Hope CRC, Hull

---

**Classical Ministry Leadership Team Alternate  
(vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Lee Khang, Ocheyedon CRC

---

For more information about how Resonate can partner with your church, or if you would like to talk to a member of the US Regional Mission Team, please reach out to Brad Meinders at either [bmeinders@crna.org](mailto:bmeinders@crna.org) or (641) 629-1575.

# Resonate™

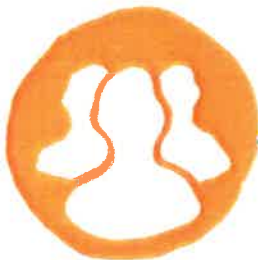
## GLOBAL MISSION

### What can Resonate do for your church?

Resonate has six regional teams throughout the US and Canada with Local Mission Leaders embedded in ministry work in each region. Resonate can support your church through:

- Congregational coaching for pastors, ministry leaders, etc.
- Connecting you with missionaries overseas
- Connecting you with church planters in your own back yard
- Providing opportunities to volunteer around the world
- Engaging younger generations in the church and mission
- Living out the gospel in your own community

### Resonate is focused on 3 areas of ministry



Mobilizing Your Congregation



Sending Missionaries



Church Planting

### The Future is Bright—a Message from Our New Director

Visit [www.resonateglobalmission.org/newdirector](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/newdirector) for a special video message from Kevin DeRaaf, and find out why the future is bright!



Less than one third of Resonate's revenue comes from ministry shares—gifts, offerings, and support from your classis and your church are vital to continuing this work!

**Thank You!**



## Classis Report - Fall 2023

Climate and Conflict affect our work! July saw the hottest days recorded globally, and it followed the hottest June ever recorded. UN experts predict further temperature records to be broken over the course of the year. This severe weather will likely lead to increased displacement and needs around the world – including more weather-related disasters in the United States. The work of World Renew is essential! Despite these challenges, we continue to have hope and make a profound impact as we work with partners to respond. Thank you for your continued support!!

### UKRAINE



World Renew has been continuing to support the work of partners by providing emergency relief to the numerous displaced people in Ukraine and the surrounding countries. This includes shelter reconstruction, emergency food and medical relief, cash transfers, and winterization support. Two staff members visited Ukraine this summer.

Thanks to our amazing constituents World Renew has been able to raise nearly \$3.4 million which has already reached over 585,000 participants in response to the crisis in Ukraine. Over 8,000 participants received cash transfers across multiple projects to promote the local economy amidst the conflict through purchasing from local vendors.

With the destruction of hundreds of thousands of homes across Ukraine, many people require rebuilt or repaired homes. World Renew is collaborating with partners, Integra and ZOA, to provide the most vulnerable households with access to safe housing. This includes winterizing homes, repairing 390 homes, and protecting 1,000 returnees from the destruction of homes and city infrastructures of Chernihiv Oblast with safe emergency shelter interventions helping to reduce the risk of disease and death.

**Prayer Request:** Russia has recently back out of the Black Sea Grain Deal, a deal that the UN and Türkiye approved allowing safe passage of food transportation to be exported from Ukraine. Many more will go hungry, and prices of food will rise. Please pray for guidance and grace for the leaders involved in the Black Sea Grain Deal.



### BANGLADESH

Through our partner SATHI, we are responding to the needs of 175 households affected by Cyclone Mocha with shelter and latrine reconstruction. We are in the third year of a food security program that addresses the needs of 9,331 host community members who have been affected by the influx of Rohingya refugees. We are in the process of extending this project and starting another food security and livelihoods project with partner Faith in Action.

### SYRIA

Despite the long-term presence and response, the needs of Syrians have only grown – with the recent earthquake and economic crisis only further magnifying the conflict-related needs. Through local church partners we continue to address the needs of displaced people, providing food, hygiene, and winterization



support to over 43,200 highly vulnerable, crisis-affected individuals. The partners reported, "Their voices overflowed with gratitude for the support they received." With the incredible generosity of World Renew's supporters, we have been able to commit over \$1.5 million USD to the response.

