

**Classis Iakota**  
**MINUTES**  
**March 3, 2026**  
**Host Church: Cornerstone Prison Church**  
**Host Site: Inspiration Hills**

**Art. 3915:** The meeting begins at 9:00am with a time of worship led by Rev. Scott Van Voorst, pastor of the host church. Using 1 Peter 5:1-5, he encourages classis to shepherd the flock well, being aware of their needs and faithful in feeding them with God’s Word. He then offers a prayer for God’s guidance.

**Art. 3916:** Below is the list of the delegates appointed by their councils who are present at this meeting:

<u>Churches</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Corsica	Scott Nichols	Dennis Niewenhuis	Mitch Vander Pol
Harrison	Gary Maas	Josh DeWaard	Colt Van Genderen
Inwood		Nic Van Engen	Arie Van Nieuwenhuyzen
		Gerald Zwart	
Lakeview	Joshua Stammers	Vernon Walkling	
New Holland	Greg Dyk	Dave Vander Pol	Lee Niewenhuis
Platte	Drew Hoekema	Jim Buitenbos	Ryan Van Zee
Rock Rapids		Bill Jansma	
Rock Valley – Calvin		Darwin DeJager	Dave Kats
		Brent Eshuis	
Rock Valley – First	Matthew Haan	Leonard Hoekstra	Evan Altena
Rock Valley – Trinity		Stan Visser	Jon Heeringa
		Scott De Weerd	
Amistad Cristiana	(no delegation present)		
Sioux Center – Bethel	John Lee	Dave Van Holland	Nick Fanning
Sioux Center – Bridge of Hope	Sam Ashmore	Christina Postma	Marcus Van Zee
Sioux Center – Covenant		Chris Goedhart	Dave Kramer
		Dennis Vander Plaats	
Sioux Center – Faith	Bob Pollema	Brent De Jong	Mike Hoekstra
Sioux Center – First	Kurt Monroe	Phil Van Maanen	Isaiah DeRegt
Sioux Center – Lebanon		Harold Dekkers	Ashley Dekkers
Sioux Falls – Cornerstone Prison	Scott Van Voorst		
Sioux Falls – First	Steve Zwart	Mike Ridder	Tim den Dulk
Sioux Falls – Shalom		Scott Vanden Bosch	Angie Buys
		Jim Wuesterwald	

**Art. 3917:** Kurt Monroe, the Chair for today’s meeting reads the Covenant for Officebearers, followed by the delegates coming forward to sign the Covenant.

**Art. 3918:** Classis is declared constituted. The Chair welcomes the delegates and visitors and appoints Stan Visser, a Commissioned Pastor within our classis and an elder delegate to this meeting, to keep track of the prayer concerns throughout the day with a view to the closing prayer. Drew Hoekema serves as the Vice-Chair for this meeting.

**Art. 3919:** Overture #1 from First Rock Valley CRC (Agenda, p. 3) is presented by Matthew Haan. **Motion** to overture Synod 2026 to instruct the COD and the Office of the General Secretary to require ministry staff employed for denominational service related to the CRCNA and its mission to have confessional integrity. This includes but is not limited to all those employed at our denominational agencies: The Banner, Resonate, Thrive, as well as all who populate volunteer boards, must show that they are professing members of a congregation in the CRCNA who fully support and defend the fullness of God’s Word and that the Creeds and Confessions of the CRCNA faithfully reflect Scripture’s revelation.

**Grounds:**

1. The Office of the General Secretary, denominational boards, and agency leadership exercise significant influence over policy, communication, and direction of the CRCNA. Confessional alignment is therefore essential to strengthening trust and partnership between congregations, classes, and denominational leadership.
2. Denominational funds, contributed by member churches through ministry shares and other offerings, ought to support work carried out by those who are personally committed to the CRCNA's confessional standards and ecclesial life.

*--Adopted*

**Art. 3920:** Overture #2 from First Rock Valley CRC (Agenda, p. 3) is presented by Matthew Haan.  
**Motion** to table this overture pending action taken by Synod 2026 on the overture above.

*--Adopted*

**Art. 3921:** The Stated Clerk's report in the agenda (p. 2) is noted.

A. The following action is taken with regard to four requests made through the clerk to renew their license to exhort.

1. With the endorsement of the Faith Sioux Center CRC council, **motion** is made to renew the license to exhort for Trevor Mouw and Thomas Soodsma. *--Adopted*

2. With the endorsement of the Inwood CRC council, **motion** is made to renew the license to exhort for Nathan Nieuwendorp. *--Adopted*

3. With the endorsement of the First Sioux Falls CRC council, **motion** is made to renew the license to exhort for Barry Miedema. *--Adopted*

B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Stated Clerk. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3922:** The Classical Interim Committee report (Agenda, pp. 4-5) is given by Drew Hoekema.

