

AGENDA for CLASSIS HEARTLAND

Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:00 AM

Sanborn Christian Reformed Church

208 N Western St

Sanborn, IA 51248

(712) 729-5132

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. Al Van Dellen.
- B. Classis Program Coordinator – Rev. Kevin Muyskens.
- C. Roll Call and Constitution of Classis – Rev. Robert Drenten.

3. Officers of Classis.

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

4. Welcome – Rev. Aaron Gonzalez.

- A. Recognition of Delegates and Visitors to Classis.
- B. Instructions for the Day.
- C. Appointments for the Day – Rev. Aaron Gonzalez.
 - 1. Noon Devotions:
 - 2. Appreciation of Classis for Host Church Hospitality:

5. STANDING COMMITTEES & FUNCTIONARY REPORTS.

- A. Classical Nominating Committee (CNC) – Rev. Mark Vande Zande. (p. 3)
- B. Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC) – Rev. Kevin Muyskens. (pp. 4-7)
- C. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) – Rev. Loren Kotman. (pp. 8-9)
- D. Classical Stewardship Committee (CSC) – Rev. Scott Van Voorst. (p. 10)
 - 1. Siouxland Diaconal Conference – Mr. Rod De Boer
 - 2. Classis Treasurer – Mr. Mike Van Surksun.
- E. Classical Education Committee (CEC) – Rev. Mark Klompier. (pp. 11-12)
 - 1. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network – Ms. Lee De Groot.
 - 2. Classis Prayer Coordinator – Ms. Barb Hibma.
 - 3. Heartland-Iakota Safe Church Team – Ms. Tara Boer (pp. 13-14)
- F. Classical Interim Committee (CIC) – Rev. Mark Vande Zande. (p. 15)
 - 1. Stated Clerk – Rev. Robert Drenten.
 - a. Stated Clerk's Report.
 - b. Historical Committee – CRCNA.
- G. Church Visitors
 - 1. To the North – Rev. Sam Keyzer & Rev. Robert Drenten.
 - 2. To the South – Rev. David Heilman & Rev. Mark Klompier

H. **Classical Counselors**

1. Ocheyedan CRC – Rev. Loren Kotman
2. Sheldon: First CRC – Rev. John Klompier.

6. **OVERTURES & COMMUNICATIONS.**

- A. Sanborn CRC (p. 16)
- B. Omaha: Prairie Lane CRC (p. 17)

7. **CLASSIS & DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: SUPPORTED MINISTRIES.**

- A. **Council of Delegates (CRCNA)**. – Rev. Mark Vande Zande.
- B. **Regional Director, Resonate Global Ministries** – Rev. Peter Kelder (pp. 18-19)
- C. **Calvin College Board of Trustees** – Mr. Jonathan Kuyers. (pp. 20-21)
- 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.**

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

- A. **Next Regular Session of Classis Heartland.**
 1. Date: **March 7, 2020** (Agenda Deadline – Friday, January 17, 2020).
 2. Location: **Living Water Community Christian Reformed Church, Orange City, IA.**
 3. Officers: **Rev. Nathan Kuperus, Chairman.**
Rev. Andy Vanden Akker, Vice Chairman.
- B. **Closing Comments & Devotions** – Rev. Aaron Gonzalez, 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, August 28, 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

**Sample Ballot for Classis Heartland
Saturday September 07, 2019**

CLASSICAL POSITIONS

**Classical Home Missions Committee –
Ministerial Member**

- _____ Rev. Tom De Does
Ocheyedan CRC, Ocheyedan, IA

- _____ Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha, NE

**Classical Home Missions Committee –
Ministerial Alternate***

- _____ Rev. John Klompier
Calvary CRC, Orange City, Iowa

***GROUNDS for a single nomination:**

1. The number of Ministers of the Word available to serve within Classis Heartland is limited.
2. Though the nominating committee strives for a ballot of two persons to fill a ministerial member position, we have resigned ourselves to a single nomination for positions of ministerial alternate

**Classical Education Committee –
Ministerial Member***

- _____ Rev. Mark Klompier – 2nd Term – Incumbent
Hawarden CRC - Hawarden, Iowa

***GROUNDS for a Single Nomination:**

1. Though the Nominating Committee strives for a ballot of two persons for committee member positions, there are exceptions.
2. This committee is small (3 members) and is experiencing the departure of one long-term ministerial member and the welcome of a second ministerial member in his place. Further, a third ministerial member will be completing a term next year.
3. Continuity is in view.

