

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

CLASSIS HEARTLAND

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Living Water Community Church

Sheldon, Iowa

STANDING COMMITTEES & FUNCTIONARY REPORTS

1. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)..... p. 2.
2. Classis Heartland – Classis Iakota Combined CIC..... pp. 3-7.
3. Stated Clerk Report..... p. 8.
4. Classical Counselor Report – Lincoln-Northern Lighthouse CRC..... p. 9.
5. CRCNA Council of Delegates Highlights – February 19-21, 2020 (Separate Document).
6. Resonate Global Missions – *Being Christ's Witnesses... Together* (Separate Document).

OVERTURES & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Study Matters of Gender and Leadership - Hawarden CRC (Separate Document).

Classis Heartland Stewardship Committee Agenda
February 13, 2020

- I. Mike Van Surksun (Classical Treasurer), Chris Dekkers (Lay Rep.), Scott Kooiman (Lay Rep.), Rev. Scott Van Voorst (Chair).
 - A. All Committee members were in attendance
- II. New Business
 - A. Review 2020 Statement of activities and Ministry Share Analysis for 2019
 - 1. Some changes to the report were discussed. There are new line items for Safe Church Coordinator Stipend and Stated Clerk Conference.
 - 2. **Our Classis Ministry Shares accountability practice requires a verbal update at classis from a church representative for: Hawarden, Pathway, Northern Lighthouse, and Sheldon Immanuel.**
 - 3. It was noted that we may decrease the future amount being set aside for Classis Expenses and Diaconal Ministry if there is no increase in the use of these funds.
 - B. It was noted that CIC previously approved a process for providing appropriate technology for our stated Clerk. A reimbursement had been made to cover a portion of the cost of a laptop which will be used for Classis Clerk work.
 - C. CSC Team size
 - 1. Last Fall Norlyn Van Beek stepped down from the Classis Stewardship Committee. The history of his involvement and the current realities facing members of our team led us to discuss appropriate team size. It was determined that a member of the Classis Home Missions Committee is a valuable asset to the Classis Stewardship Committee due to the large amount of our classis funds that are used for Home Missions purposes and the ever changing dynamics of Home Missions work.
 - 2. **MOTION:** The Classis Stewardship Committee requests that the Classis Nominating Committee work with the Classis Home Missions Committee to fill the vacant position left by Norlyn Van Beek. It is highly preferred that the individual be a part of Classis Home Missions. If that cannot be done at this time, we would still appreciate an additional committee member. Motion made by Scott K. Motion approved by all.
- III. Old Business
 - 1. Classis Credit Card
 - a. Per the fall 2019 approved plan the classis has secured a credit card for classis expenses. The treasurer will work with Rev. Todd Zuidema to get any Classis website expenses moved to the Classis Credit Card.
- IV. Reports
 - A. Classical Treasurer: Handled under II.A.
- V. Additional Items
 - A. Scott K shared that Rev. Robert Drenten is currently part of a duo being considered by another church in Classis. The value of Rev. Drenten's work as Stated Clerk was noted. We agreed that we hope Rev. Drenten will continue his work as Stated Clerk whether the Lord calls him to a different church in Classis or not.

Classis Heartland – Classis lakota
Combined Meeting – Classical Interim Committees (C.O. Art. 44-a)
Report to Classis Heartland – March 7, 2020

Summary

The Classical Interim Committees (CIC) of Heartland and lakota met on November 22, 2019, and January 28, 2020. The minutes of those meetings are included below for information. Two items merit attention.

First, the minutes reflect a continued desire shared by Classis Heartland and Classis lakota to provide leadership and resources for diaconal ministry. Classis lakota expected to consider an overture to accomplish that at its March 3, 2020, meeting. The CIC would welcome the endorsement of Classis Heartland to come alongside Classis lakota, should they adopt their overture, to develop a new model for supporting diaconal ministry.

Second, the CICs of both Classis Heartland and Classis lakota share a desire to develop a classical ministry plan. This desire would incorporate the development of classical diaconal support, but also consider areas of mission and ministry beyond the scope of diaconal work.

Recommendations

1. That Classis Heartland authorize its Classical Interim Committee to work with Classis lakota to form a task force to develop a classical ministry plan, including but not limited to creating a new model for diaconal ministry support, contingent upon the approval of the related overture considered by Classis lakota at its March 3, 2020, meeting.
2. That Classis Heartland approve the reported work of the Combined CICs of Classis Heartland and Classis lakota, according to the provisions of C.O. Art. 44-a.

