

Highlights from our Classis Heartland Meeting September 20, 2023 at Immanuel CRC of Orange City

On September 20, 2023 Classis Heartland gathered at Immanuel CRC in Orange City. Rev. Zach King, general secretary of the CRCNA, joined us for our meeting where he led us in a meditation of John 12:20–26 and spoke about our denominational ministry plan, “Our Journey 2025.” This ministry plan is made up of four main goals which are worthy for God’s glory as individual churches, as a classis, and as a denomination.

1. Cultivate practices of prayer and spiritual discipline, transforming our lives and communities by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Listen to the voices of every generation, shaping us for ministry together.
3. Grow in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome, sharing our faith as we build relationships with and honor the cultures of our neighbors and newcomers.
4. Share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches in our neighborhoods as we discover how to connect with our local and global ministry contexts.

During the business meeting of Classis Heartland, we made the following seven decisions, announcements, and requests that our churches ought to know about.

1. *Gratitude:* We joined three congregations in thanking the Lord for providing pastors who have accepted their call. Rev. Cody Statema was installed at Immanuel CRC in Orange City on August 20 and Rev. Lee Khang was installed at Ochededan CRC on August 27. Rev. Aaron Greydanus has accepted the call to serve First CRC in Hull.
2. *Announcement:* Rev. Aaron Greydanus will be installed at Hull First CRC on October 1st at 3:00 PM. All church leaders and members Classis Heartland are welcome to attend.
3. *Budget:* Classis passed a classical ministry share budget of \$115.75 per member.
4. *Examination:* Pastor Jon Keyzer sustained our classis’ examination for his ordination as a Commissioned Pastor at Northern Lighthouse Church.
5. *Retirement:* Classis approved the retirement of Rev. Steve Boersma.
6. *Supported Ministries:* Please keep Siouxland Unity CRC, Areopagus Campus Ministry at ISU, and Cornerstone Prison Church in Sioux Falls, SD in your prayers. Siouxland Unity is reaching out to community members of Asian heritage. Areopagus is blessed with student leaders and discussing challenging topics like human sexuality. Cornerstone continues to minister amidst new limits and barriers to spending a lot of time in the prison.
7. *Safe Church:* Dr. Tara Boer requested churches select a safe church contact and record the name and contact information at the following link:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nf_csTb8KQfPpvJ6fXCiT1h6mfV3mxAJwIXOrbGCX9s/edit#gid=1809132729

Respectfully submitted,
Phillip Westra (Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland)