

Summary of Classis Heartland Meeting September 16, 2026 – Immanuel CRC, Sheldon

1. Classis chairman, Rev. Lee Khang, opened the meeting and welcomed delegates and visitors.
2. A praise team from Immanuel CRC led classis in a time of singing. Rev. Kevin Muyskens offered a meditation on the church's calling to make disciples of all nations. He connected this calling with the denomination's vision of planting 150 new churches over the next ten years. Rev. Muyskens then opened the meeting in prayer.
3. An overture from Prairie Lane CRC, New City Church of Kansas City, Northern Lighthouse of Lincoln and F Street of Lincoln re: the re-organization of classical appointments was presented by Rev. Chad Van Ginkel. Following discussion, a motion was made to table the overture and have CIC appoint an advisory committee.
Adopted
4. Rev. Kris Vos and Rev. Keith Doornbos shared the work being done by the Center for Church Renewal. They described the two-year renewal experience that is designed to help congregations regain their mission focus and make more and better disciples. They hope to start a Renewal Lab Cohort in our region.
5. Mr. Del Walinga was examined for license to exhort. Rev. Stephen Terpstra and Mr. Ross Bouma reviewed Mr. Walinga's sermon at First CRC in Orange City on September 6, 2026 and made a motion to move ahead with the interview. ***Adopted.*** Rev. Nate Kuperus conducted an interview of Mr. Walinga exploring his faith journey, biblical and theological knowledge, sermon preparation process, and practical wisdom. This also included a time for delegates to ask Mr. Walinga questions. Following the examination, executive session was called and all visitors were dismissed. Motion: Grant a license to exhort to Mr. Del Walinga. ***Adopted.***
6. Dr. Randy Smit, classis treasurer, discussed the proposed budget and ministry shares. Ministry shares will be \$122 per member for 2027. That is a 3.39% increase. The vote on this was tabled until after committee reports were given.
7. Dr. Lee Carter (Thrive Director) and Ms. Trudy Ash (Connect Team Lead) shared information about the work of Thrive. Thrive remains committed to its mission of equipping and encouraging congregations with the tools they need to flourish. Mr. Henry Meurs is our new Regional Connector.
8. Mr. Matt Dengler (First CRC Hospers) was examined for ordination as commissioned pastor under Article 24b and Mr. Scott MacDougall (New City Church – Kansas City) under Article 23. Rev. Jordan Helming reviewed Mr. MacDougall's sermon and his recent delivery of this sermon at New City Church in Kansas City on August 30, 2026 and made a motion to move ahead with the examination. ***Adopted.***
Rev. Chad Van Ginkel conducted examinations of Mr. Matt Dengler and Mr. Scott MacDougall. He questioned them regarding the spiritual disciplines that nurture and strengthen their faith, their biblical knowledge, covenant theology, the sacraments, and practical wisdom for ministry. The examination also included an opportunity for delegates to ask questions. Executive session was declared and all visitors were dismissed.
Motion: To approve Mr. Scott MacDougall for ordination as commissioned pastor under Article 23. ***Approved***
Motion: To approve Mr. Matt Dengler for ordination as commissioned pastor under Article 24b. ***Approved. The synodical deputies concurred with the decision.***
9. Rev. Mark Klompfen shared information about the challenges and opportunities in his ministry in Nepal. He expressed gratitude for classis's continued prayers and support and asked classis to pray for the people of Nepal, noting that the church is on the move.
10. Ms. Lora Copley presented her final report on Areopagus, as she is stepping down from her role with the ministry to take on her new position as editor of *The Banner*. Rev. Daniel Gregory will serve as the new campus pastor. Mr. Dan Tracy now serves on the Areopagus Board of Directors. She also reported on her work as editor of *The Banner*, noting, among other things, the important role the publication plays during this time of denominational renewal. She expressed her appreciation for those who read and share *The Banner*, submit articles, and faithfully pray for its ministry.
11. Ms. Holly, Associate Director of Admissions at Calvin Theological Seminary, thanked Classis Heartland for its continued support. She reported that the new academic year is off to a good start. She also provided updates on faculty and curricular changes and announced that the seminary's president, Rev. Jul Medenblik, will be retiring at the end of the academic year.
12. Rev. Scott Van Voorst addressed classis on behalf of Cornerstone Prison Church, sharing an update on the ministry's growth and the challenges it faces. He noted renewed interest and growing enthusiasm for the church. Pastor Cory Grimm, worship pastor at Cornerstone, was introduced to classis. Rev. Van Voorst expressed the ministry's appreciation for the prayers of classis and emphasized the importance of continued prayer support.
13. Rev. Brad Meinders provided an overview of the work of Resonate Global Missions, highlighting its ministry in three areas: local missions, global missions, and church planting. A summary of Synod's 10-year strategic plan

for church planting within our denomination can be found on pages 29–34 of the agenda. Rev. Meinders concluded by leading classis in prayer for the work being carried out throughout Classis Heartland.

