

Classis lakota

AGENDA

September 15, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

Place: Corsica Christian Reformed Church

Rev. Matthew Haan, Chairman

Rev. Henry Lengkeek, Vice-Chairman

I. INITIAL BUSINESS

- A. Opening Devotions (host church)
- B. Presentation of Credentials & Roll Call
- C. Signing of the Covenant for Officebearers by first-time delegates
- D. Declaration that Classis is constituted.
- E. Welcome to delegates and other attendees
- F. Adoption of time schedule: 9:00-noon; lunch; 1:00-3:15; break; 3:30-4:30
- G. Appointments for the Day
 1. Review of Credentials and Art. 41
 2. Prayer Concerns
 3. Tally Committee (provided by host church)

II. READING OF INSTRUCTIONS AND OVERTURES FROM CREDENTIALS

III. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS FUNCTIONARIES

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Stated Clerk (p. 2) | F. Church Counselors |
| B. Interim Committee (pp. 3-4) | G. Regional Pastors |
| C. Home Missions Team | H. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (p. 6) |
| D. Ministerial Leadership Team (p. 5) | I. Safe Church Team |
| E. Church Visitors | J. Classical Treasurer |

IV. ELECTIONS/NOMINATIONS

- A. Classical Interim Committee (Rev. Stanley Groothof has completed a second term)
- B. Classical Interim Committee (Rev. John Lee has completed his first term)
- C. Classical Interim Committee (nominee needed to serve as an alternate)
- D. Alternate Stated Clerk (Rev. Stanley Groothof is currently serving this role)
- E. Classical Home Missions (a replacement is needed for Rev. Joel De Boer)
- F. Classical Home Missions (nominee needed to serve as clergy alternate)
- G. Classical Home Missions (nominee needed to serve as lay alternate)
- H. Classical Min. Leadership Team (Rev. Doug De Groot has completed his first term)
- I. Classical Min. Leadership Team (nominee needed to serve as clergy alternate)
- J. World Renew (Rev. Cliff Hoekstra has completed his first term)

V. CLASSICAL/REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SYNOCIAL BOARDS AND OTHER SPEAKERS/REPORTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Calvin University | E. Faith Formation Ministries |
| B. Calvin Theological Seminary | F. Resonate Global Mission |
| C. Council of Delegates | G. World Renew |
| D. Dordt University | |

VI. DISCUSSION IN SMALL GROUPS REGARDING NEW PLEDGE SYSTEM FOR DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES

VII. CLOSING BUSINESS

- A. Report from the Credentials and Article 41 Committee
- B. Next Meeting: TBD
- C. Closing Remarks (chairperson)
- D. Closing Prayer
- E. Adjournment

Stated Clerk Report – September 2020

1. This is a reminder about our website: www.classisiakota.org. Rules for Classical Procedure, a list of classical functionaries and committees, six years of classis minutes, and other information are available through that site. Links to congregational and other church-related web sites are included. If you want a link changed or have an updated one, please let me know. Email addresses for the stated clerk and the classical treasurer are also found there. The annual cost for this web site is \$150-170.
2. Responded to various individuals and council representatives who have asked for information or advice relative to classical or denominational matters.
3. Met with the lakota CIC on 3/11/20 to follow-up on decisions made by classis at its 3/3/20 meeting.
4. Met with the lakota CIC on 5/28/20 to plan the special meeting of classis which was held virtually by Zoom on 6/9/20. The agenda for this meeting was sent out and the minutes were also recorded and sent out to the churches.
5. A number of ministry-related reports, communications, requests, etc. have been received and forwarded via email to the congregations and other church leaders or organizations associated with our classis.
6. Received the following request from the COD Nominating Services Committee:

The Council of Delegates Nominating Services Committee has begun the process of preparing the slates of nominees for service on the Council of Delegates (COD) for a first term, as well as names of members eligible for reappointment.

You are receiving this letter because Rev. John Lee, the COD representative from Classis lakota is on the list of members eligible for reappointment to a second term of three years. Please (1) ask your delegates to classis if they have any concerns regarding the reappointment of your classis delegate. Then (2) communicate the response of classis to the Office of Synodical Services immediately, especially if there are concerns, so that the Nominating Services Committee can follow-up if needed. The names of incumbents will be submitted to synod for reappointment by way of the COD Report.
7. Received a letter dated 7/20/20 from John Baas, the Vice President for Advancement at Dordt University which included the following request: *We are grateful for our relationship with Classis lakota, and we humbly request that Dordt University be included in your classical budget again this year. The amount for the remainder of 2020 is \$67.64. The Area 4 Dordt University ministry-share reduction amount for 2021 is also \$68.24 (per professing member).*
8. Met with the lakota CIC on 8/4/20 to begin the planning process for the 9/15/20 meeting of classis.
9. Made the necessary arrangements for the 9/15/20 classis meeting, including correspondence with individuals who requested to speak or report to Classis. Attached to this agenda on pages 7-9 is the list of classical functionaries that can also be found on our website.
10. Since email is used as the primary means of communication, having an up-to-date email address is vital. If you are not receiving these communications or if something has changed in your congregation's organization, please make sure an accurate email address is being used.

Rev. Bernie Haan

**Classis lakota Interim Committee Report to Classis
September 15, 2020**

1. Finance Committee

1.1. Mandate:

Recommendation: We ask classis to approve this mandate:

- (a) to encourage good stewardship in Classis lakota;
- (b) to track giving and spending and anticipating upcoming receipts and expenses;
- (c) to receive pledges from churches for Ministry Shares.

The committee will meet no less than once a year. Members may be called on to join meetings of other classis committees when they discuss finances.

1.2. Friendly amendment to overture:

Recommendation: We ask classis to make a friendly amendment to the overture approved at our March 2020 meeting that removes the restriction preventing members of the Finance Committee from also serving on another committee.

