

***Acts of Classis Heartland***  
***Christian Reformed Church in North America***  
**Sanborn, Iowa, Christian Reformed Church**  
**Saturday, September 7, 2019**

001. **Convening & Constitution of Classis.**

A. Rev. Al Van Dellen welcomes the delegates and guests of Classis Heartland to Sanborn Christian Reformed Church.

B. Stated Clerk Rev. Robert Drenten calls the roll. Rev. Van Dellen, minister of the convening church, declares classis constituted.

<u>CHURCHES</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Hawarden	Rev. Mark Klompier	Stan Hoekstra*	Randy Van Whye*
Hospers: First	Rev. Aaron Gonzalez	Hank Coulander	
Hull: First	Rev. Loren Kotman	Daryl Wesselink*	Matt Bosma
Hull: Hope	Rev. Todd Zuidema	Craig Stiemsma	David Van Lingen*
Ireton	Rev. Nate Kuperus	Brent Davelaar	Brandon Dekkers*
Kansas City: New City**			
Le Mars: Calvin	Rev. Nevada De Lapp	Bruce Smit	
Lincoln: Northern Lighthouse	Rev. Sam Keyzer	Mr. Jon Keyzer	
Ocheyedan	Rev. Tom De Does*	Mark Hibma	Cory Slagter*
Olathe: Pathway**			
Omaha: Prairie Lane	Rev. Chad Van Ginkel	Mr. Mike Muilenburg	
Orange City: Calvary	Rev. John Klompier	Wayne Huisman*	Rob Krommendyk
Orange City: First	Rev. Mark Vande Zande	Arlin Klein*	Grant De Groot*
Orange City: Immanuel	Rev. Robert Drenten	Mr. Ross Bouma	Mr. Grant Bolkema*
Orange City: Living Water	Rev. Jesse Walhof	Mr. Mike Noteboom	Brent Stuit
Sanborn	Rev. Al Van Dellen	Brian Koldenhoven	Aaron Alons*
Sheldon: First		Arlo Heynen	Chad Fykstra
		Jerry Balt*	
Sheldon: Immanuel	Rev. Kevin Muyskens	Steve Holz*	Shawn Wassenaar*
Sergeant Bluff:	Rev. Scott Van Voorst#		
Friendship Community			
Sibley		Jeff Vande Griend	Darrell Teerink
		Henry Eekhof	

\*Signs the *Covenant for Officebearers* as a first-time delegate.

#Seated as an emerging church delegate, as requested in the credentials of the sponsoring council.

\*\*Absent with notice.

C. Officers of Classis.

Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, Chairman	Rev. Robert Drenten, Stated Clerk
Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Vice Chairman	Mr. Mike Van Surksum, Classis Treasurer

D. Attending as guests or reporting to Classis Heartland on behalf of their ministries:

Mr. Tyler Helfers	Areopagus Campus Ministry, Ames, Iowa
Rev. Peter Kelder	Regional Representative, Resonate Global Ministries
Rev. Garry Nyenhuis	Living Water Community CRC, Orange City, Iowa
Mr. Del Walinga	Safe Church Team, Classes Heartland & Iakota
Mr. John Baas	Dordt University
Rev. Robert Drenten	Calvin Theological Seminary
Rev. David Heilman	Inspiration Hills
Pastor Jeff Heerspink	F Street Neighborhood CRC, Lincoln
Ms. Lee De Groot	Minn-I-Kota Youth Network
Rev. Joel De Boer	Faith Formation Ministry

E. Opening Worship.

1. Rev. Van Dellen leads the call to worship, from Psalm 86:1-7.
2. A praise team from Sanborn CRC leads Classis Heartland, singing, "I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace," and "Behold Our God."

3. Rev. Mark Klompjen offers a message based on Isaiah 55:11, exploring how the LORD speaks today. He introduces *Pray the Word for Your Church* by Tiece L. King, a resource helping connect God's Word to the prayers of God's people. The Classical Education Committee with Prayer Coordinator Barb Hibma gives a copy of this book to all delegates. Churches of Classis Heartland are urged to make use of this resource to deepen prayer ministry.
4. The praise team closes by leading the singing of, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less."
5. Chairman Rev. Gonzalez offers a prayer for the Lord's leading for the day.

002. **Overture for the Retirement of Rev. Alfred Van Dellen.**

- A. Chairman Rev. Gonzalez and Elder Aaron Alons present an overture from the council of Sanborn Christian Reformed Church:

"The council of the Sanborn Christian Reformed Church overtures Classis Heartland to approve the request of Rev. Alfred J. Van Dellen to retire effective November 30, 2019, due to having reached retirement age."

It is moved and supported to approve this request, in accordance with Church Order Art. 18.

*-Adopted.*

- B. Chairman Rev. Gonzalez offers a prayer, thanking the Lord for Rev. Van Dellen's ministry and commending his future to the Lord's leading. A brief reception is held for delegates to offer congratulations and commendation to Rev. Van Dellen.

003. **Prayer Coordinator – Ms. Barb Hibma.**

- A. Ms. Hibma presents the book, *Pray the Word for Your Church* by Tiece L. King. Classis Heartland urges its churches to make use of this resource for prayer ministry. Rev. Garry Nyenhuis of Living Water Community CRC gives examples of how this book has been applied in their ministry.

- B. Time is given for delegates to find a passage of Scripture and to allow that passage to shape a prayer.

004. **Classical Home Missions Committee – Rev. Kevin Muyskens.**

- A. Rev. Muyskens introduces reports on several CHMC initiatives.

1. The churches are encouraged to make use of the Ministry Opportunities Fund. Rev. Aaron Gonzalez reported how First CRC in Hospers took advantage of these funds to develop a worship leader position through a grant from the fund. The purpose was to revitalize worship ministry in the congregation.
2. Rev. Muyskens reports that the CHMC is reviewing the future of classis support for Geneva Campus Ministry and the University of Iowa and Areopagus Campus Ministry at Iowa State University. The committee is discouraged regarding apparent lack of impact of these ministries. Mr. Tyler Helpers, Director of Areopagus Campus Ministry, reports to classis and responds to the questions posed in CHMC report. He thanks Classis Heartland for its support and offers examples of students impacted by Areopagus over the past year.

- B. Recommendations

1. That Classis Heartland approve a residency program to raise up church planters and other missional leaders within the churches of classis. This includes classical funding of up to \$5,000 per person with at least a one-to-one congregational match. The residency program will be overseen by the CHMC. *-Adopted.*
2. The proposed CHMC budget for 2020 is reviewed, which recommends a total of \$97,500 in expenditures. This item is included in the Classical Stewardship Committee's recommended ministry shares for 2020.
3. The churches are encouraged to apply for an Established Church Development grant of up to \$1,000 for local outreach projects and ministries.
4. That classis approve the work of the CHMC. *-Adopted.*

- C. Rev. Muyskens offers a closing prayer for the Lord's mission through Classis Heartland.

004. **Nominating Committee – Rev. Mark Vande Zande.**

- A. Rev. Vande Zande presents the work and the ballot prepared by the Nominating Committee.

1. It is moved and supported to accept the ballot as presented by the CNC with the grounds. *-Adopted.*
2. The following are elected to positions in Classis Heartland. (Term October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2022)
 

Classical Home Missions Committee (minister)	-	Rev. Tom De Does
Classical Home Missions Committee, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. John Klompjen
Classical Education Committee (minister)	-	Rev. Mark Klompjen
Classical Education Committee, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. Nevada De Lapp
Classical Nominating Committee, Alt. (minister)	-	Rev. Mark Klompjen
Church Visitor – North	-	Rev. Nevada De Lapp

Church Visitor – North, Alt. - Rev. Chad Van Ginkel  
Classis Treasurer, Alt. - Ms. Katie Wierenga

B. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the CNC. *-Adopted.*

005. **Classical Ministry Leadership Team** – *Rev. Loren Kotman.*

A. Rev. Kotman presents the report of the CMLT.

1. Jamie Negus, a student at Sioux Falls Seminary, will be enrolled at a three-quarter time rate this year, and his classis approved classis support has been reduced proportionately. Candidate Gale Tien, who received aid from Classis Heartland, will be ordained in September. Also, the CMLT received a note of thanks from Rev. Mark Hilbelink, who is marking his 10<sup>th</sup> year in ministry and thus is no longer obligated to repay any of his support from Classis Heartland.
2. CMLT is recommending \$1.00 per member ministry share support for 2020. This will be presented by the Stewardship Committee in the ministry share recommendation.
3. Recommendation - That classis renew the license to exhort for the following in Classis Heartland:  
Sherwin Bolkema  
Kurt Rietema  
Greg Steggerda

*-Adopted.*

B. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the CMLT. *-Adopted.*

Rev. Kotman offers prayer for those engaged in ministry of the Word in the churches of Classis Heartland.

006. **Classical Interim Committee** – *Rev. Mark Vande Zande.*

A. Rev. Vande Zande presents the work and recommendations of the CIC.

1. Rev. Scott Van Voorst of Friendship Community CRC, Sergeant Bluff, is pursuing chaplaincy in the United States Air Force in addition to his work as a church planter. Immanuel CRC, Orange City, as supervising church of Friendship Community CRC, holding the ministerial credentials of Rev. Van Voorst, submitted an amended call to the CIC for provisional approval, which was granted. The CIC recommends that Classis Heartland approve his amended call.

*-Adopted.*

Rev. Van Voorst updates classis regarding the vision for a bi-vocational, two-staff ministry which Friendship Community CRC is seeking to develop.

2. Rev. Vande Zande notes that Rev. Jesse Walhof and Mr. Del Walinga have agreed to represent Classis Heartland on the Heartland-Iakota Safe Church Team.
3. Rev. Vande Zande notes that CIC received and responded to a letter from Mr. Dale Braaksma, requesting that Classis Heartland revisit a matter which was decided in March 2010. No action is recommended.
4. Recommendation – That classis appoint Rev. Chad Van Ginkel as classical counselor for Northern Lighthouse CRC, Lincoln.

*-Adopted.*

B. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the CIC. *-Adopted.*

007. **Stated Clerk** – *Rev. Robert Drenten.*

A. Rev. Drenten presents the written account of his work at stated clerk. He notes that the email address for the Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland is now [classisheartlandstatedclerk@gmail.com](mailto:classisheartlandstatedclerk@gmail.com). Beginning with this meeting all classis materials such as the agenda, minutes, and other resources, will be posted on the Classis Heartland website, [www.classisheartland.com](http://www.classisheartland.com).

B. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the stated clerk. *-Adopted.*

008. **Safe Church Team** – *Rev. Jesse Walhof.*

A. Rev. Walhof reports on behalf of the Heartland-Iakota Safe Church Team.

1. Ms. Tara Boer serves as director of the newly formed team. Rev. John Gorter and Ms. Heidi Mulder represent Classis Iakota; Rev. Walhof and Mr. Del Walinga represent Classis Heartland.
2. The SCT offers consultation to churches developing policies, serves as a resource for allegations or instances of abuse, and provides training and guidance for best practices with regard to abuse and prevention.
3. Churches are urged to form a Safe Church Team of 3 to 4 members implementing safe church policies locally. Additional information is distributed to the delegates, which is available from the CRCNA at [www.crcna.org/safechurch](http://www.crcna.org/safechurch).

