

**Meeting Minutes for Classis Heartland**  
Calvary Christian Reformed Church of Orange City, IA  
Saturday, March 8, 2025

**Article 01: Constitution of Classis**

Clerk Mr. Pete Van Velzen announced that credentials were in order. We are missing credentials from two churches, Pathway CRC and New City Church. All delegates to classis signed *The Covenant of Officebearers*. Chair of classis Rev. Aaron Greydanus declared classis constituted with the following officers and delegates, then welcomed delegates and visitors.

A. Classis Meeting Officers

Chair: Rev. Aaron Greydanus  
Vice-Chair: Rev. Keith Hoekstra  
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 Klompien (E), Mr. Daryl Byker (E), and Mr. Derek Bonnema (D)  
Calvin CRC – LeMars, IA: Rev. Brian Hofman (M), Mr. Dave Hector (E), and Mr. Jeremy Kamp (D)  
F Street Church – Lincoln, NE: Pastor Jeff Heerspink (M), Pastor Bill Thornton (E), and Mr. RJ Coburn (D)  
First CRC – Hospers, IA: Mr. Randy Van Kalsbeek (E), and Mr. Kurt Zevenbergen (D)  
First CRC – Hull, IA: Rev. Aaron Greydanus (M), Mr. Greg Vanden Bosch (E), and Mr. Alex Westra (D)  
First CRC – Orange City, IA: Rev. Stephen Terpstra (M), Mr. Mark Huizenga (E), and Phil Kuiken (D)  
First CRC – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Brian Dunn (M), Mr. Ryan Kats (E), and Mr. Nathan Ver Meer (D)  
Hawarden CRC – Hawarden, IA: Mr. Chris Dekkers (E), and Mr. Randy Van Wyhe (D)  
Hope CRC – Hull, IA: Rev. Keith Hoekstra (M), Mr. Randy Ten Pas (E), and Mr. Nate Van Kley (D)  
Immanuel CRC – Orange City, IA: Rev. Cody Statema (M), Mr. Lyle Vande Griend (E), and Mr. Andrew Nieuwendorp (D)  
Immanuel CRC – Sheldon, IA: Rev. Kevin Muyskens (M), Mr. Tom Wibben (E), and Mr. Cobi Jones (D)  
Ireton CRC – Ireton, IA: Rev. Nathan Kuperus (M), Mr. Kyle Byker (E), and Mr. Mike Kremel (D)  
Living Water Church – Orange City and Sheldon, IA: Rev. Jesse Walhof (M), Mr. Rod De Boer (E), and Mr. Jay Schemper (D)  
New City Church – Kansas City, MO: No delegates present  
Northern Lighthouse Church – Lincoln, NE: Pastor Jon Keyzer (M), Mr. Eric DeGarmo (E), and Mr. Mark Lindburg (D)

Ocheyedan CRC – Ocheyedan, IA: Rev. Lee Khang (M), Mr. Mike Bosma (E), and Mr. Steve Berndgen (D)  
Pathway Community Church – Olathe, KS: No delegates present  
Prairie Lane CRC – Omaha, NE: Rev. Chad Van Ginkel (M), Mr. Rick Kruelen (E), and Mr. Eric Kerwin (D)  
Sanborn CRC – Sanborn, IA: Rev. Phillip Westra (M), Mr. Keven Van Meeteren (E), and Mr. Kevin Hofman (D)  
Sibley CRC – Sibley, IA: Rev. Ben Wiersma (M), Mr. Leon Runia (E), and Mr. Mike Baumgarn (D)

C. Classis Meeting Guests

Dr. Randy Smit (Classis Treasurer)  
Mr. Loren Veldhuizen (Council of Delegates)  
Rev. Jordan Helming (First CRC in Orange City)  
Ms. Barb Hibma (Classis Prayer Coordinator)  
Mr. Dan Tracy (Calvary CRC in Orange City)  
Mr. Mike Krommendyk (Calvary CRC in Orange City)  
Mr. Calvin Hoogendoorn (Living Water Community Church in Orange City)  
Rev. Steve Boersma (Hawarden CRC)  
Rev. Brad Meinders (Resonate)  
Rev. Doug De Groot (Minn-I-Kota Youth)  
Ms. Lee De Groot (Minn-I-Kota Youth)  
Rev. Scott Van Voorst (Cornerstone Prison Ministry)  
Rev. Todd Zuidema (Dordt University)  
Rev. Cliff Hoekstra (Synodical Deputy from Iakota)  
Ms. Lora Copley (Areopagus Campus Ministry)  
Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch (Safe Church Coordinator)

**Article 02: Opening Worship and Meditation**

Rev. John Klompien and a praise team from Calvary CRC led a time of opening praise and worship. Rev. Klompien read from Psalm 4 and reflected on how David talked to God, paused and reflected, preached to himself and put his trust in the Lord. Rev. Klompien then opened the meeting with prayer.

**Article 03: Communications and Overtures from Churches**

- A. Letters from First Christian Reformed Church of Sheldon re: seating female deacon delegates (p. 4 in the agenda) and Ocheyedan Christian Reformed Church re: seating women delegates at classis (p. 2 of supplement) were received for information.
- B. First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City presented an overture re: classical study committee to review the nature, function, and authority of the offices of elder and deacon (p. 12 of agenda) and classis discussed this matter.  
Motion: Adopt overture from First CRC of Orange City re: classical study committee to review training of elders and deacons. **Adopted**
- C. First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City presented an overture re: adding a supplement to Church Order article 3 to include a discipleship/educational component for all offices, including elder and deacon. (p. 13 of agenda) Classis discussed the proposal.

Motion: Adopt overture from First CRC of Orange City re: adding a supplement to Church Order article 3 to include a discipleship/educational component for all offices.

**Adopted**

- D. First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City presented an overture re: directing Thrive ministries to focus on officebearer training in the coming year. (p. 14 of agenda) Discussion was held regarding the overture.

Motion: Adopt overture from First CRC of Orange City re: directing Thrive ministries to focus on officebearer training in the coming year. **Adopted**

- E. Sibley Christian Reformed Church presented an overture re: The Banner (pp. 7–8 in the agenda) and classis discussed this matter.

Motion: Adopt overture from Sibley CRC re: The Banner. **Adopted**

- F. First Christian Reformed Church of Hull presented an overture re: encouraging every church within the CRCNA to identify, train, and maintain an individual with a license to exhort in their church by Synod 2027. (p. 22 in the agenda)

Motion: Adopt overture from First CRC Hull re: identifying and training an individual with a license to exhort. **Adopted**

- G. Rev. Jesse Walhof prayed for God's guidance as our classis and denomination consider these overtures.

**Article 04: Classical Nominating Committee (CNC)**

Rev. Brian Hofman led classis in the process of voting for delegates to Synod 2025.

Instructions were given and paper ballots were handed out. Two rounds of voting resulted in the following delegates selected:

1. Rev. Stephen Terpstra- minister delegate
2. Rev. Aaron Greydanus - minister delegate
3. Mr. Dan Tracy - elder delegate
4. Mr. Brad Kraayenbrink- elder delegate
5. Rev. Brian Dunn - alternate minister delegate
6. Rev. Nate Kuperus - alternate minister delegate
7. Mr. Daryl Byker- alternate elder delegate
8. Mr. Rod De Boer – alternate elder delegate

**Article 05: Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)**

- A. Rev. Nathan Kuperus drew the classis delegates' attention to the meeting record for the CSC on pages 5-6 of the agenda and welcomed Dr. Randy Smit to address classis.
- B. Dr. Smit handed out a 2024 treasurer's report. Two key takeaways are that 1) we continue to have a healthy budget, and 2) our congregations have faithfully supported our classis through their classical ministry shares. Congregations are encouraged to continue giving their ministry shares.
- C. Motion: Approve the work of the Classical Stewardship Committee and the treasurer. **Adopted.**
- D. Rev. John Klompfen prayed for the ministries supported by Classis Heartland.

#### **Article 06: Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)**

- A. Rev. Chad Van Ginkel, chair of the Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) shared information from the CMLT written report. (p. 27 of agenda)
- B. Discussion was held regarding the approval of the job description for commissioned pastor at Hospers Christian Reformed Church (Art. 23-A). (pages 3-4 of supplement to the agenda)  
Motion: Approval of the job description with an amendment to add administration of the sacraments and change preaching 90% of services to 75%. **Adopted**  
**The synodical deputies concur with the decision.**
- C. Approval was requested to allow Matt Dengler to serve as commissioned pastor at First CRC of Hospers under article 24-b. His examination will take place at the fall meeting of classis. (pages 28-30 of agenda)  
Motion: Approval of Matt Dengler to serve as commissioned pastor. **Adopted**  
**The synodical deputies concur with the decision.**
- D. Synodical deputies include Rev. Cliff Hoekstra (Classis IaKota), Rev. Steve Mulder (Classis Northcentral Iowa), and Rev. Roger Sparks (Classis Minnkota).
- E. Motion: Approve the work of CMLT. **Adopted**

#### **Article 07: Living Water Oversight Committee**

- A. Rev. Cody Statema reported on the committee's work with Living Water Community Church of Orange City. The committee presented the following motions to classis. (p. 23 of agenda)  
Motion 1: The committee recommends that Classis Heartland permit Living Water Orange City to form a search committee to call a pastor. **Adopted**  
Motion 2: The committee recommends that Classis Heartland consider the committee to have completed its work, entrusting continued oversight to church visitors, church counselor and regional pastor, as necessary. **Adopted**
- B. Rev. Statema prayed for Living Water Community Church.

#### **Article 08: Church Visitors and Church Counselors**

- A. Church Visitor to the South, Rev. Ben Wiersma reported on work with Living Water Community Church and Kansas City.
- B. Church Visitor to the North, Rev. Cody Statema reported that they have been working with Ochedan CRC.
- C. Motion: Approve the work of our church visitors. **Adopted.**
- D. Rev. Nate Kuperus, church counselor for Hawarden Christian Reformed Church, reported that the church is in the process of looking for a pastor.
- E. Rev. Kevin Muyskens, church counselor for New City Church in Kansas City, submitted a written report on his work. The report focused on the leadership being provided by Matt Rogers and Scott MacDougal.
- F. Rev. Aaron Greydanus, church counselor for First Christian Reformed Church in Hospers, reported that he had visited with the church several times and he feels that they will be well served with Mr. Matt Dengler as commissioned pastor.
- G. Pastor Kevin Muyskens prayed for the churches in our classis and the work of our church visitors and church counselors.

### **Article 9: Classical Interim Committee (CIC)**

- A. Rev. Nate Kuperus drew classis' attention to the summary of CIC's work on pages 24-25 of the agenda.

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

- B. Mr. Pete Van Velzen asked classis delegates to review the stated clerk's report on page 26 of the agenda. The transition to a new stated clerk was described and Rev. Phillip Westra was thanked for his work.

Motion: Approve the work of the stated clerk. **Adopted**

*Classis took a recess from their meeting for lunch.*

### **Article 10: Time of Prayer and Sharing**

- A. Delegates gathered for prayer at tables mixed with delegates from multiple churches. The delegates shared met and unmet expectations and something they had seen God doing at their church. After sharing the delegates prayed for one another's congregations.
- B. Questions and concerns from the classis credentials were then discussed with delegates from mixed churches. Questions can be found on page 2 of the supplement to the agenda.

### **Article 10: Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)**

- A. Rev. Kevin Muyskens shared information about the work of the CHMC. He encouraged congregations to utilize ECD grants for outreach and ministry within the community. The committee's written report can be found on page 31 of the agenda.

Motion: Approve the work of the Classical Home Missions Committee. **Adopted.**

- B. Rev. Brad Meinders, Regional Mission Leader with Resonate, reported Resonate's role in working with churches throughout the US and Canada. He emphasized that our churches are not alone. Resonate is ready to walk alongside churches as they reach out to share the gospel.
- C. Ms. Lora Copley gave classis an update on her work with Areopagus Campus Ministry at Iowa State University. Key things happening through Areopagus are a theology matters discussion group, small group Bible studies, and lectures by Christian scholars. A written report of activities can be found on page 33 of the agenda.
- D. Rev. Scott Van Voorst addressed classis on behalf of Cornerstone Prison Church. He shared information about changes that have taken place since the lockdown. There is renewed interest and growing enthusiasm for the church. Attendance has increased significantly; so much that limits need to be placed on attendance. Rev. Kevin Muyskens prayed for prison ministry.
- E. Delegates viewed a video about the F Street residency program at the F Street Neighborhood Church in Lincoln, NE.
- F. Pastor Jon Keyzer prayed for ministries within our classis.

### **Article 11: Classical Discipleship Committee (CDC)**

- A. Rev. Ben Wiersma drew the delegates' attention to the committee written report found on pages 34 and 35 of the agenda. The committee has two recommendations to bring to classis.

Motion 1: That classis appoint Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch as the new Safe Church Coordinator pending approval by Classis Iakota. **Adopted**

Motion 2: That classis approve the work and report of the Classis Discipleship Committee.

**Adopted**

- B. A written report was received from the Safe Church Team. (p. 36 of the agenda)
- C. Ms. Abby Vanden Bosch, the New Safe Church Coordinator, introduced herself to the delegates. Her written biography can be found on page 37 of the agenda.
- D. Ms. Lee De Groot and Rev. Doug De Groot gave an update on their work with the Minn-I-Kota Youth Network. Some of the activities and support available to area youth groups include lesson plans, a traveling escape room, the jr. high retreat, and youth leader networking opportunities. Information was also shared about the MIK post high school ministry. They thanked classis for its support of Minn-I-Kota Youth. A written report can be found on page 38 of the agenda.

**Article 12: Council of Delegates (COD) Report**

Mr. Loren Veldhuizen described the role of the COD. He also shared information about Resonate and Gather events that are planned. He pointed out that both the US and Canadian pension are healthy. Ministry shares continue to drop, and congregations are encouraged to increase giving.

**Article 13:** A written report was received from Dordt University. (pages 39-40 of the agenda)

**Article 14:** The Thrive Playlist can be found on page 41 of the agenda.

**Article 15:** Rev. Kevin Muyskens and Ms. Barb Hibma shared a list of successes in area congregations and communities. Ms. Hibma closed in prayer.

**Article 16: Adjournment**

- A. Motion: Adjourn the meeting of Classis Heartland. **Adopted**
- B. All sang the doxology acapella.
- C. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church in Omaha.