

**Agenda for Classis Heartland**  
**Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 8:30 AM**

Location: Ireton Christian Reformed Church  
301 Maple St  
Ireton, IA 51027

1. Check-in 8:00 – 8:25 AM

All delegates should check-in with the stated clerk prior to the meeting. All delegates must sign “The Covenant of Officebearers” to participate in the meeting.

**Morning Session, 8:30 – 11:45 AM**

2. Welcome and Constitution of Classis

- a. Welcome Delegates and Guests
- b. Give Announcements and Instructions for the Day
- c. Classical Credentials and Attendance Report
- d. Chair declares Classis Constituted with the following officers serving
  - 1) Chairman: **Rev. Nathan Kuperus**
  - 2) Vice-Chairman: **Rev. Aaron Greydanus**
  - 3) Stated Clerk: **Rev. Phillip Westra**
  - 4) Treasurer: **Dr. Randy Smit**

3. Worship, Meditation, and Prayer led by Ireton CRC Team

4. Classical Interim Committee (CIC)

- a. Note and Welcome Ministers who are new to Classis Heartland
- b. CIC Summary Reports from June 5 and August 19 of 2024 (**pp. 4–5**)
- c. Stated Clerk Report (**pp. 6–7**)
- d. Additions to the Agenda from Classical Credentials
- e. Communication to Classis from Zachary King, CRCNA General Secretary (**pp. 8–9**)
- f. Tabled Overture from Sibley CRC re: The Banner (**pp. 10–11**)
- g. Living Water Community Church of Orange City Oversight Committee Report (**p. 12**)

5. Church Counselor Reports

- a. First CRC in Orange City – Rev. John Klompfen
- b. Hawarden CRC – Rev. Nate Kuperus
- c. First CRC in Hospers – Rev. Aaron Greydanus

6. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)

- a. CSC Meeting Minutes (**pp. 13**)
- b. 2025 Classical Ministry Shares Proposal (**p. 14**)

**Morning Break, 10:00 – 10:15 AM**

7. Article 10 Examination of candidate Pastor Keith Hoekstra for Ordination as Minister of the Word at Hope CRC of Hull. The process shall proceed as followings:
  - a. Introduction of candidate and Opening Prayer by Rev. Jesse Walhof
  - b. *Practica* Examination led by Rev. Cody Statema
  - c. A motion must be made, supported, and carried to proceed.
  - d. *Sermon Evaluation* led by Rev. Brian Hofman and elder Doug Pollema  
(Sermon Manuscripts Forthcoming)
  - e. A motion must be made, supported, and carried to proceed.
  - f. *Biblical and Theological* Examination led by Rev. Phillip Westra
  - g. Executive Session
    - i. Motion to admit must be made to proceed
    - ii. Prayer for guidance
    - iii. Delegates deliberate
    - iv. Synodical Deputies are dismissed
    - v. Delegates decide to admit/not admit
    - vi. Synodical Deputies return to concur/not concur
  - h. Announcement of Classis' Decision
  - i. Prayer of Blessing led by Rev. Ben Wiersma
8. Time of Sharing and Prayer led by Rev. Kevin Muyskens

**Lunch Break, 12:00 – 12:30 PM**

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

9. Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)
  - a. Areopagus Report by Rev. Lora Copley **(p. 15)**
  - b. Cornerstone Prison Church Report by Rev. Scott Van Voorst
  - c. Resonate Global Missions by Pastor Jeff Heerspink **(p. 16)**
  - d. CHMC Written Report **(pp. 17–18)**
  - e. Video about Prairie Lane CRC in Omaha
10. Classical Nominating Committee (CNC)
  - a. CNC Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024 **(pp. 19–21)**
  - b. Ballot for Servants on Classical Committees **(pp. 22–23)**
11. Council of Delegate (COD) Report by Mr. Loren Veldhuizen
12. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) Report by Rev. Chad Van Ginkel **(p. 24)**
13. Dordt University Report by Rev. Todd Zuidema **(p. 25)**

14. Classical Discipleship Committee (CDC)

- a. CDC Written Report (**pp. 26–27**)
- b. Timothy Leadership Training Presentation
- c. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network Update (**p. 28**)
- d. Abide Project Update
- e. Dunamis Project

15. World Renew Report by Kim Starkenburg (**pp. 29–30**)

16. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

**2025 Dates and Locations for Classis Heartland**

March 8, 2025 (Saturday) at Calvary CRC in Orange City

September 17, 2025 (Wednesday) at Prairie Lane CRC in Omaha

Classical Interim Committee - Heartland

June 5, 2024

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 receives the official response from Ocheyedan CRC consistory (supplement, Art 30) to an appeal by an individual of a decision of Ocheyedan CRC consistory.
3. CIC determines that a special meeting of Classis is in order to consider the appeal in good order. Specific dates, times, location and processes are yet to be determined.
4. CIC acknowledges that Rev. Westra has diligently communicated with all parties of the appeal process and continues to do so.
5. CIC has received a communication from Thrive asking CIC to send 10 people from our classis to attend a conference in Niagara Falls. CIC will contact some individuals directly as well as send invites to each congregation.
6. CIC duly signs the transfer of ministerial credentials for Rev. Stephen Terpstra from Borculo CRC to First CRC, Orange City. We welcome Rev. Terpstra to the service of Christ's kingdom in our classis.
7. CIC appoints Rev. Aaron Greydanus to serve as the church counselor for Hospers CRC as Rev. Gonzalez has accept a call outside of Classis Heartland.
8. CIC has received a communication from Rev. Kuperus and Rev. Dunn suggesting that CNC consider if now is a good time to replace them as church visitors as they have overlapping and sometimes conflicting roles in the classis. CIC has forwarded this on to the CNC for their consideration.
9. CIC has received verbal updates on Living Water, Orange City where they are receiving the help of Specialized Transitional Minister, Rev. Cal Hoogendoorn. The Classis appointed oversight committee has been overseeing Rev. Hoogendoorn's work with the LW council and congregation.
10. CIC has received a verbal update on Hawarden CRC who has hired ministry consultant Dr. Nathan Hitchcock and Mr. Mark Tiemersma to do part-time preaching and pastoral care through the summer months.

Classical Interim Committee - Heartland

August 19, 2024

Immanuel CRC, Sheldon

1. Membership: All present Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Brian Hofman (Vice-chair), Rev. Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk), Rev. Ben Wiersma (Classis Meeting Chairperson)
2. CIC processes the upcoming special meeting of classis assuring information is passed along properly and duties of during the meeting are figured out.
3. CIC duly signs the credentials of Rev. Aaron Gonzalez and sends them to Classis Northwest as Rev. Gonzalez has been called to First CRC, Everett, Washington.
4. CIC suggests Ireton CRC as the host of the Wednesday, September 18 meeting of classis. Calvary CRC, Orange City will host the March 2025 meeting. Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha will host the September 2025 meeting.
5. CIC determines the details of Keith Hoekstra's candidacy exam for ordination under article 10.
  - a. Sermon Evaluators: Rev. Hofman and an elder
  - b. Practica Evaluator: Rev. Cody Statema
  - c. Biblical/Theological Evaluator: Rev. Philip Westra
6. CIC reviews updates from vacant churches and encourages prayer for these congregations.
  - a. Hawarden CRC's pulpit is being filled by Mark Tiemersma until the end of December. They will not need pulpit supply. Mark is a commissioned pastor in classis lakota and has been encouraged to seek out proper credentialing in classis Heartland.
  - b. Rev. Greydanus is beginning his service as church counselor for Hospers CRC.
  - c. Living Water CRC, Orange City will have an update presented by the classis-appointed oversight committee.

