

Classis lakota
AGENDA
March 1, 2022, 9:00 A.M.
Inspiration Hills Retreat Center
Bridge of Hope Ministries serving as the host church
Rev. Robert Drenten, Chair Rev. Scott Van Voorst, Vice-Chair

I. INITIAL BUSINESS

- A. Opening Devotions—led by Trudy Ash, Regional Catalyzer for Faith Formation Ministries
- B. Presentation of Credentials & Roll Call
 - Signing of the Covenant for Officebearers by first-time delegates
- C. Declaration that Classis is constituted.
- D. Welcome to delegates and other attendees
- E. Adoption of time schedule: 9:00-12:15; lunch; 1:00-3:15; coffee time; 3:30-
- F. Appointment of Committees for the Day
 - 1. Review of Credentials and Art. 41
 - 2. Prayer Concerns
 - 3. Tally Committee (provided by host church)

II. EXAMINATION of Trevor Mouw and Thomas Soodsma for Licensure to Exhort

III. READING OF INSTRUCTIONS AND OVERTURES

- A. Tabled Overture from First Sioux Center CRC on the Report on Human Sexuality (pp. 2-3)
- B. Communication from Covenant CRC regarding the Report on Human Sexuality (pp. 4-5)

III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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| A. Stated Clerk (p. 5) | G. Church Counselors |
| B. Interim Committee (pp. 6-7) | H. Regional Pastors |
| C. Home Missions Team (p. 8) | I. Minn-I-Kota Youth (pp. 11-12) |
| D. Ministerial Leadership Team (pp. 8-9) | J. Safe Church Team (p. 12-13) |
| E. Finance Committee (pp. 9-11) | K. Classical Treasurer |
| F. Church Visitors | |

IV. ELECTIONS/NOMINATIONS

- A. CIC alternate member—to take the place of Rev. C. Hoogendoorn
- B. CHMT Clergy alternate—since Gary Maas has taken Bob Pollema’s place, a new alternate is needed
- C. CMLT Lay member—Nathan Nieuwendorp has completed one term and is eligible for a second term
- D. Safe Church Team member—Tara Boer has completed one term and is eligible for a second
- E. Safe Church Team member —Heidi Van Roekel has completed one term and is eligible for a second term
- F. Sate Church Team alternate member—Heather Buys has completed one term and is eligible for a second term
- G. Election of delegates to Synod: minister via rotation (Rev. John Lee); one minister delegate and alternate via election; one elder delegate and alternate; one deacon delegate and alternate

V. CLASSICAL/REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SYNODICAL BOARDS

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|---------------------------|--|
| A. Calvin University | D. Faith Formation Ministries |
| B. Calvin Theological Sem | E. Resonate Global Mission (pp. 13-14) |
| C. Council of Delegates | F. World Renew (separate attachment) |

VII. REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

- A. Art. 41 Committee
- B. Varia
 - 1. Update regarding Hope CRC in Rapid City
 - 2. Article 17 Oversight Committee report re Cal Hoogendoorn
 - 3. Article 17 Oversight Committee report re First Sioux Falls CRC
 - 4. Ad Hoc Committee to study the feasibility of another classical diaconal ministry

VIII. CLOSING BUSINESS

- A. Next Meeting – September 20, 2022
 - Suggested Host churches for upcoming classis meetings:*
 - Sep 2022: First CRC Rock Valley
 - Mar 2023: Rock Rapids CRC
 - Sep 2023: Amistad Cristiana Sioux Center
 - B. Concluding Remarks (chairperson)
 - C. Closing Prayer
 - D. Adjournment
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Proposed Overture to Synod 2021 on the Report on Human Sexuality

From the March 2, 2021 meeting of Classis Iakota:

Article 3587

The overtures from First Rock Valley CRC and First Sioux Center CRC regarding the synodical committee report on human sexuality are presented.

