

AGENDA for CLASSIS HEARTLAND

Saturday, March 2, 2018 8:00 AM

Hope Christian Reformed Church

1407 Sixth St

Hull, IA 51239

(712) 439-1279

1. Check-In.

All delegates please register at the check-in desk. All delegates serving Classis Heartland for the first time in their office will be asked to sign the Covenant for Officebearers prior to the meeting.

2. Opening Worship / Constitution of Classis.

- A. Convener – Rev. Todd Zuidema.
- B. Classis Program Coordinator – Rev. Kevin Muyskens.
- C. Roll Call and Constitution of Classis – Rev. Robert Drenten.

3. Officers of Classis.

- A. Chairman: **Rev. Todd Zuidema.**
- B. Vice-Chairman: **Rev. Aaron Gonzalez.**
- C. Stated Clerk: **Rev. Robert Drenten.**
- D. Treasurer: **Mr. Mike Van Surksun.**

4. Welcome – Rev. Todd Zuidema.

- A. Recognition of Delegates and Visitors to Classis.
- B. Instructions for the Day.

5. Appointments for the Day – Rev. Todd Zuidema.

- A. Noon Devotions:
- B. Appreciation of Classis for Host Church Hospitality:

6. STANDING COMMITTEES & FUNCTIONARY REPORTS.

- A. Classical Nominating Committee (CNC) – Rev. Mark Vande Zande. (pp. 4-5)

- 1. Classis Elections – Ballot to be presented to Classis.

- 2. Delegates to Synod 2019 (June 14-20, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI).

Minister –

Minister Alternate –

Elder –

Elder Alternate–

Deacon –

Deacon Alternate –

At-Large Officebearer –

Officebearer Alternate –

- B. Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC) – Rev. Kevin Muyskens.

- 1. Areopagus Campus Ministry (December 2018 – January 2019) – Mr. Tyler Helfers.

- C. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) – Rev. Loren Kotman.

- D. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC) – Rev. Scott Van Voorst.

- 2. Siouxland Diaconal Conference (SDC)

a. Director's Report – Mr. Rick Droog.

(pp. 6-7)

b. Board Report – Mr. Rod De Boer.

- 3. Classis Treasurer's Report 2018 – Mr. Mike Van Surksun.

- E. Classical Education Committee (CEC) – Rev. Mark Klompien.

(pp. 8-9)

- 1. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (MIK) – Ms. Lee De Groot.

(pp 10-12)

- 2. Classis Prayer Coordinator (CPC) – Ms. Barb Hibma.

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- F. **Classical Interim Committee (CIC)** – Rev. Mark Vande Zande. (pp. 13-14)
1. **Combined CIC – Classis Iakota (C.O. Art. 44-a).** (pp 15-17)
 2. **Stated Clerk** – Rev. Robert Drenten.
 - a. **Stated Clerk’s Report.**
 - b. **Historical Committee – CRCNA.**
 1. **CRCNA Historical Committee Report.**
 2. **CRCNA Historical Committee Archival Holdings.**
- G. **Church Visitors (CV)**
1. **To the North** – Rev. Sam Keyzer & Rev. Robert Drenten.
 2. **To the South** – Rev. Al Van Dellen.
- H. **Church Counselors**
1. **Ocheyedan CRC** – Rev. Loren Kotman
 2. **Sheldon: First CRC** – Rev. John Klompien.
7. **OVERTURES & COMMUNICATIONS.**
- A. **Orange City: First CRC** (p. 18)
8. **CLASSIS & DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: SUPPORTED MINISTRIES.**
- A. **Council of Delegates (CRCNA).** – Mr. Mark Volkers.
 - B. **Regional Director, Resonate Global Ministries** – Rev. Peter Kelder (pp. 19-20)
 - C. **Calvin College Board of Trustees** – Mr. Jonathan Kuyers. (pp. 21)
 - D. **Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees** – Rev. Robert Drenten.
 - E. **World Renew** – Mr. Rod De Boer.
10. **Church Order Article 41: Ministry Issues / Requests for Advice from Classis.**
12. **ADJOURNMENT.**
- A. **Next Regular Session of Classis Heartland.**
 1. **Date: September 7, 2019** (Agenda Deadline – July 20, 2019).
 2. **Location: Sanborn, Iowa, Christian Reformed Church.**
 3. **Officers:** **Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, Chairman.**
Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Vice Chairman.
 - B. **Closing Comments & Devotions** – Rev. Todd Zuidema, Chairman.
 - C. **Classis Adjourns.**

Instructions

Complete and submit your council's **credentials to the Stated Clerk**. You may send an electronic copy via email, or a hard copy. **Credential deadline is WEDNESDAY, February 20, 2019.** The Classical Interim Committee meets prior to classis to handle all credential matters and post-deadline agenda items.

**Rev. Robert Drenten, Stated Clerk
Immanuel Christian Reformed Church
1405 Albany Ave NE
Orange City, IA 51041**

robert.drenten@gmail.com

Delegates: Please note the additional items your council received in a separate e-mailing. Your council delegation should have at least one copy of, “Servants of Classis,” “Classical Rules of Procedure,” “Mission and Vision Statement,” and “Discussion Guide for Effective Meetings.”

Councils: You are asked to submit the names of **elder or deacon candidates for Synod 2019** on the second page of your **credentials**. **Please include the address, phone number, and e-mail address for each candidate.** Classis will delegate one elder and one deacon to synod, along with a minister and one additional office-bearer (commissioned pastor, minister, elder, or deacon). Also, classis will select alternates for each of these positions.