**Classis Heartland – Classis Iakota
Combined Meeting – Classical Interim Committees (C.O. Art. 44-a)
Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa
November 22, 2019**

MINUTES

Art. 2019-01

The Classical Interim Committees (CIC) and Stated Clerks of Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota convened the meeting according to the provisions of C.O. Art. 44-a.

Classis Heartland – Rev. Mark Vande Zande
Rev. Todd Zuidema
Rev. Nathan Kuperus
Rev. Robert Drenten (Stated Clerk)

Classis Iakota – Rev. Matthew Haan
Rev. Stanley Groothof
Rev. John Lee

Rev. M. Haan served as chairman. Rev. Drenten served as secretary.

Rev. M. Haan opened the meeting, offering a prayer for the Lord's wisdom.

Art. 2019-02

The committee explored the desire to provide resources for the churches of the classes since the Siouxland Diaconal Conference has disbanded. The following questions were raised and discussed:

- Should we first develop classical ministry plans?
- Is there desire to form a task force to explore developing a new model?
- Are there templates available from other classes or from the denomination?

Rev. Zuidema offered to ask Al Postma, Classis Renewal Specialist of Pastor Church Resources (CRCNA) to provide templates or examples of classical ministry plans for Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota to help guide development of its own plans.

It is moved and supported to form a task force of approximately 6-8 members to study the formation of a diaconal organization shared by Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota. The respective CIC's will contact their councils to help identify key people to serve on this task force. *-Adopted*

The respective CIC's of Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota will contact their church councils within the next two weeks, inviting them to submit names of nominees from their churches to the Combined CIC to be considered for this task force. A target date of January 1, 2020, is set to gather names of nominees.

Art. 2019-03

Classis Iakota sought advice from Classis Heartland regarding its Stewardship Committee and its value in presenting a unified classical budget. The structure and function of this committee was reviewed.

Art. 2019-04

Next meeting Tuesday January 28, 2020 at Bethel CRC, Sioux Center.

The meeting was adjourned. Rev. Drenten offered a closing prayer.

Rev. Robert Drenten
Clerk, Combined Classical Interim Committee
Classes Heartland & Iakota

**Classis Heartland – Classis Iakota
Combined Meeting – Classical Interim Committees (C.O. Art. 44-a)
Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa
January 28, 2020**

MINUTES

Art. 2020-01

The Classical Interim Committees (CIC) and Stated Clerks of Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota convened the meeting according to the provisions of C.O. Art. 44-a.

Classis Heartland – Rev. Mark Vande Zande
Rev. Todd Zuidema
Rev. Robert Drenten (Stated Clerk)

Classis Iakota – Rev. Matthew Haan
Rev. Stanley Groothof
Rev. John Lee
Rev. Bernie Haan (Stated Clerk)

Rev. B. Haan served as chairman. Rev. Drenten served as secretary.

Rev. B. Haan opened the meeting, offering a prayer for the Lord's care and leading.

Art. 2020-02

The committee reviewed the minutes of November 22, 2019.

- A. Re: Art. 2019-02 – A task force has not been formed since the last meeting. Classis Iakota anticipates an overture from First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, at its March 3, 2020, meeting requesting that a task force be formed to guide the development of a classical ministry plan. Since the desire of the overture is substantially identical to the desire of the combined CIC, the committee agrees to allow Classis Iakota to consider their overture with the understanding that Classis Heartland would welcome coming alongside Classis Iakota to fulfill the mandate of that overture. The hope remains that diaconal ministry may again be shared by the two classes. It was the consensus and desire of the committee that, should Classis Iakota adopt the overture from First CRC, Sioux Falls, that a task force of four members each from Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota be charged with carrying out the mandate of that overture.
- B. Rev. Zuidema presented for discussion examples of classis ministry plans provided by Rev. Al Postma, CRCNA Classis Renewal Consultant. He also summarized Classis Heartland's ministry renewal work completed in 2012. Time was spent discussing several questions, including...
 - What is the vision of the role of classis or denomination with respect to local ministry?
 - At what points do we, can we, share ministry and mission?
 - In shared ministry, what role does accountability play and how can it be exercised effectively?

The committee pledges to share existing and developing classis ministry plans of Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota. This will be with a view to identifying points of convergence in ministry that can be effectively shared. The committee pointed to key areas of current and desired shared ministry: Minn-I-Kota Youth Network, Continuing Education, Safe Church Task Force, and future diaconal ministry resources. (Note: Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota also mutually recognize those who are licensed to exhort.)

Art. 2020-03

Discussion was held regarding continuing education. Continuing education opportunities formerly provided by Day of Encouragement and Siouxland Diaconal Conference events are not currently available. The committee explored ideas for the two classes to provide training for ministry in the future.

Art. 2020-04

Rev. Vande Zande closed the meeting with prayer.

**Stated Clerk Report -- Classis Heartland
Sheldon: Living Water Community Church - March 7, 2020**

News and Information

Agendas, minutes, and classis information are now available at classisheartland.com. Also, the email address for the Stated Clerk is, classisheartlandstatedclerk@gmail.com.

I'm updating contact information for the churches. My goal is to have two contacts per church, including a pastor, the church office, and/or the clerk of the council.

When assigning the officers for Classis Heartland for March and September 2020 according to rotation, I discovered an unusual situation. Normally the vice chairman serves the next classis meeting as chairman. Our rotation assigns the vice chairman duty to a pastor from New City CRC in Kansas City. However, this session's vice chairman, Rev. Andy Vanden Akker, is retiring. Pastor Ryan Pelton will not be able to lead the scheduled September 12, 2020, meeting as chairman. This is not the only instance where our current schedule of Saturday meetings in early September has created issues for the work of Classis Heartland. I urge Classis Heartland to consider revising its practice of scheduling Saturday meetings, due to the hardship this creates for pastors' responsibilities to lead worship on Sunday. The distance required to travel to convene on Saturday will always greatly hamper or prohibit some from participating in classis meetings. I **advise Classis Heartland to empower the Classical Interim Committee to explore an alternate meeting schedule, in consultation with the councils of Classis Heartland and neighboring classes.**

September 7, 2019, Meeting of Classis (Sanborn CRC)

- Published and distributed "The Acts of Classis Heartland - September 7, 2019," "Report to the Churches," and related documents. The "Report to the Churches" erroneously stated that Rev. Tom De Does had been installed at Sibley CRC. The correct information, Ocheyedan CRC, is in the report now available on the website.
- Forwarded a copy of minutes and related documents to Synodical Services of the CRCNA.

March 7, 2020, Meeting of Classis Heartland (Living Water Community Church - Sheldon)

- Placed a notice in *The Banner* for the March 2020 meeting.
- Sent letter of notice to the host church, and the cost reimbursement form.
- Prepared and distributed the agenda and an agenda supplement.

Correspondence & Duties

- Correspondence (not included in the Agenda for Classis)
 - CRCNA - Synod 2020 - Credentials and delegate information material packet
 - CRCNA - Updated rosters of stated clerks of classes and synodical deputies
 - Rev. Jim Halsted - *Go and Tell Evangelism Seminar @ Calvin Seminary March 27*. Forwarded to Classis Home Missions and Education Committees.
 - Mr. Dale Braaksma - sent letter with the decision of Classis Heartland of September 2010 regarding his denied request for an appeal, as directed by the interim committee (CIC).
 - Received and forwarded newsletters from Areopagus Campus Ministry (ISU).
 - Rev. Luke Wynja - received notice that he may be ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). If this transpires, First CRC of Sheldon and Classis Heartland will apply Church Order Article 14-b. Rev. Wynja maintains good communication with Classis Heartland regarding his status.
- Duties / Activities
 - Met with the Classis Nominating Committee and Classical Interim Committee *ex officio*.
 - I was prevented from attending the stated clerks' gathering in Bellflower, CA, sponsored by the CRCNA, due to family matters. The \$500 fee paid by Classis Heartland was refunded.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Robert Drenten -- Stated Clerk, Classis Heartland

Church Counselor Report for the Northern Lighthouse in Lincoln, NE.
Spring 2020 Classis Heartland

The Northern Lighthouse continues to move forward in their search for new leadership following the retirement of Pastor Sam Keyzer. As the Northern Lighthouse is a uniquely blessed congregation serving diverse members; church leadership is wisely utilizing their time in evaluating their vision and mission. I am also pleased that due to their current team approach to leadership they are evaluating and prioritizing a job description to fit their needs. Praise God our Father for His faithful guidance at the Northern Lighthouse in this process.

Humbly Submitted

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