**Classical Education Committee –
Ministerial Alternate***

- _____ Rev. Nevada De Lapp
Calvin CRC - Le Mars, Iowa

***GROUNDS for a single nomination:**

1. The number of Ministers of the Word available to serve within Classis Heartland is limited.
2. Though the nominating committee strives for a ballot of two persons to fill a ministerial member position, we have resigned ourselves to a single nomination for positions of ministerial alternate

**Classical Nominating Committee –
Ministerial Alternate***

- _____ Rev. Mark Klompier
Hawarden CRC, Hawarden, Iowa

***GROUNDS for a single nomination:**

1. The number of Ministers of the Word available to serve within Classis Heartland is limited.
2. Though the nominating committee strives for a ballot of two persons to fill a ministerial member position, we have resigned ourselves to a single nomination for positions of ministerial alternate

Church Visitor – North

- _____ Rev. Nevada De Lapp
Calvin CRC, Le Mars, Iowa

- _____ Rev. Chad Van Ginkel
Prairie Lane CRC, Omaha, NE

NOTE: Person not elected as Church Visitor to the North will be deemed to have been elected to serve as Church Visitor to the North - Alternate

Classis Treasurer - Alternate

- _____ Ms. Katie Wierenga
Immanuel CRC – Sheldon, Iowa

**Classis Home Missions Committee
Report to Classis of the Heartland
Sanborn CRC, Sanborn, IA
September 7, 2019**

Report filed: - *July 18, 2019*

Part 1 Meeting

Dear Delegates:

The Classis Home Missions Committee met Tuesday, April 30 at Immanuel CRC in Sheldon and Wednesday, July 10 at Habitude in Le Mars, IA. Members of the committee include Rev. Kevin Muyskens President, Rev. Norlyn Van Beek Secretary, Pastor Jeff Heerspink Vice President, Irv Hibma, Allen Kramer and Gary Hibma. Irv Hibma was not able to participate in either of our meetings.

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Devotions and closing prayer.
2. Phone conversations with Andy Vanden Akker and Ryan Pelton of New City CRC regarding possible church plant.
3. Consider ECD grant requests.
4. Revise ECD grant request form.
5. Consider ministry opportunity fund request.
6. Discuss impact and sustainability of current campus ministries.
7. Consider residency program as a means of raising up a portion of the next generation of church planters and missional church leaders.
8. Formulate our proposed budget.

Part Two Supplementary Paragraphs:

1. The committee appreciated our phone call with Andy and Ryan and were encouraged that they are continuing to seek out the best way to go about extending their ministry to a second site. We encouraged them with this and asked them to keep lines of communication open so we could offer appropriate support.
2. Established church development Grants
 - a. We revised the request form for established church development grants.
 - b. We encourage the churches of classis to apply for these \$1,000 grants to support new outreach activities and events.
 - c. We noted that we have received only three requests to date in 2019.
3. Considered ECD grant requests
 - a. Granted request to Siouxland Unity for VBS.

- b. Granted request to Living Water (Sheldon) for a block party.
 - c. Discussed Siouxland Unity request for Annual Lao Conference of Churches, noting the unusual nature of the request:
 - i. Second of the year; we typically only grant one per church
 - ii. Repeated funding of the same activity; we try to encourage new ventures
 - iii. Decided to grant the request because we have unused funds and attendance at the conference has been very beneficial to Siouxland Unity leaders.
 - iv. Communicated this with Verlyn De Wit and Henry Kraayenbrink including why we have placed this request as a lesser priority.
4. The committee decided to grant a request to Hospers CRC for fund a worship leader position for the remaining six months of 2019 at \$5,000 from the Ministry Opportunities Fund.
- a. Pastor Aaron Gonzales presented a well-thought plan, had a candidate in place, and had approval from his congregation for a trial period.
 - b. Aaron expects to request continuing funding for which the committee placed the following stipulations
 - i. That Hospers CRC matches or exceeds the funding from classis
 - ii. That the benefits of the worship leader to worship attendance can be demonstrated
5. The committee discussed the impact and sustainability of Geneva and Areopagus Campus ministries.
- a. Committee members are discouraged regarding the impact being made.
 - b. Committee members are discouraged regarding the lack of progress in successfully targeting by these ministries.
 - c. Before the next budget cycle the committee will investigate these issues with the ministry leaders and those who oversee the ministries.
6. Considered a proposal regarding funding a residency program to raise up church planters and other missional leaders within the churches of classis.
- a. Rational: Often the sticking point in planting new churches is identifying and recruiting qualified leaders. We are seeking to help the churches of classis to raise up potential leaders. One hold-up for potential leaders is that those who have completed seminary carry a debt load that is prohibitive to accepting a position with the lesser pay of a church plant or missional position. We hope to identify those currently connected to our churches and/or those coming out of local colleges with a heart for ministry who may benefit from alternate routes into ministry. These persons might well in the future become Commissioned Pastors and/or make use of CMLT funds to attend a local or online seminary while continuing to serve in a local congregation.