## Stated Clerk Report Classis Heartland, Fall of 2024

Below are tasks I completed as stated clerk since our last classis meeting on March 9, 2024.

1. I completed and submitted synodical delegate information to synodical services as well as our petition.
2. I had an email exchange with synodical services defending our petition as being in line with synodical rules and procedure. In the *Rules for Synodical Procedure* under section VI Synodical Committees, item A. Program Committee, item 2 The Appointment of Advisory Committees, and point b, it states the following.

"b. The Program Committee shall classify all the reports, overtures, and other communications into various groups, and advise which matters shall be laid directly before synod, and which shall be placed in the hands of advisory committees."

Reference:

[http://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/2022\\_rules\\_for\\_synodical\\_procedure.pdf](http://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/2022_rules_for_synodical_procedure.pdf)

Our petition was deemed in order and I pray it played a small part in enabling synod 2024 to run smoothly and complete the deliberations we needed to have.

3. I forwarded overtures adopted by our classis to synodical services.
4. I was involved in several communications about an appeal to a council decision. In collaboration with the CIC, I served as the point of contact between the various parties and communicated procedural matters to all involved. This resulted in Classis Heartland holding a special meeting on August 20, 2024 where we did not accede the appeal. These minutes will be distributed soon.
5. After learning of the final composition of Living Water Orange City's advisory committee, I completed the minutes for the March 9, 2024 meeting of classis and distributed them.
6. I participated in the Classical Nominating Committee meeting on July 16, 2024 and was involved in some follow-up work from that were, among other items, securing someone willing to serve as our next stated clerk.
7. I participated in all Classical Interim Committee meetings held this year. I also communicated with several churches about hosting our September 18, 2024 and both our 2025 classis meetings.
8. I processed the ministerial credentials of Rev. Stephen Terpstra now pastoring First CRC in Orange City, as well as Rev. Aaron Gonzalez who took at call to First CRC in Everett, WA.
9. Forwarded several communications to individuals and groups from Thrive, mostly training opportunities for our regional pastors, church visitors, and meeting chairs.
10. I distributed classis credentials, the covenant of officebearers, and the ballot for our classis to churches for our September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kevin Muyskens and I worked on corresponding with those involved in our classis meeting and I finalized the agenda and distributed it.

11. I participated in a Stated Clerks Connect Zoom meeting on August 13, 2024. One new thing stated clerks are navigating is the limited suspension status of congregations who are deemed to be “in protest with ecclesiastical intent” or otherwise in non-compliance with the decisions of synod regarding human sexuality. As a follow-up I reported to the Office of General Secretary that we do not have any churches that fit that description in Classis Heartland, for which I am deeply grateful.
12. In anticipation of handing off my stated clerk duties, I created an updated plan for classis meeting chairs, co-chairs, and hosts. In the schema given me by Rev. Bob Drenten in 2021, we rotate Ministers of the Word to be chairs and co-chairs in alphabetical order of churches, beginning with town/city names. I inherited a “balanced schedule” for host locations and have updated that based on who hosted classis last. Below is the plan moving forward.

#### Chairs and Co-Chairs

Sept 2024 – chair: Nate Kuperus (Ireton) co-chair: Aaron Greydanus (Hull First)  
 Mar 2025 – chair: Aaron Greydanus (Hull First) co-chair: Keith Hoekstra (Hull Hope)  
 Sept 2025 – chair: Keith Hoekstra (Hull Hope) co-chair: Brian Hofman (LeMars Calvin)  
 Mar 2026 – chair: Brian Hofman (LeMars Calvin) co-chair: Lee Khang (Ocheyedan)  
 Sept 2026 – chair: Lee Khang (Ocheyedan) co-chair: Chad Van Ginkel (Omaha Prairie Lane)  
 Mar 2027 – chair: Chad Van Ginkel (Omaha Prairie Lane) co-chair: John Klompier (O.C. Calvary)  
 Sept 2027 – chair: John Klompier (O.C. Calvary) co-chair: Stephen Terpstra (O.C. First)  
 Mar 2028 – chair: Stephen Terpstra (O.C. First) co-chair: Cody Statema (O.C. Immanuel)  
 Sept 2028 – chair: Cody Statema (O.C. Immanuel) co-chair: TBD (O.C. Living Water)  
 Mar 2029 – chair: TBD (O.C. Living Water) co-chair: Phillip Westra (Sanborn)  
 Sept 2029 – chair: Phillip Westra (Sanborn) co-chair: Brian Dunn (Sheldon, First)  
 Mar 2030 – chair: Brian Dunn (Sheldon, First) co-chair: Kevin Muyskens (Sheldon, Immanuel)

#### Host Locations

Sept 2024 – Ireton  
 Mar 2025 – Calvary, Orange City  
 Sept 2025 – Prairie Lane, Omaha  
 Mar 2026 – First, Hoppers  
 Sept 2026 – Ocheyedan  
 Mar 2027 – Immanuel, Sheldon  
 Sept 2027 – Hope, Hull  
 Mar 2028 – F Street & Northern Lighthouse, Lincoln  
 Sept 2028 – Living Water, Orange City  
 Mar 2029 – Sanborn  
 Sept 2029 – Living Water, Sheldon  
 Mar 2030 – First, Orange City

Thank you, Classis Heartland, for your encouraging words, grace and patience when I have been behind, and collaboration as a network of churches for God’s glory while I have served you these past three years. I am committed to doing all I can to ensure a smooth transition and help our next stated clerk carry this work forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Rev. Phillip Westra



August 22, 2024

Dear classes of the Christian Reformed Church:

Greetings in Christ's name.

Life with Christ requires us to embrace the divergent: dying to sin and rising with Christ, giving up our lives to receive them, and sowing seed in parched ground while trusting in harvest. The latter is the controlling image of Psalm 126, a psalm that encourages us to put down roots in the Lord despite being in very dry places. The psalmist pleads, *"Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy."* Today, many of our congregations are flourishing, and we see evidence of God sowing seeds all around us. At the same time, as a denomination we find ourselves face to face with a challenging and painful moment as some of our congregations consider disaffiliating. Even in this time of potential separation, we know that our God plants seeds and makes the desert bloom into joyful witness to his faithfulness.