- A. Matthew Haan speaks on behalf of the First Rock Valley council, explaining their overture and then stating that they are okay with classis picking either their overture or the one from First Sioux Center CRC.
- B. Kurt Monroe speaks on behalf of the First Sioux Center council.
- C. **Motion** to consider the overture from First Sioux Center CRC over against the overture from First Rock Valley CRC. *-Adopted*
- D. **Motion** to send the following overture from First Sioux Center CRC to Synod 2022: That Synod 2022 accede to recommendations A through F of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality.
Grounds:
 - 1. The study report provides doctrinal clarity in faithfulness to God's Word that will reduce the theological hear which plagues our denomination so that our pastoral warmth and witness to the world might increase.
 - 2. The study report provides the doctrinal and confessional clarity necessary to maintain not only the unity of the CRCNA, but also the CRCNA's unity with the catholic and apostolic church of all times and places.
 - 3. The study throughout is a helpful invitation to Christian discipleship as a covenant community, calling each of us to submit our sexuality to Christ's call to daily take up our cross (Luke 9:23), die to our sinful nature (Colossians 3:5), and embrace the mutual accountability we share as member of Christ's body (Hebrews 3:13).
- E. **Motion** to table the motion above. *-Adopted*

1. Background:

The church of Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, spans every inhabited continent and has evangelized an amazing variety of cultures with an amazing variety of religious and ethical backgrounds. In spite of this broad variety of the cultural expressions in which the church has taken form, and in spite of the resistance of the hostile ethics of surrounding cultures, the church's sexual ethic has been consistent and firm in all of these places and through every period of history, for it is rooted in scripture and has been guided by the Holy Spirit. The post-Christian culture of the Western world in the twenty-first century has, in the name of freedom and liberty, adopted a sexual ethic that is hostile to the church's consistent sexual ethic in which alone sexual liberty, wholeness, and justice is found. Confusion, brokenness, and death have accompanied our culture's rejection of the Christian sexual ethic.

Too often the sexual confusion, chaos, and brokenness that has accompanied the sexual rebellion of the culture that surrounds the congregations of the CRCNA has permeated our churches, schools, homes, and our very hearts and minds. The lack of clarity within the CRCNA on this doctrinal issue has produced a lot of theological heat, but this theological heat has generated little pastoral warmth for the members of our congregations who struggle to live in holiness and fidelity to God and his word amidst our own disordered sexual desires as well as the surrounding cultural confusion and brokenness.

In the midst of our own brokenness and the surrounding cultural and denominational confusion, recognizing that our congregations needed far more doctrinal and pastoral guidance than advice regarding participation in "same-sex marriages," Synod 2016 established a committee "to articulate a foundation-laying biblical theology of human sexuality that pays particular attention to biblical conceptions of gender and sexuality. The central aim of this theological task will be to provide concise yet clear ethical guidance for what constitutes a holy and healthy Christian sexual life."

This committee's study report faithfully fulfills the mandate given by synod 2016 and provides robust biblical, theological, and pastoral guidance to the churches of the CRCNA that will lead churches and their members into the holiness, wholeness, and justice into which scripture and the long tradition of the catholic and apostolic church invites them and into faithful witness to this rebellious and confused world.

2. Overture:

Classis lakota therefore overtures Synod 2021 to accede to recommendations A through F of the Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality.

3. Grounds:

- a. The study report provides doctrinal clarity in faithfulness to God's word that will reduce the theological heat which plagues our denomination so that our pastoral warmth and witness to the world might increase.
- b. The study report provides the doctrinal and confessional clarity necessary to maintain not only the unity of the CRCNA but also the CRCNA's unity with the catholic and apostolic church of all times and places.
- c. The study throughout is a helpful invitation to Christian discipleship as a covenant community, calling each of us to submit our sexuality to Christ's call to daily take up our cross (Luke 9:23), die to our sinful nature (Colossians 3:5), and embrace the mutual accountability we share as members of Christ's body (Hebrews 3:13)

Respectfully Submitted,
The Council of the First CRC in Sioux Center
January 30, 2021

Communication from Covenant CRC for Consideration by Classis lakota

As a congregation [and possibly a classis] that agrees with the Synodical report definition of marriage, we want to emphasize pastoral implications in Matthew 19, which give us hope for the unified combination of grace and truth that we see in Acts 15, for which we can find further resources in Romans 14-15.

1. We agree with the report's definition of marriage, and we also discern communal (not merely individual) radicality with respect to the discipleship Jesus teaches in Matthew 19, alongside his preceding discourse in Matthew 18.
 - a. Jesus' creational teachings in Matthew 19 do not abolish but rather fulfill Moses' pastoral permission, as referred to in the same passage. (See Matthew 19:8 in relation to Matthew 5:17)
 - b. Jesus' community discourse in Matthew 18 calls us to a community that warns against scandal and also practices radical forgiveness and generous mercy. (See Matthew 18:21-35)
 - c. Jesus' blessing of the children in Matthew 19 points us to the kind of parental embrace and pleading we see in Jesus' parable of the loving and longing father with both a prodigal son and an elder son. (Luke 15:11-32) As followers of Jesus, we seek to teach God's commands as Jesus did: in ways that do good, not harm; in ways that save lives rather than destroy them (Luke 6:6-11). We do not want to tie heavy loads on people without being "willing to lift a finger to move them" (Mt. 23:4). Instead, we long to gather all God's children "as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" (Mt. 23:37).
2. We pray that Synodical delegates and all members of the Christian Reformed Church will listen to both one another and our Lord so that we arrive at a message that "has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." (Acts 15:28) In this way we can hope "to impose on [one another] no further burden than these essentials" (Acts 15:28), which edify the church in our time.
 - a. We note that the Council in Acts 15 avoided "a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear" (Act 15:10).
 - b. We note further the Council delegates emphasizing "that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will" (Acts 15:11).
 - c. We note that when the Council's fellow disciples received the letter-report, "when its members read it, they rejoiced at the exhortation." (Acts 15:31)
3. We find resources for the unifying combination of both grace and truth [both love and holiness, etc.] in Paul's culmination of his epistle to the Romans, in which he passes on the teaching that we "welcome/ accept one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed/accepted [us], for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7).
 - a. Paul identifies groups that disagree with each other with the provocative labels "weak" and "strong." Paul clearly identifies with the strong, and at the same time calls both groups not to despise or pass judgment on fellow believers with different beliefs. Paul asks, "Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another?" (Romans 14:4; cf. Romans 14:10-12 and also Romans 2:1 for how passing judgment can lead us to condemn ourselves.)
 - b. If both groups identify their own views as strong, Paul tells us "to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor." (Romans 15:1-2)

c. Accepting-welcoming may not please those who argue for separation from one perspective or affirmation from another perspective. We do not expect unity based on Romans 15:7 welcome/ acceptance to happen easily. So we trust in the Christ who, by becoming a servant to the circumcised thereby fulfilled the promise to the patriarchs “in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.” (Romans 15:8-9; see Romans 12:3 et al.) As people who have our own weaknesses, we trust in the God of sufficient grace (2nd Corinthians 12:9), whom we worship as “the God of hope [who] fills [us] with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (See Romans 15:8-13)

Ethan Brue,
Clerk of Council
Covenant CRC
January 31, 2022

STATED CLERK REPORT – MARCH 2022

Since the September 2021 meeting of classis, I have handled the following:

- Made the necessary arrangements for the October 29 meeting of classis in which Candidate Joshua Stammis was examined. Stanley Groothof graciously served as the clerk for that meeting in my absence and efficaciously handled the minutes.
- Gathered together what was necessary for putting together the agenda for the November 16 meeting of classis and kept the minutes for that meeting.
- Received and responded to e-mails from individuals and/or churches who had a question about an ecclesiastical matter or want to bring a ministry-related matter to the attention of our classis.
- Updated the Classical Rules of Procedure to include the latest changes to the mandate for the Classical Finance Committee. You can find this document on our website.
- Was appointed by the CIC to be the classical counselor for Shalom CRC as they extended a call to Rev. David Heilman to serve as their Minister of Church Operations and Outreach.
- Attended a Zoom gathering of stated clerks whereby pertinent information was shared by Al Postma and Dee Recker regarding denomination-related matters.
- Sent out reminders of our 3/1/22 meeting to the councils of our classis and other ministry leaders who give reports to classis.
- Gathered together what was necessary for putting together the agenda for the 3/1/22 meeting and corresponded with the CIC to discuss and decide on how to proceed with regard to various matters.

Classis Iakota Interim Committee Report for March 2022 Classis Meeting

1. Ecclesiastical credentials:

The CIC processed the ecclesiastical credentials for Gianni Gracia (sent to Classis Southeast) and Todd Zuidema (received from Classis Heartland).

2. Extension of call:

Both Norlyn Van Beek and Joel De Boer are requesting an extension to their eligibility for call. [Their respective letters are below.]

3. Classis Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee (cf. p. 10) is recommending that the CIC bring Dordt University and Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Share requests to classis and that the Classical Home Missions Committee brings the Lakeview CRC Ministry Share request to classis. We would encourage and prefer for ministries to connect directly with the Finance Committee to aid them in preparing a unified budget. We also see wisdom in this committee reviewing remuneration for our paid functionaries.

Motion: The Finance Committee adds to its mandate to annually review and make recommendations regarding remuneration for our paid functionaries, namely the Safe Church Coordinator, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer. *Grounds:* The Finance Committee is in the best position to see how increases fit in a given budget. Since the stated clerk is a paid functionary and member of the CIC, the CIC wants to exercise caution in being part of the budget preparation process. ADOPTED by CIC.

4. Continuing education:

The CIC together with the Heartland CIC is discussing possibilities to bring in a speaker for an educational and equipping event that could be held at Dordt University. We also recognize the value of creating a clearinghouse of vetted resources for church leaders to access.

5. Classis meeting logistics:

We do not plan to offer the upcoming classis meeting virtually. We do not plan to implement a vaccination or masking policy; we encourage delegates to consider the safety of others and of themselves.

6. The remainder of our work is reflected through the classis meeting agenda.

January 23, 2022

RE: Extending Ministry Credential Eligibility

Dear Rev. Haan,

My ministry credentials are currently being held by Shalom CRC in Sioux Falls where my wife and I have been members for nearly five years. At the Iakota classis meeting September, 2020, I was released from my ministerial office at Inspiration Hills. According to Church Order Article 17c I have two years of ministry eligibility from the time classis released me.

Consulting with Rev. Dave Den Haan with Christian Reformed Church Pastor Church Relations, he advised me of my options. Since the 2022 fall classis meeting will be after my eligibility would expire I am asking for my eligibility to be extended at the spring 2022 classis meeting, giving me eligibility until September 2023.

Since my release, my wife and I have been seeking God's direction. For the past year I have been working at Diamond Mowers in Sioux Falls, working in a customer service/technical support position. However, we desire to continue to seek a full-time ministry position.

Seeking first the kingdom of God, my wife and I continue to be active in ministry at Shalom and locally; putting on retreats, leading Bible Studies, and mentoring. I have also provided pulpit supply eighteen times since January 2021. I have completed part one of two training sessions for becoming a specialized transitional pastor. We are trusting in the leading of the Holy Spirit for the future.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Norlyn Van Beek

January 30, 2022

RE: Extending Ministry Credential Eligibility

Dear Reverend Bernie Haan,

My ministry credentials are currently being held by Faith CRC in Sioux Center, Iowa where my wife and I have been under their supervision and care. In May of 2020, Classis Iakota granted an Article 17 separation from Bridge of Hope with Deb and I receiving support and guidance from a Classis Ministry Team. According to Church Order Article 17c I have two years of ministry eligibility from the time classis released me.

Consulting with Rev. Sean Baker of Pastor Church Resources from May through October of 2020, he advised me of my options for future ministry work - Interim Ministry, Specialized Ministry, etc. At this Classis meeting of Iakota, I request that Classis extend my eligibility for call until September 2023.

Since my release, my wife and I have been seeking God's direction. God has been clearly leading us forward into this Interim Pastorate work. We are seeking to find the best way to serve churches since the need for Interim and Specialized work continues to grow. We are trusting in the leading of the Holy Spirit for the future.

Beginning on November 2020 - February 2022, I have been serving as full-time Interim Pastor/Coach for Bunde CRC, Clara City, MN. After February I will collaborate and work with them on a part-time basis, and I am currently in conversation with three other churches in different Classis regarding Interim Ministry work. I recognize that this extension primarily is given for those seeking full-time parish ministry, however, I am serving in the same work, but working as Interim rather than full-time parish.

A second request comes as Deb, and I move back to Central Iowa. The Britt Christian Reformed Church has agreed to accept the transfer of my ministry credentials and Deb's membership from Faith CRC. Since I was released under an Art. 17, I know that I must request from Classis to allow Faith CRC to take this action. Deb and I are grateful for all the goodness God has done through these years with you in Classis Iakota.

Joel A. De Boer

Classis Iakota Home Missions Team
Report for Classis – Spring 2022

Members: Mr. Gord Dyk, Rev. Adam Eisenga, Rev. Drew Hoekema (chair), Mr. Piet Koene, Ms. Jacklyn Nieuwendorp, Pastor Gary Maas, Rev. Gideon Wamala

Sioux Falls Church Plant

After years of meetings as a committee, with denominational offices, and with potential church planters, the CMHT has concluded that it is not possible for us to lead a church planting project with our current structure/mandate. It seems to us that a church council, or councils, is the proper body to spearhead such a work. We are happy to come alongside them in such a process.

Missions

At the Spring 2019 meeting, Classis Iakota adopted the following overture to Synod—“recommend that Synod place all Resonate Global missionaries into individual classis for funding, support and care.” The grounds were that our denominational missionaries are not called by God to fundraise first and provide ministry second, our missionaries have to raise a large majority of their own support prior to going on the mission field, allowing missionaries to return to local church and classis support alone would alleviate the missionaries need for fundraising entirely as each missionary would be supported fully by the churches of the local classis, this would provide greater transparency and accountability between churches and missionaries and open new possibilities for stronger mutual support, and that this would drastically reduce the travel time and expenses that are currently required for going across all of North America.

The CHMT will be meeting with a missionary on February 8. Afterward our committee will discuss whether this might be an opportunity to put the aforementioned overture into action as a classis, if so, what that might look like, and whether the Classical Home Missions Team would be best equipped to oversee this as we are currently structured. We give you this information now in case we make any recommendations to be sent as a supplement for this spring classis meeting.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CHMT,
Rev. Adam Eisenga

CMLT Report
January 27, 2021

Members: Rev. Doug DeGroot, Rev. Adam Eisenga (chair), Mr. Orlan Gulker, Rev. Kurt Monroe, Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp, and Mr. Bob VanRuler

Anna Christians is at Western Theological Seminary with the goal of becoming a minister of the word. She is a member of Covenant CRC in Sioux Center. She does **not** need assistance this school year.

AJ Funk is taking a year off from Western Theological Seminary and does **not** need assistance this school year. He is a member of First CRC in Sioux Center.

Luke VanderLeest is at Sioux Falls Seminary with the goal of becoming a minister of the word. He will not be taking any classes this fall and will **not** need financial assistance.

We currently have 2 individuals—**Brent Nymeyer** and **Dustin VanderHaar**—who are repaying their loans monthly and have been for some time. **Nevada DeLapp** has repaid his balance in full.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CMLT,
Rev. Adam Eisenga

**Finance Committee
Report to Classis lakota
March 2022**

The Finance Committee met on January 25, 2022 (minutes attached).

Items of Note

- The committee reviewed the progress of CRCNA ministry share submissions by our councils. The finance committee will work with the treasurer to develop a uniform process for receiving pledges from councils in the future. The committee is also working with the treasurer to develop a standardized form for councils to use to submit their funds for Classis lakota ministry shares.
- The committee agreed to develop a process for reviewing the work of the Classis Treasurer. The process, akin to an audit, will be developed by committee members Eric Maas and Darrel Raih. They also will apply this process to the committee's first review of the Classical Treasurer's work. This annual review will serve to safeguard the Treasurer and to assure Classis lakota of the good order and health of its funds. This first review will likely not be completed by our March 2022 meeting. The work will likely be submitted to the Classical Interim Committee when completed for their approval, and reported to the September 2022 meeting of Classis lakota.
- The committee continues to work with the Classical Treasurer to organize its funds so that each line item's relationship to a standing committee of Classis lakota is clear. The committee recommends that Classis lakota assigns the care of the Safe Church Team, Dordt University, and Minn-I-Kota Youth Network funding requests to the Classical Interim Committee. The committee also recommends that Classis lakota assign the funding requests for Lakeview CRC in Valentine, NE, to the care of the Classical Home Missions Committee.
- The committee spent time discussing a timeline which would allow Classis lakota standing committees to submit their work for review and advice to the Finance Committee, in order to prepare a classis budget for approval at our September meetings. The Finance Committee requests that standing committees (CIC, CHMC, CMLT) submit their information for review by July 15 of each year.

Recommendations

1. That Classis Iakota assign the care of Dordt University and Minn-I-Kota Youth Network ministry share requests to the Classical Interim Committee (CIC), and the care of Lakeview Christian Reformed Church funding requests to the Classical Home Missions Committee (CHMC).

Grounds

- a. Classis Iakota ministry share requests from the Safe Church Team, Dordt University, and Minn-I-Kota Youth Network are received by the Stated Clerk, whose work is most closely supervised by the CIC.
 - b. Lakeview Christian Reformed Church's support is akin to the support provided to Siouxland Unity Church, Amistad Cristiana, and Cornerstone Prison Church, each with situations which benefit from longer term subsidy for their worthy ministries. These other ministries are under the care of CHMC.
 - c. This helps to organize the funding and accountability of our supported causes more clearly, and helps achieve the desire of Classis Iakota to link each of its funds to a standing committee of classis.
2. That Classis Iakota approve the work of the Finance Committee, as presented in its report and minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bob Drenten, Chair

**Finance Committee - Classis Iakota
January 25, 2022 – 1:00 PM
First Christian Reformed Church – Sioux Falls**

Present: Bob Drenten (Chair), Darrel Raih, Jacklyn Nieuwendorp, Bob Van Ruler, Eric Maas (Secretary)

Article 1 – Pastor Bob Drenten opened with prayer.

Article 2 – Review of Minutes from the meeting held 8/5/2021. Motion to approve. Carried

Article 3 - Review and approval of agenda

Article 4 - Discussion of New business

- a) What pledges have been submitted to classis treasurer? Per Bob Van Ruler– 12 out of 21 received
- b) When are they due? Pledges should be in by January 31
- c) Are our councils sufficiently informed about the process of pledging? Pledges have been coming in recently.

Article 5 - Discussion on if our committee is privy to the church pledges. After discussion the assumption is yes. Committee would like to assist treasurer on the review of those pledges in order to perform our duties as a committee. Also recommend that Bob (treasurer) remind the churches in the fall to submit pledges after their annual meeting. Bob would also remind them how to submit.

Article 6 - Discussion of “Audit” scope. Motion to develop standardized tool to review the treasurers work and report that findings to classis. Supported and carried. Eric Maas and Darrel Raih agreed to develop procedures and perform “audit” for 2021. Understanding that the “audit” will likely be submitted to the interim committee for the first year as procedures will not be finished by the spring meeting.

Article 7 - Discussion on should some “unassigned” organizations (I.e., Dordt, Minn-I-Kota Youth and safe church teams) be put under a committee –Acknowledgment that Dordt formerly had a formula to use as to what to ask for, but under the new method of pledging, they do not. Would make sense to develop accountability with a committee

-- Motion to recommend classis placing Dordt and MIK under the care of the Classical Interim Committee. Supported and carried.

---Motion to recommend classis placing Lakeview under the care of classical Home Mission committee. Supported and carried.

Article 8 – setting calendar and deadlines for 2022

--- Discussion that we will try to schedule our summer meeting for the last week of July / first week of August. Therefore, we would like committees to provide us information by mid-July.

--- Objective to create a standard tool / spreadsheet for churches to fill out when submitting funds to classis.

Article 9 – Motion to adjourn – support and carried. Closing Prayer – Darrel Raih

Minn-I-Kota Youth Report for March Classis Meeting 2022

Who & What is Minn-I-Kota Youth Network? MIK Youth dates back to 1948 as a Denominational/Classical League for young men. Over the years, while all the other CRC Leagues dissolved, this league (Minnkota) evolved into what it is today...Minn-I-Kota Youth Network: a ministry that is three classis strong...Minnkota, lakota, & Heartland. Today, MIK Youth serves both young men and women and their leaders through retreats, praise & worship nights, prayer, networking, and the curriculum library, to name just a few. I would like to thank you for supporting this ministry over these almost 74 years & as this ministry continues to evolve and change, I ask that you pray Numbers 6:24-26 over it for years to come.

All of the supporting churches should have received the following announcement from Dan Elgersma-President of the MIK Youth Board. Please, make sure this is printed in your church bulletin through April 10th.

“Hiring Youth Coordinator: The Minn-I-Kota Youth Network is an organization with the goal to empower, encourage, & equip youth ministry programs at churches in the Minnkota, lakota, and Heartland Classes. After 12 years of faithful service Lee De Groot plans to step down from her role as Youth Coordinator at the end of 2022. The MIK Youth Board intends to hire a new coordinator by September 2022 to train alongside Lee. Those seeking to apply must have a love for Christ and be a member of good standing in a church that teaches Reformed doctrine. Applicants must have a heart for youth ministry and should be gifted in administrative skills as well as event planning. For a job description and information on how to apply, please contact dan@bethelsc.org subject line “MIK Youth Coordinator Position” by April 10.”

If you (church leaders) know of someone who would be a “good fit” for this position, please, contact Dan Elgersma or the Pastor Representative that serves on the MIK Youth Board: Minnkota-Pastor Bryan Dick, lakota-Pastor Henry Lengkeek, and Heartland-Pastor Ben Wiersma.

ON THE CALENDAR FOR SPRING 2022:

****THE RETURN OF...THE 1ST ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT**-February 18, 19, & 20 at Sx Center IA Bethel CRC. This is for 9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th graders. Leaders do need to be in attendance as well (5:1 ratio). Our theme this year is “BELONG”. That I belong to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

****NETWORKING NOON LUNCHESES**-the 4th Thursday of each month alternating Sx Falls and Sx Center. Please, RSVP by texting Lee at 712-470-4244.

March 24th-in Sioux Center at Noon at Casey's Bakery.

April 28th-in Sioux Falls at Noon at Sand Bar and Grill.

May 26th-Sioux Center at Noon at Los Tulipanes.

June & July –OFF for Summer Serve Trips/Family Vacations

****NETWORKING EVENING OR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH YG LEADERS 1 ON 1 MEETING** (upon request)-Email me at mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com to make this request. I'm also available to lead a lesson for your Youth Group.

****12th ANNUAL JR HIGH RETREAT**-April 22-24 at Inspiration Hills. This is for 6th, 7th, & 8th graders. Leaders do not need to be in attendance but are welcome to join us by registering. Our theme this year is "UP". Be watching your church mailboxes & our Facebook page for more information. Be planning for this one as the policies at Inspiration Hills have changed. Registration will be due (April 1st) 3 weeks prior to the weekend with **NO LATE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED!** <https://www.facebook.com/Minnikota-Youth-180296638785694>

Thank You & God Bless!

Alethea "Lee" De Groot

Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Coordinator

& Faith Formation Champion/Executive Team

""The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."" Num. 6:24-26

Classis Heartland & lakota Safe Church Report Spring, 2022

Prepared by: Dr. Tara Boer, LISW

lakota & Heartland Safe Church Coordinator

Date Prepared: 01/28/22

lakota & Heartland Classical Safe Church Team Members: Pastor Henry Lengkeek (Trinity CRC-lakota), Heidi Mulder (Bethel CRC-lakota), Pastor Jesse Walhof (Living Water CRC-Heartland), Tara Boer (Hope CRC, Heartland).

Classical Safe Church Team Tasks:

- The Safe Church Team serves in a consultative role for churches 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 lakota regarding abuse awareness and prevention.

Team Meeting: The team met on 01/18/22 at Hope CRC in Hull. Team members discussed safe church matters that have surfaced since the last meeting. Needs and roles were clarified, prioritized, and goals were set for ongoing communication and support for ministry leaders and congregation members. A date was set for next team meeting.

Safe Church Committee Activity

Safe church team members continue to serve local churches in their pursuit of developing proper policies around the care and supervision for minors in their churches and church ministries. Team members are also actively serving lakota and Heartland ministries, church leaders, and congregation members by providing education, advocacy, and due process in safe church matters that have surfaced.

Safe Church Team Goals:

The safe church team goals remain that each church in Lakota and Heartland establish a 2–3 person safe church team, have an updated policy, and implement background checks for all of those that care for children and teens in their ministry programs.

The safe church team would also like to identify 4 men and 4 women from the Heartland and Lakota churches to serve as trained advocates in the advisory panel process if a case of abuse or misconduct surfaces involving a ministry leader in any of our churches. **Please contact Tara if you know of someone in your congregation who might be willing and equipped to serve in this role.**

We hope that all churches are making progress in ensuring that your ministries have clear policies and practices that aid in the protection of children and vulnerable people from being harmed. If you have any questions about what should be included in your policy or procedures, please familiarize yourself with the policy resources on the CRC Safe Church website and contact one of our team members to help you. It's much easier to do the hard work of ensuring good policies and practices now than it is to have to respond to abuse situations unprepared and unequipped.

Please ensure that if an allegation of abuse surfaces in your church, you contact the safe church team before approaching the accused.

On February 3, Tara and Dr. Justin Bailey will be talking with and recording an interview with Diane Langberg, author of *Redeeming Power: Understanding Authority and Abuse in the Church*. Tara will also be writing book review. Both the podcast and book review will be published and accessible to you on March 9 on Dordt University's *In All Things* podcast and blog platform.

Do not hesitate to contact a member of our committee if you would like to talk about any needs your church may have. You may communicate with any committee member or contact Tara directly at 712-898-6468 (cell) or tara.boer@dordt.edu

Resonate Global Missions Report

Classis Report: Spring Meeting 2022

Several years ago, the two mission agencies in the Christian Reformed Church became one; it was given the name Resonate Global Mission. So how is Resonate doing as a combined mission agency? It is finding its way, amid many changes and challenges as two very different cultures meld together. Yet at the heart of it all, the common denominator has stayed the same—a commitment to God's mission and to the church as the agent of that mission.

In this report, I want to outline for you the four priorities of Resonate and look at ways that they can also help your congregation.

The first priority is called GOSPEL WITNESS—to encourage and equip churches in demonstrating the love of Christ and the good news in Him. How does this impact your congregation? Peter calls all of us to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that we have, and to do so with gentleness and respect (3:15). For decades Coffee Break has served well in bringing people to the Bible and its message of grace and salvation. Today, Coffee Break is partnering with Alpha, using Alpha as the introductory phase and Coffee Break in its next phase. Resonate has developed a helpful tool called

Witness, which is a way to share the hope that you have and to introduce people to the good news. Witness is available on the Resonate website and can be downloaded by any and all. And it is free and user friendly also. If you would like to see Witness for yourself, go to the Resonate website and search Witness. Find way to use it in leadership groups, small groups, or any other creative way.

The second priority is CHURCH PLANTING/STRENGTHENING—this priority is shared by the entire Christian Reformed denomination as a goal. Even during the pandemic, new ministries are emerging around the globe. Micro-churches are multiplying in the US and Canada, either in neighborhoods or under the leadership of a church as another site or fresh expression of the church. God is doing a new thing and we have the privilege to join together in this important work.

Some churches have really struggled as they attempt to come out of the pandemic. This has led to a couple of new ways that churches support one another. Adoption is a term used to describe blending two churches into one. Usually a larger church adopts a smaller church and starts a multisite system. Fostering happens when a church sends people and resources to help a struggling church for a set period of time, say 3 months to a year or even longer. Church revitalization helps a congregation be led to greater health, with an existing pastor and without changing the identity of the church. Replanting is when a church under new leadership becomes a new church in the same building, while Relaunching is similar with one difference—the church shuts down for a season and then reopens with a new identity.

The third priority is called DIASPORA-literally “scattered peoples”. In our context, this can refer to refugees, immigrants, and even ethnically diverse groups, even international students. In this priority we are called to be welcoming and fulfilling the second great commandment, namely, to love our neighbor as ourselves. Many of you have heard of Resonate’s GO LOCAL journey; it has been adapted so that it is simpler and less involved; any leader who would like to explore spiritual practices of listening and discerning can be given the material to use with any group in their church. Resonate will provide the resource and also coaching while the group meets over several weeks. Most of our neighborhoods and churches would benefit from this as there are people different from us on our block or in our town. The diversity is not a reality that we tolerate, but a gift that we celebrate. Whether it is reaching out in the love of Christ to Burmese, Hispanic, Muslims or Jews...we want to communicate God’s love and call them to faith in Jesus Christ.

The final priority is called LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—especially opening space for young adults and lay leaders for mission. Young leaders need to be given a voice and empowered with entrusted leadership. They need to be equipped and disciple so that they can take their rightful place in living out the good news in all areas of life. Our campus ministries are excellent examples of how this is happening, and the church is better because of it. Some students actually have gone into full time ministry after they have left school.

Resonate stands ready to listen, pray, learn, and serve with you in these crucial priorities. They need to be reflected not only in resonate, but in every congregation in their neighborhoods and in the world. Humbly submitted,

Peter Kelder, Regional Mission Leader, Central US