- b. Suggested guidelines:
 - i. Up to \$5,000 per person with at least a 1 to 1 congregational match.
 - ii. Persons will serve a residency in a church of classis for 9 – 12 months serving in leadership roles with appropriate supervision.
 - iii. Persons will have potential and intent to continue as church planters/missional leaders in the CRCNA.
 - iv. Classis will fund only one grant per person.
 - v. Churches may apply for multiple grants in the same year if they have qualifying individuals.
 - c. Decided to add \$10,000 to our annual budget to fund this program.
7. Prepared the proposed 2020 budget which is attached.

Part Three: Items for Classical Action/Recommendations

1. CHMC requests the approval of the residency program as described in 2.6 above.
2. The 2020 budget is attached. CHMC recommends the adoption of the committee budget as proposed.
3. CHMC encourages churches to apply for and make use of the ECD grants for local outreach projects/ministries. We also encourage churches to contact us regarding the possibility of participating in the residency program.
4. CHMC recommends that classis approve the work of CHMC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kevin Muyskens

The CHMC Totals for 2006-2019 and Proposed for 2020					2020		
2016	2017	2018	2019		Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
				Campus Ministry			
5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Areopagus (ISU)	5,000		
5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Geneva (U of I)	5,000		
10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	TOTAL CAMPUS MINISTRY			10,000
				Church Planting			
5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Chaplain	5,000		
10,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000	F Street- Lincoln	5,000		
15,000	\$20,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	Nebraska Cluster		10,000	

5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Argentine (Franklin Center)	5,000		
<u>5,000</u>				--New City Church	0		
10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Kansas City Cluster Total		5,000	
		\$15,000	\$10,000	Friendship Comm.	7,500		
10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	New Ministry Opportunities	10,000		
35,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	TOTAL CHURCH PLANTING		17,500	<u>32,500</u>

				Leadership Development			
-	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	F Street - Immerse	5,000		
-				Residency Program	10,000		
-				Total Leadership Development		15,000	<u>15,000</u>

				Ethnic Ministries			
10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	--Amistad Christana	10,000		
<u>20,000</u>	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	--Siouxland Unity	20,000		
30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	TOTAL ETHNIC MINISTRIES		30,000	<u>30,000</u>

				Other Ministries			
5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Cornerstone Prison CRC	5,000		
5,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	--Establ. Church Dev.	4,000		
<u>2,500</u>	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	--CHMC Expenses	<u>1,000</u>		
12,500	\$12,500	\$10,000	\$10,000	TOTAL OTHER MINISTRIES			10,000
87,500	\$87,500	\$97,500	\$90,000	TOTAL			97,500

**REPORT OF THE CLASSICAL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM
TO CLASSIS IN SESSION, Saturday, September 7 AT SANBORN CRC, Sanborn, Iowa
Report filed: - July 24,2019**

WRITTEN REPORT:

Esteemed Delegates:

Since the last meeting of classis of the Heartland on March 2, 2019 your Classical Ministry Leadership Team has met on Tuesday, July 16. Rev. Loren Kotman, Dale Schmidt and Mike Van Surksuum were present. We begin the meeting with prayer. The following matters were discussed and processed by the committee.

1. We reviewed the decision of the March classis to approve the following award.
 - \$5000 to Ben Wiersma for the 2019-2020 academic year. This will be his sixth year as a part-time student at Sioux Falls Seminary.
 - \$5000 to Jamie Negus for the 2019-2020 academic year. This will be his second year as a part-time student at Sioux Falls Seminary and his first year that he receives assistance from classis.
2. We reviewed the financial statement for the committee.
 - The CMLT Balance as of January 1, 2019 is \$33,600
 - \$10,000 has been paid out for the 2019-2020 academic year leaving a current balance of \$23,600
 - Expected ministry shares for 2019 are \$2755.
3. We reviewed the status of students who have received assistance.
 - Gale Tien was ordained on July 1, 2019 in the ministry of the CRC. He is serving as Pastor of Discipleship at Messiah CRC in Hudsonville, Michigan.
 - Scott Muilenburg was ordained into the ministry of the CRC on September 30, 2018 as pastor of First CRC in Edgington, Minnesota.
 - MSC to add Rev. Mark Hilbelink to the list of those who have met the ten-year active ministry requirements for receiving assistance. Rev. Hilbelink was ordained in 2009. (See letter to classis from Mark below)
4. Mike Van Surksuum closed the meeting with prayer.