Classical Nominating Committee Minutes
October 9, 2018
Immanuel CRC, Orange City, Iowa

1. Rev. John Klompier opened in prayer.
2. All members were present (Mr. Glenn Bouma, Rev. Robert Drenten (ex-officio), Rev. John Klompier, Rev. Mark Vande Zande, Mr. Steve Ver Mulm)
3. Rev. John Klompier was elected as the new chair of the committee and Rev. Mark Vande Zande was elected as the new secretary of the committee.
4. We reviewed the guidelines for our current structure. Those guidelines are as follows:
 - a. An incumbent may stand alone in nomination as a single nomination if we are satisfied with the committees work and if they desire to continue to serve.
*In addition, the Nominating Committee will check with each committee to learn if they are satisfied with the work of the incumbent. If the committee is not satisfied with the work of the incumbent, then the Nominating Committee will instruct the committee to have a collegial conversation about the work being completed and what can be done to improve that work.
 - b. We intend to include more than one nomination for each committee members. We do admit though that single nominations are often necessary to fill alternate positions due to the small number of ministers in classis.
 - c. Every year, the Nominating Committee will inform all servants, both active and alternates of their role.
 - d. Every fall, the Nominating Committee will send information to the Pastors/Clerks of each church, asking them to consider nominating candidates to the open positions in classis.
 - e. The Stated Clerk of Classis Heartland will take care of the roster of classical servants, updating the roster when necessary.
5. We reviewed the open classical positions that need to be filled. We decided that before we finalize the list, we would follow guideline “d” and send information to the Pastors/Clerks of each church, asking them to consider and offer names for nomination regarding the open positions in classis and have those names given to us by the beginning of December.
6. Council of Delegates – Mark Volkers term on The Council of Delegates CRCNA will come to a conclusion in June 2019. Three names came forward as possible replacements – Rev. Aaron Gonzalez (Hospers CRC), Rev. Scott Van Voorst (Friendship Chapel CRC), and Rev. Mark Vande Zande (First CRC, Orange City). Rev. Robert Drenten has been instructed to give these three delegates the nomination form for membership on the Council of Delegates for them to fill out. Once those nomination forms are completed, Rev. Robert Drenten will then forward these names to the Council of Delegates for the Council of Delegates to elected one of the three nominees to be on the Council of Delegates.
7. Other items of business
 - a. We briefly discussed committee term limits. At our next meeting, we will discuss this further and decide if we would allow a person to serve on a committee for only a certain number of terms or an infinite number of terms.
 - b. A request was made to the Stated Clerk to get a list of all the Pastors in Classis Heartland to the Nominating Committee.
8. Next meeting – Tuesday, December 4, 2018. 11:30 a.m. – Mr. Glenn Bouma will bring Deer steaks. Each member will provide the rest of their own lunch.
9. Mr. Glenn Bouma closed in prayer.

Classical Nominating Committee Minutes
December 11, 2018
Immanuel CRC, Orange City, Iowa

10. Mr. Steve Ver Mulm opened in prayer.
11. All members were present (Mr. Glenn Bouma, Rev. Robert Drenten (ex-officio), Rev. John Klompier, Rev. Mark Vande Zande, Mr. Steve Ver Mulm)
12. We reviewed and came up with names for the open classical positions needing to be filled.

Stated Clerk

- Rev. Robert Drenten

Classical Treasurer

- Mike Van Surksom

Classical Interim Committee (Nominees)

***Recommendations to Classis – We recommend that the two receiving the most votes for Classical Interim Committee will become committee members and the remaining two would be voted on for alternate, with the one receiving the majority becoming the alternate.**

- Rev. Todd Zuidema (currently serving as a member)
- Rev. Nate Kuperus (currently serving as an alternate)
- Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
- Rev. Nevada De Lapp

Classical Education Committee

- Rev. Mark Vande Zande (currently serving as a member)
- Rev. Nevada De Lapp

Alternates for Classical Education Committee

- Mr. Henry Kramer
- Rev. Aaron Gonzalez

Classical Ministry Leadership Team

- Rev. Loren Kotman (currently serving as a member)
- Rev. Jesse Walhof

Church Visitor

To the North – we need an alternate

- Rev. Nevada De Lapp

To the South

***Recommendations to Classis – We recommend that we have only three committee members up for nomination for Church Visitors to the South. The two nominees receiving the most votes will become our Church Visitors to the South, and the remaining name will become our alternate.**

- Rev. Nate Kuperus
- Rev. Mark Klompier
- Rev. David Heilman

13. Term Limit discussion – discussion regarding term limits will happen at the next meeting.
14. Other items of business
 - *Rev. Klompier will be gone for Classis and Rev. Vande Zande will report at Classis.
15. Next meeting – after classis
16. Rev. Mark Vande Zande closed in prayer.

CLASSIS HEARTLAND REPORT
Siouxland Diaconal Conference
Rick Droog – SDC Executive Director
Saturday, March 2, 2019

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Thank-you for your continued support of the Siouxland Diaconal Conference! The mission of the Siouxland Diaconal Conference is to help lead Christ's church in the demonstration of love, mercy, compassion, justice and stewardship. We hope that through our projects, consulting and educational workshops we have helped the congregations of Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota. I am looking forward to giving an oral report and having the opportunity to share information about our work with you at the classis Heartland meeting at Hope CRC in Hull, Iowa on Saturday, March 2. If you have any other questions, or if there is a way that the SDC can assist your church, please contact me. The SDC asks for your continued prayers for this ministry. This report outlines some of the exciting and interesting highlights during the past months, and some of the things we are working on in the next few months.