I want to share a few notes regarding Synod 2024. First, please encourage your classis and its churches to carefully review the *Synod 2024 Frequently-Asked-Question* document posted at [crcna.org/Synod2024FAQ](http://crcna.org/Synod2024FAQ). This document provides a helpful and factual guide to synod's deliberations in a time when there are many voices speaking about those decisions. Included in the FAQ introduction is a short video sharing a vision for the future of the CRCNA in light of these decisions.

Secondly, the Office of General Secretary will be sharing information with classis clerks about the impact of synodical disciplinary decisions on the CRCNA classes through letters and meetings this fall and winter. Thrive, the CRCNA's denominational ministry agency, and the Office of General Secretary, will also be making many resources available to support classes and congregations throughout the fall.

Thirdly and finally, I want to encourage all our classes to participate in the *Gather* initiative. *Gather* is a series of events in 2024 and 2025 intended to inspire, encourage and bring together CRC leaders from across North America. This is an intentional effort at renewal. At each event, five classes will come together to celebrate how God is moving in our communities and our churches. We'll pray and worship, share our stories and challenges, and discern where God is leading us in our mission. Each classis will be represented by 15 members and leaders from its churches.

**Rev. Zachary King, Ph.D.**  
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Thanks to generous support from several sponsors, all the costs of *Gather* are fully covered (including travel to the beautiful hub cities across North America where the events will take place). When all ten *Gather* events are complete, CRCNA leadership will present a comprehensive report of how God is renewing CRC congregations. More information about *Gather* can be found at [www.crcna.org/gather](http://www.crcna.org/gather).

As I said in my address to Synod 2024 and subsequent communications, God is planting seeds in Christian Reformed Church--not because we are wise, faithful, or worthy. But rather because *God is in the seed planting business!* As Psalm 126 reminds us, sometimes we have to pass through some dry moments to recognize what God is doing. Let's walk with God in gentleness and grace, and be prepared to be surprised along the way.

Yours in Christ,



Zachary King  
General Secretary

The Council of Sibley Christian Reformed Church of Sibley, IA overtures Classis Heartland to send the following overture to Synod 2024.

## I. Introductory comments

- a. The synodical mandate of *The Banner* is guided by four main tasks:<sup>1</sup>
  - i. Inform readers about what is happening in the CRC as well as the church at large, (task 1)
  - ii. Provide articles that edify and encourage Christian living, (task 2)
  - iii. Stimulate critical thinking about issues related to the Christian faith and the culture of which we are a part in a way that encourages biblical thinking about these issues, in line with our confessional heritage; (task 3) and
  - iv. Offer tools to help readers find fresh awareness to seek, learn, worship, and serve as Reformed Christians in contemporary society. (task 4)
- b. *The Banner* holds general responsibilities to these various groups of people:
  - i. To its subscribers and readers in the Christian Reformed Church
  - ii. To the ecclesiastical assemblies (councils, classes, synod) of the CRC
  - iii. To the official agencies of the CRC
- c. Summary: According to the synodical mandate *The Banner* is a CRC publication intended for CRC members.

## II. Background

- a. A brief review of *The Banner*'s adherence to the Synodical mandate
  - i. Task 1: Although *The Banner* does inform the denomination of the happenings of the CRC, it does so in a biased way. In reading June 2023's article "Synod 2023: Incomplete and Broken" one might get the impression that the Holy Spirit was speaking through those who protested verbally the reaffirmation of Synod 2022's decision on human sexuality, as well as speaking through those who left in protest, rather than in the voice of the majority of Synod 2023.<sup>2</sup>
  - ii. Task 3: *The Banner* consistently promotes culture without engaging underlying implications from a biblical or confessional point of view. *The Banner* has promoted movies such as *Barbie* and *Light Year* without speaking biblically about the feministic implications in the former or culture's push of LGBTQ content in children's media in the latter from a biblical and confessional point of view.<sup>3</sup> Rather, *The Banner* has applauded the artistic expressions of these movies. *The Banner* represents a worldly view more often than it does a Reformed view on such topics.
- b. *The Banner*'s presence on social media:

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<sup>1</sup> The Synodical Mandate and General Responsibilities for The Banner can be found on The Banner's website: <https://www.thebanner.org/content/synodical-mandate>

<sup>2</sup> The article can be found on The Banner's website: <https://www.thebanner.org/news/2023/06/synod-2023-incomplete-and-broken>.

<sup>3</sup> These articles can be found on *The Banner*'s website: <https://www.thebanner.org/mixed-media/2023/08/barbie>  
<https://www.thebanner.org/mixed-media/2022/09/lightyear>

- i. *The Banner*'s Facebook page states that it is "The Official Magazine of the Christian Reformed Church." Although the statement is true, there seems to be an implication that *The Banner* represents the denomination, despite not being part of their synodical mandate. Social media is a public platform for all to see.
- c. Summary: There are issues with how *The Banner* adheres to its current synodical mandate to members of the CRC as outlined by the examples above. With these issues in mind, one wonders how *The Banner* can also represent the denomination on a public platform, despite not having a synodical mandate to do so or to hold *The Banner* accountable.

### III. Overture

Classis Heartland overtures Synod 2024 to take one of the following two directions in regard to *The Banner* publication:

1. Remove *The Banner* from all social media platforms (Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter)).

OR

2. Re-evaluate the synodical mandate of *The Banner* to reflect that the publication represents the Christian Reformed Church beyond the members of the CRC. In reflecting this reality, the syndical mandate should include guidelines for accurately representing the denomination's official positions on public platforms.

#### Grounds:

1. The synodical mandate of *The Banner* implies that the publication is for the express purpose of providing a platform *within the denomination* for the four tasks outlined in the synodical mandate.
2. Sibley Christian Reformed Church's council of Sibley, IA in recent communication with *The Banner* staff, specifically Editor in Chief Chong, was told that it was not the responsibility of *The Banner* to promote the official positions of the CRC.
3. *The Banner* has defended publishing controversial articles that do not represent the denomination.<sup>4</sup>
4. Social Media sites are a public platform where the denomination is being represented by *The Banner*, whether that is the publication's intention or not. As such, people outside of the CRC are able to view articles from *The Banner* with the understanding that the publication accurately represents the views of the denomination at large.
5. If indeed *The Banner* does represent the CRC, the publication should do so in a way that accurately fulfills the synodical mandate to think critically on various issues in ways that are biblical and in line with our confessional heritage.

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<sup>4</sup> The article stating this can be found on *The Banner*'s website:

<https://www.thebanner.org/columns/2022/09/why-we-publish-controversial-articles>

*Living Water Community Church of Orange City Oversight Committee*

Heartland Classis Report

Sept 18, 2024

Living Water Community Church of Orange City Oversight Committee (LWOC) was formed after the Heartland Classis meeting on March 9, 2024 with the mandate *“to work with the council and explore emotional health during the transition. As well as possibly looking into hiring a Strategic Transitional Minister (STM) or other tool to address issues the council is facing.”*

The committee is made up of four members: Rev. Nathan Kuperus (chair), Rev. Brian Dunn, Rev. Cody Statema (church counselor; clerk), and Rev. Keith Hoekstra. Since the March '24 meeting of classis, the committee has met three times and with Living Water's council once.

