

**Meeting Minutes for Classis Heartland
First Christian Reformed Church of Hospers, IA
Saturday, March 7, 2026**

Article 01: Constitution of Classis

Stated Clerk Pete Van Velzen reported that the credentials were in order. All delegates to classis signed the Covenant of Officebearers. Chairman of classis, Rev. Brian Hofman, then declared classis constituted, and welcomed both delegates and visitors.

Rev. Hofman reported that Rev. Aaron Greydanus would serve as vice-chair for the meeting in place of Rev. Lee Khang. Rev. Khang's mother passed away earlier this week, and he is therefore unable to attend today's meeting. Rev. Hofman led classis in prayer for the Khang family.

A. Classis Meeting Officers

Chair: Rev. Brian Hofman
Vice-Chair: Rev. Aaron Greydanus
Stated Clerk: Mr. Pete Van Velzen
Treasurer: Dr. Randy Smit

B. Classis Meeting Delegates (M = minister delegate, E = elder delegate, D = deacon delegate)

Calvary CRC – Orange City, IA: Rev. John Klompier (M), Mr. Kenton Witt (E), and Mr. Brandon Bonnema (D)
Calvin CRC – LeMars, IA: Rev. Brian Hofman (M), Mr. Bob Hughes (E), and Mr. Pete Attema (D)
F Street Church – Lincoln, NE: Pastor Jeff Heerspink (M), and Mr. RJ Coburn (D)
First CRC – Hospers, IA: Mr. Ed Klynsma (E), Mr. Kevin Kooistra, and Mr. Joe Vander Wilt (D)
First CRC – Hull, IA: Rev. Aaron Greydanus (M), Mr. Dan Fedders (E), and Mr. Kyle Pollema (D)
First CRC – Orange City, IA: Rev. Stephen Terpstra (M), Mr. Dan Snieder (E), and Mr. Jeremy Mills (D)
First CRC – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Brian Dunn (M), Mr. Keith Habben (E), and Mr. Devin DeJong (D)
Hawarden CRC – Hawarden, IA: Rev. Seth Atsma (M), Mr. Dave Noteboom (E), and Mr. Steve Boersma (D)
Hope CRC – Hull, IA: Rev. Keith Hoekstra (M), Mr. Scott deBoom (E), and Mr. Nate Van Kley (D)
Immanuel CRC – Orange City, IA: Rev. Cody Statema (M), Mr. Lyle Van DeGriend (E), and Mr. Tyler Wassenaar (D)
Immanuel CRC – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Kevin Muyskens (M), Mr. Steve Geels (E), and Mr. Tyle Woudstra (D)
Ireton CRC – Ireton, IA: Rev. Nathan Kuperus (M), and Mr. Mike Vander Windt (E)
Living Water Church – Orange City, IA: Mr. Rod De Boer (E), and Mr. Brad Zwaard (D)
Living Water Church – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Jesse Walhof (M), Mr. Scott De Jong (E), and Mr. Jay Kaptien (D)
New City Church – Kansas City, MO: No delegates present

Northern Lighthouse Church – Lincoln, NE: Pastor Jon Keyzer (M), Mr. Eric DeGarmo (E), and Ms. Richelle McDonald (D)
Ocheyedan CRC – Ocheyedan, IA: Mr. Corwin Runia (E), and Mr. Corey Slagter (D)
Pathway Community Church – Olathe, KS: No delegates present
Prairie Lane CRC – Omaha, NE: Rev. Chad Van Ginkel (M), and Mr. Rollie Miller (E),
Sanborn CRC – Sanborn, IA: Rev. Phillip Westra (M), Mr. Brian Koldenhoven (E), and Mr. Alan Visser (D)
Sibley CRC – Sibley, IA: Rev. Ben Wiersma (M), Mr. Leon Runia (E), and Mr. Nate Runia (D)