**WEST AFRICA**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has voted to conclude its peacekeeping mission in Mali following a request from the military government to withdraw the troops. Despite the political and diplomatic tension between the current military transitional authorities and the UNSC, the Malian government and humanitarian

organizations are urging for heightened international support to address the escalating crisis.

**Prayer Request:** We are closely monitoring and praying for the instability and recent coup in Niger. All staff are safe. We pray for peaceful resolution that is best for the people of Niger.

**NORTH AMERICA: Disaster Response**

Over the summer DRS has worked on Needs Assessments in multiple Florida counties and hosted groups in Florida, Kentucky, West Virginia, Detroit, Michigan, and North Carolina.

Fall Volunteer Opportunities: Managed Reconstruction Sites: Contact Diana, 616-224-0701.

- Whatcom County, Washington, Boutte, Louisiana, Sarasota, FL

Group Trips: Contact Chris at cgibson@worldrenew.net.

- Southwest Florida & Daytona, Florida, Rolling Fork, Mississippi, Detroit, Michigan, Madisonville, Kentucky, Paradise, California, New Bern, North Carolina, Whatcom County, Washington

**Climate Witness Project**

See how a Philadelphia neighborhood, Hunting Park, is taking action to address climate changes in their community. Learn along in the short films and study guide. Find it here: <https://www.crcna.org/hunting-park>. Contact Kris at kvanengen@worldrenew.net.



**Food Insecurity Food and Faith Project:**



How does our faith inform our relationship to food – the growing, consuming, and sharing of it – and our response to food insecurity? What would a just and community-driven response look like? We want to mobilize your congregation to plan and implement a new or adapt an existing ministry that works toward reducing food insecurity in your community. Find information here: <https://worldrenew.net/events> or contact Jodi at jkoeman@worldrenew.net.

**Fall Offerings:** November 5 – World Hunger Sunday

## **Calvin Theological Seminary Highlights**

### **Fall 2023 Classis Report**

#### **Rev. Bob Drenten – Region 8 Trustee**

(Classes: Central Plains, Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior, Minnkota, Northcentral Iowa)

#### **Faculty**

CTS welcomes two instructors to its faculty this Fall.

- Dr. Gabriela Tijerina-Pike will serve as Director of Latino Ministries and Associate Professor of New Testament. Her scholarship and ministry leadership experience in the United States, Mexico, and Central America will be an asset to CTS.
- Dr. Daniel Daley will join the faculty as Assistant Professor of New Testament. He earned his Ph.D. at Trinity College Dublin. He has served in ministry in Edinburgh, Dublin, and Reno, NV. CTS is grateful to welcome him to the faculty.

The Board reappointed Dr. Matt Tuininga as Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and History of Christianity, with tenure. CTS gratefully congratulates Dr. Tuininga on this milestone.

#### **Program Updates**

- CTS launches a new M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program this fall. Graduates will be equipped to offer mental health care within a rich theological and pastoral framework. There is great need for and interest in this new program.
- CTS continues to develop its Competency Based Theological Education Program. At Grand Valley State University's Campus Ministry Program (Michigan) and at Sunlight Community Church in Port St. Lucie, Florida, students are mentored in ministry, drawing upon resources from CTS. CTS is exploring additional partnerships in this program.

#### **Students**

- CTS anticipated an increase in enrollment this year, including gains in the M.Div. program.
- In May 2023, CTS granted 8 certificate-level degrees, 30 master-level degrees, and one Ph.D. degree. This included 11 Master of Divinity degrees.

#### **Facilities**

- CTS is constructing new housing for international students at 3300 Burton Ave SE. This will provide better proximity to campus and higher quality residential space. The current international student housing property in SE Grand Rapids has been sold.
- Remodeling at CTS has been completed. Class space is now easily adapted to a blend of in-person and virtual student participation. Workspace for faculty, staff, and students received a needed, significant upgrade. We are blessed with a great campus!

#### **Funding**

- Revenue from donor giving remains strong. CTS is grateful for this vital support.
- Revenue from CRCNA ministry shares continues to decrease, a trend that we're told we should expect to continue.