In mid-April, with the LWOC's blessing, Living Water reached out to and contracted with Rev. Cal Hoogendoorn to serve as their Strategic Transitional Minister (STM) and Rev. Hoogendoorn began his work on May 1, 2024. Rev. Hoogendoorn is contracted to serve in this role for a period of 12 months.

During the initial four months of his service, Rev. Hoogendoorn has sought to discern the current pulse of the congregation and has faithfully been preaching and meeting with people from the congregation to hear their concerns, hopes, and frustrations with the state of the church. As of late August, Rev. Hoogendoorn had conducted from 45 interviews with members of the congregation.

Rev. Hoogendoorn summarized the conclusions from the personal interviews in this way:

- The majority of those interviewed did not focus on the Article 17 with Pastor Garry and Living Water Church as their biggest source of frustration with the church. Rather the majority seem more focused on mourning the loss of vision and ministry culture that the church was founded with. In addition, while there were certainly some missteps, misjudgments, and miscommunication, there was not a glaring sin that either Pastor Garry or the Council had fallen into.

On Sept 4 Rev. Hoogendoorn held a meeting with the congregation in order to help the congregation begin the process of moving forward. He emphasized with the congregation the importance of expressing: Gratitude for God's grace in ministry over the years, Grief for the losses and pains that have been encountered, Goals for the future hopes in ministry, and Grace.

A transition team has been formed made up of eight people from the congregation. They have developed a series of questions for the congregation to begin discussions in several Community Conversations which began taking place on Sept 11.

The LWOC is encouraged by the church's willingness to engage constructively in this transition with an STM and seek to develop a ministry that is growing in its heart to care for its pastors, members, and community. The LWOC would continue to encourage Living Water Orange City to continue to walk through the STM process with Rev. Hoogendoorn and seek the healing needed to live out their call as a church. We commend what seems to be a growing desire to get back to the basics of what it means to be a church focused on the gospel of Jesus Christ. While we do not deem Living Water Community Church to be ready to call a pastor yet, we see good progress toward that goal. We will report again to the March meeting of classis.

Classis Heartland Stewardship Committee Minutes  
Monday, September 5, 2024  
12:15PM, The Grille at Dordt University

1. Opening Prayer by Pastor Keith Hoekstra
2. Roll Call (clerk)
  - a. Present: Pastor Nate Kuperus (chair), Pastor Keith Hoekstra (CHMC liaison), Ms. Leandra Hulstein (lay member), Dr. Randy Smit (Classical treasurer), and Pastor John Klompien (clergy alternate)
  - b. Absent: Eric Kroese (lay member) - absent with notice
3. Review Previous Minutes
4. Old Business
  - a. Pastor Hoekstra (our CHMC liaison) reports that the Ministry Opportunities Fund is being viewed for ministries. Considering a Kansas City ministry called Youth Front. Also to F-Street and Lighthouse for church plant. New city Church (Kansas City) is also considering additional staff. Discussions have also started regarding a Spanish speaking church or other church plant opportunities of our Classis. In other words, the amount in that Fund may be tapped soon.
  - b. Kansas City classis meeting did not happen. Sitting on approximately \$37,000 as of 9/5/24 in our Classical Expenses fund. A lot. However, we may be looking at an Omaha Classis meeting next Fall on a Wednesday. Should we await the receipts of the 'South' Classis meeting before we consider taking the former \$10,000 seminary loan repayment and reallocating it? Common Consensus agrees.
  - c. Revisiting our discussion on Dordt University's place in the budget, we noted that Dordt is our highest budget item while we usually need to raise more funds every year with fewer classis members. Conversation involved the huge blessing Dordt is to us in our covenant obligations and at a cost of only \$70/member. Thankfully, our treasurer this year reports no increase in our per member budget.
  - d. Our treasurer shared with us the proposed budget for next year. Stable. Little change. Motion made to approve the reported numbers for our 2025 budget. Approved.
5. New Business:
  - a. Dordt is planning a conference about Discipleship on October 11 (Pastor's Day) with Collin Hansen. Our Classis Treasurer relates that Dordt is asking us for \$500 assistance. Our treasurer notes funds available. We do not feel qualified to make a decision about this without input from the Discipleship Committee. Pastor Kuperus will notify our Classis Treasurer about this decision.
6. Appreciating the work of our treasurer, discussion commenced about reducing risk or mis-allocation of funds. Share emails of committee with the 'alternate treasurer' Katie Wierenga? Other items of internal control were discussed. Are protocols mentioned in Treasurer's job description? Pick it up at next meeting?
7. Next Meeting is planned for Monday, February 3, 2024 at 12:30PM at Dordt Grille.
8. Closing Prayer by Mr. Randy Smit
9. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, John Klompien

**Classis of the Heartland**  
 2024 and 2025 Ministry Shares

|                                   | Per Member    |               |              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                   | 2024          | 2025          | % Change     |
| <b>Classical Ministry Shares</b>  |               |               |              |
| Dordt University                  | 69.20         | 69.90         | 1.01%        |
| Classical Expense                 | 6.00          | 4.00          | -33.33%      |
| Student Aid Fund                  | 0.05          | 0.05          | 0.00%        |
| <b>Campus Ministries</b>          |               |               |              |
| Geneva Campus Ministry - U of I   | 1.89          | 1.89          | 0.00%        |
| Areopagus - ISU                   | 2.26          | 2.26          | 0.00%        |
| <b>Church Planting</b>            |               |               |              |
| Lincoln - Chaplain                | 3.77          | 3.77          | 0.00%        |
| Lincoln - F Street Immerse        | 1.89          | 1.89          | 0.00%        |
| Argentine (Kurt Rietema)          | 1.89          | 1.89          | 0.00%        |
| Cornerstone Prison                | 2.83          | 2.83          | 0.00%        |
| Ministry Opportunity Fund         | 3.77          | 3.77          | 0.00%        |
| Residency Program                 | 1.89          | 1.89          | 0.00%        |
| <b>Ethnic Ministries</b>          |               |               |              |
| Laotian Ministry - Sioux City     | 6.68          | 6.42          | -3.95%       |
| Amistad Cristiana                 | 4.53          | 4.53          | 0.00%        |
| <b>Other</b>                      |               |               |              |
| Established Church Development    | 1.13          | 1.13          | 0.00%        |
| Education Committee               | 0.05          | 0.50          | 900.00%      |
| Youth Consultant                  | 7.55          | 8.68          | 15.00%       |
| Classical Home Missions Committee | 0.38          | 0.38          | 0.00%        |
|                                   | <u>115.75</u> | <u>115.77</u> | <u>0.02%</u> |
|                                   | 2,650         | 2,650         |              |

Increase \$3,000



410 Lincoln Ave Se  
Orange City, IA 51041

20 August 2024

Dear Classis Heartland,

The beginning of our new school year is here! God has already blessed Areopagus Campus Ministry to meet some incoming ISU freshmen (and parents) and to reconnect with our amazing returning students. The campus is abuzz with excitement and anticipation!