ITEMS FOR CLASSICAL ACTION

- 1. Recommend that we continue with \$1 per member for the year 2020.**

Rationale:

- We have only one new student, Jamie Negus
 - We have a surplus.
 - We will still have an adequate reserve should more students apply.
- 2. Recommend that classis renew the licensure to exhort for Sherwin Bolkema (712-737-8183), Kurt Rietema (913-219-9498) and Greg Steggerda (712-395-0399).**

Reminder: Ben Wiersma, (712-470-3718) a student at Sioux Falls Seminary is licensed to exhort in classis.
Reminder: Classis Heartland and Classis Lakota have agreed to recognize each other's exhorters, meaning that those licensed to exhort are now allowed to exhort in either of these two classis.

Those from Classis Lakota are:

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 barrymiedema@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

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of July 2019

Rev. Loren Kotman, Secretary
Classical Leadership Ministry Team

Note from Mark Hilbelink to CMLT

Thank you so much for reaching out! I'm currently serving as the Stated Clerk of Classis Rocky Mountain *and* I'm on the denominational Candidacy Committee, so I can truly appreciate now all of the CMLT work from the other side!

What a blessing to have Classis of the Heartland support me in ministry at the beginning. My co-home-churches of Calvary CRC & Living Water CRC have continued to be blessings in my ministry going forward and as a young person working with Northern Lighthouse inspired me towards a ministry career that has had a heavy tilt towards missional outreach, church planting and social justice.

My years after leaving Calvin Seminary consisted of a short ministry in Greenville, MI at a Church of God (Anderson, IN) church and then an eventual call to Sunrise Community Church in Austin, TX. I've been in Austin coming up on 10 years. In this role, I've been blessed to be a part of a flourishing inner-city ministry that has become a refuge for vulnerable people in our church, through our low-income childcare non-profit and through our homeless ministry that has gotten housing for about 400 people.

Our church is known as "The Weirdest Little Church in Texas" and it is a haven for many folks that don't fit in other places and is a purposely cross-class environment with a heavy presence of people in drug/alcohol recovery. We've also played major roles in planting Korean-speaking, French(Congolese)-speaking and Spanish-speaking churches in Texas and **now** the first CRC church ever in Mexico. We also provide a learning environment for interns from seminaries, university social work programs and churches who want to learn in our environment. We've been featured in Christianity Today as well as many TV, radio and blog pieces. It's truly been a humbling thing to be a part of!

Thanks to Classis of the Heartland for not only being a good place to start but for being a good partner for Classis Rocky Mountain and continuing to pump out quality leaders for the rest of the CRC.

peace, Mark Hilbelink

-Sunrise Community Church [Austin, TX]

-Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center [Austin, TX]

Siouxland Diaconal Conference

PO Box 173 – Orange City, IA 51041 | Siouxland.Diaconal.Conference@gmail.com

To: Classical Interim Committees (CIC) of Classis Heartland and Iakota

Re: The Future Direction of the Siouxland Diaconal Conference

Date: Thursday, July 25, 2019

From: Siouxland Diaconal Conference Board of Directors

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our board would like to share with you a resolution that was adopted at our July 16th board meeting: that *“the Siouxland Diaconal Conference cease operation and be dissolved in a timely manner”*. This motion was unanimously approved.

This decision was made after much prayer, reflection, discussion and discernment.

- Over the past 18 months our board has not been able to carry out its ministry. The dissatisfaction with our work was proven by overtures and the withholding of funds.
- We appreciate the support many of the churches have given us. It has been encouraging and a joy.
- We sincerely believe now is the time to “re-imagine” what a diaconal ministry could be. We desire that Christ’s kingdom be united in focus and create a ministry that will bear witness to His name. We encourage the churches to spend their energy creating that vision!
- We celebrate the 34 years of ministry Christ has blessed, guided and embraced. We ask you to join us in praising God for his faithfulness, grace and blessings over these years.

In Christ,

The 2019 - SDC Board of Directors:

- Rod De Boer (Living Water Community Church in Orange City, IA) – World Renew Board Member – 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

CLASSIS EDUCATION COMMITTEE(CEC)—HEARTLAND MINUTES

April 8th, 2019 at 11:00 AM
Sioux City, Southern Hills Mall (Food Court)

Members Present: Rev. Mark Klompfen, Pastor Verlyn Schaap, Rev. Mark Vande Zande
Guest: Rev. Sam Keyzer

I. Opening Prayer: Vande Zande

II. Responsibilities of Committee

A. Providing Continuing Education

Timothy Leadership Training Institute (Certified Trainer-Sam Keyzer)

(a) Personnel: In retirement, Keyzer plans to travel to Grand Rapids to complete training in all the six modules of TLT: 1) *Stewardship* 2) *Caring* 3) *Teaching* 4) *Preaching* 5) *Family Life* 6) *Worship*. He would like to utilize material as part of his ‘Regional Pastor’ responsibilities.

(b) Program: the central aim of the TLT program is setting goals for incorporating what is learned in one’s particular ministry setting. In other words, TLT promotes practical application as much as mastering ideas.

(c) Aim: The program has modules that could help equip Elders, Deacons and Pastors.

(d) Method: While Keyzer envisions the program centered near Lincoln as part of retreat-like, two-day events (8:30-4:00), CEC wondered about hosting an event in NW Iowa toward launching the idea among pastors (eg. Dordt College, Inspiration Hills, Day of Encouragement). Creating interest, first, would be key to the entire program.

B. Supervision of Prayer Coordinator

We approved, after review, a book suggested by Prayer Coordinator Barb Hibma—*Pray the Word for Your Church* (Tiece L. King) for use in Heartland churches. This means: a) CEC will purchase one copy of the book for each pastor in classis Heartland, for distribution at next classis meeting. b) Verlyn Schaap and Barb Hibma will develop a handout and presentation for the Fall 2019 classis meeting suggesting different ways that Pastors/Council could increase prayer in the local church in 2020 through incorporating the book. C) CEC will suggest at Classis, ways that Councils could finance the purchase of the books to be placed in the hands the families in our local churches in Heartland.

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

--No new business.

D. Ministry Share Information

--No new business.

III. Other Business

Vande Zande is being delegated to serve on the Council of Delegates for the CRCNA. Consequently, Vande Zande requests that in view of his responsibilities in many other classical positions, he might be relieved of duties in the CEC. Toward this result, CEC would need to communicate with the Classical Interim Committee, so that the nominating committee could provide the CEC with a new member.

MOTION: (New)

“The Classical Education Committee of Classis Heartland requests that the Classical Interim Committee provide a new member for CEC in view of Vande Zande’s request to be relieved of his duties on the CEC.” --

PASSED

IV. Next Meeting

--Monday, July 8th, 1:30 PM at 1st Orange City, CRC

IV. Closing Prayer: Schaap

[Scribe: Klompjen]

Classis Heartland Safe Church Report

Prepared by: Tara Boer, Iakota & Heartland Safe Church Coordinator

Iakota & Heartland Classical Safe Church Team Members: Pastor John Gorter (New Holland CRC-Iakota), Heidi Mulder (Bethel CRC-Iakota), Pastor Jesse Walhof (Living Water CRC-Heartland), Del Walinga (Calvary CRC-Heartland). Tara Boer (Bridge of Hope CRC, Iakota).

Safe Church Classis Team Tasks:

- The Safe Church Team serves in a consultative role for churches in classis who are developing (or reviewing/revising) congregational safe church policies.
- The Safe Church Team serves as a resource for churches dealing with allegations of abuse.
- The Safe Church Team serves as a clearing house of best practices and periodic trainings for Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota with regard to abuse awareness and prevention.

Team Formation & Discussion:

Tara Boer accepted the position as Iakota & Heartland safe church coordinator in January of 2019. In March, Pastor John Gorter of New Holland CRC and Heidi Mulder from Bethel CRC were added to the team to represent the Iakota classis. In June, Pastor Jesse Walhof of Living Springs Church and Del Walinga were added to the team to represent the Heartland classis.

On May 30, 2019, John, Heidi, and Tara participated in a video meeting with over-all safe church coordinator, Bonnie Nicholas, to discuss plan and focus of the team as well as over-all goals and tasks of the team.

The Heartland & Iakota team members participated in a face to face meeting on July 18, 2019. Pastor John was unable to attend due to helping a family through a loss. All other team members attended and discussed the role of team, short and long-term tasks for the team, and recommendations for upcoming classis meetings.

Discussion during initial meeting:

1. Churches who want to improve environmental safety for their churches should be advised to start a separate committee to address training for intruders, gun safety etc. The current structure and tasks of the safe church teams appears to be oriented around servicing children and families in abuse and family violence situations. If this structure changes we will inform churches of safe church team's capacity to serve congregations in these situations as well.
2. Each church in the classis will be assigned team member(s) to offer support for safe church policies and procedures. These team members will also serve as a voice for the represented churches in the classis safe church team meetings. Iakota and

Heartland team members will be contacting church leaders and identified safe church representatives in the month(s) following the fall 2019 classis meeting.

3. **Abuse awareness Sunday is coming September 22.** We would like all churches to acknowledge this and take steps to inform their congregations of resources available to them within and outside the church to assist them if experiencing abuse or violence. Churches should have received an email from Tara with further information about this.
4. Training topics have not yet been identified or thoroughly discussed but Tara Boer is willing to offer training for churches and the classis to support their needs as they develop. This will be developed at our next team meeting.

Safe Church Committee Responses:

Tara was contacted once during the summer from a local church to ask about policies and procedures that protect youth while attending off campus and service activities. The requestor was given resources from the safe church website and informed of over-all supervision practices that keep children/teens safe.

Long term goals for Lakota and Heartland Churches:

- All churches have a safe church team and updated safe church policies
- Churches and church leaders are trained in abuse prevention and response
- Churches feel equipped to implement the Circle of Grace curriculum in their church.

Recommendations for Churches from the Classical Safe Church Team:

Currently 19/20 Heartland churches have a safe church policy. 9/20 churches have a safe church team to review, support, and update these policies. The Lakota and Heartland Safe Church team is recommending that each church in the Heartland Classis have a safe church team consisting of 3-4 total members with one member being identified as the leader.

Churches are also asked to create, review and/or update their policies and consult with the classical safe church team member if needed.

Hand-outs provided at classis meeting:

Safe Church Brochure

Ten Ways to Make your Church a Safer Church

Why Policy

Classical Interim Committee Meeting

April 9, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.

Attendants: Rev. Todd Zuidema (chair), Rev. Nate Kuperus, Rev. Mark Vande Zande (Secretary),

Rev. Nevada De Lapp (Alternate)

Absent with Notice: Rev. Robert Drenten (ex officio')

1. We reviewed the submitted material from Rev. Scott Van Voorst, Friendship Community Church, Sergeant Bluff and supervising church, Immanuel CRC, regarding the request to amend Rev. Van Voorst's call at Friendship CRC related to his desire to serve as a chaplain in the United States Air Force.

*Having reviewed the materials provided by Rev. Scott Van Voorst, Friendship Community Church, Sergeant Buff, and Immanuel CRC, Orange City, it is moved, supported and carried to provisionally approve the amended letter of call for Rev. Scott Van Voorst, dated March 26, 2019. Final approval by Classis Heartland is required and will be decided at the September 2019 meeting of Classis Heartland. This amended call allows for Rev. Van Voorst to continue his work at Friendship Community Church and to now pursue chaplaincy with the United States Air Force. This call covers the guidelines for support and supervision of Rev. Van Voorst as well as recognizing Rev. Van Voorst's future bi-vocational status according to the of Articles 12b, 13b, and 15 of the Church Order.

2. We were informed by the Classical Education Committee (CEC) that Rev. Mark Vande Zande has requested to be released from his responsibility on CEC due to his new responsibility on the Council of Delegates. CEC has granted that release. Rev. Vande Zande will inform the nominating committee that they need to fill this position.

3. We instruct the nominating committee to move forward in finding members for the combined Safe Church Team of Classis Iakota and Classis Heartland. A clergy member and a lay member is needed for this committee. Rev. Vande Zande will inform the nominating committee that they need to fill these positions.

4. We instruct the nominating committee to move forward in finding a person to be the Classis Heartland Disability Advocate per the encouragement of the CRCNA. Rev. Vande Zande will inform the nominating committee that they need to fill this position.

5. Next meeting – Tuesday, June 4, 2019 – 1:00-3:00 at 1st CRC, Orange City

6. Rev. Mark Vande Zande closed in prayer.



Thursday, May 23, 2019

Classis Heartland of the
Christian Reformed Church in North America
In Session Saturday, September 7, 2019 at the
Sanborn Christian Reformed Church 208 N. Western
Street Sanborn, IA 51248-0299

Dear Delegates of the September 7, 2019 session of Classis Heartland,

By this letter we inform you that our pastor, Rev. Alfred J. Van Dellen, has requested permission to exercise his privilege of retiring from active ministerial service on the ground that he will be reaching the normal retirement age of 66 years this year. At the Council meeting held on May 23, 2019 the Council gave approval to this request. Rev. Alfred J. Van Dellen's effective retirement date will be, D.V., November 30, 2019. (Council Minutes, May 23, 2019, Article 19-64)

Therefore: We, the Council of the Sanborn Christian Reformed Church overture Classis Heartland to approve Rev. Alfred J. Van Dellen 's request to exercise his privilege to retire effective November 30, 2019 in accordance with Article 18 a of the CRCNA: "A minister who has reached retirement age, or who because of physical or mental disability is incapable of performing the duties of the office, is eligible for retirement. Retirement shall take place with the approval of the Council and Classis and in accordance with Synodical regulations". Ground: Rev. Alfred J. Van Dellen will reach retirement age on November 20, 2019.

Rev. Alfred J. Van Dellen's farewell will be, D.V. on Sunday, November 17, 2019. We will keep Classis informed as plans for the farewell service

unfold. In His Love and Service with you,

Mike Visser, vice-president of Council

Craig Solsma, Clerk of Council

Sanborn Christian Reformed Church • 208 Northwestern Street • P.O. Box 299
Sanborn, Iowa 51248 • (712) 729-5132

(Signed document on file with the Stated Clerk – Classis Heartland.)

