

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT
CLASSIS HEARTLAND
Saturday, September 26, 2020

STANDING COMMITTEES & FUNCTIONARY REPORTS

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**Classical Interim Committee – Heartland
September 22, 2020
2:00 p.m. on the Campus of Dordt University**

1. Opening Prayer by Rev. Todd Zuidema
2. We reviewed the upcoming Classis Meeting with Classis Coordinator, Rev. Kevin Muyskens.
3. By consensus, we approved the following appointments
 - a. Rev. Tom De Does as the Church Counselor for Sibley CRC, Sibley, Iowa
 - b. Rev. Nathan Kuperus as the Church Counselor for Calvin CRC, LeMars, Iowa
 - c. Rev. Loren Kotman as the Church Counselor for Hope CRC, Hull, Iowa
4. Our meeting was adjourned.

**Classis Heartland
September 26, 2020
Stated Clerk Report**

Duties Following the March 2020 Session

- Published the minutes and the “Report to the Churches” of the March 7, 2020, meeting of classis.
- Updated the “Servants of Classis” roster and forwarded to the Classis Nominating Committee.
- Forwarded Synod 2020 delegate information to the Office of Synodical Services, CRCNA.

Duties Preparing for the September 2020 Session

- Consulted with Friendship Community Church, area classes, and CRCNA classical resources to offer options for holding the meeting to the Classical Interim Committee.
- Published the agenda
- Contacted synodical deputies
- Obtained a “Zoom” account for use by Classis Heartland for its business

Correspondence

- Routine correspondence is on file and/or was distributed as requested.
- **Rev. Marvin Leese – Notification of his affiliation with the United Reformed Church as a Minister of the Word. (See letter below.)**

Recommendation: That Classis Heartland release Rev. Marvin Leese from the office of Minister of the Word, and that he be declared honorably released from his office.

Grounds

1. **Rev. Leese has served faithfully as a Minister of the Word in First Christian Reformed Church, Hospers, Iowa.**
2. **Rev. Leese makes this request of Classis Heartland and the Christian Reformed Church in North America respectfully, in keeping with the provisions of Church Order Article 14-b.**

Note: Rev. Leese asks for his credentials to be forwarded to the United Reformed Church. This request strictly cannot be granted once released. Classis Heartland can communicate any decisions made regarding this recommendation with Classis Central US of the United Reformed Church to verify the history and status of Rev. Leese’ ordination.

September 17,2020

To:Council of Christian Reformed Church Hospers,Ia
Classis Heartland of the CRCNA

Re:Membership and Credential Transfer

Gentlemen:

It is with thanksgiving and by God's grace that as of 15 September,2020, I have sustained the Colloquium Doctum of Classis Central US of the United Reformed and been declared a minister eligible for call in the United Reformed Church though I am still retired. However,this means three actions should be taken as soon as possible by your council::

- 1) I am requesting that our membership(mine and Martha's) in the Hospers Christian Reformed Church be forwarded to the Sioux Center United Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa. where we have been regularly attending for almost two years.
- 2) I am requesting release of my ministerial credentials and that they be forwarded to the Sioux Center United Reformed Church of Sioux Center,Iowa.
- 3) In order to faithfully follow the Lord's calling and leading,I now also resign from the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church,according to Article 14-b,its Supplement of the Church Order and the Synod of the CRCNA's directives.These state the following:

Article 14-b. "A minister of the Word who resigns from the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church to enter a ministry outside the denomination shall be released from office by the classis with an appropriate declaration reflecting the resigned minister's status with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies."(Cf.Supplement,Article 14-b)

Declaration regarding ministers who resign from the CRC:

"Synod directed the churches and classes dealing with ministers who depart from the Christian Reformed Church in North America(CRCNA)in order to seek ordination in the ministry in another church to take note of the statement made by Synod 1978,p.73."

Synod directed the churches and classes to take into account the manner and spirit in which a minister has acted during the time leading up to and including departure from office when determining what action to take.(Some situations may require a deposition;others may require only a simple release from office.)

Synod encouraged the churches and classes:

- 1) To recognize carefully the conditions and circumstances of a particular case that may come to their attention(e.g.,whether it be a formal or a de facto resignation), and having done so,
- 2) To make a declaration reflecting the resigned minister's status that is appropriate to the way and spirit in which the minister during the time leading up to and in-

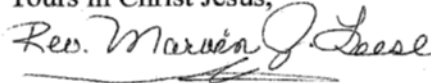
cluding the minister's resignation from office. Such a declaration could reflect one of the following:

- a) The resigned minister is honorably released.
- b) The resigned minister is released.
- c) The resigned minister is dismissed.
- d) The resigned minister is in the status of one deposed.

As such, in keeping with good church order, I am now submitting this letter resigning from the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church of North America in order to enter ministry in the United Reformed Church of North America.

May the God of all grace grant you His richest blessings as you respond to His call to hold firmly to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord of the Church who has loved us with an eternal love give all of us eternal hope, strengthening each of us to every good work and deed.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Rev. Marvin J. Leese

Church Counselor Report for the Northern Lighthouse in Lincoln, NE.
Fall 2020 Classis Heartland

The Northern Lighthouse's pastoral search was put on hold in March due to Covid-19 restrictions. A major obstacle in the process is that 1/3 of the NLC's membership comes from the Lincoln Correctional Center and the state of Nebraska has not allowed these individuals off the Center. Before the Covid restrictions, NLC was soliciting names of potential pastoral candidates. The current plan is to wait until more members are available to participate in the process before continuing on.

I am also pleased that due to their current team approach to leadership, the Northern Lighthouse is blessed to be patient in the search process without burdening current leaders or sacrificing the needs of the congregation. They continue to evaluate the unusual situation they are in, and are brainstorming creative options to proceed with the search if Covid restrictions remain long term.

Praise God our Father for His blessing on the leadership at the Northern Lighthouse and pray for God's wisdom moving forward.

Humbly Submitted

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