Even as we look back on a full summer and gear up for our great fall at Iowa State University, we do so mindful of those who God uses to faithfully care for this ministry -behind the scenes, in prayer and in financial support.

We are mindful of you!

So on behalf of our board, our student team, and those served by our ministry, thank you so much for your generosity. You are an encouragement to us to start strong & to stay faithful.

Gratefully Yours and His,

Lora A. Copley

P.S. A prayer item: this fall, we are especially practicing the *Sermon on the Mount*. Our goal is to connect belief and behavior (or head, heart and hands.) Please pray that we may grow in our communal challenge to "be doers of the Word-- and not hearers only." James 1:22

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Donation Amount: \$1,804.84  
Donation Date: 07/15/2024  
No goods or services were received.

**Board of Directors**

- Rev. Randy Raak
- Justin Struik
- Pam Whitney
- Andrew Friend
- Rev. Jason Simms
- Derek Ten Pas
- Lora Copley

***"This service you perform not only supplies the needs of the Lord's people but also overflows in many expressions of thanks to God. " 2 Cor 9:12***

# Resonate Global Mission



## US Central Region

Resonate Global Mission is the mission agency of the Christian Reformed Church. Resonate can help deepen your passion for mission, strengthen your capacity to follow God on mission, and amplify the impact you and your church have in your neighborhood and around the world. Here are ways we do that:



**WITNESS**  
Experience God at work in the world by traveling to another country or cultural context. Bring what you learned home for mission in your community.

**CAMPUS MINISTRIES**  
Partner with campus ministry leaders who bring gospel presence and witness to young adults who are exploring who they are and how they should live.

**CAREER MISSIONARIES**  
Support career missionaries who immerse themselves into different cultural settings around the world to proclaim and live out the gospel.



**MISSION**  
Receive a demographic study that can help congregations and ministries know their neighborhood and mission field.

**WITNESS**  
Form a group who utilizes this curriculum that helps you reflect on what it means to be a witness — and then take practical steps to join God at work in your neighborhood.

**GO LOCAL**  
Participate in Go Local which is a process of faith formation that focuses on living a missional lifestyle in your neighborhood.



**CHURCH PLANTING**  
Send missional leaders to residencies in Lincoln, NE and Tuscan, AR where they will be immersed in the local church to experience the work of a church planter.

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**  
Partner as church planters, Classis and parent churches with Resonate in order to provide encouragement, support, coaching, and financial grants.

**CULTIVATE**  
Provide ongoing training and support for church planters. One support is Cultivate, an annual gathering of CRCNA church planters and their wives.

Here is your regional Resonate team. Please reach out if you have any questions or if you would like to know how we can partner together missionally for the sake of the gospel.



Marianne Giebel  
Admin. Assistant  
mgiebel@crcna.org



Jeff Heerspink  
Local Mission Leader  
jheerspink@crcna.org



Adrianna Herrera  
Local Mission Leader  
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McLowly Sore  
Local Mission Leader  
msore@crcna.org



## **Committee Report to Classis**

### **REPORT OF THE – Classical Home Missions Committee TO CLASSIS IN SESSION – Wednesday, September 18, 2024 AT – Ireton Christian Reformed Church Ireton, IA**

Report filed: - August 22, 2024

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Home Missions Committee convened on two occasions subsequent to the most recent Classis meeting, meeting together on April 26th, at Dordt University. In attendance at that meeting were Kevin Muyskens, Keith Hoekstra, Gary Hibma, Allan Kramer, Jeff Heerspink, and Mark Volkers. The meeting was opened with prayer, held in accordance with the requirements of church order for classical meetings, and closed with prayer. A second meeting occurring on July 12<sup>th</sup> at Elevate Church in Sergeant Bluff, IA. In attendance at that meeting were Jeff Heerspink, Keith Hoekstra, Kevin Muyskens, and Mark Volkers, with Gary Hibma and Allan Kramer absent with notification.

#### **ITEMS FROM CLASSICAL HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The committee rejoiced at the report from Elevate Church in Sergeant Bluffs. We had the opportunity in July to meet with Joshua and Chrissa Camping and Rev. Verlyn Schaap, hearing about the ways in which they are growing, and how God is working to call people to fellowship from the surrounding area.

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 again look forward to hearing about the work of one of our churches through video presentation, as we examine the work that is going on in Omaha through the ministry of Prairie Lane CRC with the immigrant community, which includes a food pantry, language learning, and sharing the hope and joy of the gospel.

The committee continues to be excited about the opportunities that God is providing in the areas of church planting and church growth. F-Street in Lincoln is seeking to continue to grow the church in one of the neighborhoods that is between them and Northern Lighthouse, we express our desire to continue to work with F-Street in this church planting plan. We encourage the body of classis to support them in their application to the CRC Loan Fund for the purpose of pursuing this opportunity for the work and growth of the Kingdom of God in Lincoln.

The committee would like to also encourage our congregations to take advantage of ministry grants for the purpose of reaching their communities and sharing the gospel. One current example we can gratefully share is how Sibley CRC has used that financial opportunity begin the work of establishing a ministry to help immigrant community members in learning English.

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.

**ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION**

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

|                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Campus Ministry:               |                       |
| Areopagus:                     | \$6,000               |
| Geneva:                        | \$5,000               |
| Church Planting:               |                       |
| Chaplain (Northern Lighthouse) | \$10,000              |
| Argentine                      | \$5,000               |
| New Ministry Opportunities     | \$10,000 <sup>a</sup> |
| Leadership Development         |                       |
| F Street (Immerse)             | \$5,000               |
| Residency Program              | \$5,000               |
| Ethnic Ministries              |                       |
| Amistad                        | \$12,000              |
| Siouxland Unity                | \$17,000 <sup>b</sup> |
| Other Ministries               |                       |
| Cornerstone Prison CRC         | \$7,500               |
| Established Church Development | \$3,000               |
| CHMC Expense                   | \$1,000               |
| <br>                           |                       |
| TOTAL BUDGET                   | \$87,200              |

- a. Approved a \$5,000 gift for Argentine – YouthFront – to aid them in completing a paying for the projects and materials used in outfitting the gifted church building for the purposes of their ministry to the youth in Argentine, KS
  
- b. Approved \$17,000 for Siouxland Unity. Siouxland Unity is making a concerted effort to increase their responsibility for their financial needs, and they continue to make progress in that area, we rejoice with them in the ways that God is moving and working in their midst..

