

Supplement to the Agenda for Classis Heartland
Saturday, September 17, 2025 - 8:30 AM

The following items were received by the clerk after the agenda was sent out and need to be included in our deliberations as Classis Heartland.

1. List of questions, comments, and protests from credentials
 - Ocheyedon CRC (p. 2)
2. CIC Minutes from September Meeting (p. 3)
3. Classical Stewardship Committee
 - Minutes from September Meeting (p. 4)
 - Classical Ministry Shares Proposal (p. 5)
4. Resonate Global Missions – Fall Church Planting and Vision Strategy (p. 6)
5. Living Water Emerging Church Report (p. 7)
6. Church Visitor Reports (pp. 8-10)

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.

Classical Interim Committee- Heartland

September 3, 2025

Dordt University

1. Members Present: Rev. Brian Hofman (Chair), Rev. Nathan Kuperus (Clerk), Rev. Aaron Greydanus (Vice-chair), Mr. Pete Van Velzen (Stated Clerk) Rev. Stephen Terpstra (alternate)
2. Visitors: Rev. Kevin Muyskens (classis program coordinator), Rev. Keith Hoekstra (chair of upcoming classis meeting)
3. Rev. Kevin Muyskens (Classis Program Coordinator) leads CIC and upcoming classis executive in preparing for the upcoming classis meeting.
 - a. The CIC affirms the present practice of all delegates signing the covenant for officebearers during check-in.
 - b. CIC agrees to have Mr. Matt Dengler's examination livestreamed for those visitors who will not be able to make the drive to Omaha.
 - i. CIC emphasizes that livestream audio must be muted and video redirected during executive session.
4. Rev. Hofman (chair) dismisses the visitors.
5. CIC considers the upcoming proposal of Living Water, Sheldon to become an emerging church under the supervision of Sanborn CRC.
 - a. **MOTION TO CLASSIS: Pending the approval of the Living Water Community Church proposal, CIC makes the motion to classis that the new Living Water, Sheldon church be permitted to seat up to one pastor, one elder and one deacon to the upcoming meetings of classis.**
 - b. CIC requests that church visitors oversee the process of dividing of resources, property and drafting of articles of incorporation.
6. CIC invites Rev. Terpstra to call together a five person committee to look into officebearer training in Classis Heartland. Rev. Terpstra will contact Mr. Dan Tracy, Rev. Brian Dunn, Rev. Lee Khang, Mr. Ken Timmermans.
7. CIC briefly discussed the small membership of the CIC, needed updates to rules and procedures document and a possible training video to help delegates know what to expect when they come to a Classis Heartland meeting.

CLASSIS HEARTLAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of Sept. 3, 2025 meeting at 12:30PM Atrium Overlook @ Dordt

1. The chair called us to order and opened with prayer.
2. Roll call:
All Present: Rev. Keith Hoekstra, Ms. Leandra Hulstein, Rev. John Klompier, Mr. Eric Kroese, Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Dr. Randy Smit.
3. Reviewed and approved Previous Minutes.
4. Old Business
 - a. Our treasurer submitted the former report to treasurer-alternate for review. Minutes were also forwarded to the treasurer-alternate as agreed.
 - b. Protocols for Internal Controls: The chair has misplaced the secure password to review banking and checking records. Will find the password and report at next meeting.
 - c. Rev. Hoekstra did not get a response from New City or Pathway. He did communicate the opportunity to participate in ministry shares. Keith will talk to their delegates at the upcoming classis meeting.
5. Home Missions CHMC Rep financial report: Rev. Hoekstra reviewed the CHMC budget.
6. Classical Treasurer Reported on Ministry Shares
 - a. The Classical per member Ministry Share expense will remain the same.
 - b. Classis has stayed at our average of 2,650 members, unless we hear differently from member churches.
 - c. We received the Ministry Shares report for information.
7. No additional Items
8. Next Meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 12:30PM at The Atrium (Overflow) at Dordt University
9. Rev. Hoekstra closed in prayer at the request of the chair.

Classis of the Heartland
2025 and 2026 Ministry Shares

	Per Member 2025	2026	% Change
Classical Ministry Shares			
Dordt University	69.88	71.37	2.13%
Classical Expense	4.00	4.00	0.00%
Student Aid Fund	0.05	0.05	0.00%
Campus Ministries			
Geneva Campus Ministry - U of I	1.89	1.89	0.00%
Areopagus - ISU	2.26	2.26	0.00%
Church Planting			
Lincoln - Chaplain	3.77	3.77	0.00%
Lincoln - F Street Immerse	1.89	1.89	0.00%
Argentine (Kurt Rietema)	1.89	1.89	0.00%
Cornerstone Prison	2.83	2.83	0.00%
Ministry Opportunity Fund	3.77	3.77	0.00%
Residency Program	1.89	1.89	0.00%
Ethnic Ministries			
Laotian Ministry - Sioux City	6.42	7.17	11.76%
Amistad Cristiana	4.53	4.53	0.00%
Other			
Established Church Development	1.13	1.13	0.00%
Discipleship Committee (Formerly Ed.)	0.50	0.50	0.00%
Youth Consultant	8.68	8.68	0.00%
Classical Home Missions Committee	0.38	0.38	0.00%
	115.75	118.00	1.94%
	2,650	2,650	



Resonate™

GLOBAL MISSION

Resonate works to empower communities of disciples to join in God's mission by faithfully proclaiming and living out the good news of Jesus in their neighborhoods and around the world.

Fall 2025 Church Planting Vision and Strategy

We give thanks that Synod 2025 prioritized church planting as a denomination. From this meeting, Resonate was tasked to develop a 10-year strategic plan to be presented to Synod 2026. In response to that, Resonate, in cooperation with Classis South East US, is asking every classis to participate in this important discernment work. Specifically, we're asking each classis to take the following actions in their fall 2025 meetings:

Call to Pray - A call to prayer and fasting is foundational for the 10-year strategic plan. We are asking classes to set aside November 9-16 as a week of prayer and fasting to seek the Spirit for a renewed church planting movement in the CRCNA.

Call to Share - Church Plants are as diverse contextually, culturally, and programmatically as the planters who lead them. An important part of developing a unified vision is hearing the heartbeat and hope of the current church planting work. We invite every pastor and planter to share their own experiences and insights through this [2025 CRC Church Planting Survey](#).

Call to Participate - [November 9-11](#), we will host a [Church Planting Vision Conference](#) at Sunlight Community CRC in Port St Lucie, FL. We ask that each classis identify and send 3-4 representatives to participate in this vital conversation as we discern together a renewed vision for church planting. Information and registration can be found at [Multiply Conference 2025](#).

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in the Kingdom work of making the gospel of Jesus known. If you or your congregation have questions or would like to explore church planting further, please contact Brad Meinders, US Central Regional Team Leader, at bmeinders@crcna.org or reach out to me at (641) 629-1575 (text or call).

Classis Heartland – Emerging Church Proposal – Fall 2025

Background

In 2014, Living Water Community Church felt the call of God to create a second ministry campus in Sheldon. For all these years, the campuses in Orange City and Sheldon have worked together to preach the gospel of Christ while under one council. We celebrate the years of mutual ministry and the building up of Christ's kingdom together. As is natural, the campuses have taken on their own identities with distinct styles of ministry and even increasingly independent leadership teams. Recognizing this, God has led the council of Living Water Community Church to this recommendation:

Proposal

The Council of Living Water Community Church (leadership of both Orange City and Sheldon campuses) requests Classis Heartland to approve Living Water Community Church, Sheldon as an independent emerging church under the temporary supervision of the council of Sanborn Christian Reformed Church. (see Church Order art. 38)

Grounds

- I. Living Water, Sheldon and Living Water, Orange City have increasingly independent leadership teams, ministry contexts, worshipping bodies, goals, and challenges that can be better managed as separate congregations.
- II. A financial study conducted by Living Water Community Church has shown that Living Water, Sheldon will be financially sound as an independent congregation. (As per CO art. 38)
- III. Sanborn CRC has agreed to become the supervising council of Living Water, Sheldon.
- IV. Granting a temporary emerging status under Sanborn CRC council's supervision allows:
 - A. Living Water, Sheldon to have time to establish a full council, leadership structures, and independent ministry programming.
 - B. Living Water, Sheldon to have time to establish an independent budget and financial structures.
 - C. Living Water, Sheldon to operate under the wisdom, guidance, and oversight of Sanborn CRC's council in the interim.
 - D. Living Water, Orange City to focus on their own unique ministries and the search for their next Pastor.
 - E. Both Living Water campuses to Pastorally lead their congregation through the changing relationship dynamics that will occur.

Opening Devotions

- Mark 4:30-34 – Faith like a Mustard Seed – What we see God doing has enormous potential! Look for mustard seed sized opportunities/expressions of God's Kingdom.

Joys at Sanborn

- There have been several Professions of Faith recently. It is a joy to see lives becoming on fire for the Lord.
- Recruiting people to serve on council has not been a struggle in recent years and people from the congregation are stepping up to volunteer in many ways!
- There is a unity in the body as people are rallying to do the work of ministry
- There were 27 youth and 8 adults that spent a week in Lincoln NE in service this past summer.
- There is much gratitude in sensing that the Lord has blessed Sanborn CRC to be a real, authentic, and humble expression of the church.
- The council is thankful for Pastor Phil and his genuine leadership in the church. They very much appreciate his teaching and preaching, his empowering of their gifts, and his wisdom in leadership. He has blessed them with faithful preaching from God's Word in the Psalms, Revelation, and others. They appreciate his courage in proclaiming the God Word in the difficult topics as well.
- The council is very thankful for
 - The Young Mens Bible Study that has started
 - The thriving GEMS ministry with over half of the participants coming from the community
 - The youth ministry at the church

Challenges

- The council feels a challenge and opportunity to grow as a church in embraces members with special needs and enfolding them into the life of the congregation.
- There is a current prayer effort to discern the future needs of the church building and how to address them.
- The council senses a growing burden to seek ways to reach the unchurched people in their community in Sanborn.
- There is an ongoing challenge addressing the future of the evening service and reaching out to those who have not returned to in person worship and community presence after Covid.

Overall there is a genuine sense of community and comradery present on the council and a joy in doing the work of ministry. Sanborn enjoys worshipping and being in God's Word together and serving their community. They love their pastor and appreciate his ministry and seem unified in their efforts to glorify Christ in their context in Sanborn.

This was an enjoyable visit. We rejoice in the Lord's blessing on this congregation and pray with them regarding the fulfillment of their hopes for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cody Statema and Chad Van Ginkel

Church Visitor to the South Report
Classis Heartland
September 17, 2025
Living Water Community Church (LWCC)

We as church visitors have offered a listening ear and guidance through Living Water Sheldon's discernment and decision-making to become independent from Living Water Orange City. Below are some notes from our meetings with Living Water.

June 9, 2025

Rev. Phil Westra and Rev. Ben Wiersma were initially invited to attend a council meeting of LWCC. Rev. Wiersma was able to attend this meeting of the full council at Living Water Orange City.

- LWCC Emerging Church Discernment Team presented their recommendation to the LWCC council to proceed with a congregational vote on the Sheldon campus becoming an emerging church.
 - The team reported on their discernment process, financial projections, and several round table events.
- The council voted to proceed with the congregational vote after several congregational meetings to inform the congregation and discuss any questions from the congregation.
- The council also discussed the voting process for the two campuses and set a date for the congregational meetings and vote.

August 6, 2025

Rev. Phil Westra and Rev. Ben Wiersma attended one of the congregational meetings at Sheldon campus.

- This was the second congregational meeting held at the Sheldon campus (previous meeting was Sunday, August 3). The August 6 meeting was sparsely attended, but the August 3 meeting was much larger.
- The Sheldon campus elders and deacons presented their grounds for becoming an emerging church, the financial projections, and the process for voting.
- A few questions were asked and discussed.

August 11, 2025

Rev. Phil Westra attended a council meeting at Living Water Sheldon (just the Sheldon campus council members were present).

- They discussed feedback from their congregation through their discernment process for becoming an emerging church
- They finalized detailed plans for how the day of the vote would be handled

- They asked Sanborn to consider serving as their overseeing church during their season of emerging church status

August 25, 2025

Rev. Phil Westra and Rev. Ben Wiersma attended a full council meeting at Living Water Sheldon campus.

- The congregational vote passed.
- The council put together a document to present to Classis.
- The council discussed the process moving forward pending Classis approval.
- The two campuses plan to have a combined celebration event to commemorate this next stage as a church.
- The council discussed and came to a unanimous decision about how the assets would be divided between the two churches

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Phil Westra

Rev. Ben Wiersma