

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

CLASSIS HEARTLAND

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Hope Christian Reformed Church

Hull, Iowa

STANDING COMMITTEES & FUNCTIONARY REPORTS

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**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM (CMLT)
TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, Saturday, March 2, 2019
AT HOPE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
HULL, IOWA**

Report filed: February 5, 2019

WRITTEN REPORT:

Esteemed Delegates:

Since the last meeting of classis of the Heartland on September 8, 2019 your Classical Ministry Leadership Team has met on Monday, February 4 at First CRC, Hull. Rev. Loren Kotman, Dale Schmidt and Mike Van Surksum were present. Rev. Kevin Muyskens participated by phone. Mike Van Surksum opened with prayer. Dale Schmidt closed with prayer.

The following matters were discussed and processed by the committee:

1. We dealt with the applications of two student who are applying for classical assistance for the 2019-2020 academic year.
 - Ben Wiersma, member at First CRC, Hull will continue as a part-time student at Sioux Falls Seminary in 2019-2020. This will be his sixth year as a part-time student.
 - Ben intends to seek ordination in the CRC.
 - Motion made and approved to recommend that Classis Heartland award \$5000 to Ben Wiersma for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Jamie Negus, member at Living Waters Community, Sheldon will continue as a part-time student at Sue Falls Seminary in 2019-2020. This will be his second year as a part-time student and his first year receiving assistance.
 - Jamie intends to seek ordination in the CRC.
 - Motion made and approved to recommend that Classis Heartland award \$5000.00 to Jamie Negus for the 2019-2020 school year as a half-time student or \$7500 as a three-quarter time student.
2. Mike Van Surksum reports a year-end balance a \$\$33,614.81 year-end balance for 2018. Anticipated revenue for 2019 is \$3000 with the ministry shares per member being reduced \$5.00 per member to \$1.00 per member.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL INFORMATION

Classis Heartland -licensed to exhort has been renewed at the September 2018 classis meeting

Sherwin Bolkema (712-737-8183) srbolkema@gmail.com
Kurt Rietema (913-219-9498) krietema@youthfront.com
Greg Steggerda (712-395-0399) greg.steggerda@vogelpaint.com

Ben Wiersma (712-470-3718) ben.wiersma.84@gmail.com a student at Sioux Falls Seminary is also licensed to exhort in classis.

Gale Tien (712-541-2744) galetien@gmail.com a 2018 candidate for ministry in the CRC.

Classis Iakota

Dr. John Kok (March 2020*) (712) 441-6812 john.kok@dordt.ed

Dr. Jason Lief (September 2019*) (712)-441-2643 jason.lief@nwcsiowa.edu
Mr. Barry Miedema (March 2020*) (712) 540- 8131 barryamiedema@yahoo.com
Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp (September 2019*) nathan.nieuwendorp@gmail.com
Mr. Jeff Santema (March 2020*) (712) 451-6884 jsantema@santemalaw.com
*Date when license expires

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION

1. That classis approves the recommendation of our committee to award \$5000 to Ben Wiersma for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. That classis approve the recommendation of our committee to award \$5000 to Jamie Negus for the 2019-2020 school year as a half-time student or \$7500 as a three-quarter time student.

Respectfully submitted this February 5, 2019
Rev. Loren Kotman, Secretary
Classical Leadership Ministry Team

Classis Heartland Stewardship Committee- Minutes

February 12, 2019

(12 p.m., Pizza Ranch, Sioux Center)

- I. Rick Droog (SDC), Rev. Norlyn Van Beek (CHMC, CEC), Mike Van Surksun (Classical Treasurer), Chris Dekkers (Lay Rep.), Scott Kooiman (Lay Rep.), Rev. John Klompier (alternate), Rev. Scott Van Voorst (Chair).
 - A. All members of the committee were in attendance. Rick Droog (Ex-officio) was also in attendance
- II. New Business
 - A. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2018 meeting. **Motion Passed.**
 - B. Reviewed 2018 financial Report for March 2 Classis Meeting
 1. We approved the work of our Treasurer
 2. We will expect representatives from the following churches to share with Classis the reason for not contributing 100% of their Classical Ministry Shares:
 - a. KC- Pathway, Le Mars, Lincoln- Northern Lighthouse, Orange City- Immanuel, Sanborn.
 - b. Along with these we will be requesting explanation from Orange City- First for the designation of their Classical Ministry Shares which totals 100%, but is not evenly distributed.
 - C. The CRCNA offered an insurance for Classis. It was determined that the costs to set up and maintain the insurance agreement were prohibitive. It was decided that a greater level of accountability and protection could be achieved by switching from the current single signature checking account to checks that require two signatures.
 1. A motion was made to switch the classis checking account from single signature to dual signature checks. Treasurer, Mike Van Surksun is our current signer. With the change to needing two signatures, we approve the addition of Committee Member Scott Kooiman and Treasurer's Assistant Katie Wierenga as additional signers for the Class Heartland Checking account. **Motion Passed.**
 2. It was noted for Classis' information that Katie Wierenga also does an annual review of all transactions done by Classis Heartland.
 - D. Classis Membership and potential budget implications for 2019
 1. It was noted that our Classis Ministry Shares are based on a classis membership number of 3,000. Often the Number has been slightly above this. As of the most recent information we have there are 2,972 Members in Classis. This change equates to a less than 1% difference. CSC is not requesting any action be taken at this time, but wanted this number noted so that those who plan to receive funds through Classis Heartland are aware of a small anticipated shortfall.
 2. CSC would like to encourage all church councils to update Membership information impacting Classical Ministry Shares before the Fall Meeting of Classis.

E. Classis Website possibility

1. CSC received a request to allow Rev. Todd Zuidema to set up an information sharing website for Classis of the Heartland. The annual cost of this website would be \$132 (with a potential increase to \$168 annually if we needed additional storage.) The request was discussed and the benefit of the website greatly appreciated. A Motion was made to request the Spring Classis Meeting to (a) Allow Rev Todd Zuidema to set up a Classis Website and (b) have the annual cost of the website be paid through Classical Expense. **Motion Passed**

F. Report from Siouxland Diaconal presented by Rick D.

1. We went over a Written report outlining the work of the SDC, the 2018 Budget, and the anticipated 2019 Ministry shares from Classis Iakota and Classis Heartland.

III. Motion to Adjourn. **Motion Passed** Rev. Scott Van Voorst Concluded the meeting in Prayer

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Rev. Scott Van Voorst

Calvin Theological Seminary, Report to Classes, Spring 2019

In our 143rd year, the seminary continues to be an exciting place. Included here are a few highlights from the Board of Trustees.

In the fall, we welcomed 357 continuing and new students who are a part of our degree and non-degree programs. The countries represented in our student body illustrate the breadth and depth of our global ministry. Students come from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Peru, Rwanda, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, United States and Venezuela.

The Calvin Seminary Board recently approved our offering a fully on-line version of the Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership beginning in the fall of 2019. This on-line version means that there are no requirements for a student to come to Grand Rapids as all work can be completed on-line.

Calvin Seminary is also investigating offering a D.Min. program in keeping with a recent request of Synod dealing with a report for continuing education of pastors.

Financial support for the seminary remains strong. We are glad that 1.5 million dollars of scholarship support helped students at Calvin Seminary this year. In the six months of this fiscal year (July 1 to December 31), we have seen over five million dollars come to Calvin Seminary. This total is more than what was collected in the twelve months of the previous fiscal year. In other words, we have already collected as much and now more in six months than we received all of last year. We are blessed. In addition, we have seen 1.1 million dollars come in for Annual Fund giving against our 1.5 million dollar budget number. We are very blessed! We give thanks for the Development office for their great work in meeting consistently with our donors and supportive community that helped produce the results we can all give thanks for at this time.

The Center for Excellence in Preaching website is being redeveloped to serve you better. It continues to serve 19,000 unique visitors per month leading to more than a million pages being downloaded. While our revised website will be better, you can still use it now to find out more about your seminary and the work we are doing with your support and encouragement!

A major new development that should be very good for our Christian schools is the partnership between the seminary and Christian Schools International to offer Christian school Bible teachers an amazing opportunity. Available summer 2019, teachers will be able to enroll in an online program at Calvin Theological Seminary for a graduate certificate in Bible instruction. The fully online, 15-credit program has courses that have been carefully selected with the K-12 Christian school Bible teacher in mind. Additionally, with year-round courses available, including summer options, and the opportunity for scholarships, the certificate program is designed to fit the full lives of teachers. This program is the result of very intentional discussions and feedback CSI has been having with administrators and Bible teachers in their member schools.

Thank you very much for your support.

Your Region 8 Representatives on the Board of Trustees,
Dr. Charles Veenstra & Rev. Robert Drenten

Overture to Classis Heartland, March 2019

Background Information

In response to reports of mismanagement of funds by the director of the Siouxland Diaconal Conference (SDC) several churches in classis Heartland have withheld classical ministry shares designated for support of the SDC. Investigation into that mismanagement has resulted in a report by the classical interim committee that was made available by classis Heartland to those churches that requested the report. The council of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church made such a request, received and reviewed the report. This overture is a result of that review.

Overture

The council of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Orange City, IA overtures Classis Heartland (1) to direct the classical interim committee to submit their report concerning the SDC to all churches of classis Heartland and (2), in light of the report, to encourage the churches to evaluate the relationship of Classis Heartland to the SDC.

Grounds for the Overture

1. The report details the misappropriation of \$45,000 by the director of the SDC and the response of the board of the SDC to that financial loss.
2. Because of the evidence of the financial mismanagement initially revealed via inquiries by the Internal Revenue Service, the relationship between the churches of Classis Heartland and SDC is tenuous.
3. The report of the classical interim committee represents the best available summary of the events. As such, it provides a basis by which the churches of classis may evaluate the potential damage to the reputation and efficacy of the SDC caused by these events.
4. In light of the response to these events, the report provides the best available basis for evaluating whether the SDC as it is currently organized ought to be supported by ministry funds of Classis Heartland.

Submitted for the council.

Byron Noordewier, President

Jeff Schouten, Clerk