**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 22, 2024

*Pastor Keith Hoekstra*

Pastor Keith Hoekstra

Classical Nominating Committee Minutes  
July 16, 2024, 12:30 PM  
Calvary CRC, Orange City

1. The meeting was opened with prayer.
2. Rev. John Klompien, Mr. Steve Ver Mulm, Mr. Glenn Bouma, Rev. Phillip Westra, and Rev. Brian Hofman were present.
3. The minutes of the August 15, 2023 meeting had been previously distributed and approved by email.
4. We note the following alternates will complete the terms of service for pastors who have left Classis Heartland:
  - a. Classical Discipleship Committee: Rev. Brian Dunn will replace Rev. Aaron Gonzalez
  - b. Classical Ministry Leadership Team: Rev. Lee Khang will replace Rev. Garry Nyenhuis
5. Rev. Phil Westra asks not to be renominated as Stated Clerk.
  - a. Mr. Ed Starkenburg is willing to continue as Alternate Stated Clerk. We will contact him about serving as Stated Clerk.
  - b. If Mr. Starkenburg is unwilling to serve as Stated Clerk, we will contact Rev. Stephen Terpstra and then Rev. Brian Hofman to serve as Stated Clerk.
  - c. If Mr. Starkenburg is willing to serve as Stated Clerk, we will contact Rev. Terpstra and then Rev. Hofman to serve as Alternate Stated Clerk.
  - d. If we cannot find a new Stated Clerk, Rev. Westra will continue but asks to then be relieved of his duties as Synodical Deputy.
  - e. Rev. Klompien will contact these individuals.  
**UPDATE:** Mr. Starkenburg and Revs. Terpstra and Hofman declined the nomination to serve as Stated Clerk, but Mr. Pete Van Velzen accepted this nomination.
6. Rev. Brian Dunn and Rev. Nathan Kuperus ask to be relieved of their duties as Church Visitors to the South.
  - a. Rev. Ben Wiersma, the current alternate, would then move into active service.
  - b. We nominate Rev. Phil Westra, provided he does not continue as Stated Clerk.
  - c. We do not have a nomination for Church Visitor to the South Alternate.
  - d. Rev. Klompien will contact these individuals.

7. 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. Treasurer: Mr. Randy Smit

b. Alternate Treasurer: Ms. Katie Wierenga

c. Classical Interim Committee: Rev. Brian Hofman

d. Classical Home Missions Committee: Pastor Jeff Heerspink

Since Pastor Heerspink has already served four terms, his nomination comes with the following grounds from CHMC: Jeff brings church planting experience that none of the rest of us has. He has connections with Resonate that are very valuable. He is serving in a neighborhood different than any of the rest of us have connections to. His insight is invaluable.

e. Classical Home Missions Committee: Mr. Gary Hibma

Since Mr. Hibma has already served five terms, his nomination comes with the following grounds from CHMC: Gary brings the values of his connections, especially long term connections with Siouxland Unity. He is a faithful committee member and provides valuable insight. The committee desires to have him continue.

f. Classical Stewardship Committee: Rev. Nathan Kuperus

g. Classical Stewardship Committee Alternate: Rev. John Klompien

h. Classical Discipleship Committee: Rev. Ben Wiersma

i. Classical Nominating Committee: Rev. Brian Hofman

j. Classical Nominating Committee: Mr. Steve Ver Mulm

k. Classical Nominating Committee Alternate: Mr. Mike Byker

l. Church Visitor to the North: Rev. Sam Keyzer

**UPDATE:** Rev. Keyzer declined this nomination.

m. Classis Youth Consultant—Minn-I-Kota Youth Network: Rev. Ben Wiersma

n. Classical Program Coordinator: Rev. Kevin Muyskens

8. We nominate the following individuals for new terms of service.

a. Classical Interim Committee: Rev. Aaron Greydanus

b. Classical Interim Committee Alternate: Rev. Brian Dunn, Rev. Stephen Terpstra

c. Classical Discipleship Committee Alternate: no nomination

- d. Church Visitor to the North: Rev. Cody Statema  
**UPDATE:** Due to Rev. Keyzer declining another term, we propose placing Rev. Statema and Rev. Stephen Terpstra on the classis ballot. The person who receives the most votes will become the serving member, and the other person will become the alternate.
  - e. Classical Ministry Leadership Team Alternate: Rev. Jordan Helming
  - f. Classical Safe Church Team Alternate: Pastor Jon Keyzer
9. Rev. Hofman will prepare the ballot for the classis meeting and include space for nominations from the floor and/or write-ins.
  10. We went around the table and thanked Rev. Phil Westra for his service as Stated Clerk.
  11. The meeting was adjourned.
  12. Rev. Westra closed the meeting in prayer.

**Ballot for Classis Heartland  
September 18, 2024**

**Stated Clerk (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Pete Van Velzen, Sheldon First

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Home Missions Committee (vote for 2)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Jeff Heerspink, Lincoln F Street

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Gary Hibma, Sheldon Living Water

\_\_\_\_\_

**Stated Clerk Alternate (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Ed Starkenburg

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Nate Kuperus, Ireton

\_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Randy Smit

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Stewardship Comm. Alt. (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. John Klompier, Orange City Calvary

\_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer Alternate (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Katie Wierenga

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Ben Wiersma, Sibley

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Brian Hofman, Le Mars Calvin

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Discipleship Comm. Alt. (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Interim Committee Alt. (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Brian Dunn, Sheldon First

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Stephen Terpstra, Orange City First

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Brian Hofman, Le Mars Calvin

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Steve Ver Mulm, Le Mars Calvin

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Safe Church Team Alt. (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Pr. Jon Keyzer, Lincoln Northern Lighthouse

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Nominating Committee Alt. (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Mike Byker, Orange City First

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Youth Consultant (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Ben Wiersma, Sibley

\_\_\_\_\_

**Church Visitor to the North (vote for 1)**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Stephen Terpstra, Orange City First

**Classical Program Coordinator (vote for 1)**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Church Visitor to the South (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Phil Westra, Sanborn

\_\_\_\_\_

**Church Visitor to the South Alt. (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Classical Ministry Leadership Alt. (vote for 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Jordan Helming, Orange City First

\_\_\_\_\_

**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM  
TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, Wednesday, September 17, 2024**

**WRITTEN REPORT**

Esteemed Delegates:

1. Commissioned Pastor Keith Hoekstra is scheduled for classical examination towards ordination.
2. We received no new requests for financial assistance for the 2024-2025 academic year.
3. Randy Smit reports a \$ \$18,692 year-end balance for 2024. Because we have no incoming students, we recommend dues for CMLT remain the same.

**ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION**

**LICENSED TO EXHORT IN CLASSIS HEARTLAND**

Mr. Dan Tracy (9/2025) (712) 395-8640 [dctracy@hotmail.com](mailto:dctracy@hotmail.com)

Mr. Matt Dengler (9/2025) (712) 221-5227 [hatwiththematt@gmail.com](mailto:hatwiththematt@gmail.com)

NOTE: Ministers, either retired or serving in non-parish ministry, within Classis Heartland and Iakota and may be available for pulpit supply. Contact information can be requested from the Classis Clerk.

**Classis Heartland**

[classisheartlandstatedclerk@gmail.com](mailto:classisheartlandstatedclerk@gmail.com)

1. Rev. Sam Keyzer
2. Rev Steve Boersma

**Classis Iakota.**

[iakotaclerk@outlook.com](mailto:iakotaclerk@outlook.com)

**ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION**

1. That the dues remain the same as last year.
2. Renew the classical license to exhort for Mr Tracy and Mr Dengler
3. That classis approve our report

Respectfully Submitted September 3, 2024  
Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, Chair,  
Classical Ministry Leadership Team





# DORDT

## OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS

August 16, 2024

Dear Stated Clerk,

Greetings from Dordt University!

We are thankful to partner with you as we keep our covenant promises to provide an education where a “biblical, Reformed vision of Christ’s lordship over all creation is clearly taught.” (c.f. Art 71, Church Order of the CRCNA)

This past year we welcomed 1,911 students, marking over 15 years of steady growth and representing the largest total enrollment in the institution’s history. This figure includes a record of 1,528 full-time undergraduate students, with the remainder enrolled in our graduate or dual-credit programs. Once again, we expect to welcome another large freshman class. Enrollment has grown to a point where 4 new residential apartments building (The Squares) were added last year for 96 students and 2 new buildings (The Townhomes) have just been completed for this year and finished just in time to welcome 48 students by the beginning of this academic year. Other construction includes a new dining facility as well as added space to the B.J. Haan Auditorium which will include a small recital hall, faculty offices, as well as improvements for accessibility. These projects are donor funded and we are grateful for their support. All the growth and building are challenging, but what a privilege to have to think about these “problems.” God is faithful. God provides. Soli Deo Gloria.

At Dordt, we reaffirm our thankfulness, but also our need for your continued classical support. This support is dedicated to operating expenses and enables us to pass on less cost to our students. We believe that Dordt University is an important piece of regional and local ministry for our churches and communities. Many of our alumni attend your churches on Sundays, serve and lead in the programs in your congregations, and some serve as council members or even your pastors. Dordt is invested in the local church and we are grateful for your investment in us.

Matching the Dordt University fiscal year of 2024-2025 the ministry share request is **\$69.90** (per professing member).

This figure was determined by looking at a combination of factors: student enrollment, professing members in historically supporting classes, and carefully evaluating the costs related to Christian higher education.

Thank you again for your faithful support both in prayer and gifts. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Serving with you,

Todd Zuidema  
Director of Church Relations  
[todd.zuidema@dordt.edu](mailto:todd.zuidema@dordt.edu)  
712-722-6081

Cc: Classical Treasurer

**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE TO  
CLASSIS IN SESSION, - September 18, 2024  
At Ireton CRC**

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CDC**

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Discipleship Committee met on August 20, 2024. Members present were Rev. Brian Dunn, Rev. Jesse Walhof, Rev. Ben Wiersma. Ben opened with devotions and prayer.

Topics discussed at the meeting 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** – A TLT representative will be asked to present at Classis.
  - b. **Abide Project** – The recent Abide Project Convention held at First CRC, Sioux Center was discussed.
    - i. A regional gathering in the winter/spring will be discussed in the future
  - c. **Dunamis** – The CDC is promoting the next Dunamis Project event on *Gateways to Empowered Ministry* held October 10-13 in Milford, IA.
    - i. This weekend sets the Biblical foundation for the rest of the events.
2. Ministry Support on behalf of Classis Heartland
  - a. **Classis Prayer Coordinator (Ms. Barb Hibma)**
    - i. The CDC is staying in contact with Barb to discuss ways to incorporate prayer in the work and ministries of the Classis.
  - b. **Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (Ms. Lee DeGroot)**
    - i. Please refer to the MIK-Youth report in the agenda.
    - ii. MIK-Youth is asking for a \$3,000 budget increase to cover the cost of insurance for Lee and extended hours for Doug.
    - iii. Lee and Doug have also shared some ideas about further developing the ministry.
    - iv. The board has added Mr. Scott DeBoom (Hope CRC, Hull) as a Heartland representative.
  - c. **Safe Church (Dr. Tara Boer)**
    - i. The CDC has discussed future rolls in the Safe Church Ministry Team.
3. Financial Reports
  - a. A motion was passed to request an increase in funding from Classis of \$.50 up from \$.05 per member in September 2024. Grounds:
    - i. The current funds allocated to the CEC is approximately \$140 per year.
    - ii. The CEC has offered financial help for attendance at the Abide Project Convention to pastors and church leaders.
    - iii. The CEC has covered the shortfall in MIK-Youth funding from the Classis.
    - iv. The CEC has provided grants for the TLT Summit.

- v. The CEC has offered scholarships for church leaders and lay people wanting to attend the Dunamis Project events.
  - vi. The CEC would like to continue supporting these events and others but will require more funding to do so.
- b. Current balances will be reported by the Classis Treasurer.

#### **ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION**

The Classical Discipleship Committee has been working to fulfill its calling to provide educational and discipleship opportunities for church leaders in Classis Heartland. The CDC has been working to support the Timothy Leadership Training team as well as Dordt University as it provides learning opportunities. The CDC has been offering ministry support to the Classis Prayer Coordinator, Minn-I-Kota Youth Network, and the Safe Church Team. The CDC has been working to be good stewards of the funds that have been allocated to the CDC as well as the Classis Prayer Coordinator.

#### **ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation 1: That Classis approve the motion to increase Classical funding to \$.50, up from \$.05 per member based on the previously stated grounds.**

**Recommendation 2: That Classis approve the budget increase of \$3000 per year to the MIK-Youth Network starting in 2025.**

**Recommendation 3: That Classis approve the work and report of the Classis Discipleship Committee.**

Members of the CDC: Rev. Brian Dunn Rev. Jesse Walhof, Rev. Ben Wiersma



Minnikota Youth Network~307 South  
Union~Rock Rapids, IA 51246~712-470-4244  
Website: [www.minnikotayouthnetwork.com](http://www.minnikotayouthnetwork.com)  
Facebook: Minnikota Youth

**Minnikota Youth Board Members:** Minnkota Classis: Pastor Representative-Rev Greg Timmer, Secretary (2)-Sarah Van Dyken and Karmen Vis. Iakota Classis: Pastor Representative-Rev Henry Lengkeek, President Dan Elgersma, Shelli Kollis. Heartland Classis: Pastor Representative-Rev Ben Wiersma, Treasurer-Kody Tesch, Vacant Seat.

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Jr High Retreat** was once again the highlight of the year. Our theme was “BE”... Belong, Believe, Become, and Be a Kingdom Builder. The DU team of student leaders did a wonderful job again this year. Our 2 ½ hour service project this year was just “BEing” with the residents of the Rock Valley Nursing Home. I personally was very impressed with the compassion these young people showed to the elderly of this community. Little did we know that two months later these dear people would need to temporarily move due to flooding. Oh, how our hearts hurt for them during this confusing time. Thanking God they are “home” once again.