Leadership Training/Education/Workshops: The SDC continues to receive educational requests and we have had the opportunity to have several meetings with deacons and other church leaders from the area. The SDC Board is planning to offer a Spring leadership training event for elders and deacons since Dordt College is not offering the Day-of-Encouragement this year (in 2019). I have contacted Andy Ryskamp, the director of the Diaconal Ministry Initiative of the CRCNA and also Dave Den Haan from CRCNA Pastor Church Resources. Both Andy and Dave are very interested in coming out and helping us by leading the deacon and elder breakout sessions. The SDC Board has the following opportunities scheduled for Wednesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 28:

- A Pastor Luncheon in Orange City – We have invited the area pastors to a lunch meeting with Andy Ryskamp and Dave Den Haan on Wednesday, February 27 from noon – 2 PM at the Downtown Grill in Orange City, Iowa.
- An Elder/Deacon Regional Training Event in Iowa – on Wednesday, February 27, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM we will be having an elder and deacon training session at the Dordt Ag Stewardship Center in Sioux Center, Iowa.
- A Pastor Luncheon in Rock Valley – We have invited the area pastors to a lunch meeting with Andy Ryskamp and Dave Den Haan on Thursday, February 28 from 11 AM – 1 PM at the Cedar Rock Grill in Rock Valley, Iowa.
- A Pastor Dinner in Platte – We have invited the area pastors to a dinner meeting with Andy Ryskamp and Dave Den Haan on Thursday, February 28 from 4:30 – 6 PM at the Pizza Ranch in Platte, South Dakota.
- An Elder/Deacon Regional Training Event in South Dakota – on Thursday, February 28, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM we will be hosting an elder and deacon training session at New Holland CRC in New Holland, South Dakota.

CRCNA - Resonate Global Mission: The SDC has a Memorandum-of-Understanding (MOU) with the CRCNA Resonate Global Mission for me to serve as a Local Mission Leader in the Central US Region. I am participating in monthly Zoom conference calls with the Local Resonate Global Missions Team. We discussed what is happening in this region. Our regional team has three main areas of focus which include: starting and strengthening churches, developing leaders, and partnering in

holistic ministry networks. As part of our agreement with Resonate Global Mission, I am currently working with 3 groups:

- In Classis Heartland – Meetings with Pastor Scott Van Voorst and the leadership team at Friendship Community Church in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa (a church plant re-start).
- In Classis Iakota – Meetings with the Ad-Hoc Classis Iakota Church Planting Team as they work on planting a church on westside of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- In Classis Iakota – Meetings with members of the Classis Home Missions Team as they discuss the possibility of planting a church in the Chamberlain, South Dakota area.

Healthy Church Discernment Process (CRCNA): The SDC continues to promote and share information about the Healthy Church program for churches that are interested in developing a strategic vision or a specific plan for a specific time. The Healthy Church Discernment Process will give you an unclouded perspective of where your church is today and then help you energize your congregation by involving them in a dynamic conversation about the future of your church... and how you can get there together. The process is covered in prayer, with the expectation that God's guidance will be evident at every step along the way. We begin by focusing on... What if you could get a clear look at what is really happening in your church? And what if you could use that information to develop a plan for the future - a plan that would give every member of your congregation a sense of ownership? The Healthy Church process can help congregations discover the work that God has uniquely prepared for them to do. An integral piece of this program is the Healthy Church Survey. This is a comprehensive tool that provides an accurate reflection of what is happening in your church through focusing on two distinct areas – perception and practice. The Healthy Church Survey provides insights into these two key areas, helping your entire congregation gain an accurate understanding of the strengths and challenges of your church as a whole and as individuals. The desired outcome is to have leadership consensus on ministry priorities that are attainable and can be embraced by the congregation. I have had the opportunity to coach 19 churches that have completed the Healthy Church Discernment Process.

2018-Financial Support: This past fiscal year (January – December 2018) the SDC had a financial support base that included; classical ministry shares of 67% (Classis Iakota – 43% & Classis Heartland – 24%), Barnabas Foundation Grant of 13%, CRCNA-Resonate Global Mission Grant of 10%, Healthy Church coaching/consulting fees of 9%, and private individual and business donations of 1%.

2019 – SDC Board Members: The following people are currently serving on the SDC board;

- Rod De Boer (Living Water Community Church in Orange City, IA) - President
- Alvin Runia (Ocheyedan CRC in Ocheyedan, IA) – Vice President
- Dan Kroeze (Faith CRC in Sioux Center, IA) - Secretary
- Gerald Zwart (Inwood CRC in Inwood, IA) - Treasurer
- Pastor Cliff Hoekstra (Rock Rapids CRC in Rock Rapids, IA) – World Renew Board Member
- Pastor Gideon Wamala (Calvin CRC in Rock Valley, IA) - Classis Iakota Pastoral Advisor
- Pastor Mark Klompfen (Hawarden CRC in Hawarden, IA) - Classis Heartland Pastoral Advisor

The SDC wants to thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. We would like to have the opportunity to share some of the resources and the things that we have learned with you or your leadership. Please contact the Siouxland Diaconal Conference at: Rick Droog - PO Box 173 - Orange City, IA 51041 - PH: (712) 441-1686 - Email: sdc@orangecitycomm.net.

CLASSIS EDUCATION COMMITTEE(CEC)—HEARTLAND

October 10th, 2018 at 11:30 PM— Habitué' LeMars

Members Present: Rev. Mark Klompier, Pastor Verlyn Schaap, Rev. Mark Vande Zande

I. Opening Prayer-Vande Zande

II. Responsibilities of Committee

A. Providing Continuing Education

1. Day of Encouragement (DOE)

The DOE is not taking place this year. The approved funding from the last CEC meeting (6-25-18) is withheld (\$500.00).

2. Inspiration Hills (IH)

Discussed policy made by CEC to financially support retreat for pastors/family at IH. Pastors have not utilized the financial support offered at this point, for: a) pastoral retreats alone or with family for rest/study b) pastors/wives participating in already-scheduled events.

3. Blackmon Event at Dordt College (DC)—Nov 28th

11:00 Chapel, 12:00-1:15 Lunch, 1:15-2:30 *Pastor's Workshop*

MOTION: CEC will financially support the event for \$1,000.

--PASSED

Vande Zande will communicate decision, make provisions for payment by contacting Aaron Bart (Dean Chapel-DC) and Mike Van Surksom (Classical Treasurer).

4. Miscellaneous—Discussion

a. Springtime Deacons(Elders) Conference—Siouxland Deaconate Committee (SDC)

In view of no DOE, we wondered about Elders/Deacon training. An event took place last year, April 4th at Bethel CRC with Heartland and Iakota churches (RCA also invited). SDC informally communicated before meeting, inviting CEC participation and sponsorship for a similar event in 2019. CEC asks Klompier (SDC member) to communicate with SDC wondering if SDC is making a formal request for support. If so, CEC needs details in writing from committee outlining the details of the event and a specific request for support.

b. Pastor's Development—Preaching Seminar

Klompier has been talking with Sam Keyzer (Northern Lighthouse-Lincoln) about developing an informal preaching conference for pastors and lay leaders. Keyzer is a certified Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) instructor for the preaching module.

B. Supervision of Prayer Coordinator

Mrs. Barb Hibma has been utilizing, *Pray the Word for Your Church* (Tiece L. King) with two small groups in two congregations. At this point, the 31-Day Book/Program has been utilized by 10 people with good results. Hibma would like to make the book available for pastors or small groups in the churches of classis (\$5-6/copy).

MOTION: That the three pastors of our CEC would receive a copy of the book.

By next CEC meeting, CEC members will have the book read so that we can further discuss Mrs. Hibma's request that the book be made available to Heartland pastors and church small groups. **--PASSED**

C. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (MIK)

There have been scheduling challenges for board members. It was difficult to find a time when members of different classes, separated geographically, could all gather at Inspiration Hills. The committee reports success with their first video conference call. The video call was made possible through utilizing technology from the CRC's website.

Vande Zande received a report from MIK: 1) Youth Coordinator Mrs. Lee De Groot (Youth Champion--Faith Formation) is busy scheduling and organizing for this season 2) Randy Hilbelink (MIK Treasurer) reported on some of MIK's financial and organizational matters. Vande Zande thanked MIK for work and reports.

D. Ministry Share Information

--Budget previously approved. No new business.

III. NEXT MEETING

--Wednesday, Feb 13th, 11:30 AM at Iowa BBQ LeMars

V. CLOSING PRAYER

--Schaap

[Scribe: Klompfen]



MINN-I-KOTA YOUTH NETWORK

First and foremost Minn-I-Kota Youth is thankful for a Heavenly Father who continues to watch over and protect The Church and this ministry and the leaders and covenant children that pass through the church doors from week to week, and year to year!

We are also very thankful to all the supporting churches of the three classis Minnkota, Iakota, and Heartland. Without your prayers and financial support we could not do what we do from year to year. So thank you so much!

I would also like to thank the Minn-I-Kota Youth board members. They are the ones who continue to hold me accountable and they are also my daily encouragers. The board members are: **Minnkota Classis:** Pastor Bryan Dick (Volga, SD CRC), Karmen Vis (Luverne, MN CRC), and Open Position. **Iakota Classis:** Pastor Henry Lengkeek (Rock Valley, IA Trinity CRC), Dan Elgersma (Sioux Center, IA Bethel CRC), and Secretary-Kristi Palsma (Inwood, IA CRC-on a 9 month leave for Army Training). **Heartland Classis:** Pastor Scott Van Voorst (Sergeant Bluff, IA Friendship Community CRC), President Sean Baccam (Hull, IA 1st CRC), Treasure Randy Hilbelink (Orange City, IA Calvary CRC).

I am, Alethea “Lee” De Groot, the Coordinator for Minn-I-Kota Youth Network Ministry. This is my 9th year as the Youth Coordinator. The board has recently voted to bump me from $\frac{3}{4}$ time to a full time position. I am a member of Hull, IA Hope CRC and I also attend weekly services with my husband Pastor Doug De Groot at Sioux Falls Cornerstone CRC Prison Church inside the wall of the South Dakota Men’s State Penitentiary. We have 5 children, 3 more through marriage, and 5 grandchildren with another due in June. I am also the Christian Reformed Faith Formation Youth Ministry Champion for Minnkota, Iakota, and Heartland Classis.

A Few High Lights for 1st Half of 2018-2019 School Year:

August 17, 2018-The 8th Annual Thunder Road All Nighter was held to Kick Off the Year. This was held at the Sioux Falls, SD location. We started the night at 11pm. The students and leaders enjoyed several different attractions including: go carts, batting cages, lazer tag, euro bungee, human foosball, mini golf, and more. At midnight we stopped for pizza and pop. After devotions on the word “Sonder” and a challenge for the new school year we continue to “play” until 5am. This year we again had just over 100+ students and leaders from all three classis. This is always a fun way to start the new school year and to reconnect with church leaders while the kids play.

October 26-27, 2018 was the Minn-I-Kota Youth and Inspiration Hills Leaders’ Retreat. The main topic this year was on how to form and build “Disciple Making Friendships”. Our speaker was

Greg Lynas, who is a trainer under Bill Allison with Cadre Missionaries. Austin Johnson (Rock Valley Trinity CRC) and Damon Groen (Bunde, MN CRC) students from Dordt College lead us in praise and worship before and after each session. We had 22 youth leaders attend. It is our hope and prayer that in the next few years that all our churches are encouraging their leaders for attend this 28 hour learning retreat. This year MIK paid the registration fee for all leaders from supporting churches...making this a free event.

Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan-Monthly networking meetings. These networking meetings take place over the noon hour+ in Sioux Center and Sioux Falls alternating months. All youth leaders/directors/youth pastors are welcome to join us

We are still working with Faith Websites at getting our new website up and running soon. Minnikotayouthnetwork.com.

On The Calendar:

Feb, March, and April- Monthly networking meetings. These networking meetings take place over the noon hours+ in Sioux Center and Sioux Falls alternating months. All youth leaders/directors/pastors are welcome to join us.

1 on 1 meetings with Youth Leaders have been happening on request.

January 30, 2019-Great Bear Tubing Night-Cancelled due to severe cold...RESCHEDULING!

February 20, 2019-Sioux County Youth Worship on the campus of Dordt College. Organized by Sam Ashmore who is the new Discipleship Coordinator on DC campus. Music will be led by Mary Van Wyk and speaker will be Kade Krosschell (Orange City, IA Calvary CRC), students at DC. This is sponsored by DC but Minnikota Youth was asked to help in the promotion.

March 27, 2019 Praise and Worship Night with Immanuel CRC of Orange City, IA. This is a joint effort between MIK Youth and Kody Tesch the Youth Director of Immanuel. The Praise and worship will be led by youth students from Immanuel CRC and Damon Groen (Bunde, MN CRC). Speakers for the night are Joel Driesen (Hull, IA Hope CRC) and Kade Krosschell (Orange City, IA Calvary CRC) Dordt College students. Joel will be speaking on "Answered Prayers and Second Chances" and Kade will be speaking on "How to Live Your Faith When Others Aren't".

April 26, 27, 28 is the 9th Annual Jr High Retreat at Inspiration Hills. The theme is "Identity". I started meeting with the 20+ Dordt College Student Leaders in Oct and we continue to meet monthly until March and then we will have weekly meetings. It is our hope and prayer to fill every bunk in the Main Lodge at IH. Every year this event has been building in number but it is not all about numbers. As the years go I continue to see the Holy Spirit working in the lives of all involved. Some of my DC leaders were the Jr High Students that attended years ago. Love how this is working! Full Circle Ministry continues! After last year's retreat several local schools and youth groups asked the DC retreat leaders to share in their school chapels and Wednesday night church youth group meeting.

April 29, 30 & May 1 I will be attending The Champs Retreat for the CRC Faith Formations Youth Ministry in Chicago, Ill. Since I was asked to be the Champion for all three of the supporting MIK Youth Network Classis I will be representing them at this event.

June 3-7, 2019 I will be attending an application-based seminar designed for ministry professionals who minister to and work with those in the "Millennial" and "Gen Z". This seminar is on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. This will be part of my continuing education this school year 2018-2019.

July 6-13, 2019 6th Annual Prairie Serve will be held at Sergeant Bluff Friendship Community CRC. I am on the planning team again this year. I will be working with Pastor Scott Van Voorst of Friendship Church, Pastor Keo of Sioux City Siouxland Unity Lao CRC, and Pastor Lowell Ten Clay of the Winnebago Reformed Church. The Serve Site is already SOLD OUT which means we are already at capacity. At the end of our work week we will do our day away. This will be a pilgrimage across South Dakota in route to Wounded Knee, St Francis Church, and the Badlands. On this pilgrimage we will learn about the history of several of the Reservations and the Native American people through the narrative of James Schaap. We will be in Valentine, NE with Pastor Mark Langenbach at the Lakeview CRC for a night of sharing, a good old fashioned pot luck, and sleeping on the church floor before heading back home. Our theme this year is "GO DO GOOD" with the Bible verse Titus 2:11-14.

August 23, 2019 Thunder Road All Nighter

September 21, 2019 is the National Day of Volunteer Youth Ministry Training. This will be a live stream held at the Good News Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD from 9-11:30am. Speakers include Kara Powell, Josh Griffin, Chap Clark, Doug Fields, and more. The cost is \$99/church. This event is in connection with the National Youth Workers Convention that is held every November.

Oct 25-26, 2019 Youth Leaders' 28 Hour Retreat at Inspiration Hills. Theme: "Be..."

November 21-24, 2019 is the National Youth Workers Convention in Tampa, Florida.

Stay connected by following us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and in the next month our new and improved website. And once again, thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support for the Minn-I-Kota Youth Network ministry.

Alothea "Lee" De Groot

Minn-I-Kota Youth Coordinator
Christian Reformed Faith Formations Champion
1121 Elm Street Hull, IA 51239
712-470-4244

Classical Interim Committee (CIC)

November 29, 2018

Hope CRC, Hull 10:00 AM

Attendants: Rev. A. Van Dellen, Rev. M. Vande Zande, Rev. T. Zuidema, Rev. N. Kuperus (alt.);
Stated Clerk: Rev. R. Drenten

1. Opening prayer by Rev Zuidema
2. Rev. Zuidema gave a recap of the joint CIC meeting with Classis lakota to discuss having a joint classical safe church team. As a result of our meeting:
 - a. It is moved, supported and carried that Classis Heartland and Classis lakota jointly develop a Safe Church Team (SCT).
 - b. It is moved, supported and carried to propose the following mandate for the SCT to Classis Heartland (Classis lakota CIC is also presenting this to Classis lakota)
 1. The Safe Church Team serves in a consultative role for churches in classis who are developing (or reviewing/revising) congregational safe church policies.
 2. The Safe Church Team serves as a resource for churches dealing with allegations of abuse.
 3. The Safe Church Team serves as a clearing house of best practices and periodic trainings for Classis Heartland and Classis lakota with regard to abuse awareness and prevention.
 - c. The Joint CICs reviewed a sample position description for a SCT Coordinator. Chairman Rev. B. Haan directed Rev. J. Lee (Bethel CRC, Sioux Center, Iowa, Classis lakota) and Rev. Drenten to revise this description to fit the context of a ministry serving two classes. The revised position description will be presented to the Joint CICs for approval.
 - d. The Joint CICs also spent time discussing how best to create lines of authority, accountability, and communication between the SCT, the sponsoring classes, and the churches served.
 - e. It is moved, supported and carried to constitute an SCT consisting of a coordinator, with a clergy member and lay member supplied each from Classis Heartland and Classis lakota, for a total membership of five.
 - f. It is moved, supported and carried that the position of SCT Coordinator be established with an annual stipend of \$1,500, with Classis Heartland and Classis lakota each contributing half.
 - g. It is moved, supported and carried to instruct Rev. Bernie Haan to approach Ms. Tara Boer, a licensed social worker and Professor at Dordt College, with an offer to serve as SCT Coordinator, pending approval of the team and the position by Classis Heartland and Classis lakota.
3. Continued discussion about Siouxland Diaconal Conference (SDC)
 - *Sanborn CRC requests that the CIC release the information gathered by the CIC concerning the indiscretion of Mr. Rick Droog and the SDC Board.
 - *It is moved, supported and carried that the CIC grants the request of Sanborn CRC. The Stated Clerk will organize the appropriate information and make it available to the council of Sanborn CRC and to any church of Classis Heartland that requests it. This information will include a timeline of events, a summary document of findings, and the SDC's response to this document. Classis Heartland will inform Classis lakota and the SDC Board of this decision.
4. Living Water
 - *Rev. Zuidema is instructed to reach out to the Council of Living Water to discuss their vacancy.

5. CIC Renewal of Terms
 - *Rev. Zuidema and Rev. Van Dellen terms are up for CIC.
 - *Rev. Van Dellen potentially plans to retire in the fall of 2019, so CIC is requesting the nominating committee to come up with a member for the CIC in March 2019.
 - *Rev. Zuidema is willing to continue on as a member of the CIC.
 - *Rev. Vande Zande will share this information with the nominating committee.
6. Post-Classis Pulpit Exchange with Classis Iakota
 - *We discussed the possibility of having inter-classical pulpit exchanges with Classis Iakota.
 - *CIC instructs the stated clerk of Classis Heartland to talk to the stated clerk of Classis Iakota to discuss the possibility of an inter-classical pulpit exchange.
7. Fall/September 2019 Classis at Sanborn CRC
 - *We discussed possible dates for the fall 2019 Classis meeting.
 - *Pending our program coordinator's return from Sabbatical in January 2019, we will have a discussion with him regarding dates of the Fall Classis meeting as well as talking about a mid-week meeting
8. Revision and Refreshing of Rules of Procedure
 - *The Chair of the CIC, the Stated Clerk and the Secretary of the CIC are required to read the Classical Rules of Procedure by the next CIC meeting (January or February).
9. It was noted that the upcoming Spring Classis meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2019 at Hull CRC, Hull, Iowa.
10. Closing – Rev. Al Van Dellen closed in prayer.

Classis Heartland – Classis Iakota
Combined Meeting – Classical Interim Committees (C.O. Art. 44-a)
Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa
November 26, 2018

MINUTES

Art. 2018-13

The Classical Interim Committees (CIC) and Stated Clerks of Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota convened the meeting according to the provisions of C.O. Art. 44-a.

Classis Heartland – Rev. Todd Zuidema
Rev. Al Van Dellen
Rev. Mark Vande Zande
Rev. Robert Drenten (Stated Clerk)

Classis Iakota – Rev. Matthew Haan
Rev. John Lee
Rev. Bernie Haan (Stated Clerk)

Rev. B. Haan served as chairman. Rev. Drenten served as secretary.

Rev. B. Haan opened the meeting with prayer.

Art. 2018-14 - Safe Church Team

Classis Iakota has adopted an overture from Corsica CRC that classis form a Safe Church Team (SCT). Discussion was held regarding the interest and potential for Classis Iakota and Classis Heartland to constitute an SCT jointly as a standing committee serving the two classes.

- h. It is moved and supported to propose to our respective classes that Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota jointly develop a Safe Church Team.

-ADOPTED.

- i. It is moved and supported to propose the following mandate for the SCT to Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota, to be adopted jointly:

4. The Safe Church Team serves in a consultative role for churches in classis who are developing (or reviewing/revising) congregational safe church policies.
5. The Safe Church Team serves as a resource for churches dealing with allegations of abuse.
6. 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.

-ADOPTED.

- j. The committee reviewed a sample position description for SCT Coordinator. Chairman Haan directed Rev. Lee and Rev. Drenten to revise this description to fit the context of a ministry serving two classes. The revised position description will be presented to the Combined CIC for approval. The committee also spent time discussing how best to create lines of authority, accountability, and communication between the SCT, the sponsoring classes, and the churches served.

- k. It is moved and supported to propose the constitution of an SCT consisting of a coordinator, with a clergy member and lay member supplied each from Classis Heartland and Classis lakota, for a total membership of five.

-ADOPTED.

- l. It is moved and supported to propose that the position of SCT Coordinator be established with an annual stipend of \$1,500, with Classis Heartland and Classis lakota each contributing half.

-ADOPTED.

- m. It is moved and supported to instruct Rev. Bernie Haan to approach Ms. Tara Boer with an offer to serve as SCT Coordinator, pending approval of the team and the position by Classis Heartland and Classis lakota. Ms. Boer is a licensed social worker and instructor at Dordt College.

-ADOPTED.

Art. 2018-15 – Siouxland Diaconal Conference.

The committee reviewed the status of Classis Heartland and Classis lakota with respect to their relationship with the Siouxland Diaconal Conference (SDC).

- A. SDC Board Chairman, Mr. Rod De Boer, was unable to be present to report to Classis lakota. SDC Director Mr. Rick Droog gave his report, but Classis lakota received no information regarding the board's addressing the unauthorized SDC funds transfer by Mr. Droog, discovered November 2017.
- B. Three churches in Classis Heartland continue to withhold ministry shares for SDC. The CIC of Classis Heartland will be considering how to respond properly to a request from one of these churches, Sanborn CRC, to disclose the findings of the Combined CIC.

Art. 2018-16 – Classis Renewal.

The committee briefly reviewed the intentions of the respective classes regarding participation in a regional meeting of classis representatives in Des Moines in March 2019. At least five classes will be represented at that meeting. The committee is encouraged to review the Synodical Task Force on Classis Renewal report now available at the CRCNA website.

Art. 2018-17

The meeting was adjourned. Rev. M. Vande Zande offered a closing prayer.

Rev. Robert Drenten
Clerk, Combined Classical Interim Committee
Classes Heartland & lakota

Classis Heartland-Iakota Safe Church Coordinator Position Description

Primary expectations include:

1. Connect with SCM (Safe Church Ministry) denominational staff:

SCM will offer support to coordinators through coaching calls or visits at least twice per year.

Coaching calls or visits will include discussion of:

- a. Resources, from within and outside the CRC for promotion, equipping and training.
- b. Processes and goals for leading the team forward
- c. Situations, and/or events affecting the ministry

2. Provide leadership to Heartland-Iakota Safe Church Team

Meetings, virtual or actual, would ideally occur 2-4 times annually among a team of 4 individuals drawn equally from Classis Heartland and Iakota. Meeting responsibilities will reflect the goal of resourcing both classis with:

- a. *Policy consultation:* serve as a consultative role for churches in both classis who are developing (or reviewing/revising) congregational safe church policies and curriculum
- b. *Crisis Response:* serve as a resource for churches dealing with allegations of abuse
- c. *Training/Education:* serve as a clearing house of best practices and periodic (often joint) trainings for both classis with regard to abuse awareness and prevention

3. Develop a collaborative working relationship with Classis Heartland and Iakota

The Coordinator seeks a working relationship with both classis, which includes:

- a. Regular attendance and reporting at classis meetings (at least once annually at each classis)
- b. Regular communication with the stated clerks of classis and other classis functionaries as required, particularly when situations of abuse arise

Remuneration: \$1500/year, paid semi-annually

December 4, 2018

To the Delegates of Classis Heartland,

The Council of First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City, Iowa overtures Classis Heartland to Overture Synod 2019 that the Synod Review Task Force use the word “recommend” rather than “require” in Article 20 of its report.

Article 20 of the Synod Review Task Force Report states, “That synod encourage diversity in classical delegations to synod, as previously approved by synod, and **require** each classis to include at least one woman or one ethnic minority person in its delegation of one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other officebearer to synod. Grounds: a. This requirement would increase the number of ethnic minority and women delegates. b. This practice would eventually eliminate the need for nonvoting advisers.”

Grounds for this Overture

1. Classis Heartland does not allow women to serve at Classis, which would prevent our classis from delegating at least one woman.
2. Classis Heartland is limited in its ability to provide enough ethnic minorities to serve on the Synodical level (most of our church’s delegations to classis are Caucasian men).
3. The CRC denomination allows varying opinions/perspectives on the woman in office issue (i.e. Acts of Synod 2007 – Synod decided that classes “may, in keeping with their understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office, declare that women officebearers not be delegated to classis.”) By requiring at least one woman or one ethnic minority to serve, Synod is forcing the hand of each classis, especially when it comes to the woman in office issue, to fully integrate and allow woman in office, which goes against our classis’ understanding of the biblical position on the role of women in ecclesiastical office.

On behalf of the 1st CRC Council,

Rev. Mark Vande Zande
President

Curt Ahrenholz
Clerk

Report to Classis-Spring 2019

Holistic Mission Networks

Imagine a sort of gospel ecosystem, where God is powerfully at work through a network of partners from churches, businesses, community organizations, and leaders, to bring healing to a particular community. The Regional Mission Team of the Central US would love to see an increasing number of these localized networks that unite to work toward spiritual and social transformation in their community. Having said that, there already are a number of these across North America and around the world. In that case, what needs to be done is to connect churches to partner and participate with what God is doing through the networks. Here are some of them...I would like to tour them sometime in 2019 and urge leaders to join me.

- *Urban Ventures, Minneapolis MN
- *Live!, Oak Park IL
- *Pillars of Promise, Des Moines IA
- * Ground Works, Sioux Falls, SD
- *The Bridge, Indianapolis IN
- * Justice For All, Rock Valley IA
- *Milwaukee Believes, Milwaukee WI
- * Lincoln Leadership Foundation, Lincoln NB

Developing Leaders

There are several ways that leaders are developed for the church. One is through Leadership Development Networks, which remains a solid way to raise leaders for local ministry and new ministries. Another way is through the support of campus ministries, where students are given leadership opportunities in a local context and then are sent worldwide as church leaders. A final way to develop leaders is through coaching.

Leadership Development Networks are operating within each Classis or group of them. Check your Classis for more information about them for developing your leaders.

Our region and classes support the following campus ministries:

- *Korean Campus, Ames IA, Iowa State
- *Areopagus, Ames IA, Iowa State
- *Geneva Forum, Iowa City IA, Univ. of Iowa
- *Geneva Campus Church, Madison WI, Univ. of Wisconsin
- *Agape/Ecclesia, Chicago IL, Loyola University
- *Black Campus Ministry, De Kalb IL, No. IL Univ.and
- *Chicago State/Kennedy-King, Chicago IL

Send me a request for more information on each of these campus ministries.

Coaching:

Coaching is the process, guided by the Holy Spirit, of coming alongside ministry leaders, teams, or other groups to help them discern and realize God's call for their life, ministry, or leadership. Who benefits from coaching?

*pastors *church planters *campus ministry leaders *other ministry leaders

Interested in coaching?

Our region partners with a coach training group called Synergy. This excellent training resource offers two types of coaching—general and church planter training. The region is looking for trained coaches and will help with the cost of the training.

Deeper Journey

Deeper Journey is a 2 year community of practice, utilizing quarterly retreats from Sunday evening to Tuesday noon, to engage in eight spiritual disciplines—community, silence and solitude, dwelling in the Word, prayer, self-examination and confession, Sabbath, discernment, and developing a rule of life. Participants gather for worship times, large community gatherings for teaching, and small group experiences while on retreat and between the retreats. Each person is encouraged to develop practices and disciplines that sustain them in their walk with God.

A new cycle of Deeper Journey starts in March 2019. If interested, contact me about a brochure.

Starting/Strengthening Churches

Our team of leaders is ready to assist in starting new ministries and in helping congregations in their mission. Here are the names of our team:

Rick Droog, Orange City IA

Jeff Heerspink, Lincoln NB

Dave Katsma, Horicon WI

Michael Moore, Chicago IL

Ruth Kelder, Joliet IL

Peter Kelder, Regional Mission Leader, Central US

Resonate Global Mission.

**Calvin College Board of Trustees
October 24-26, 2018**

New trustees to the board arrived on Wednesday, October 24, for new trustee orientation. Willemina Zwart (London, Ontario, Canada), Lois Miller (Bloomfield Hills, MI), and Andrew Elliot (Rochester, NY) were introduced to board officers, the trustee committee chair, and members of cabinet at a luncheon at the President's home before they toured each division on campus.

Thursday, October 25 began with trustee participation in individual committee work: investment, trusteeship, audit, executive, academic affairs, administration and finance, advancement, enrollment management, and student life.

The first plenary session on Thursday began after dinner that evening with a trustee development session led by Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige, executive associate to the president for diversity and inclusion. Each trustee was asked to take an intercultural development inventory prior to the board meeting, and Dr. Loyd-Paige shared the comprehensive results prior to leading a discussion about moving from a monocultural mindset to an intercultural mindset.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Chad Tatko opened the Friday morning meeting with devotions that emphasized the importance of Calvin's mission in building uncommon lives for Christ. He remarked that the board of trustees are his "deep hope" for the future of Calvin's students.

President Le Roy's report noted the effect of demographics on enrollment at Calvin, but he also highlighted what Calvin can do to improve its market share: think expansively, realign net tuition revenue, underscore program differentiation, and continue to focus on student experiences and outcomes. He noted, too, the amazing generosity of Calvin's alumni and friends' donors. Their generosity resulted in a total of \$27.8 million during 2017-2018 for various programs, projects, and endowment funds—\$3.049 million of which was dedicated to the Calvin Annual Fund.

President Le Roy introduced the strategic planning session before turning it over to Todd Hubers, vice president for people, strategy, and technology; Cheryl Brandsen, provost; David Wunder, dean for faculty development; and Sarah Visser, vice president for student life. The team stated the four goals of the developing strategic plan:

- Embody a global and faithful vision of Reformed Christianity
- Expand the influence of Calvin University in the world
- Innovate to reach and engage new learners
- Collaborate across the many domains of learning

The second part of the discussion focused on the strategies needed to achieve the goals and included an exercise led by consultants from DesignVox geared towards trustee group discussion and feedback.

The second plenary included reports from board committees and the following actions:

- Approval of the philosophy of student development
- Approval of tuition, fees, room and board rates for 2019-2020
- Approval of the revised 2018-2019 operating budget
- Approval of the investment policy statement revisions
- Approval of the Prince Conference Center third-party beverage service contractor policy
- Approval of the resolution authorizing amendments to swap agreements on college held debt