A. **Motion** to sustain the decision of the Shalom CRC that Rev. Norlyn Van Beek be extended on loan (Church Order Art 12-d) to serve First Presbyterian Church of Sibley, Iowa, for a period of up to 2 years. *--Adopted*

B. **Motion** to appoint Rev. Steve Zwart to serve as Alternate Synodical Deputy. *--Adopted*

C. Steve Zwart has agreed to serve as the Classical Church Visitor for Group #2 (Bridge of Hope, SD / Faith, SC / Lebanon, SC / Rock Rapids) and Greg Dyk has agreed to serve as the Classical Church Visitor for Group #4 (First, SF / Cornerstone, SF / Shalom, SF).

D. **Motion** to approve the short-term illness guidelines outlined below and commending them to the congregations of our classis.

1. Each local congregation to work with their pastor to provide reasonable coverage for short-term disability as part of their benefits package.

2. During a short-term disability event, congregations are expected to continue regular salary and benefits for up to one year of treatment while serving their congregation.

3. It is the responsibility of the pastor to fully communicate with the council and church about spiritual and financial needs during this time.

4. Churches should seek an interim, seminarian, or other part-time ministry to walk with the church from the time of diagnosis through treatment. This ensures that ministry continues to be carried out in the congregation. This policy might match a recommended sabbatical policy that would occur at a minimum for 6 months for every 6 years of service.

5. Neither pastor nor church should seek separation during this period but should work towards faithfulness and care of one another for a period of no less than one year from diagnosis to the end of the active treatment. *--Adopted*

E. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3923:** A verbal report from the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team is given by Kurt Monroe.

- A. Having completed his seminary training, Trevor Mouw has been recommended by the CMLT to the CRC Candidacy Committee for candidacy in the CRC.
- B. An interview has taken place with Luke Johnston, an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, who has been called to serve the Trinity CRC in Rock Valley. [Stated Clerk's note: an e-mail message from the CRC Candidacy Committee was received on 3/3/26, stating that Luke Johnston has been granted a denominational license to exhort as he carries out his ministry at Trinity CRC while preparations are being made to have him undergo a Colloquium Doctum in the near future.]
- C. The delegates are informed that Rylan Brue, formerly from Covenant CRC in Sioux Center, graduated from CTS and accepted a call to the CRC in Borculo, Michigan.
- D. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3924:** The Classical Missions Team report (Agenda, pp. 5-10) is given by Gary Maas.

- A. **Motion** to approve a plan whereby churches within classis can receive funds to develop mission-minded activities. This plan includes the three documents (a cover letter, a request form, and a post-project evaluation form) as found in the Agenda, pp. 6-8 and will be accessible through the classical website ([www.classisiakota.org](http://www.classisiakota.org)). *--Adopted*
- B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Missions Team. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3925:** Church Counselor's Reports (the list of current counselors is found in the Agenda, p. 12)

- A. The Stated Clerk shares a brief written report he recently received from Dave Heilman, the counselor for the Inwood CRC.
- B. Bernie Haan, the counselor for the Shalom CRC, provides a brief oral report regarding progress being made by their search committee.
- C. **Motion** to approve the work of the classical church counselors. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3926:** The Chair notes the Church Visitors' reports found in the Agenda (pp. 13-16, 27) and Jack Gray, one of the Church Visitors for Group #5 (Harrison/ New Holland / Platte / Corsica / Lakeview) offers some additional observations.

- **Motion** to approve the work of the classical Church Visitors. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3927:** As the Regional Pastor for Iakota pastors in Iowa, Dave Smit gives a brief oral report, encouraging the churches to pray fervently for their pastor and for their pastor's spouse.

- **Motion** to approve the work of the classical Church Visitors. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3929:** Lee & Doug DeGroot expand a bit on the report from the Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry (see Agenda, p. 17). They also distribute flyers about the 16th annual Jr. High retreat to be held at Inspiration Hills April 17-19. The Chair commends this ministry for its ongoing work within our region.

**Art. 3930:** Jesse Walhof, as the clergy member from Classis Heartland on the Classical Safe Church Team, reports on behalf of this team, reminding the delegates of the process used when an allegation of abuse arises. The team also encourages each church to have a “safe church policy” in place as well as a safe church leader. He concludes by urging Classis Iakota to fill the vacant clergy spot on this team.