C. Classis Meeting Guests

Dr. Randy Smit (Classis Treasurer)
Mr. Loren Veldhuizen (Council of Delegates)
Ms. Barb Hibma (Classis Prayer Coordinator)
Ms. Jessica Fox (Reframe Ministries)
Mr. Steve Fox (Guest with ReFrame Ministries)
Mr. Dan Tracy (Calvary CRC in Orange City)
Rev. Doug De Groot (Minn-I-Kota Youth)
Ms. Lee De Groot (Minn-I-Kota Youth)
Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch (Safe Church Coordinator)
Ms. Kim Starkenberg (World Renew Board Member)
Ms. Elizabeth Akindejoye (Children’s Ministry Director - Shalom CRC – Sioux Falls)
Mr. Randy Raak (Resonate Global Mission)
Mr. Matt Dengler (First CRC in Hospers)
Mr. William Aranas (Hope CRC in Hull)
Mr. Harold Willemstyn (Sanborn CRC)
Mr. Marlyn Visser (First CRC in Orange City)

Article 02: Opening Worship and Meditation

Mr. Matt Dengler led classis in a time of singing, and Rev. Nate Kuperus offered a meditation on the gospel. He reminded the delegates that the gospel is the very reason for the work of classis and the purpose behind all that is done. Rev. Kuperus then opened the meeting in prayer.

Article 03: Communications and Overtures from Churches

A letter from Ocheyedan Christian Reformed Church re: seating women delegates at classis (p. 4 of the agenda) was received for information.

Article 04: Classical Nominating Committee (CNC)

Rev. Brian Hofman led classis in the process of voting for delegates to Synod 2026. Instructions were given and paper ballots were handed out. Two rounds of voting resulted in the following delegates selected:

1. Rev. Brian Dunn- minister delegate
2. Rev. Keith Hoekstra – at large delegate
3. Mr. Dan Tracy - elder delegate
4. Mr. Phil Elgersma- deacon delegate
5. Rev. Nate Kuperus - alternate minister delegate
6. Rev. Lee Khang - alternate at large delegate

Article 05: Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)

- A. Rev. Nathan Kuperus directed the delegates' attention to the CSC report on page 5 of the agenda, noting that our classis has been blessed by the gifts received.
- B. Dr. Randy Smit reviewed the 2025 treasurer's report (agenda pages 6-10). He reported that 99% of ministry shares were received in 2025 and encouraged congregations to continue their generous giving.
- C. Motion: To approve the work of the Classical Stewardship Committee and the treasurer.
Adopted.
- D. Rev. Keith Hoekstra prayed for the ministries supported by Classis Heartland.

Article 06: Examination of Mr. William Aranas and Mr. Harold Willemstyn for Licensure to Exhort (Church Order Art. 43.b)

- A. *Letters of recommendation* were received from Hope CRC in Hull (Mr. Aranas) and Sanborn CRC (Mr. Willemstyn) – pages 11 and 12 of the agenda.
- B. *Sermon Evaluation*: Rev. Stephen Terpstra and Rev. Brian Hofman reviewed Mr. Aranas' sermon and his recent delivery of this sermon at Hope CRC Hull during the morning service of February 9, 2026. They were impressed with Mr. Aranas' message and enthusiastically recommended acceptance of his sermon. A motion was made to move ahead with the interview. **Adopted**
Rev. Steve Boersma and Rev. Nate Kuperus reviewed Mr. Willemstyn's sermon and his recent delivery of this sermon at Ireton CRC during the evening service of February 22, 2026. They reported that the sermon and entire worship service was presented with energy, honesty, pastoral sensitivity and enthusiasm. A motion was made to move ahead with the interview. **Adopted**
- C. *Interview Examination*: Rev. Brian Dunn conducted an interview of Mr. Aranas and Mr. Willemstyn exploring their biblical and theological knowledge, sermon preparation process, and practical wisdom. This also included a time for delegates to classis to ask questions of Mr. Aranas and Mr. Willemstyn.
- D. *Executive Session*: Classis visitors were dismissed
Motion: Grant a License to Exhort to Mr. William Aranas. **Adopted.**
Motion: Grant a License to Exhort to Mr. Harold Willemstyn. **Adopted.**
- E. *Prayer*: Rev. Chad Van Ginkel lead classis in a prayer of blessing for Mr. Aranas and Mr. Willemstyn and their future service to the congregations of classis.