July 6, 2019

To the Delegates of Classis Heartland,

The Council of Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church of Omaha, Nebraska overtures Classis Heartland 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.

Grounds for this Overture

1. Seating women at a classis meeting does not ordain them as elder or deacon. Each office bearer has already been ordained to their offices by their church councils. The decision to ordain women or not to a respective church office is given to a local congregation via CRC Church Order Art #3 and is recognized as an honorable way to interpret Scripture.
2. Seating women is not only an issue relevant for those churches which already hold women as officer bearers, but will Heartland Classis or the CIC refuse to approve a call of a woman candidate (Art 10) if a congregation within the classis calls a women pastor? Not seating women would at that point create immediate tension with the Belgic Confession Art 31 which states that “Ministers of the Word, they all have the same power and authority, no matter where they may be, since they are all servants of Christ.” It can be argued that this statement from the Belgic Confession applies to all ordained office bearers. We should honor and respect those who have been ordained as elders or deacons because they have been ordained as elders or deacons by Christ’s church under an honorable way of interpreting Scripture.
3. This classical decision seems to contradict Church Order Article 27A, which highlights the authority of the council as being original. The phrase “No woman may be seated as a delegate” violates the privilege of individual councils to select its own delegates for classis.
4. Removing this phrase from the Rules of Procedure does not change any local congregation’s policies on ordaining women according to the Supplement of Art 3; however, by allowing it to remain may restrict other congregations from participating fully.
5. By keeping the phrase “No women may be seated as a delegate,” Classis Heartland stands opposed to Synod 1995’s decision to recognize multiple views. By Heartland Classis forbidding women to ecclesiastical office is essentially stating Scripture forbids this position. This classical position is equivalent to telling local congregations within your classis that ordain women that they stand outside of Scripture. This is something the denomination hasn’t done. However, by allowing women to be seated recognizes that the two positions of Synod 1995 can both be supported by Scripture. Local congregations then retain the privilege of selecting their delegates, all functioning within the boundaries of Church Order. This position does not require congregations to ordain women, nor does it say either position is wrong.

On behalf of the Prairie Lane CRC Council,

President _____

Clerk _____

(Signed document on file with the Stated Clerk – Classis Heartland.)

Fall Report: Resonate Global Mission, Central US

As the fall season approaches, I am grateful to see a number of new church developments emerging throughout the region. Sioux Falls, Chamberlain in SD, Marshall MN, in west Central MN and the Twin Cities, to the greater Chicagoland area, new ministries are reaching people or preparing to do so. In Kansas City and other areas of IA, new initiatives by mission-minded congregations are doing new things to raise up leaders, connect to others, and serve their communities innovatively. The regional team of Central US stands ready to assist in ways that prove helpful to all of these God-led directions.

Someone has suggested that reports to Classis should have benefit to the recipients rather than the sender, which makes a lot of sense to me. So for the rest of this report, let's talk about change and flexibility.

Here is a self-test: how ready is your church for change and flexibility?

(score 5 points if this is an accurate picture of us; 1 point for this isn't us at all and any number in between that best describes your congregation)

*We actively encourage multiple people to share their thoughts and ideas, even if they go against the views of the majority of the congregation.

*We actively listen to a variety of voices before making decisions, particularly voices that are often overlooked (due to age, lack of involvement, ethnicity, gender, etc.).

*We actively listen to the Spirit in order to discern where God is moving in the congregation and the community.

* We are able to be non-anxious in times of anxiety brought on by change or loss.

*We have examples of making mid-course corrections during times of transition or change in order to refocus on the vision and the goal.

*We actively promote and encourage vision -based innovation.

*We have examples of programs that have ended because they did not produce the same results anymore.

*We are comfortable with a slow, but intentional, pace of growth and change (recognizing that problems are not fixed overnight)

*We are comfortable with not knowing the answers, and that there might not be "right answers" to the problems we are facing.

Acts 16:6-10 English Standard Version (ESV)

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over

to Macedonia and help us.” And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

How do you get it to be more so?

Cary Nieuhof wrote a blog entitled 11 Traits of Churches That Will Impact the Future. Trait #9 is a high value on experimentation. He writes that the more traditional you are, the less you will value experimentation. If you begin to raise the value of experimentation, you will accelerate change and flexibility. The church that connects with their community will be the church willing enough to try a variety of things, and who also have the courage to end them as soon as they stop producing the intended result.

Action/Reflection/Learning cycle:

Action:

An experiment that fits the characteristics (challenge: focus more on relationship building rather than an event or program for long lasting, deeply rooted change)

A good experiment...

