

Classis Heartland

Sanborn, Iowa, CRC – September 7, 2019

Report for the Churches

Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, First CRC in Hospers, chaired the meeting with Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Ireton CRC, as vice-chair.

Convening, Welcoming, and Congratulating

The Sanborn CRC served as the host church for Classis Heartland. Classis welcomed Rev. Tom De Does, who was recently installed in Ocheyedan CRC. Pastor Tom and Nancy moved from the Quincy, Washington, CRC. Classis also approved the request of Sanborn CRC for the retirement of Rev. Al Van Dellen, effective November 30, 2019. Classis offered its congratulations to Pastor Al and Gwen.

Theme of the Day: *Praying the Scriptures*

Prayer Coordinator Barb Hibma and the Classical Education Committee introduced the resource, "*Praying the Word of God for Your Church*" by Tiece L. King. This book offers guidance to connect the Word of God to the prayers of God's people. Prayers offered throughout the session of classis gave examples of applying this approach. Classis Heartland urges its churches to make this book available to its members and to incorporate it into its ministry this year.

Classis Committee Highlights

Classical Home Missions Committee – The committee took note of the strategic importance of the campus ministries Classis Heartland helps support at Iowa State University and the University of Iowa. First CRC, Hospers, reported on their use of the Ministry Opportunities Fund to enhance their music in worship. The committee urges the churches to make use of this funding as well as the Established Church Development Fund to pursue initiatives in mission and ministry. Finally, classis adopted the committee's recommendation to offer a residency program to raise up church planters and missional leaders within the churches of Classis Heartland. A matching grant of up to \$5,000 per church was approved. Applications will be made for all these funds through the committee. Contact Rev. Kevin Muyskens of Immanuel CRC, Sheldon, for more information.

Classical Ministry Leadership Team – Classis approved financial aid for Jamie Negus, who is enrolled at Sioux Falls Seminary. Also, classis adopted the committee's recommendation to renew the license to exhort of Mr. Sherwin Bolkema, Mr. Greg Steggerda, and Mr. Kurt Rietema. Classis Heartland also recognizes those licensed to exhort by Classis Iakota. The complete list is available from the committee for the churches.

Classical Education Committee – The committee noted that the Day of Encouragement which had been hosted by Dordt University will no longer be offered. However, Dordt University is hosting a Youth Ministry Day on November 20, 2019, and a Pastors' Appreciation Day on April 1, 2020.

Classical Interim Committee – Classis approved a change in the call of Rev. Scott Van Voorst in his service at Friendship Community CRC, Sergeant Bluff. Immanuel CRC, Orange City, sought the amendment due to Rev. Van Voorst's pursuing a part-time chaplaincy in the United States Air Force in addition to his work at Friendship. Also, Classis Heartland now hosts a website, www.classisheartland.com, and updated the email address for the stated clerk, classisheartlandstatedclerk@gmail.com. Classis agendas, reports, and minutes will now be available through the website.

Classical Stewardship Committee – Classis adopted the proposed 2020 Ministry Share budget for *classis* ministry and mission, which asks \$111.97 per professing member. The churches should also stay abreast of decisions of Synod 2019 and 2020 regarding *denominational* ministry share giving. Synod 2019 recommended moving to a pledge-based approach to calculating ministry share giving. Details are available in the *2019 Acts of Synod* and various summaries provided by the CRCNA's Office of Synodical Services.

Siouxland Diaconal Conference

The board of the Siouxland Diaconal Conference reported its decision to cease operations and to distribute remaining funds to its supporting bodies. Classis Heartland received \$7,800, which will be held pending approval of a fitting way to repurpose these funds by September 2020.

Synod 2019

Rev. Jesse Walhof and Rev. Bob Drenten offered a summary of their experience at Synod on behalf of Classis Heartland's delegation, which included Deacon Keith Boermsa and Elder Duane Walhof. They took note that Synod 2019 acceded to Classis Heartland's overture that Synod not require including racial or gender diversity among its delegates to future synods. Synod 2019 made substantial decisions regarding training and accountability with respect to "safe church" policies on local and classical levels. Churches are urged to review the *2019 Acts of Synod* and available summaries to become familiar with the substantial changes adopted last summer.

Heartland – Iakota Safe Church Team

Classes Heartland and Iakota have formed a new Safe Church Team, under the direction of Tara Boer. Rev. John Gorter and Heidi Mulder serve on behalf of Classis Iakota; Rev. Jesse Walhof and Del Wallinga serve for Classis Heartland. Rev. Walhof introduced Classis Heartland to the three areas the SCT will address: (1) To help churches develop and implement safe church policies, (2) to serve as a resource in instances of abuse, and (3) to provide training and guidance for best practices. The churches of Classis Heartland are urged to form a local Safe Church Team of 3 to 4 members who would be responsible for policy and practice within their churches.

Overture

Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha, overtured Classis Heartland to remove the phrase, "No woman may be seated as a delegate," from its Rules of Procedure. This phrase has and will continue to hinder their church from full representation as classis. Classis agreed to seek a two-thirds majority to adopt the overture, and to vote by ballot. The overture was not adopted.

Serving Classis

The following have been elected or appointed to serve in these positions for three-year terms, beginning October 2019:

Classical Home Missions Committee (minister)	-	Rev. Tom De Does
Classical Home Missions Committee, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. John Klompier
Classical Education Committee (minister)	-	Rev. Mark Klompier
Classical Education Committee, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. Nevada De Lapp
Classical Nominating Committee, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. Mark Klompier
Church Visitor – North	-	Rev. Nevada De Lapp
Church Visitor – North, Alt.	-	Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
Classis Treasurer, Alt.	-	Ms. Katie Wierenga

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The next regular meeting of Classis of the Heartland is March 7, 2020, at Living Water CRC, Sheldon, Iowa.

The deadline to submit agenda materials to the stated clerk is January 18, 2020.

Rev. Robert Drenten, Stated Clerk
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