Article 07: Overtures from Churches

- A. First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City presented an overture re: Synod to continue with annual in-person Synods. Classis discussed the proposal (agenda page 27).
Motion: Adopt overture from First CRC of Orange City re: directing Synod to continue with annual in-person Synods. **Adopted**
- B. First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City presented and overture re: Synod to set aside time during every Synod, in coordination with the celebration of new candidates for the ministry, to invite, recognize, give thanks for, and celebrate those retiring from ministry in the previous calendar year. Classis discussed the proposal (agenda page 28).

Motion: Adopt overture from First CRC of Orange City re: directing Synod, in coordination with the celebration of new candidates for the ministry, to invite, recognize, give thanks for, and celebrate those retiring from ministry in the previous calendar year. **Adopted**

Article 08: Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

- A. Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, chair of the Classical Ministry Leadership Team, shared information about the work of the CMLT.
 - Mr. Scott MacDougal’s mentor stepped down, and Chad Van Ginkel will take the place of the mentor in preparation for Mr. MacDougal’s examination this coming September.
 - Rev. Van Ginkel attended Call 2.0 planning meeting for possible CMLT partnership.
 - The CMLT is working on a partnership with Dordt University and their pre-seminary program.
- B. Motion: Approve the work of CMLT. **Adopted**

Article 09: Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)

- A. Rev. Keith Hoekstra shared information about the work of the CHMC. The written report can be found on agenda pages 30 -31.
- B. The Areopagus written report was received for information – pages 32-34 of the agenda.
- C. The Cornerstone Prison Church written report was received for information – page 35 of the agenda.
- D. Ms. Elizabeth Akindejoye, Children’s Ministry Director at Shalom CRC in Sioux Falls, shared information concerning the GEMS program and how it has touched so many lives. The video *Sharing Christ, Transforming Lives* was shown.
- E. Ms. Kim Starkenberg discussed the work of World Renew and shared stories from around the world. She thanked congregations for their support and requested churches to continue to be involved and to keep the organization in their prayers.
- F. Rev. Keith Hoekstra shared how Hope CRC in Hull and Immanuel CRC in Sheldon are getting young leaders involved in planning and leading worship services. The video *Young Leaders and Evening Services* was shown. The video can be found on the Classis Heartland website. The CHMC encourages other churches to utilize youth in their church services.
- G. Rev. Randy Raak, Resonate Regional Mission Leader for the US Central Region, described how things are being torn apart around the world and how our role as Christians is to put things back together. Resonate is ready to walk alongside churches as they reach out to share the gospel.
- H. Motion: Approve the work of the Classical Home Missions Committee. **Adopted.**
- I. Rev. Jeff Heerspink prayed for the work of the CHMC and the organizations they support.

Article 10: Reframe Ministries

- A. Ms. Jessica Fox shared information about the work of ReFrame Ministries, noting that the organization’s mission has remained the same since it began in 1939. Her presentation included a video and PowerPoint.
- B. She thanked the churches of Classis Heartland for their financial support and requested continued prayer support for the ministry.

Article 11: Stated Clerk's Report

- A. Mr. Pete Van Velzen asked classis delegates to review the stated clerk's report on page 29 of the agenda. He pointed out that there is a change to the classis schedule and that the September meeting will be held at Immanuel CRC in Sheldon.
- B. Motion: Approve the work of the stated clerk. **Adopted**

Classis took a recess from their meeting for lunch.

Article 12: Council of Delegates (COD) Report

- A. Mr. Loren Veldhuizen described the role of the COD. He shared that their two main initiatives are church planting and church renewal. He also encouraged our classis to submit articles for the Banner.
- B. Giving is down again this year, and congregations are encouraged to increase their support through ministry shares. Mr. Veldhuizen also encouraged everyone to keep the work of the COD and our denomination in their prayers.
- C. Highlights from the February 4-6 COD meeting can be found on pages 5-6 of the supplement to the agenda.