- Addresses an adaptive challenge
- Occurs over a short period of time
- Is simple and requires few resources
- Recognizes a small amount of risk
- Is creative
- Is measurable to allow for reflective evaluation

Reflection questions:

- What did we do?
- What went well?
- What would we change or do differently next time?
- What stories can we share?

Learning:

What can we learn from this?

What are we learning about leading a shared journey of discerning what the Spirit is doing ahead of us in our neighborhoods and communities so we can join God there?

(Go Local guiding question)

Go Local is a process using these principles and places churches into learning groups together for shared experiences. We are better together than alone. If you are interested in Go Local, please contact either Peter Kelder or Ruth Kelder (pkelder@crcna.org; rkelder@crcna.org)

Calvin College Board of Trustees

May 2-3, 2019

The board of trustees' meeting started with individual committee meetings on Thursday, May 2. Many board members were also involved in conducting faculty interviews for tenure-track faculty reappointments as well as that for reappointment of administrators with faculty status.

After a dinner on Thursday evening with faculty advisors and faculty senators, the board began the first of three plenary sessions. The first plenary session began with the Board noting some of the successes achieved as the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan neared completion including:

- Retention rate improved from 74% to 77%
- 99.5 % of graduates report that they are employed or in graduate school within six (6) months of graduation
- Average student debt today (\$29,768) is lower than it was in 2012
- Calvin's total net assets increased from \$290 million to \$375 million
- Long term debt has been reduced to \$75.3 million
- Donors contributed over \$150 million
- The endowment increased from \$123 million to \$167 million

The remainder of the first plenary session was devoted to trustee development around Safer Spaces at Calvin. Attorney Courtney Bullard, founder of Institutional Compliance Solutions, and Jane Hendriksma, dean for judicial affairs on campus, joined Todd Hubers, vice president for people, strategy, and technology, in a specialized training. Highlights of the training included Calvin's role in Title IX—why it is important and what it covers—as well as Calvin's Safer Spaces policy, process, reporting procedure, and campus-wide training requirements. The team ended the board training with a case study that left all with an appreciation of potential complexities in cases through which the investigators navigate.

As chair of the enrollment strategy committee the team discussed enrollment trends and the activities that are being taken to attract and retain Calvin students. Much good work is happening in this area despite the significant headwinds that are occurring in higher education. I believe Calvin is positioning itself in a healthy way for the long term.

The second plenary session began with devotions provided by Jul Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary. He led the board in the Easter Day 13 devotion from *Seeking God's Face*, a devotion and prayer guide compiled by Philip Reinders. He then told the story of how a visit to Angola prison inspired the prison initiative partnership between Calvin College and the Seminary before continuing his presentation with an overview of the work at the Seminary.

Michael Le Roy followed Jul with his President's Report. During his report, he invited each board member to Calvin University's inaugural celebration on July 10, 2019. He also noted the unanimous endorsement of the Strategic Plan, 2019-2025, by both the Planning and Priorities Committee as well as

by Faculty Senate. He spoke of Calvin's mission and its importance, and he reminded everyone that through all experiences "God's love endures forever." (Psalm 136) He spoke of the tremendous change the college is managing: the changing technology of pedagogy, artificial intelligence, big data, economic insecurity, political polarization, the unbundling of education, a demographic decline in the CRC and in Michigan's population, and globalization. He then noted that Calvin is in a position to rise up to meet these challenges with the strategic plan that has been developed over the last two years.

The strategic plan has four goals and was approved by the board of trustees in a 26:1 vote. The four goals have 10 specific strategies that will be used to see the goals to fruition. The four goals are.

- Embody a faithful and engaged Reformed Christianity
- Grow student enrollment by diversifying academic offerings
- Collaborate to enhance learning
- Build spaces that inspire learning and promote community

The third plenary session consisted of committee reports. Also during this time, the board approved the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget as well as trustee candidates submitted by the trusteeship committee. New trustees starting in the fall of 2019 are: Mary Tuuk, Alice Klamer, Alicia Sinclair, Tim Howerzyl, Andrea Karsten, and either Ben Ipema or Rob DeWit (whomever is appointed by Classis Region 10). Trustees approved for reappointment are Willemina Zwart, myself (Jon Kuyers), Bruce Los, and Rachel Vander Veen.

The Executive Committee put forth a motion for trustees to approve board officers. Craig Lubben was approved to serve as Chair, Jan Buikema as Secretary, and Sally Vander Ploeg as Treasurer. The trustees also voted for Bruce Los to serve as the new Vice Chair/Chair Elect. They then ratified approval of the WorkDay ERP purchase before moving into the consent agenda.

Closing devotions were provided by retiring trustee Marsha Vandergaast, who focused on Psalm 42:11. The board then moved into executive session.

Respectfully submitted

Jon Kuyers