- **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Safe Church Team. --Adopted

**Art. 3931:** Elections/actions taken through the course of the meeting renders the following results:

- A. Finance Committee –Eric Maas (term to end 3/29)
- B. Missions Team Clergy member – Greg Dyk (term to end 3/29)
- C. Missions Team Clergy Alternate – Dave Heilman (term to end 3/29)
- D. Missions Team Lay member – Rod Ledebor (term to end 3/29)
- E. Ministerial Leadership Team Clergy member – Joshua Stammers (term to end 3/29)
- F. Ministerial Leadership Team Clergy Alternate – remains unfilled
- G. Safe Church Team Clergy member – Sam Ashmore (term to end 3/29)
- H. Delegates to Synod
  1. Minister delegate – Matthew Haan
  2. Elder delegate – Ben Saarloos
  3. 2nd Elder delegate (in lieu of a deacon delegate) – Nic Van Engen
  4. 4th Officebearer delegate – John Lee
  5. Alternate Minister delegate – Kurt Monroe
  6. Alternate Lay delegate – Nick Fanning

**Art. 3932:** In addition to the written report (see Agenda, pp. 19-21), as a member of the Board of Trustees for Calvin Theological Seminary John Lee reports on CTS’s response to Synod 2025 whereby auxiliary instructors are called upon to respect and adhere to the CRC’s teachings, especially the creeds and our confessions. They are asked for their signature as a sign of their agreement to teach within those parameters.

**Art. 3933:** A brief video about the history of media ministry within the CRCNA is shown, followed by Jessica Fox giving a brief presentation on behalf of ReFrame Ministries in which she talks about some of the resources of this ministry, the *Today* devotional in particular. She thanks the churches for their support and asks that we remember this ministry in our prayers, especially now as Kurt Selles, the current Executive Director, will be retiring in June.

**Art. 3934:** Ron Vos provides additional information to the written report from World Renew (see Agenda, pp. 24-26), focusing on the international efforts of this ministry. He encourages churches to host World Renew staff from other countries to allow them to share what God is doing through this ministry. He also encourages church members to participate in “discovery tours” whereby firsthand knowledge of this ministry in other countries is gained.

**Art. 3935:** Per Church Order Article 41, time is spent responding to the request from Shalom CRC to have classis discuss the following questions: 1) how to become a congregation that is attractive to young adults; 2) how to become more welcoming and enfolding to visitors; 3) how to become more loving and encouraging to each other.

- A. With those questions as a springboard Drew Hoekema prefaces the time spent in small groups by giving a presentation arising out of his attendance at the Multiply Conference held last November in Florida. In this presentation he shares some observations and insights about outreach and disciple-making that came out in that conference.

- B. The delegations are divided into four groups to discuss this important aspect of ministry, using the following questions to guide the discussion: 1) What “anchors” (internal issues) and “rocks” (external threats) keep us from making disciples? 2) What are “sails and wind” (resources or strengths) we can use to make disciples? 3) How can we work together?
- C. Representatives from each group briefly share some of the thoughts that came out in the small groups.

**Art. 3936:** The Finance Committee report (see Agenda, pp. 10-11) is given by Leonard Hoekstra, one of the members of this committee.

- A. **Motion** to accept the single nomination of Eric Maas to an additional three-year term ending March 31, 2029. *--Adopted*
- B. **Motion** to consolidate the Church Plant Grant, the Mission Renewal Grant Fund, the New Church Start Fund, and the Funds for Church Plant as the Mission Opportunities Fund, as a resource administered by the Classical Missions Team (CMT) to help fund congregational and classical mission initiatives. The CMT with the Finance Committee are instructed to develop a policy for the use of these funds. *--Adopted*
- C. **Motion** to approve the work of the Finance Committee. *--Adopted*

**Art. 3937:** Classical Treasurer

- A. Bob Van Ruler distributes the Treasurer’s Report, highlighting the Consolidated Fund Report which shows the receipts and disbursements for the various classical ministries in 2025. He also reminds the delegations to make sure that their church’s classical ministry shares are sent to his new address: 1460 3rd Ave. SE Sioux Center, Iowa 51250
- B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Treasurer. *-Adopted*

**Art. 3938:** At 2:30pm the Chair brings the meeting to a close, thanking the Inspiration Hills staff for their hospitality and delicious meal, and expressing appreciation to the delegates for their attentiveness and cooperative spirit. Stan Visser offers a closing prayer and the meeting concludes with the singing of the doxology.

Next regularly-scheduled meeting: September 15, 2026 at the First Sioux Falls CRC  
Please get any items for the agenda to the stated clerk by August 3, 2026.

Bernie Haan  
Stated Clerk for Classis Iakota