Article 13: Classical Discipleship Committee (CDC)

- A. The committee's written report can be found on pages 41 and 42 of the agenda.
- B. Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch, Safe Church Coordinator, shared information about the work of the Safe Church Team. The team is available as a resource for abuse prevention and serves in a consultative role in developing safe church policies.
- C. Ms. Lee De Groot and Rev. Doug De Groot gave an update on their work with the Minn-I-Kota Youth Network. They described the success of the MIK Young Adult program that began a year ago. The annual Jr. High retreat will be held on April 17-19. They thanked classis for its support of Minn-I-Kota Youth. A written report can be found on page 43 of the agenda.
- D. Motion: Approve the work of the CDC and its report. **Adopted**
- E. Rev. Jesse Walhof prayed for the work of the CDC and its ministries.

Article 14: Classical Interim Committee (CIC)

- A. Rev. Nate Kuperus directed the delegates' attention to the summary of CIC's work on pages 3-4 of the supplement to the agenda. He noted that the CIC is responsible for carrying out the work of classis between meetings.
- B. The CIC requests that classis amend the rules of procedure to include one additional voting member on the Interim Committee.
Motion: To amend the Rules of Procedure as follows: The Classical Interim Committee shall consist of four members elected to three-year terms, staggered so that at least one member is elected each year. The stated clerk shall serve as a non-voting, ex officio member. One alternate shall also be elected. **Adopted**
- C. Motion: That classis appoint Rev. Stephen Terpstra to this new position and instruct the CNC to include a new alternate on the ballot for the Fall 2026 meeting. **Adopted**
- D. The CIC received a letter from Pathway Community Church in Olathe, Kansas stating that they have disbanded. The CIC has been in communication with the church. *Executive Session* was called and visitors were dismissed.

Motion: The CIC will continue its work with Pathway and report to classis at the fall 2026 meeting. **Adopted**

Motion: Approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee. **Adopted**

- E. Rev. Kevin Muyskens prayed for the CIC and their work.

Article 15: Church Counselor Reports

- A. Rev. Kevin Muyskens reported on his work with New City Church. Rev. Vanden Akker has stepped back from his role as pastoral mentor. Mr. Scott MacDougall will be examined for the office of commissioned pastor at our September meeting.
- B. Rev. Aaron Greydanus shared that things are going well at 1st CRC in Hospers. He and Rev. Lee Khang have taken on the role of mentors for Mr. Matt Dengler; meeting monthly with weekly updates. Classis provides pulpit supply once each month for 1st CRC in Hospers.
- C. Rev. Cody Statema reported that he recently attended a meeting at Living Water Orange City and things are going well.
- D. Rev. Phillip Westra and Rev. Jesse Walhof shared that everything is going well with the emerging church status of Living Water Sheldon.
- E. Motion: Approve the work of church counselors. **Adopted**

Article 16: Ad Hoc Committee on the Roles of Elders and Deacons

- A. Rev. Brian Dunn reported on the work of the committee. Three questions will be sent out to the churches of classis to gather information.
- B. A written report of their work can be found on page 2 of the supplement to the agenda.

Article 17: Written Reports

- A. Thrive – agenda pages 44-46
- B. CRCNA General Secretary Zachary King – agenda pages 47-48
- C. Calvin Theological Seminary -agenda pages 50-54
- D. Dordt University – supplement pages 9-10

Article 18: Devotions and Prayer

- A. Ms. Barb Hibma led the group in devotions focused on navigating times of lament. The video, *A Personal Testimony of Learning to Lament* was shown.
- B. Rev. Jesse Walhof led in prayer, drawing on Psalm 13.

Article 19: Adjournment

- A. Motion: Adjourn the meeting of Classis Heartland. **Adopted**
- B. Rev. Brian Hofman thanked everyone involved in planning for the classis meeting and to First CRC in Hospers for hosting the meeting.
- C. Rev. Aaron Greydanus closed the meeting in prayer and the singing of the doxology
- D. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at Immanuel CRC in Sheldon.

Pete Van Velzen
Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland