

**Agenda for Classis Heartland
Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 8:30 AM**

Location: Immanuel Christian Reformed Church
601 Union Ave
Sheldon, IA 51201

1. Check-in 8:00 – 8:25 AM

All delegates should check-in with the stated clerk prior to the meeting. All delegates must sign “The Covenant of Officebearers” to participate in the meeting.

Morning Session, 8:30 – 12:00 Noon

2. Welcome and Constitution of Classis

- a. Welcome delegates and guests
- b. Give announcements and instructions for the day
- c. Classical Credentials and Attendance Report
- d. Chair declares Classis Constituted with the following officers serving
 - 1) Chairman: **Rev. Lee Khang**
 - 2) Vice-Chairman: **Rev. Chad Van Ginkel**
 - 3) Stated Clerk: **Pete Van Velzen**
 - 4) Treasurer: **Randy Smit**

3. Worship, Meditation, and Prayer led by Rev. Kevin Muyskens.

4. Communications from Churches

- a. Letter from First CRC Sheldon **(p. 4)**
- b. Letter from Ocheyedan CRC **(p. 5)**
- c. Overture to Classis Heartland from Prairie Lane CRC, New City Church of Kansas City, Northern Lighthouse of Lincoln and F Street of Lincoln **(pp. 6-7)**

5. Examination of Del Wallinga for License to Exhort.

- a. Introduction and opening prayer
- b. Letter of recommendation **(p. 8)**
- c. Sermon Evaluation – Rev. Stephen Terpstra & Mr. Ross Bouma
- d. Interview led by Rev. Nate Kuperus

6. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC)

- a. CSC meeting minutes
- b. 2026 Classical Ministry Shares Proposal

7. Thrive

- a. Presentation by Lee Carter (Thrive Director) & Trudy Ash (Connect Team Lead/Regional Connector Midwest)
- b. Thrive Written Report **(pp. 9-10)**

Morning Break, 10:00 – 10:15 AM

8. Examination of Matt Dengler – First CRC Hospers (Article 24) & Scott MacDougall - (Article 23) for ordination as commissioned pastors.
 - a. Introduction of candidates and opening prayer
 - b. Sermon Evaluation (Scott MacDougall) - Rev. Jordan Helming
 - c. Biblical and Theological Examination led by Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
9. Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC)
 - a. Cornerstone Prison Church report by Rev. Scott Van Voorst
 - b. Areopagus written report **(p. 11)**
 - c. CHMC written report **(pp. 12-14)**
10. Advanced Notice for 2027/28 Events and Opportunities – CRCNA **(pp. 15-18)**
11. Center for Church Renewal – Kris Vos (Director)
12. Classical Nominating Committee –
 - a. Ballot for committee assignments **(p. 19)**
 - b. CNC written report **(p. 20)**
13. Classical Discipleship Committee (CDC)
 - a. CDC report
 - b. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network update **(pp. 21-22)**
 - c. Safe Church Team written report **(p. 23)**
 - d. Timothy Leadership Training
14. CRC Loan Fund Video **(p.24)**

Lunch Break, 12:00 – 12:45 PM

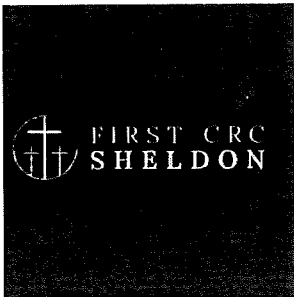
Afternoon Session

15. Council of Delegate (COD) report by Loren Veldhuizen
16. CRCNA –
 - a. Letter from senior leadership **(pp. 25-27)**
 - b. Video message
 - c. Church Planting Strategic Plan Implementation Team **(p. 28)**
 - d. Resonate Global Missions – Rev. Brad Meinders **(pp. 29-34)**
17. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)
 - a. CMLT report
 - b. Conversation about Leadership Development **(pp. 35-37)**
18. Time of prayer led by Classis Prayer Coordinator Barb Hibma

19. Classical Interim Committee (CIC)
 - a. CIC summary report from April 22, May 20, June 30, and July 13 (**pp. 38-40**)
 - b. Stated Clerk report (**p. 41**)
 - c. Additions to the agenda from Classical Credentials
20. Vote on Budget
21. Banner – Lora Copley (Editor)
22. Calvin Theological Seminary – Holly Small (Associate Director of Admissions) (**pp. 42-43**)
23. World Renew –Kim Starkenburg (Board of Directors)
24. Dordt University - Erik Hoekstra (President) (**p. 44**)
25. Church Counselor Reports
 - a. New City Church – Rev. Kevin Muyskens
 - b. First CRC in Hospers – Rev. Aaron Greydanus
 - c. Living Water Orange City – Rev. Cody Statema
 - d. Living Water Sheldon – Rev. Phillip Westra & Rev. Jesse Walhof
26. Church Visitor Reports
 - a. North – Rev. Chad Van Ginkel & Rev. Cody Statema
 - b. South – Rev. Ben Wiersma & Rev. Phillip Westra
27. ReFrame Ministries report (**p. 45**)
28. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

2027 Dates and Locations for Classis Heartland Meetings

- March 6, 2027 (Saturday) at Ocheyedan CRC
- September 15, 2027 (Wednesday) at Hope CRC, Hull



*First Christian Reformed Church
901 9th St.
Sheldon, IA 51201
(712)324-2374
Rev. Brian R. Dunn
firstcrc@hotmail.com
firstcrcsheldon.com*

September 2026— Classis Heartland

Classis Credentials Committee,

The delegates and council of First CRC Sheldon protests Classis Heartland's decision to seat women deacon delegates. We believe this decision is based on at best weak biblical evidence and at worst is contrary to what the scriptures teach about God's designed roles for men and women. This is not a protest against women, nor the use of their gifts, but rather, we believe the scriptural evidence clearly teaches the offices of elder and deacon are for men.

Therefore, in light of these reasons as well as others, we would call Classis Heartland to reconsider this position and stand firm in a beautiful biblical view of masculinity and femininity and so give the world around us a great witness of how God calls us to live into our beautiful design.

We understand the need for an overture to deal with this issue and we will consider that for a future classis meeting.

In Christ,

The Delegates and Council of First CRC Sheldon

The Council of Ocheyedan Christian Reformed Church sends her delegates in protest to this assembly of Classis Heartland . While we affirm the gifts and talents that our Lord has given to women in the church, and how these gifts and talents can be used to greatly bless and serve the body of Christ; as it pertains to the offices of Pastor, Elder, and Deacon, the Scriptures are clear (i.e. 1 Timothy 3:1-13, and Titus1:5-9): these offices are to be held only by qualified men, of god-fearing character, in order to rule and govern the body of Christ in good order. Members of the body of Christ are thus called then to submit to the order which Christ has ordained for His Bride. In light of Scriptures clear teaching on this issue, and the current position of the Christian Reformed Church regarding this matter, we sit in protest to the seating of women delegates at this assembly.

Additional comments:

By order of the council,

_____, president

_____, clerk

_____, date

Overture to Classis Heartland

Christian Reformed Church in North America

From: Council(s) of Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church, New City Church of KC, Northern Lighthouse of Lincoln, Fst Church of Lincoln

Classis: Heartland Classis

Date: July 26, 2026

Subject: Overture Regarding the re-organization of Classical Appointments

Background

The Councils of Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church, F Street Church of Lincoln, Northern Lighthouse Church of Lincoln, and New City Church of Kansas City bring this overture to Classis Heartland out of a desire to strengthen the ministry, unity, and faithfulness of the churches within the Christian Reformed Church in North America. As churches committed to the authority of Scripture and the confessions of the CRCNA, we believe it is appropriate for the broader assemblies of the church to address matters that affect our shared ministry and witness.

Recommendation

The Council(s) of the above named Christian Reformed Church(es) overture **Classis Heartland** to:

1. Re-organize the congregations south of Sioux City to sustain their own Church Visitors.
2. Re-organize the congregations south of Sioux City to sustain their own Church Counselors.
3. Re-organize the congregations south of Sioux City to sustain their own regional pastor.
4. For churches south of Sioux City to attend Heartland Classis in Northwest Iowa once a year for reporting, networking, and other classical work.

Grounds

Ground 1: CRC Church Order 42 allows a flexible of appointment structure.

Under CRC Church Order Article 42, classis must appoint church visitors and classical counselors, but the exact structure is not tightly prescribed. Classis can determine the number of teams and how they function. The number of teams and assignments of churches is left to the discretion of classis depending on geography and number of congregations.

Ground 2: CRC Church Order 39 and 40b allow a flexible “gathering” structure.

Under CRC Church Order Article 39, a goal of classis is to *“allow for a healthy and sustained connection to the wider denomination.”* Article 40b allows for flexibility in the recommended classical gatherings of *“at least every four months, unless distances render this impractical.”*

Ground 3: Southern churches lack relational connection with CRC

We (churches from the south) heartily recognize the comradery between the pastors of Heartland Classis. Fruitful discussions happen readily when needed between pastors. It must be noted that northern classical churches have greater opportunity to experience congregational or pastoral comradery due to the proximity of the various congregations. However, this cannot be said about our southern churches. Comradery needs to be very intentional. This overture would allow southern churches space to create deeper connections, support, and accountability as outlined in Church Order 39.