14. Ms. Kim Starkenburg thanked Classis Heartland for its prayers and support of World Renew. She provided an overview of the organization's work and highlighted opportunities for involvement. Ms. Starkenburg emphasized the ongoing need for volunteers and encouraged delegates to visit the World Renew website to learn more about its ministries and volunteer opportunities.
15. President Erik Hoekstra extended greetings from Dordt University and expressed gratitude to classis for its longstanding and faithful support. He also shared several of Dordt's accomplishments and highlighted recent developments at the university. Rev. Phil Westra prayed for the organizations and ministries we support as a classis and denomination.
16. Rev. Keith Hoekstra presented the Classical Home Missions Committee report. The CHMC encourages congregations to take advantage of ECD grants. The next "Called Event" will be held on November 14.
17. The Classical Nominating Committee report was shared by Rev. Brian Hofman. Following a vote by classis delegates, the following individuals were elected to serve on classis committees: Rev. Brian Dunn – Classical Interim Committee Alternate, Rev. Kevin Muyskens – Classical Home Missions Committee, Dr. Allan Kramer – Classical Home Missions Committee, Mr. Mark Volkers – Classical Home Missions Committee, Rev. Cody Statema – Classical Home Missions Committee Alternate, Ms. Leandra Hulstein – Classical Stewardship Committee, Rev. Seth Atsma – Classical Discipleship Committee Alternate, Rev. John Klompier – Classical Nominating Committee, Mr. Mike Byker – Classical Nominating Committee, Mr. Glenn Bouma – Classical Nominating Committee Alternate, Rev. Lee Khang – Classical Ministry Leadership Team, Mr. Darrell Schuller – Classical Ministry Leadership Team

The CNC brought the following motions:

Motion: Affirm World Renew's approval of Ms. Kim Starkenburg for a second term of service on the World Renew Board of Directors. **Adopted.**

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

18. 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, the annual Jr. High retreat, and the beginning of the school year kickoff at Thunder Road. They thanked classis for its support and asked churches of Classis Heartland to encourage students and young adults to get involved in the programs that are available.
19. Mr. Del Walinga shared information about Timothy Leadership Training.
20. The Classical Ministry Leadership Team came with a motion to renew the classical license to exhort for Mr. Dan Tracy, Mr. Matt Dengler, Mr. William Aranas, and Mr. Harold Willemstyn for another two years. **Adopted.**
21. The discussion regarding leadership development did not take place during the classis meeting. Instead, the churches of Classis Heartland will discuss the topic at their next council meeting and submit responses to the stated clerk of classis.
22. Mr. Loren Veldhuizen described the role of the COD. The Council of Delegates has not met since Synod 2026.
23. Rev. Kevin Muyskens led Classis Heartland delegates and guests in a time of devotions and prayer. The devotional followed the pattern of the Lord's Prayer and was provided by Classis Heartland Prayer Coordinator Ms. Barb Hibma.
24. The Classical Interim Committee made and approved a motion to readmit Rev. Luke Wynja as Minister of the Word in the CRC. The CIC was given the authority for final approval at the spring classis meeting. The CIC also came with the following motions:
Motion: To disband the Diaconal Task Force. **Adopted.**
Motion: CIC moves that classis approve the request from Pathway Community Church per Art. 38d. of the Church order. **Adopted**
Motion: CIC moves that classis declare Mr. Kevin Schutte "released" from ordination as a commissioned pastor per article 24-d and article 14b of the Church Order. **Adopted**
25. A motion was made to put discussion of classical ministry shares back on the floor. **Adopted**
Motion: To pass classical ministry shares proposal for 2027. **Adopted**
26. Rev. Lee Khang thanked everyone involved in planning for the classis meeting and to Immanuel CRC for hosting the meeting. Rev. Lee Khang closed the meeting in prayer and the doxology was sung.
27. Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2027, at Ocheyedon CRC
28. The complete minutes of the meeting and all committee reports are available on the Classis Heartland website: <https://www.classisheartland.com>.