B. Rev. Walhof leads prayer for safe church leadership and for healthy, grace-filled church life.

009. **Classical Education Committee** – *Rev. Mark Klompien.*
- A. Rev. M. Klompien presents the work of the CEC.
1. The “Day of Encouragement” hosted annually at Dordt University will no longer be offered. Also, due to the dissolution of the Siouxland Diaconal Conference, SDC training events will no longer be held. The CEC is exploring a Timothy Leadership Training Institute event, which would be led by Rev. Sam Keyzer.
  2. The CEC ministry share request of \$0.05 is noted. This will be included in the Stewardship Committee ministry share recommendation.
  3. The CEC distributes a handout to the delegates promoting prayerfulness in the churches, applying the guidance of *Pray the Word for Your Church* by Tiece L. King. Elder and deacon delegates are encouraged to bring this to their councils asking for their churches to take advantage of this opportunity to grow in prayer ministry. Rev. Klompien reviews ideas for councils and churches to renew a focus on prayer. Prayer Coordinator Ms. Barb Hibma is available as a resource.
- B. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the CEC. *-Adopted.*
010. **Minn-I-Kota Youth Network** – *Ms. Lee De Groot.*
- A. Ms. De Groot, Director for MIK, presents her written report. She notes this was her first year as full-time director. In addition to the written report she notes the following items of information.
1. A brochure for the Youth Leader Retreat at Inspiration Hills is given to the delegates.
  2. Ms. De Groot notes 131 students attended the last Junior High Retreat at Inspiration Hills. This, with 22 leaders, made for the largest Junior High Retreat ever sponsored by MIK. She notes with gratitude the ways that the Lord provided for leadership and led participants to join. The event is not only growing in number, but also in interest, vitality, and impact.
011. **Synod 2019 Delegation Report** – *Rev. Jesse Walhof, Rev. Robert Drenten.*
- A. Classis Heartland delegated Rev. Walhof, Elder Duane Walhof, Deacon Keith Boersma, and Rev. Drenten to Synod 2019.
1. Rev. Walhof and Rev. Drenten present a written summary of the work of Synod 2019.
  2. Classis takes note that Synod 2019 acceded to an overture of Classis Heartland not to require including diversity within the delegation of a classis to synod.
  3. Delegates Rev. Walhof and Rev. Drenten also note the recommended change to denominational ministry shares which Synod 2020 will consider for approval, adopting a system of pledging. Also noted are the substantial decisions promoting training and accountability for safe church policies on local and classical levels.
- B. Churches of Classis Heartland are urged to review the *Acts of Synod 2019* and summaries of decisions the denomination has made available.
012. **Resonate Global Missions** – *Rev. Peter Kelder.*
- A. Rev. Kelder, Regional Representative of Resonate Global Missions, reports to classis. He offers the following information.
1. Classis Heartland is in the top ten percent of all classes in total annual giving to global missions. Classis Heartland is also in a leading position in annual giving per member.
  2. Rev. Kelder notes that campus ministry is an important leadership development arm for church, locally and globally.
  3. The following churches or ministries in Classis Heartland are receiving Innovation Grants from Resonate Global Missions: New City CRC, Kansas City; the Argentine neighborhood ministry in Kansas City; and F Street Neighborhood CRC in Lincoln. Rev. Kelder challenges all churches to get “out of the walls” and to engage the local community.
  4. Rev. Kelder reflects on the power of moving from a “deciding” to “discerning” model for church mission.
- B. Chairman Rev. Gonzalez thanks Rev. Kelder for his report.
013. **Faith Formation Ministry** – *Rev. Joel De Boer.*
- A. Rev. De Boer serves as a regional catalyst for Faith Formation Ministries.
1. He presents resources to foster faith formation in homes, for children and families, to help them discover and live faith in Jesus Christ.
  2. Rev. De Boer recommends resources such as “Council Clips” for council training. He can help churches obtain or gain access to these materials.
  3. Rev. De Boer gave an example of a three-year discipleship course for a local church, which he is available to help other churches create.

014. **Dordt University** – *Mr. John Baas.*
- A. Mr. Baas, Vice President for Advancement at Dordt University, addresses Classis Heartland.
1. Mr. Baas thanks Classis Heartland for its faithful, generous support. He notes that Dordt University alumni are strongly represented within classis.
  2. The *Wall Street Journal* ranked Dordt University in first place in student engagement among 1,100 colleges. The *US News* ranking also is anticipated to be favorable. Mr. Baas notes that ranking secondary to pursuing the task of reformed Christian higher education.
  3. Dordt University will host Youth Ministry Day on November 20, 2019, and Pastors' Appreciation Day on April 1, 2020.
015. **Calvin Theological Seminary** – *Rev. Robert Drenten.*
- A. Rev. Drenten, Region 8 board trustee, updates Classis Heartland on the work of Calvin Theological Seminary.
1. The written report from the CTS board is noted.
  2. CTS offers an increasing number of degrees and programs, including Bible Studies training for Christian school teachers, leadership training, and a new D.Min. program.
  3. The graduating class of 2019 reflected the growing diversity of students and types of training offered.
  4. Delegates are urged to encourage those in their spheres of influence who show potential to consider training for ministry.
016. **Noon Devotions** – *Rev. Aaron Gonzalez.*
- A. Chairman Rev. Gonzalez reads Proverbs 3:5-6 and exhorts delegates always to put the Lord first, not leaning on our own understanding. He offers prayer.
- B. Classis recesses for lunch.
017. **Classical Stewardship Committee** – *Rev. Scott Van Voorst.*
- A. Rev. Van Voorst presents the report and recommendations of the CSC.
1. Classis Heartland received a \$7,800 refund from Siouxland Diaconal Conference upon its dissolution.  
Recommendation – That the CSC have the treasurer hold all 2019 funds collected for the SDC until Classis Heartland recommends a way to repurpose them at its September 2020 meeting. *-Adopted.*
  2. Recommendation – That Classis opens a credit line. Cards would be issued to the Treasurer and Stated Clerk. The account will be set at a limit of \$1,000, and the purpose is to manage regular expenses of classis. This recommendation includes classis authorization to CSC to increase the credit limit for expenses around larger classis events, such as reserving rooms and arranging for transportation. *-Adopted.*
  3. Recommendation – That classis approve the presented ministry shares for 2020, totaling \$111.97 per member. *-Adopted.*
- B. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the CSC. *-Adopted.*
018. **Siouxland Diaconal Conference** – *Rev. Mark Klompfen.*
- A. Rev. M. Klompfen reports on behalf of the Board of Directors of the SDC.
1. Classis Heartland takes note of two letters from the SDC Board, which report their decision to cease operation.
  2. The SDC has filed articles of dissolution with the State of Iowa. The Board of Directors approved the disbursement of the remaining funds in the SDC checking account to four ministries: Classis Iakota, Classis Heartland, Resonate Global Mission, and World Renew.
  3. SDC encourages Classis Heartland “to re-imagine” what a diaconal ministry could be.
  4. Rev. Scott Van Voorst offers a prayer “to excel in the grace of giving” in acts of faithful stewardship.
019. **Overture** – *Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha.*
- A. Rev. Chad Van Ginkel presents the overture on behalf of the council of Prairie Lane CRC.
1. Overture – “To remove the phrase ‘No woman may be seated as a delegate’ from section I.D. of the Classis of Heartland Rules of Procedure allowing women to be recognized as delegates to Classis Heartland. This phrase hindered and will continue to hinder Prairie Lane CRC from full representation and participation at classis.”
    - a) Rev. Aaron Gonzalez offers a prayer for discernment.
    - b) It is moved and supported to require a two-thirds majority to adopt the overture. *-Adopted.*
    - c) Rev. David Heilman offers a prayer for unity.
    - d) Classis votes by ballot. *-Defeated.*

020. **Inspiration Hills** -*Rev. David Heilman.*
- A. Rev. Heilman distributes a written report and highlights upcoming events at Inspiration Hills in Inwood, Iowa.
    - 1. Youth Leaders Retreat – October 25-26, 2019.
    - 2. Freedom Conference Women’s Event – November 1-2, 2019.
    - 3. Pastor & Spouse Retreat – January 12-15, 2020.
    - 4. Pastor Education Event – February 25, 2020.
    - 5. The Art of Marriage Retreat – March 13-15, 2020.
    - 6. Pastor Wives’ Gathering – April 17-18, 2020.
021. **Church Visitors** – *Rev. David Heilman & Rev. Mark Klompien.*
- A. Rev. David Heilman reports on behalf of the visitors serving churches to the southern region of Classis Heartland. The written reports are submitted to the stated clerk.
    - 1. Siouxland Unity CRC, Sioux City – The visit was held with their leadership team. Visitors encouraged the church as they continued to transition to a second and third generation immigrant church.
    - 2. Friendship Community CRC, Sergeant Bluff – The visit was held with their leadership team. The visitors encouraged the church in their efforts to reach into their community and to care for each other.
    - 3. Calvin CRC, Le Mars – The visitors encouraged the church in their diligent ministry, and to see signs of God’s work among them.
    - 4. Calvary CRC, Orange City – The visitors reviewed relationship between pastor and congregation, finding evidence of intentional, faithful ministry.
  - B. It is moved and supported to approve the work of the church visitors. *-Adopted.*
022. **Classical Counselors.**
- A. Rev. Loren Kotman reports on the acceptance of Rev. Tom De Does to Ocheyedon CRC. It is moved and supported to approve his work and release Rev. Kotman from his duties as classical counselor. *-Adopted.*
  - B. Rev. John Klompien reports on his work with Sheldon First CRC and the progress of their search committee, for information.
023. **Adjournment.**
- A. Chairman Rev. Gonzalez declares classis adjourned.
  - B. Vice-Chairman, Rev. Nathan Kuperus, thanks Rev. Gonzalez for his work as chairman. He offers the closing prayer and leads delegates in the singing of the *Doxology*.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Rev. Robert Drenten  
Stated Clerk, Classis Heartland

**UPCOMING REGULAR SESSIONS OF CLASSIS HEARTLAND**

March 7, 2020 at Living Water Community CRC  
Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Chairman  
Agenda Deadline – January 18, 2020  
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September 8, 2020 at Friendship Community CRC, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa  
Rev. Andrew Vanden Akker, Chairman  
Agenda Deadline – July 15, 2020

## Classis of the Heartland

2019 and 2020 Ministry Shares

	Per Member		
	2019	2020	% Change
<b>Classical Ministry Shares</b>			
Dordt College	68.37	68.37	0.00%
Siouxland Diaconal Conference	8.25	0.00	-100.00%
Classical Expense	5.50	5.50	0.00% ?
Student Aid Fund	1.00	1.00	0.00%
<b>Campus Ministries</b>			
Geneva Campus Ministry - U of I	1.67	1.72	2.99%
Areopagus - ISU	1.67	1.72	2.99%
<b>Church Planting</b>			
Lincoln - Chaplain	1.67	1.72	2.99%
Lincoln - F Street	1.67	1.72	2.99%
Lincoln - F Street Immerse	1.67	1.72	2.99%
Pathway - Argentine	1.67	1.72	2.99%
Friendship Community	3.33	2.59	-22.22%
Cornerstone Prison	1.67	1.72	2.99%
Ministry Opportunity Fund	3.33	3.45	3.60%
<b>Ethnic Ministries</b>			
Laotian Ministry - Sioux City	6.66	6.90	3.60%
Amistad Cristiana	3.33	3.45	3.60%
<b>Other</b>			
Established Church Development	1.33	1.38	3.76%
Education Committee	0.05	0.05	0.00%
Youth Consultant	3.33	3.45	3.60%
Residency Program	0.00	3.45	100.00%
Classical Home Missions Committee	0.33	0.34	3.03%
	<u>116.50</u>	<u>111.97</u>	<u>-3.89%</u>