Our (churches of the south) goal is to create a consistent presence of other Christian Reformed Congregations into our churches to strengthen, unify, and sharpen our reformed faith.

While not a part of this overture: we are discerning one of two options for church visiting in the south.

* One option is creating a day retreat where respective councils can gather, sharing our joys, trials, and worship. During this retreat, time could be set aside for each individual council to receive a visit from 2-3 representatives from other participating churches in keeping with Church Order Article 42, to hear about that particular congregation's walk with Christ and to be available to offer advice as needed.

* Another option would be to organize church visits outside our retreat time; then use our time together to share, learn, or train leaders. In either case, reports would be submitted to the large Classis Heartland meeting once a year.

Ground 4: Classical appointments such as CMLT, Home Mission remain the same

The grounds of this overture is not to secede from Heartland Classis, but to provide further connection and accountability within the regional CRC community. There is no talk of removing the churches of the south's involvement away from CMLT, Home Mission, or other committee assignments outside of classical visitor, counselor, and regional pastor.

Conclusion

For these reasons, the Council(s) of PLC, Fst, NLC, NCC Christian Reformed Church respectfully requests that **Classis Heartland** give prayerful and careful consideration to this overture and take appropriate action. Due to the nature of this overture, we are inviting pastors to engage us in conversation before our next scheduled classis meeting to address any questions and/or concerns.

Available for contact:

(PLC) Pastor Chad Van Ginkel

712.441.5272

(Fst Church) Pastor Jeff Heerspink

402.805.2667

(NLC) Pastor Jon Keyzer

402.601.6534

(NCC) Scott McDougall

816.284.9955

Prairie Lane CRC

F Street CRC

New City CRC

Northern Lighthouse CRC

President

President

President

President

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Hello CIC,

Our council recommends Mr. Del Walinga to be examined by Classis Heartland for licensure to exhort.

Del teaches the Timothy Leadership Training modules for Classis Heartland. He has preached at Calvary CRC. Our congregation has been blessed. A retired pastor, the Calvary elders, and myself have been providing feedback. We feel Del is now ready to be examined.

We would like him to be examined at September Classis if possible.

This request and recommendation were approved at our July 13, 2026 meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Calvary CRC Council

President of Consistory: John Klompier

Date: 7-16-26

Clerk of Consistory: Jean Van Houten

Date: 7-16-26

Dear Classis Heartland,

At Thrive, we hold a clear and joyful vision of what a healthy, flourishing congregation can be: a community gathered under the loving reign of Christ, shaped by His Word, nourished by His Spirit, and sent into the world to bear witness to His reconciling mission. We see congregations as spiritual households rooted in worship, growing in lifelong discipleship, ordered for mutual care, marked by holiness, and engaging their neighbors compassionately with the good news of Jesus Christ. Thrive's calling is to journey alongside congregations as a humble companion, strengthening their worship, leadership, community life, embodied hospitality, and mission so that they may embody the good news of Jesus Christ faithfully and fruitfully in their particular contexts.

We're excited to play a role in the CRCNA's renewal and church planting efforts over the next several years through Thriving Congregations, an initiative designed to help your church leaders connect - with each other, with your local community, and with other congregations who share your ministry passions. By joining this renewal journey, your church will learn to refresh your vision, understand your mission, deepen your discipleship, and develop practical steps to live into the ways God has uniquely gifted your congregation. Thriving Congregations is about meaningful conversations and flourishing as you discern where God is leading you next. Our team is eager to journey alongside you in this renewal journey!

Thrive remains committed to our mission to equip and encourage congregations with the tools you need to flourish. Our hope is that you will be quick to approach us with questions, requests for support or resources, and stories of how God is working in your local context.

May God bless you richly as you continue to follow His leading in your ministry.

Peace to you,

Dr. Lee Carter
Director, Thrive

Elder Essentials

Elder Essentials is now available! This course closely follows ordination forms to equip new and experienced Elders to embrace their missional call. Participants will be equipped to have a deeper understanding of the unique role of Elders, gain tools to nurture a healthy, thriving congregation through preaching, sacraments, fellowship, faith formation, and gospel witness, and articulate how to participate in God's mission as it is embodied in your local church. Thrive will make one free copy available to every congregation this fall. To order additional workbooks, talk to your Regional Connector or visit crcna.org/elder-essentials

Thriving Essentials

Thriving Essentials is an interactive course that is renewing congregations and reenergizing engaged members across our denomination. Hosted in your own church and led by a qualified Thrive facilitator, participants will explore four core concepts of a healthy ministry: Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Alignment and clarity on these key foundations can bring renewed energy to a church's ministry. Inquire at crcna.org/ThrivingCongregations/thriving-essentials

Support for Vacant Congregations

Is your church in the middle of a vacancy or looking ahead to one? We can help! In transitional seasons such as vacancy, Thrive is able to come alongside congregations to help you be aware of unique needs that may arise, understand what may be going on in the hearts and minds of church members, and support wise decision-making for next steps. Talk to your Regional Connector or email thrive@crcna.org.



HENRY MEURS
REGIONAL CONNECTOR

☎ 800-272-5125 ext. 7080
✉ hmeurs@crcna.org
🌐 crcna.org/thrive



TRUDY ASH
REGIONAL CONNECTOR

☎ 800-272-5125 ext. 5118
✉ tash@crcna.org
🌐 crcna.org/thrive

CAMPUS MINISTRY Areopagus

410 Lincoln Ave Se
Orange City, IA 51041

31 July 2026



Dear Classis Heartland,

The Psalmist confesses to the Lord, *"Our times are in your hands."* (Psalm 31:15). Lora and Areopagus are trusting the Lord of our times, as they begin to move into a new season. After four years of growing together, Lora announced a few weeks ago that she will be stepping down from this full time ministry in order to take up a fuller role with the denominational magazine, *The Banner*.

Lora and Joel are so grateful to the students, the donor groups, the board and the ISU community for being such a wonderful group among which to minister.

Meanwhile, the Areopagus board has received interest in our posted job description and has begun interviews in earnest. (Praise the Lord!) Please pray for these transitions –especially as we prepare for a new students arriving for the Fall semester and as we depend on the Lord's leading in this search for our new director.

Thank you for your partnership and encouragement through these years. Ruth 2:12

May the Lord richly return all the kindness you've blessed our ministry and students with!
To Jesus be all the praise and glory!

Lora A. Copley

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out...
My new email - lcopley@crcna.org
Same cell: 505-387-6861



Donation Amount: \$1,349.37

Donation Date: 06/30/2026

No goods or services were received.

"This service you perform not only supplies the needs of the Lord's people but also overflows in many expressions of thanks to God. " 2 Cor 9:12

Board of Directors

Andrew Friend, Pres.

Justin Struik

Herb Schreur

Matt Haken

Committee Report to Classis

REPORT OF THE –Classical Home Missions Committee TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, - Wednesday, September 16, 2026 AT – Immanuel Christian Reformed Church Sheldon, IA

Report filed: - August 25, 2026

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Home Missions Committee convened following the most recent Classis meeting on August 20, 2026, at Dordt University. Those in attendance were Kevin Muyskens, Keith Hoekstra, Gary Hibma, Mark Volkers, and Jeff Heerspink, via Zoom. Allen Kramer was absent.

The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions from Matthew 28:18–20. The meeting was held in accordance with the requirements of Church Order for classical meetings and closed with prayer.

ITEMS FROM CLASSICAL HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committee continues to encourage our congregations to seek opportunities to connect with their communities through intentional connection activities. The committee invites our congregations to take advantage of ECD grants to assist with the opportunities they desire to pursue.

The committee recognizes the commitment the denomination has made as part of a 10-year plan. This plan establishes a clear goal of planting 150 churches over the next 10 years and calls us, as a classis, to evaluate, investigate, and seize opportunities to work toward planting churches. We invite the leaders of our congregations to interact with the committee when they see opportunities and to be bold in imagining the ways God is working in our area. One way we can be a vital and engaged part of this process is by helping to identify and encourage individuals to consider serving the church as pastors, commissioned pastors, evangelists, and church planters.

Mr. Henry Kraayenbrink shared with the committee a report on the work taking place at Siouxland Unity. He reported that the ministry continues in Sioux City. Pastor Keo continues to serve the community of believers. While some longtime members have departed, there are encouraging signs that the next generation is taking up leadership. Two leaders who grew up in Siouxland Unity are beginning to assume leadership responsibilities. We also rejoice that Keo has been, and continues to be, working with KP, who has taken on preaching and worship leadership responsibilities. We pray that God will continue to prepare the next generation of leaders for this ongoing congregation. The committee plans to encourage Keo and KP.

The committee continues to seek ways to highlight the work taking place in our congregations through video presentations. These presentations are intended to encourage one another and spur on effective ways of connecting with others for the sake of the gospel. At this classis meeting, we will see one way in which a congregation is using an ECD grant to reach out and connect with its community.

The committee is grateful for the way God continues to use the Residency Program to assist congregations in our classis and to equip future leaders to lead and feed His church. We continue to rejoice in the ways God is using the chaplaincy and residency programs at F Street and Northern Lighthouse. Please consider whether your church, or someone within your church, might be a good fit for the residency program. This program gives God's servants hands-on, mentored, and meaningful opportunities to explore how God is shaping them for service in the church.

The committee continues to connect with ministries that we partner with in the work of the gospel, including the campus ministries of Areopagus at Iowa State University and Geneva at the University of Iowa; Youthfront in Argentine, Kansas; and our church ministries: Amistad Christiana, Siouxland Unity, and Cornerstone Prison Ministries.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

The committee approved the following regarding the subjects outlined previously:

- a. Requests that our churches actively engage in conversations about church planting within their councils and congregations, casting a vision that we can share.
- b. Requests that congregations share opportunities for future videos highlighting ways God is working in and through their congregations, communities, and members.
- c. Requests that we continue to identify and encourage candidates for the Residency Program for learning ministry. We have opportunities both to serve our churches and to equip and encourage those whom God is calling to the work of ministry.
- d. Notes that November 14 brings the next "Called Event," an opportunity to introduce potential leaders to the work of serving the church. The committee has designated \$500 toward funding the event.
- e. The committee approved the classical budget request for the year.
 - a. In making funding adjustments among various ministry partners, the committee decided to maintain the overall budget at its current level. Additional funds were added to New Ministry Opportunities to plan and prepare for future church-planting opportunities as they arise.

2025	2026		Proposed	Totals
		Campus Ministry		
6,000	6,000	–Areopagus (ISU)	5,000	
5,000	5,000	Geneva IS	5,000	
11,000	11,000	TOTAL CAMPUS MINISTRY		10,000
		Church Planting		
10,000	10,000	Chaplain	10,000	
5,000	5,000	Argentine (Franklin Center)	5,000	
10,000	10,000	New Ministry Opportunities	15,000	
25,000	25,000	TOTAL CHURCH PLANTING		30,000
		Leadership Development		
5,000	5,000	F Street - Immerse	5,000	
5,000	10,000	Residency Program	10,000	
10,000	15,000	TOTAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT		15,000
		Ethnic Ministries		
12,000	12,000	–Amistad Christiana	12,000	
17,000	19,000	–Siouxland Unity	17,000	
29,000	31,000	TOTAL ETHNIC MINISTRIES		29,000
		Other Ministries		
7,500	7,500	Cornerstone Prison CRC	7,500	
3,000	3,000	–Establ. Church Dev.	1,000	
1,000	1,000	–CHMC Expenses	1,000	
\$ 11,500	11,500	TOTAL OTHER MINISTRIES		9,500
\$ 87,500	93,500	TOTAL		93,500

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS

The Classical Home Missions Committee requests that Classis approve the work of the committee as presented in this report. We encourage the churches of our classis to examine the ways in which they see God at work and to share those opportunities with the committee so that we may document them, encourage one another, and, when appropriate, share them through presentations at future Classis meetings.

It is also our desire that the members of Classis be prayerful and intentional in seeking to be missional, both as congregations and as members of Classis.

Respectfully Submitted this – *August 25, 2026*

Pastor Keith Hoekstra

Pastor Keith Hoekstra

Advance Notice for 2027/28 Events & Opportunities

Fall 2026 distribution

Dear Classis Leaders,

Every year, our denominational ministries provide a variety of opportunities for leaders within your classis. We invite you, and those in your classis, to be a part of these gatherings and events. While these events are subsidized by Ministry Share funding, recognizing the specialization of these events, classes are asked to carry some of the associated costs where noted.

Since what follows on the next pages is advanced notice, **this document does not encompass every request or opportunity available through the next year. You should expect to see changes as we get closer to the dates.** It is our hope that this gives you a good sense of what's coming so that you can take advantage of the opportunities available to you!

Recognizing Classis budget processes often start in the fall meeting cycle, we wanted to give you the information to consider in your regular budgeting process. I note that we are issuing this letter later than previous years. If you have feedback about the timing, I'd love to hear from you!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the someone from the ministry offering the opportunity or to me directly.

With gratitude for your work,

Roberta Vriesema
Director of Partnership Administration
Christian Reformed Church of North America

rvriesema@crcna.org

2027/28 Events and Opportunities

Stated Clerks Gathering

- **Ministry:** Office of General Secretary
- **Contact:** Ashley Medendorp (amedendorp@crcna.org)
- **Who:** Stated clerks
- **Where and when:** January 2028; possibly Malibu, California
- **Description:** The Stated Clerk Gathering is an in-person event held every 2-3 years, giving Stated Clerks a chance to meet with denominational staff, gather with other Stated Clerks, and receive various resources related to their work. We're still working on a location for the upcoming gathering, however previous locations have included California and Florida. The Gathering generally lasts 3 days and also includes an opportunity for an outing or time of rest for the Stated Clerks.
- **Suggested Budget:** \$500 per classis

CMLT Gathering

- **Ministry:** Office of General Secretary (Candidacy)
- **Contact:** Susan LaClear (slaclear@crcna.org) and Zoe Sherman (zsherman@crcna.org)
- **Who:** CMLT or other designated leader passionate about leadership development
- **Where and when:** January 14-15th, 2027; Chino, California
- **Description:** Next year's CMLT Gathering will provide workshop time for CMLTs to develop a classis leadership development plan. There will be conversations with each other, education specialists from Calvin Theological Seminary, and staff from Thrive, Resonate, and valuable partners.
- **Suggested Budget:** \$200-\$400 registration fee (exact cost TBD) + travel to/from Chino

Pastors' Gathering

- **Ministry:** Thrive
- **Contact:** Ben Van Arragon (bvanarragon@crcna.org)
- **Who:** CRC pastors, regional pastors, chaplains, pastors' spouses
- **Where and when:** November 2-4, 2027; tentative location is Orlando, Florida
- **Description:** A three-day gathering for Ministers of the Word and Commissioned Pastors serving in congregational ministry and chaplaincy and their spouses. Special learning tracks for Regional Pastors and Chaplains. Plenary sessions, workshops, and curated leisure time designed to rejuvenate and inspire participants for ministry. Classes are encouraged to send Regional Pastors and provide some assistance for interested spouses.
- **Suggested Budget:** \$200-400 registration fee (exact cost TBD) + travel

Project Antioch Prayer Gatherings

- **Ministry:** Office of General Secretary
- **Contact:** Jon Hoekema (jhoekema@crcna.org)
- **Who:** pastors and ministry leaders, ethnic leaders
- **Where and when:** TBD, contact Jon Hoekema if interested
- **Description:** Project Antioch and a focus on prayer is a key portion of our 10 year church planting plan as well as congregational renewal. In November 2026, a Project Antioch Multi-Ethnic Prayer Gathering will take place. We hope to have regional prayer gatherings in 2027.
- **Suggested Budget:** \$500-1,000 (travel and lodging)

Moving Forward in Faith Conference

- **Ministry:** Resonate (Diaconal Ministries of Canada)
- **Contact:** Cathy Fraser (cfraser@crcna.org)
- **Who:** Classis Southwest U.S., Classis Huron, Classis Hamilton, Classis Toronto, Classis Hamilton, Classis Eastern Canada
- **Where and when:** November 13-14th, 2027; Kings College in Oakville, Ontario
- **Description:** A two day conference happening on the practical "how" of ministry sponsored by Resonate and Diaconal Ministries of Canada. The plenary speaker is Victor Ko, an advocate for church planting. The theme is Shift Happens: Calling, Context and Culture. Open to anyone.
- **Suggested Budget:** \$115-\$155 registration fee (registration options to be communicated) + travel to Oakville

Moving Forward in Faith West

- **Ministry:** Resonate
- **Contact:** Ben Verkerk (bverkerk@crcna.org)
- **Who:** Classis B.C. North-West, Classis B.C. South-East, Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan, Classis Alberta North, Classis Lake Superior
- **Where and when:** November 7, 2027; The Tapestry: Mundy Park in Coquitlam, British Columbia
- **Description:** Moving Forward in Faith West aims to help churches lean into the excitement of making disciples and growing the church, especially as the denomination leans into our church planting goals.
- **Suggested Budget:** travel costs

Diaspora Leaders Retreat

- **Ministry:** Resonate
- **Contact:** Cathy Fraser (cfraser@crcna.org)
- **Who:** Canada East classes
- **Where and when:** September 17-19, 2026; Singing Waters Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario
- **Description:** This year's retreat will focus on discovering, developing and forming leaders for those ministering in multicultural contexts. We urge classes to sponsor at least one participant. This event occurs annually as well.
- **Suggested Budget:** \$100/person

Evangelistic Training Sessions

- **Ministry:** Resonate
- **Contact:** Marco Avila (mavila@crcna.org)
- **Who:** Eastern US region's pastors, church planters, and leaders
- **Where and when:** via zoom, dates TBD, contact Marco if interested.
- **Description:** To cultivate a culture of evangelism and discipleship by connecting, equipping, and encouraging mission-minded leaders from every congregation within the East Coast U.S. Region (Classes Southeast U.S., Hudson, Hackensack, and Atlantic Northeast).
- **Suggested Budget:** free

**Ballot for Classis Heartland
September 16, 2026**

Classical Interim Committee Alt. (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Brian Dunn, Sheldon First

Classical Home Missions Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Kevin Muyskens, Sheldon Immanuel

Classical Home Missions Committee (vote for 2)

_____ Dr. Allan Kramer, Orange City Living Water

_____ Mr. Mark Volkers, Orange City Calvary

Classical Home Missions Alt. (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Cody Statema, Orange City Immanuel

Classical Stewardship Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Ms. Leandra Hulstein, Hull Hope

Classical Stewardship Alternate (vote for 1)

Classical Discipleship Alternate (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Seth Atsma, Hawarden

Classical Nominating Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. John Klompien, Orange City Calvary

Classical Nominating Committee (vote for 1)

_____ Mr. Mike Byker, Orange City First

Classical Nominating Alternate (vote for 1)

_____ Mr. Glenn Bouma, Orange City Calvary

Classical Ministry Leadership Team (vote for 1)

_____ Rev. Lee Khang, Ocheyedon

Classical Ministry Leadership Team (vote for 1)

_____ Mr. Darrell Schuller, Orange City First

_____ Mr. Jon Hellinga, Orange City First

**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO
CLASSIS IN SESSION, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
AT IMMANUEL CRC
SHELDON, IA**

Report filed: July 22, 2026

Esteemed Delegates:

The Classical Nominating Committee met on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at Calvary CRC in Orange City. Rev. John Klompier, Mr. Glenn Bouma, Mr. Steve Ver Mulm, Mr. Mike Byker (alternate member), and Rev. Brian Hofman were present. The meeting was opened and closed with prayer.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

The committee reviewed the guidelines for nominations and the current Servants of Classis Heartland roster. After receiving nominations from committees and church councils of Classis Heartland, we prepared a ballot for classis to vote on new terms of service on various committees.

The committee discussed the Diaconal Task Force. Since this task force does not appear to be active and, to the best of our knowledge, has fulfilled its original mandate, we sent a recommendation to the Classical Interim Committee that this task force be disbanded.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS

The Classical Nominating Committee asks Classis Heartland to elect willing servants for new terms on the various committees of Classis Heartland via the provided ballot.

We also bring the following recommendations:

- 1. That classis affirm World Renew's approval of Ms. Kim Starkenburg for a second term of service on the World Renew Board of Delegates.**
- 2. That classis approve the work and report of the Classical Nominating Committee.**

Respectfully Submitted this 22nd of July, 2026
Rev. Brian Hofman, Clerk,
Classical Nominating Committee



minn-I-KOTA
YOUTH NETWORK

&

MIK+
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY

BOARD MEMBERS: MINNKOTA : Representative-Pastor Greg Timmer-9/2022, Karmen Vis-Secretary-9/2017, Rachel Guthmiller. IAKOTA: Representative-Pastor Scott Van Voorst-9/2024, Dan Elgersma-President-1/2019, Shelli Kollis-1/2020 . HEARTLAND: Representative-Pastor Ben Wiersma-9/2021, Kody Tesch-Treasurer-11/2019, Scott de Boom-9/2024.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM EACH OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF MIK MINISTRY:

1.JR HIGH RETREAT: 2026 was our 16th Annual JHR.

We had 85 in attendance from: **SUPPORTING CHURCHES:** Rock Valley Calvin CRC, Rock Valley Trinity CRC, Rock Valley 1st CRC, Sioux Center Faith CRC, Orange City Imm CRC, Sioux Center Bridge of Hope CRC, Sioux Falls 1st CRC, Sioux Center Bethel CRC, Hull 1st CRC, Rock Rapids CRC, Ireton CRC.

VISITING CHURCHES: Doon URC, Doon 1st Ref, Sioux Center URC.

FUN FACTS: 3 of our Dordt University Student Leaders went through as Jr High Students and 2 of our DU Student Leaders had siblings go through this retreat.

THIS YEAR'S THEME & THEME SONG WERE FOCUSED ON THE RED LETTERS OF THE BIBLE:

Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH will set you free." John 8:31-32 and our theme song this year was "Antient Words".

2.HIGH SCHOOL: We continued to travel to supporting churches throughout the spring semester, either leading one of our Travelling Lesson Plans or our Traveling Escape Room.

3.MIK + POST HIGH SINGLE YOUNG ADULTS: We finished our Bible Study on the book of Ephesians. Thank you to Inwood IA CRC for letting us use their Youth Room and Kitchen one Saturday night a month for our Bible Study Nights. On our 'Off' Saturday nights we enjoyed hanging out doing various activities: bowling in Luverne and out for pizza together, game night and meal at our house, and we also did a "Bob Ross Painting Night" led by Karinda De Boom at WCHS art room.

Classis Heartland Meeting Agenda – September 16, 2026

ADD THESE DATES TO THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR: ONE FOR EACH OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE MIK MINISTRY:

1. JR HIGH 17th ANNUAL RETREAT: APRIL 16-18, 2027 @ INSPIRATION HILLS.

2.HIGH SCHOOL: BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR KICK OFF AT THUNDER ROAD IN SIOUX FALLS, SD. Friday night August 28 at 11pm-Saturday morning August 29 at 4am. We will meet at TR at 11pm-11:30pm to check in. From 11:30pm-1:30am we will enjoy the activities outdoors. From 1:30am-2am we will have devotions and pizza/pop. From 2am-4am we will get to play all the indoor games. It is \$38/person for 5 hours of fun and reconnecting with other CR Churches that support the MIK Youth.

3.MIK+ POST HIGH YOUNG SINGLE ADULT: We will be trying something "new" that is old.... we will be studying the book of James through Lectio Divina. And then we will make a list of what we all, individually, pondered...we then apply this knowledge and understanding to an activity or service project in our communities/region. We are hoping this will help us slow down, read a portion of scripture, re-read the same portion of scripture, meditate, pray over this scripture, listen, and then take notes from what we are hearing from this scripture. We will then share our notes and insight. It would be our intention then to think of ways for the MIK+ group of young adults to bring these shared ideas into our communities through service projects.

Stay connected to the Minnikota Youth & MIK+ ministries through our facebook page...Minnikota Youth.

We continue to ask for your prayers as we navigate through another school year serving you, your church, the Youth Leaders/Youth Pastors/Youth Director, and our Covenant Youth of the region. Thank you for your support!

Pastor Doug & Lee De Groot-Youth Coordinators

MINN-I-KOTA YOUTH Budget	2020 Approved Budget	2021 Approved Budget	2022 Approved Budget	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Approved Budget	2025 Approved Budget	2026 Approved Budget	2027 Proposed Budget
INCOME:								
Church Offerings	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Classis Reimbursement	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$72,000.00
Retreats and Events	\$13,000.00	\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$10,000.00
Future Ministries Gift						\$895.00	\$1,602.78	\$3,528.37
Miscellaneous		\$1,000.00						
Total Income:	\$44,000.00	\$49,500.00	\$64,000.00	\$76,500.00	\$75,500.00	\$85,395.00	\$85,602.78	\$86,528.37
EXPENSES								
Total Salary	\$36,800.00	\$36,800.00	\$38,592.00	\$46,949.76	\$49,105.00	\$49,350.17	\$51,222.78	\$54,808.37
						Lee Base \$37,065.17	Lee Base \$38,547.78	Lee Base (7%) \$41,246.12
						Doug Base \$12,285.00	Doug Base \$12,675.00	Doug Base (7%) \$13,562.25
						\$6,000.00	\$6,600.00	\$7,200.00
Health Insurance								
Klein & Klein	\$1,000.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,515.00	\$1,515.00	\$1,515.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Mileage	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,500.00
Youth Leader Training/Networking	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00
Youth Retreat and Events	\$26,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00
Resources, Supplies, Promotions:	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$2,700.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Website	\$500.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$320.00	\$530.00	\$530.00	\$570.00
Miscellaneous	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
Trailer Maintenance					\$200.00			
Total Expense:	\$72,450.00	\$68,125.00	\$74,417.00	\$74,764.76	\$75,290.00	\$81,545.17	\$85,602.78	\$86,528.37
				balance:	\$210.00	\$3,849.83	\$0.00	\$0.00

Classis Heartland & Iakota Safe Church Report Fall Report 2026

Prepared by: Abby Vanden Bosch, Iakota & Heartland Safe Church Coordinator
Date Prepared: 8/19/2026

Iakota & Heartland Classical Safe Church Team Members: Pastor Jesse Walhof (Living Water CRC-Heartland), Kristi Habben (Sibley CRC- Heartland), Haeley Faber (Trinity CRC- Iakota), Abby Vanden Bosch (Living Water CRC- Heartland), Pastor Sam Ashmore (Bridge of Hope CRC - Iakota)

Classical Safe Church Team Tasks:

- The Safe Church Team serves in a consultative role for churches in the classes who are reviewing or revising congregational safe church policies. It is expected that all churches have an operating safe church policy and a safe church team within your church.
- The Safe Church Team serves as a resource for churches dealing with allegations of abuse.
- The Safe Church Team serves as a clearing house of best practices and periodic trainings for Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota with regard to abuse awareness and prevention.

Team Activity:

The Safe Church Team has had five in-person team meetings within the last five months. As a team, we have walked alongside churches and councils, providing input on how they can improve policy and protocol. We have continued to discuss policy development and advocating for a safe church team within churches. We have also welcomed Pastor Sam Ashmore from Bridge of Hope to join our Safe Church Team as our Iakota Pastor representative.

Safe Church Team Recommendations:

The team continues to ask all churches to develop a safe church policy and add an age-appropriate abuse prevention curriculum in the Sunday school classrooms along with the training for the adults who teach it. The team continues to request updated information identifying a lead safe church team member with their contact information; please share this updated information with any member of the Safe Church Team.

If you would like to talk about any safe church needs your church may have, please communicate with any committee member.

Current Team Members

Pastor Jesse Walhof: jsswalhof@gmail.com

Pastor Sam Ashmore: sam@bridgecrc.org

Abby Vanden Bosch: abby.vandenbosch@westernchristianhs.com

Kristi Habben: khabben@premieronline.net

Haeley Faber: haeleyfaber@gmail.com

For Classis Agenda Packet:

The Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund provides financing for capital improvement projects across our denomination. Loans are funded through equity and the sale of investment certificates to CRCNA members, churches, classes, and other CRC related organizations. Synod 2026 ratified its amended Articles of Incorporation, which allow it to now lend to CRCNA-related organizations. In 2025, the Loan Fund launched a First Church Building Program, which offers a reduced interest rate (currently 4%) to churches looking to purchase their first church building. If your church is considering, or if you know an CRC ministry considering, a capital improvement project, please let them know about the Loan Fund. If you or your church would like to invest funds to empower other churches and ministries, please request a copy of the Loan Fund's offering circular to learn more about its investment opportunities. www.crcna.org/loanfund

Video Introduction:

The CRC Loan Fund provides affordable financing to help our churches and ministries renovate and purchase real estate. Synod 2026 recently expanded its scope so it can now lend to CRCNA-related organizations as well. To see how these loans are making an impact across our denomination and how your church or ministry can get involved, please take two minutes to watch this short video.



Dear CRCNA Classis Leaders:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have been praying for you as you begin this new year of ministry and continue faithfully serving the churches within your classis.

Many of you know the story of Antioch in the book of Acts. Born amid conflict and uncertainty, the church at Antioch became a powerful center of discipleship, mission, and sending. While there is much we can learn from its journey, we see four pivotal movements that shaped Antioch's witness and now invite us to consider how God is shaping our own community of churches within the CRCNA.

During Synod 2026, the theme "Our Antioch Moment" emerged. We now ask what it means for every congregation to embrace God's calling within its own context. Throughout the week, four invitations were made to our denomination:

- God is calling us to embrace communal prayer and spiritual practices for communal transformation.
- God is calling CRC congregations to embrace intergenerational discipleship that equips and multiplies leaders.
- God is calling the CRC to embrace a biblical vision of diversity that shapes our identity.
- God is calling the CRC toward a holistic mission that proclaims and demonstrates the gospel.

These movements are not simply ideas discussed at synod. They are invitations for all of us to discern together how God is leading the CRCNA in this season.

While this letter briefly introduces these themes, we encourage you to view the [general secretary's Synod 2026 address](#) to hear the broader vision. As you do, we invite you to prayerfully consider how your classis and the congregations you serve might participate in this shared calling.

300 East Beltline Ave NE
Grand Rapids MI 49506-1208
616-241-1691

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8
905-336-2920

crcna.org

Church Planting

In response to Synod 2025, the agencies and institutions of the CRCNA collaborated to develop a comprehensive ten-year church planting strategy. Between June 2025 and April 2026, leaders from across the denomination worked together on this effort, culminating in the presentation of the plan by Resonate's Director of Church Planting, Tim Sheridan. Synod 2026 adopted the plan with unanimous support.

The strategy begins with a foundation of prayer and fasting. From that foundation flow five additional areas of focus: discipleship multiplication, leadership development, church planting pathways, legacy (or closing church) pathways, and funding and capacity development.

For this vision to become sustainable and fruitful, every congregation and every classis has a role to play. Together, we are invited to:

- Commit to prayer and fasting, asking God to raise up leaders and church planters throughout the CRCNA.
- Invest intentionally in discipleship that multiplies mature followers of Christ.
- Identify, equip, and encourage emerging leaders.
- Participate in church planter pathways as they are developed within your classis, supporting new church plants where possible.
- Continue faithfully participating in the ministry share covenant that enables this shared work.

Church Renewal

Synod also emphasized that church planting and church renewal are denominational efforts. They are opportunities for the whole church—not only congregations currently experiencing growth.

As you discern your classis' next steps, we encourage you to consider how renewal may become part of your shared ministry. Thrive invites congregations to begin exploring Thriving Congregations, with the flagship Thriving Essentials course serving as a helpful starting point. From there, churches may continue through additional Essentials courses or participate in one of Thrive's year-long discernment processes.

Discipleship remains foundational throughout this work. As disciples are formed and multiplied, God raises up future elders, deacons, pastors, church planters, and leaders who will serve both renewal and mission.

Moving Forward Together

As classis leaders, you play an important role in helping congregations discern God's leading. We encourage you to share this vision with the churches in your classis and invite them into prayerful participation in this season of church planting, renewal, and discipleship.

To support that work, we encourage you to review the Synod 2026 FAQ and Acts of Synod. We also invite you to watch for future updates from the church planting implementation team throughout the coming year.

Church, this is our Antioch Moment. It is a unique opportunity for our denomination to step together into a season of renewed discipleship, faithful mission, and Spirit-led multiplication.

May God grant you wisdom, discernment, and courage as you lead the churches entrusted to your care.

In Christ,

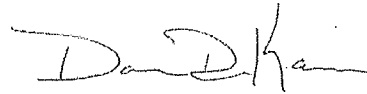
Zach King, Al Postma, Dan DeKam



Zach King
General Secretary



Al Postma
Executive Director, Canada



Dan DeKam
U.S. Director of Ministry Operations

Note: [Here is a video](#) for your fall classis meeting.

CRCNA Church Planting Strategic Plan Implementation Team

The following team, appointed to provide leadership to the implementation of the CRCNA Church Planting Strategic Plan adopted by Synod 2026, will take up their work in September.

- **Prayer and Fasting** - Rev. Jon Hoekema, CRCNA Prayer Shepherd
- **Discipleship Multiplication** - Rev. Dr. Elaine May, Thrive Renewal Consultant
- **Leadership Development** - Rev. Susan LaClear, Director of Candidacy
- **Church Planting Pathways** - Vivy Cassis, Resonate Church Planting Operations Manager
- **Legacy Pathways** - Dr. Lee Carter, Director of Thrive
- **Financial Sustainability** - David Morgan, Resonate Director of Operations
- **Team Leadership:**
 - Roberta Vriesema, Director of Partnership Administration
 - Tim Sheridan, Director of Church Planting for the CRCNA

Next Steps for Classis:

- Set aside time in your fall classis meeting to discuss and engage with the strategic plan adopted by Synod. Members of our team will be available on the following three dates and times for a Q/A session over zoom. We encourage you to send a delegate from your Classis with your top questions that are surfacing as you discuss the plan:
 - **Tuesday, October 6** between 5:00-6:00 PM Pacific Time: [Zoom Link](#)
 - **Saturday, October 17** between 10:00-11:00 AM Pacific Time [Zoom Link](#)
 - **Thursday, November 19** between 5:00-6:00 PM Pacific Time [Zoom Link](#)
- Prayerfully identify people who feel called to the roles of [Prayer Coordinator](#), [Barnabas Advocate](#), and [Church Planting Strategist](#).
- Explore your readiness to participate in Discipleship Multiplication Cohorts that we will be designing and offering in the coming months.
- Classis Ministry Leadership Teams: Continue the good work you have begun with Susan LaClear to strengthen our leadership development pathways.

Reach out to us with any questions or comments at: churchplanting@crcna.org

Blessings,

Tim Sheridan, Director of Church Planting
Roberta Vriesema, Director of Partnership Administration



ON MISSION TOGETHER

SPREADING THE
GOSPEL THROUGH
3 KEY AREAS



LOCAL MISSION



GLOBAL MISSION



CHURCH PLANTING

STEP INTO THE 10-YEAR CHURCH PLANTING PLAN

Synod 2026 approved a strategic 10-year church planting plan for our denomination. By 2036, the CRCNA will become a multiplying denomination where every classis mobilizes their churches to participate in God's mission by making disciples, developing leaders, and planting churches across Canada and the United States.

Resonate is here to walk alongside your churches and classis as you step into this important work God has called us to as a denomination. Find resources, updates, and stories of God at work at www.resonateglobalmission.org/church-planting

WHAT CAN RESONATE DO FOR YOUR CHURCH?

Local Mission

- *Witness Curriculum* for practical steps on mission
- Global Coffee Break Bible study materials
- Congregational workshops and coaching

Global Mission

- Mission trips and volunteer opportunities from 1 week to 1 year
- Cohort program for young adults
- Missionary partnerships

Church Planting

- Discerning a call to plant
- Church planting residencies
- Discovery, assessment, coaching, and training of church planters

Thank you for stepping into God's mission!

www.ResonateGlobalMission.org

Church Planting Strategic Plan FAQ

Q. "What did synod decide on church planting and renewal?"

A. Synod 2025 instructed the CRC's agencies and institutions to develop a comprehensive ten-year plan for church planting. Developed collaboratively between June 2025 and April 2026, Resonate's director of church planting, Tim Sheridan, presented this plan to the delegates of Synod 2026. This plan was adopted with unanimous support from the delegates.

Q. "Is this plan achievable?"

A. We currently have identified approximately 50 potential church planters across North America in some stage of their discernment journey. While identifying another 100 over the next 5 years will stretch us as a denomination, we believe it is within reason if we all increase our intentional efforts in discipleship multiplication and leadership development.

Q. "Who actually owns this plan?"

A. This vision needs to be owned at the local level; Resonate has been tasked to steward this on behalf of the CRCNA. Church planting requires multiple partners to be sustainable - classes, local supporting churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions. Getting to a place of denomination-wide clarity and shared ownership is vital and that is why the one-year objective aims for the following to be true in 12 months:

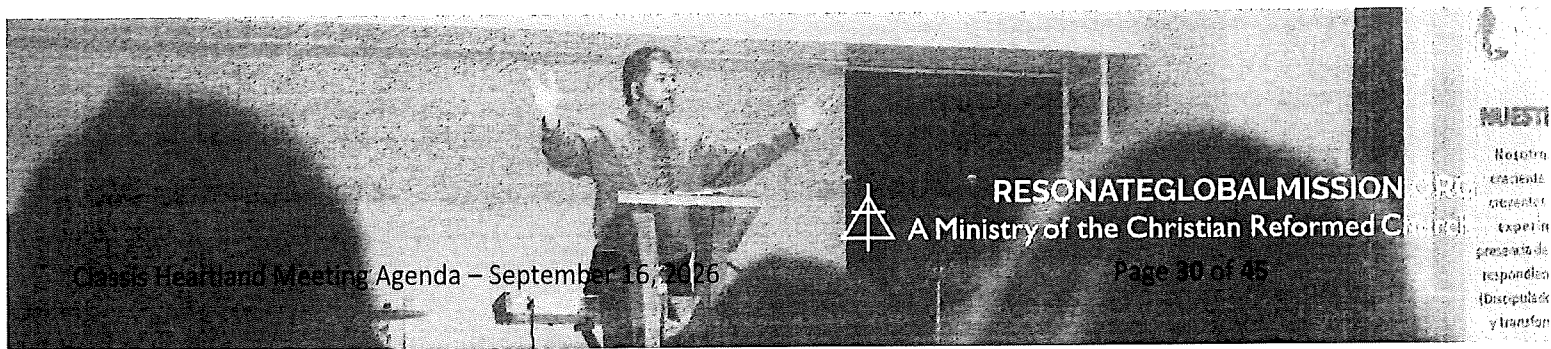
"the CRCNA will have designed and aligned an ideal church plant journey, with clear ownership across denominational agencies, Classes, and congregations for each stage from disciple to leader to church planter to launch, along with a funding plan to support implementation."

Without ownership at the local level by congregations and classes, this plan will not achieve its desired results.

Q. "What support does Resonate plan to offer?"

Resonate is committed to offering the following support:

- Working with congregations and classes to build church planting pathways so congregations and classes feel equipped to plant



- Providing robust and holistic assessments for leaders with a call to church plant
- Providing contextualized training pathways to equip planters, churches, and classes
- Providing coaching support to church planters
- Providing coaching support to parent churches and classes
- Supporting the development and flourishing of local "partnership teams" to support church plants in a sustainable way

Q. "How will this plan be funded?"

A. Funding for this strategic plan will need to come from the following critical sources:

- Ministry shares that support the staffing and resources needed to offer critical support to local congregations, Classes, and church planters (e.g. church planter assessments, church planter coaching, Legacy pathway coaching, etc.).
- Classis funds to support church plants in the Classis (e.g. Classis church planting funds).
- Congregations willing to support church plants in their regions.
- Planters equipped to raise financial support through donors and other forms of income.

Q. "What do classes and congregations need to do in response to these plans?"

A. This vision needs to be owned at the local level; Resonate has been tasked to steward this on behalf of the CRCNA. Church planting requires multiple partners to be sustainable - classes, local supporting churches, denominational agencies, and educational institutions. Getting to a place of denomination-wide clarity and shared ownership is vital and that is why the one-year objective aims for the following to be true in 12 months:

"The CRCNA will have designed and aligned an ideal church plant journey, with clear ownership across denominational agencies, Classes, and congregations for each stage from disciple to leader to church planter to launch, along with a funding plan to support implementation." Resonate's plan starts with a plea for the church to begin by laying a foundation of prayer and fasting. From that foundation there are five other elements to prioritize: discipleship multiplication, leadership development, church planting pathways, legacy (or closing church) pathways, and funding and capacity development.

For this strategic plan to be sustainable and have impact, every congregation in the CRCNA will need to participate in some way. This plan invites all of us into a culture shift of multiplication that will include the following shared efforts:

- A commitment to prayer and fasting as a denomination for God to raise up leaders and church planters in the CRCNA.
- A renewed commitment to discipleship multiplication.
- As disciples are made, an intentional commitment to develop leaders.
- Participate as able in classis church planter pathways as they are developed, which may



include supporting church plants emerging in the classis.

- Participate in the ministry share covenant commitment as a congregation within the CRCNA.

Q: "How can my church participate in this initiative if we are struggling ourselves?"

A: Synod's plan emphasized that this is a denominational effort, not one that only involves "healthy" churches.

Resonate recognizes that not every church or classis is in a place right now to engage fully, which is why the plan includes an intentionally slower rollout. This plan invites every church and classis to prayerfully reflect on their current season of ministry and pursue local vitality. For some churches and classes, this will be a call to partner with Thrive on a journey towards renewal.

Resonate's plan gives opportunity for each classis to participate in some way - prayer and fasting, making disciples, identifying leaders, supporting classis efforts in church planting, supporting churches engaging the legacy pathway, and committing what they are able to financially to support this plan.

Discipleship is the foundation. As disciples are made and multiplied, future leaders begin to emerge—particularly among those who demonstrate a pattern of discipleship multiplication. Among these future leaders will emerge future church planters. Resonate has already identified approximately 50 potential church planters across North America in some stage of their discernment journey. While identifying another 100 over the next 5 years will stretch us as a denomination, this goal is within reason if each church and classes will make intentional efforts in discipleship multiplication and leadership development.

Q. "What happens to declining churches?"

A. The investment in the resources needed to strengthen a legacy pathway for churches nearing the end of their life cycle is a vital part of this strategic plan. As the plan articulates, "end-of-life-cycle churches are not a problem to be managed but a legacy to be stewarded." Increasing our capacity to support declining churches will be critical to the success of this strategic plan.

Q. "What about smaller or struggling classes?"

A. There is also an intentionally slow roll out of this plan as we recognize that not every church or classis is in a place right now to engage fully. BUT, we would say that this plan is a call for every church and classis to examine their own health and work on internal renewal. We would hope that this might lead many churches and classes to partner with Thrive on a journey towards renewal.



We also believe every classis is able to participate in some way—prayer and fasting, making disciples, identifying leaders, supporting classis efforts in church planting, supporting churches engaging the legacy pathway, and committing what they are able to financially to support this plan.

Q. "Why start with discipleship instead of planting?"

A. Discipleship is the foundation. As disciples are made and multiplied, future leaders begin to emerge - particularly among those who demonstrate a pattern of discipleship multiplication. Among these future leaders will emerge future church planters. As we multiply disciples, we will multiply leaders, and as we multiply leaders we will increase our capacity to multiply churches. Without the foundation of discipleship, the multiplication of leaders needed to sustain movement in church planting is not possible.

Q. "How will success be measured?"

A. This strategic plan is calling for Synod 2026 to prioritize church planting for the next 10 years and embed annual progress reports into every Synod for the next 10 years. We will ask for annual updates on the following key metrics as we strive towards the 3-year milestones and 5-year moonshot::

- how many churches, classes, and leaders are engaged in discipleship multiplication;
- how many leaders each classis aspires to raise up in the next 10 years;
- how many classes develop an intentional discipleship multiplication pathway, leadership development plan, and church planting pathway;
- how many churches nearing the end of their life cycle engage a legacy pathway that will prioritize church planting; and
- the financial support and commitment made to support the church planter pathway in each classis.
- Stories of planters being raised up and new worshipping communities bearing witness to the gospel.

Q. "How does this affect our denominational identity?"

A. This plan has the potential to change the culture and identity of the CRCNA to become known as a church planting denomination committed to multiplication at all levels - disciples, leaders, and church plants. We believe that this plan invites us to renew our identity as God's missionary people. As the report reminds us, "And this gospel is meant to be embodied by a community of people commissioned and sent by the risen Jesus to make disciples of all nations as they are being transformed by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to this good news with the entirety of their lives." We believe this plan invites us into an exciting preferred future rooted in a passion to see the gospel saturate our world by multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches.

Q. "What is required in the first year?"

A. The plan narrows the focus of year 1 to one key outcome: designing a denomination-wide church

planting journey; clarifying ownership for each stage of this journey between classes, congregations, and denominational agencies; and clarifying the financial plan required to support the implementation of this plan over the next 10 years.

Q. "What kinds of churches will we plant?"

A. Within the context of our shared commitment to plant churches that are Reformed in polity and theology, we envision a variety of church planting models contributing to this strategic plan. This may include the following:

- Established churches adding additional services and/or campuses to multiply their witness in their local communities.
- Church plants among different language groups and/or diaspora communities.
- Established churches opening up their facilities for church plants of different language groups and/or diaspora communities.
- Networks of intentionally smaller churches meeting in homes or public spaces.
- Restarts of churches who have experienced decline for an extended period of time.

Q. "What kind of leaders are needed to help carry this vision forward in our classes?"

A. We will need at least two primary types of leadership in our classes to carry this vision forward. On the one hand, we will need leaders who can advocate for the growing number of diverse church planters who are entering the CRCNA with a passion to plant. The strategic plan identifies a number of barriers that we will need to overcome to strengthen our support for the growing diversity of leaders finding a home in the CRCNA. On the other hand, we will need leaders who have a passion and vision for multiplication in their classis. Leaders who can collaborate with other classes and denominational staff to develop intentional church planting pathways from discipleship multiplication → leadership development → equipping of church planters → supporting church plants. The plan calls for each classis to identify a strategic leader in their classis to help champion this vision for multiplication.

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the current leadership needs in our churches/classis/communities?
2. Describe the kind of leaders that you believe we need to develop (think in terms of gifts, skills and character).
3. What are some ways our churches might identify potential leaders?
4. How might we inspire and support some of our emerging leaders to consider church planting?

5. What resources do we have locally (think: programs, mentors, training institutions and pastors who are passionate about leadership development)?

6. Which of the following resources from denomination/seminary might we be interested in exploring?

Thriving Essentials – an interactive course that's renewing congregations and reenergizing engaged members across our denomination. Hosted in your own church and led by a qualified Thrive facilitator, participants will explore four core concepts of a healthy ministry: Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Alignment and clarity on these key foundations can bring renewed energy to a church's ministry.

Deacon Essentials – A leadership development course designed in partnership with Diaconal Ministries Canada and World Renew to equip those who are preparing to serve as a deacon or those who are deacons in the Christian Reformed Church. This 5-lesson course will orient your team to the teachings about deacons in the Bible, in our confessions, and the ordination form for deacons. By the end of this course, you will have a deeper understanding of your role as a deacon and how you can participate in God's mission as it is uniquely embodied by your church. Thrive is able to make Deacon Essentials and other resources freely available to our churches, thanks to their ongoing financial support of our ministry.

Elder Essentials – coming soon!

Calvin Seminary Commissioned Pastor Certificate (English and Spanish) - customizable program that covers a range of subjects to prepare commissioned pastors for their work

Calvin Seminary Empower Program –Competency-Based Masters Level Program that is Flexible, Customizable, and Experience-Focused

Luke 10 Commissioned Pastor Training program – courses for training commissioned pastors taught by CRC ministers in Spanish through Revelation University in Miami, FL

Timothy Leadership Training (TLT): is a training program from pastors, evangelists, and other church leaders. Each TLT manual is taught in an interactive approach which integrates Biblical reflection and contextual action plans. Core manuals cover topics of pastoral care, stewardship, reconciliation, preaching and teaching. TLT is used worldwide and also used in training leaders in Classis Central Plains, Classis Greater Los Angeles and Classis Red Mesa.

Discipleship Curriculum written by CRC pastors

- The Gospel Tool – curriculum developed by CRC pastors, Dave Westra and Gina Dick, Gold Ave. CRC
- 222Disciple – curriculum developed by CRC pastor, Scott Vander Ploeg, Sunlight CRC

CIC Summary Report for Classis; September 16, 2026

Meeting Dates: April 22, May 20, June 30, and July 13

1. CIC duly makes and approves a motion to readmit Rev. Luke Wyja as Minister of the Word in the CRC.
 - a. All denominational requirements have been met for Rev. Wynja's readmission.
 - b. When Classis met in March, it entrusted CIC with the authority to give final approval.
2. CIC instructs the Stated Clerk to create and keep up to date a contact list of all the pastors of Classis Heartland.
3. CIC organizes the classical examinations and sermon evaluations for of Mr. Scott McDougall and Mr. Matt Dengler as commissioned pastor and for Mr. Del Wallinga for a license to exhort.
 - a. Note: Synodical Deputies have agreed that Mr. Dengler will not need a sermon evaluated as he passed that portion of his evaluation last year.
4. CIC makes a motion to classis to disband the Diaconal Task Force.
 - a. To the best of our knowledge, the task force has completed its original mandate.
 - b. The task force does not appear to be active.
 - c. Classis can organize a new diaconal group with a new mandate in the future if needed.
5. CIC has had many conversations regarding Pathway Community Church in Kansas City regarding their desire to disband and present motions to classis (see attached motions).

1. CIC duly approves a motion: **CIC moves that classis approve the request from Pathway Community Church per Art. 38-d of the Church Order.** *When a council and congregation decide to disband or revert to unorganized status, the approval of classis is required. If any distribution of assets is required, the congregation and council shall consult with classis.* (Church Order Art. 38-d)

Grounds

- a. The conversation CIC had with Pathway leadership included members from 5 of the last remaining 8 families. These families report that all the last known members have moved along in their faith journeys and do not need further spiritual guidance from classis.
- b. Pathway leadership presented evidence (a 'google forms' summary sheet) that the decisions regarding the sale and distribution of funds were duly approved by a unanimous decision of the members of the church.
- c. Pathway leadership demonstrated that the distribution of the funds to the non-profits from the sale of the church were fitting with a regular pattern of supporting local ministry and a desire to bless Kevin Schutte's ongoing work with Cultivate Renewal after years of not providing him with an adequate salary.

2. **CIC duly approves a 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.**

CO Art. 24-d. A commissioned pastor position may be eliminated and a commissioned pastor may be released only with the concurrence of the classis that approved the position, with attention to the rules and processes approved by synod.

Supplement, Article 24-d Synod has offered, on various occasions, guidelines regarding the conclusion of an approved commissioned pastor position, the resignation of a commissioned pastor, and the release of a commissioned pastor. Synod also instructs classes to make an appropriate declaration reflecting the status of any commissioned pastor who concludes service. These guidelines and options regarding status are the same as those for minister of the Word and can be found in Supplement, Article 14-b, c, 2 or in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook.

CO Art. 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 and with the concurring advice of the synodical deputies.

Supplement, Article 14-b *Declaration regarding ministers who resign from the CRC*

a. Synod has instructed "all our churches and classes that in all cases of resignation a proper resolution of dismissal must be adopted with the concurring advice of synodical deputies." This resolution allows for a broad degree of flexibility in responding to such situations (cf. Acts of Synod 1978, p. 73).

b. In making such a resolution churches and classes should 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.)

c. 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 acted during the time leading up to and including 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.

Note: In distinction from a minister who retires, any resigned minister no longer retains the honor and title of minister of the Word in, nor has an official connection with, the Christian Reformed Church in North America (cf. Church Order Article 18-b).

d. Synod encouraged churches and classes to prayerfully consider the following principles in their deliberations:

1) Schismatic activities are to be considered a serious violation of the sacred trust associated with ordination and a dishonoring of God which results in pain and brokenness in the body of Christ.

2) All declarations by churches and classes should clearly evidence hope for the possibility of restoration and mutual reconciliation. (Acts of Synod 1993, pp. 581-82)

Grounds

- a. Kevin Schutte has expressed the understanding that disbanding Pathway ends his ordination.
- b. The commission that Mr. Schutte was ordained to at Pathway Community Church is no longer active.
- c. Mr. Schutte is highly regarded by the leadership at Pathway
- d. Mr. Schutte is dealing with health concerns.
- e. Mr. Schutte has expressed difficulty with the direction of the CRC as a part of the desire to disband.
- f. Mr. Schutte has led the church with less than appropriate regard for CRC rules and procedures.

Stated Clerk Report Classis Heartland, Fall 2026

Below are tasks I completed as stated clerk since our last classis meeting on March 7, 2026.

1. Forwarded overtures adopted by our classis to synodical services.
2. Completed classis meeting minutes for our March 7, 2026 meeting, distributed this information, and updated our website accordingly.
3. Participated in the Classical Interim Committee meetings held April 22, May 20, June 30, and July 13.
4. Watched the recording of the Stated Clerks Connect event held on July 22.
5. Forwarded several emails from classis committees or denominational ministries to our churches of Classis Heartland.
6. Lined up synodical deputies for the fall classis meeting.
7. Met with Rev. Kevin Muyskens on August 7, August 19, and August 24 to plan fall classis meeting.
8. Compiled reports and communications into a meeting agenda for September 16.
9. Will meet on September 2 with CIC, classis chair, and classis vice-chair to review the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Van Velzen
Stated Clerk Classis Heartland

Chairs and Vice-Chairs

Mar. 2027 – chair: Chad Van Ginkel (Omaha Prairie Lane) vice-chair: John Klompier (O.C. Calvary)
Sept. 2027 – chair: John Klompier (O.C. Calvary) vice-chair: Stephen Terpstra (O.C. First)
Mar. 2028 – chair: Stephen Terpstra (O.C. First) vice-chair: Cody Statema (O.C. Immanuel)
Sept. 2028 – chair: Cody Statema (O.C. Immanuel) vice-chair: TBD (O.C. Living Water)
Mar. 2029 – chair: TBD (O.C. Living Water) vice-chair: Phillip Westra (Sanborn)
Sept. 2029 – chair: Phillip Westra (Sanborn) vice-chair: Brian Dunn (Sheldon, First)
Mar. 2030 – chair: Brian Dunn (Sheldon, First) vice-chair: Kevin Muyskens (Sheldon, Immanuel)

Host Locations

Mar. 2027 - Ocheyedon
Sept. 2027 – Hope, Hull
Mar. 2028 – F Street & Northern Lighthouse, Lincoln
Sept. 2028 – Living Water, Orange City
Mar. 2029 – Sanborn
Sept. 2029 – Living Water, Sheldon



Report from Calvin Theological Seminary

Dear Pastors and Leaders of the CRCNA,

Grace and Peace to you! We are incredibly grateful for your faithful stewardship and service to Christ and his church. Excitement on Calvin Seminary's campus is palpable this year! We welcomed many new students, three new professors, and we launched several new or revised programs. Here's a brief update from us.

New Students: For the 2025-2026 academic year, we welcomed 107 new students! Of those students, 41 students pursued their MDiv, while 20 participated in the EPMC and Commissioned Pastors Certificate program. Synod 2026 had 36 MDiv and EPMC graduate candidates presented for ministry in the CRCNA. While we are finalizing enrollment numbers for the 2026–2027 academic year, we are thrilled for another strong cohort of seminary students.

New Professors: We had three new professors join the faculty this Fall.

- **Dr. Christopher Fantuzzo** is the new Associate Professor of Old Testament. He has previously served as a lecturer in Old Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and as a visiting professor of Old Testament at the Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine in Kyiv. An ordained minister in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Dr. Fantuzzo also pastored churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- **Dr. Jessica Joustra** is a self-described “daughter of the CRC” and is the new Associate Professor of Systematic Theology. Prior to Calvin Seminary, Dr. Joustra served as Associate Professor of Religion and Theology and Director of the Albert M. Wolters Centre for Christian Scholarship at Redeemer University (Ancaster, Ontario) where she taught courses on Reformed theology, worldview, and ethics. She has also contributed to several works centered around Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck.
- **Dr. Jared Michelson** joined the Calvin faculty as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology. He comes from the University of St Andrews (St Andrews, Scotland). His academic work engages heavily with the systematic theology of Karl Barth and Friedrich Schleiermacher, and the doctrine of divine simplicity.

Program Updates: We have added and adjusted programs in order to best assist and equip our seminarians for today's ministry context.

- **New Concentrations for MDiv and Commissioned Pastors Certificate Students:** Students in these programs may now add two unique concentrations to their studies.

These concentrations will be recorded on the student's transcript and will be formally noted as part of the CRCNA's ordination process.

- **Preaching:** this concentration combines foundational coursework, preaching electives, and mentored preaching experiences to provide sustained growth in the practice of preaching. It consists of a minimum of 8 credits, with two new one-credit opportunities: Preaching Labs and Preaching Practicums. Both experiences are designed around a simple conviction: preaching is best learned through faithful practice, thoughtful reflection, and personal mentoring.
- **Church Planting:** In partnership with the Candidacy office, Tim Sheridan of Thrive, and Fuller Seminary, students will be able to add a 4 credit church planting concentration.
- **Spanish EPMC/Commissioned Pastors Certificate**
(<https://calvinseminary.edu/program/epmc-spanish/>) : We have developed a specific EPMC/ Commissioned Pastors Certificate for our Spanish-speaking leaders. This program will be led by Professor Gabriela Tijerina-Pike, Director of Latino Ministries at the seminary.
- **Revised Programs:** Our revised Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program provides the church with practitioners and leaders equipped to listen and observe, engage in critical and contextually based analysis, and enhance ministerial and Christian praxis. The revision establishes a 30-credit, 3-year degree in a cohort-based model. The first cohort(s) will begin in the summer of 2027. A 40% scholarship discount will be given for CRC pastors.

Alumni Events: Three CTS Alumni dinners are currently planned for this Fall: October 9 in Chicago, November 3 in Edmonton, and November 4 in Calgary. If you are a CTS alumni in these areas, keep a look out for an email with additional information.

The Forum: This digital resource hub extends the Forum print magazine's reach by offering articles, audio and video podcasts, and webinars from Reformed thinkers and leaders. Check out the Forum website: (<https://theforum.calvinseminary.edu/>)!

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about Calvin Theological Seminary. We are here for you and happy to assist in any way.

Thank you,

Holly Small

Associate Director of Admissions

On behalf of Calvin Theological Seminary

DORDT
OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS

August 4, 2026

Dear Stated Clerk,

Greetings from Dordt University!

As we approach a new academic year, we are thankful for your commitment to partner with us as we keep our covenant promises to provide an education where a “biblical, Reformed vision of Christ’s lordship over all creation is clearly taught” (c.f. Art 71, Church Order of the CRCNA).

We remain firmly committed to the Founders Vision which stated that, “An education that is Christian not merely in the sense that devotional exercises are appended to the ordinary work of the college, but in the larger and deeper sense that all the class work, all of the students’ intellectual, emotional, and imaginative activities shall be permeated with the spirit and teaching of Christianity.”

Dordt University is financially healthy, balancing careful stewardship of our current assets with investment in future growth and sustainability. Our current needs stem largely from increased enrollment: new residential living spaces to accommodate growing numbers of students, new or upgraded facilities to meet our educational needs, and qualified faculty who can effectively communicate Dordt's mission.

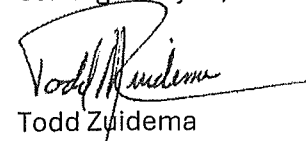
Long-term support from churches and classes continues to be essential to that health. Our alumni are also generous supporters — 21.4% make some level of donation to Dordt University, compared to a 7% national average.

Matching the Dordt University fiscal year of 2026-2027 the ministry share request is **\$72.65** (per professing member). This figure was determined by looking at a combination of factors: student enrollment, professing members in historically supporting classes, and carefully evaluating the costs related to Christian higher education.

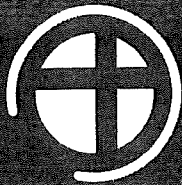
Your investment in Dordt University has consistently produced tangible results by equipping generations of faithful, Christ-following leaders for the church and world.

Thank you again for your faithful support both in prayer and gifts. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Serving with you,



Todd Zuidema
Director of Church Relations
todd.zuidema@dordt.edu



**ReFrame
Ministries**

**Update: Summer & Fall 2026
Classis & Church Leaders**
reframeministries.org

Introducing Rev. Darrell L. Delaney *New Director of ReFrame Ministries*



With great joy, we announced the appointment of Rev. Darrell L. Delaney as our next director of ReFrame Ministries following the retirement of Rev. Kurt Selles this summer.

The timely arrival of Rev. Delaney provided a thoughtful succession, allowing the ministry to maintain its momentum and continue to explore new avenues for global impact and media innovation. The leadership team, advancement team, and English team met this spring in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to welcome Darrell and to wish Kurt a fruitful retirement.

**KIDS
CORNER**



App Store

Help families in your church build daily faith habits at home! The new Kids Corner Bible Devotions App offers short, engaging devotions designed to fit right into busy family schedules. Share this simple, free tool with your parents and ministry teams today—available on the App Store and Google Play!

Your Partnership with ReFrame Ministries Reaches Millions of People Next Door & Around the World

Great ministry isn't done alone — it's done in partnership. Through your church's support of ReFrame Ministries, you are actively extending the hope of Christ to millions of people, both in your local community and in the farthest corners of the earth. By leveraging modern media, technology, and local ministry teams, we share God's story in the languages and cultures people understand best. Partner with us today, and let's continue bringing the gospel next door and around the world, together.

Suggested Offering Dates

- November 8, 2026
- December 6, 2026
- January 10, 2027
- May 16, 2027

Reach out to invite one of our team to come to your church to visit, speak, or connect with your congregation. You can also feature one of our videos or ministry resources!

Please be sure to order your bulletin inserts for the *Classis Heartland Meeting Agenda - September 16, 2026* for the **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.**