**This Summer** has been a busy summer. This summer has been an unusual summer. We as a family celebrated with our youngest son as he got married the first week of June in Cincinnati, Ohio. All five of our children are now married and are spread throughout the U.S. This was the first time in 3 years that all five of our children were together...it was such a blessing. After arriving home from Cincinnati we settled into what we thought was going to be a little bit “slower” routine but then the rains and flood of June 20, 21, and 22 hit us. In the middle of this rain Doug officiated a funeral in Rock Valley/Rock Rapids and another wedding June 22 in Rock Rapids with family members in motels in Sheldon and Rock Valley. God was faithful and provided exactly what these families needed for these events. The next several months we spent a lot of our spare time helping family members with their flood clean up. There are so many stories that make our hearts ache. Thank you to those from our supporting churches and beyond that reached out to me personally with questions of how they could help the many flooded communities. We continue to pray for all those affected by this summer’s floods.

**NEW LAPTOP:** It is amazing how technology is so helpful...when it works. Over the past several years I have been working with a laptop that has been crippling along. One of its problems is it has one working USB port and one broken USB port. I am unable to use two flash drives at once, which means I am unable to back up my info onto a second flash drive. However, this summer I was able to purchase a new laptop with some of the extra funds MIK Youth had been gifted the past two years. When I finally received the new laptop it was my goal to back up all my info from one flash drive to another. I’m one who still likes a book/the Bible in my hand so I can feel the pages and I still prefer my information to be stored on a visible flash drive...so I had not backed it to the cloud. I am so sorry. In the middle of the upheaval of the past several weeks, my very protected flash drive has gone missing. Due to my broken laptop, the last time I backed up my info was several years ago. Therefore, I am now in the middle of trying to retrieve any info I can from different sources. Oh, technology is wonderful when it works.

**2024-2025 MIK YOUTH Annual Kick Off**-we are planning on the All-Nighter at Thunder Road in Sioux Falls SD. It will begin on Friday night Sept 6/7 at 11pm. We will (weather permitting) start outdoors on the tracks etc from 11pm-1am. At 1am we will have devotions, pizza, and pop. From 130am-4am we will enjoy all the activities indoors. Leaders need to be there as well due to the time frame of this event. If we get 100 signed up it will cost \$35/person if it is 75-100 people signed up it will be \$40/person. By the time you read this, this event will have taken place.

**BIG NEWS!** THE MINNIKOTA YOUTH/MIK YOUTH BOARD has approved the start up of a post high young adult (18-29) sister ministry: “MIK +”. This new ministry will launch on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Pastor Doug and I have been reaching out to young adults from our supporting churches to help us plan the 2025 year with hopes of them putting their “stamp” on this ministry with us leading them. If you know of a Young Adult (18-29) who would like to talk with us about this opportunity, please reach out to us.

**Thank you all for supporting MIK Youth, your Youth, their Leaders and us. May our faithful Father continue to bless you in this coming school year!**

Classis Heartland Meeting Agenda – September 18, 2024

~Lee De Groot & Pastor Doug De Groot

Page 28 of 30



Throughout 2024, World Renew's work continues to **reach 30 countries** assisting over **1,200 communities** around the world.

## Community Development Worldwide



Lives are changing because of World Renew's integrated community development programs. **Village Savings and Loans (VSLA's)** are one of the exciting ways World Renew builds economic empowerment for people and communities around the world. Through VSLA's, a group of people save a little bit of money each week and then loan the money to each other at low interest rates. In Nicaragua, a women's group shares more than just the knowledge gained through the VSLA program, they share hope for bringing to reality dreams they once thought were unattainable. They are proud that together they were able to save \$23,758 Cordoba's (US\$686) in 12 short months. They are also grateful for the support network that the VSLA provides. The meetings give them a chance to de-stress and share the things they have in common - giving them the opportunity to learn new things and share their hopes and dreams.

Pusha Rani lives in Satkhira district in rural Bangladesh and, like over 50 percent of the girls there, she was married before she was 18. Her parents could not support her, so they found a husband for her when she was just 15 years old. Pusha's husband, an agricultural day laborer, struggled to provide for their new family. Pusha also worked as a day laborer, helping to support her husband, but she felt hopeless in overcoming poverty. Then, in 2018, Pusha found out about the Integrated Community Development Program that World Renew partner Faith in Action (FIA) had started. Pusha participated in **agricultural training and joined an all-female savings and loan group**. She saved some money, and then she began to dream. Through a small loan she was able to plant different kinds of vegetables. Pusha is not a day laborer anymore. She is a self-employed farmer and a businesswoman. Her children are growing up and continuing their education. This past year, she was recognized as a successful farmer by both FIA and her community.



In Honduras, Raúl Aleman is part of a community group that grows food to survive the effects of climate change, which has brought both very heavy rains and prolonged periods of drought and heat. World Renew works with **farmers adapt to climate change**. Raúl says, "To try to sustain ourselves we decided to work together to produce food. With the support of World Renew and their partner, Diaconia, we are doing bigger farming projects. We've planted 200,000 onions, some to eat, but most of them to sell." World Renew's support is fundamental to the success and sustainability of these community farming efforts.

### International Disaster Response (IDR)

World Renew works alongside other like-minded Christian organizations to extend God’s love and hope to communities in crisis. One of these coalitions, Integral, is calling for collective action to address the needs of people in **neglected crises – those that are long-drawn-out, complex, or overlooked by the media**. Your prayers and financial support help World Renew continue to extend God’s love and hope to the most vulnerable people impacted by hunger, poverty, and injustice. The people of **South Sudan** have been impacted by a climate crisis and continued violence that have left more than 7 million people food insecure and 1.65 million children struggling with malnourishment. With our Integral Alliance partners, World Renew is offering food assistance in South Sudan. Please help us share God’s love and hope through the gift of food and other emergency essentials with South Sudanese families. Your support of our Global Food Crisis fund means that together, we can make hope tangible to those in crisis. **PLEASE GIVE here: [GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS](#)**



### Domestic Disaster Response (DRS)



...e major floods that devastated Iowa this past June. Once the  
... IA working with the City Administrator and community members  
... site to meet potential partners and offer services to help

DRS’s work does not  
... two years of World R  
... gifts and prayers hav  
... hope to many Floridi  
... needs assessments, r



Long Term Recovery Group. What a testimony to God’s grace and me  
[lan 2-years](#)      **Want to VOLUNTEER with DRS? Find Opportuni**

### United States Justice opportunities:



**Panel Series** held in Spring 2024 brought together people from across the United States  
... leaders in the food systems field as they taught us how their faith has informed their  
... cluded congregations in the US who are responding in creative and caring ways  
... want to watch? Sign up to receive the links: <https://worldrenew.net/events>. LOOK for  
... soon!

**Upcoming Offerings: (Find all your Giving Resources here:**

<https://worldrenew.net/resources>)

**November - World Hunger** - (Nov. 3 is designated by CRCNA as World Hunger Sunday) - Find all your World  
Hunger resources here: [WORLD HUNGER](#)

**Fall/Winter** - This Holiday season, please give to World Renew’s programming: [GIFT CATALOG](#)

**December – Christmas Day**