Grounds:

- (a) Our treasurer is on the CMLT and yet would be a vital member of this Finance Committee.
- (b) Best practices from Classis Heartland suggest including someone with a Home Missions focus on the Finance Committee.

1.3. Committee composition:

Recommendation: We ask classis to approve the composition of this committee with these five members: (a) Bob Van Ruler (serving in an ex officio capacity); (b) a minister; (c) two people with diaconal and/or banking experience (one from Iowa, one from South Dakota, perhaps one representing a small church and one a large church); (d) someone with a Home Missions focus as much of the budget goes to that ministry.

1.4. If these recommendations pass, the CIC will solicit nominations at our classis meeting for individuals to serve on this committee.

2. Virtual classis meetings

Recommendation: We ask classis to approve adding the following to “Section I – Convening and Constituting of Classis” in the Rules of Classical Procedure:

When in-person meetings are judged by the Classical Interim Committee to not be expedient or are not permitted due to extenuating circumstances such as in times of war or pestilence, meetings may be held via appropriate internet based technological platforms to be configured to ensure all matters before the Classis can be conducted virtually, respecting the persons attending the virtual meeting, adequate privacy restrictions, and confidential voting mechanisms.

Grounds:

- (a) Our current experience with COVID-19 highlights the occasional need for this flexibility.
- (b) Technological tools now make it possible to conduct effective and efficient meetings in ways that were historically unavailable yet still respect Reformed polity and theology.
- (c) Similar language has been adopted by Classis Niagara and been commended by Kathy Smith, CRCNA polity consultant.

3. Nominations:

3.1. Classis Interim Committee

1. By way of exception, we nominate Stanley Groothof to serve for a third term as Secretary and Alternate Stated Clerk. *Grounds: (a) We only recently combined the roles of CIC Secretary and Alternate Stated Clerk. (b) With numerous vacancies, it is becoming difficult to fill clergy positions. (c) He is willing.*
2. We nominate Cal Hoogendoorn to serve as the CIC Alternate.

3.2. Classical Ministry Leadership Team:

We nominate Kurt Monroe to serve as the clergy alternate.

3.3. Classical Home Missions:

We nominate Gary Maas to serve as the clergy alternate.

3.4. We note the following are serving as Church Counselors:

1. John Gorter: Corsica CRC-Grace RCA.
2. Drew Hoekema: Hope CRC Rapid City
3. Duane Tinklenberg: Lebanon CRC
4. Adam Eisenga: Rock Rapids.
5. The oversight committee for Bridge of Hope Ministries is presently serving in the capacity of counselor.

4. Oversight Committees

The CIC receives progress reports of the oversight committees working with Bridge of Hope Ministries (John Lee, Joel Kok, and Cal Hoogendoorn); Hope CRC Rapid City (Joel De Boer, Drew Hoekema, and Henry Lengkeek); Paul Birnbaum (Dale Ellens, Joel Kok, and Kyle De Young); and Joel De Boer (Stanley Groothof, Kurt Munroe, and Bob Pollema).

5. Preaching appointments

Lebanon CRC and Rock Rapids CRC requested preaching appointments while they are without pastors.

6. Ministry Shares

We ask councils to report on their credentials what method for pledging they plan to use and, if available, how much they will pledge. During our classis meeting, councils will break out into small groups to share their plans.

7. Credentials

7.1. We transferred the supervision of Paul Birnbaum from Hope CRC Rapid City to Covenant CRC Sioux Center.

7.2. We transferred the supervision of Joel De Boer from Bridge of Hope Ministries to Faith CRC Sioux Center.

7.3. We transferred the ecclesiastical credential of Troy Bierma to Church of the Servant CRC in Classis Grand Rapids East.

**CMLT Minutes & Classis Report
July 29, 2020**

Members: Rev. Doug De Groot, Rev. Adam Eisinga, Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp, Mr. Bob Van Ruler (treasurer), Rev. Cory Van Sloten (chair), and Mr. Gerald Van Voorst.

I. Old Business

A. Review of accounts standing:

1. With updated accounts standing, we have 10 former students in full-time ministry in the CRCNA whose loans are being forgiven at a rate of 10% per year; 3 former students who are not in qualifying ministry in the CRCNA and are repaying their loans; 2 former students who are not in qualifying ministry in the CRCNA and have not yet begun to repay their loans; and 2 students who are temporarily on deferment while continuing education or waiting on a ministry opportunity.

II. New Business

A. Notes on correspondence since last meeting:

1. Adam Ramirez completed the MTS program at Calvin Theological Seminary in May 2019 and has been discerning where the Lord is leading him in ministry and/or further education. He is now pursuing a DMin from Western Theological Seminary.
2. Rev. Nevada DeLapp, pastor of Calvin CRC in Le Mars, Iowa, has accepted a call to serve St. Stephen's Anglican Church of Flowood, Mississippi, and will begin to repay the remaining balance of the financial assistance that he received from Classis Iakota.

B. Review of approved funds for 2020-2021 academic year [see chart below]

1. Note: Anna Christians is declining funds for the time being as she received a Trustee Scholarship from Western Theological Seminary which provides 75% of tuition and is renewable for three years provided yearly requirements are met.

C. We recommend a classical ministry share assessment of \$1 per member for 2021.

D. Rev. Cory Van Sloten and Mr. Gerald Van Voorst, along with lay alternate Mr. Orlan Gulker, will complete their second terms on the CMLT in March 2021 and will need to be replaced.

E. Rev. Cory Van Sloten will coordinate bulletin announcements this fall informing churches and prospective students of the work of the CMLT.

F. Next meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Student:	Degree/Institution/Anticipated Graduation/Vocational Goal:	Approved amount:	Support to date: (through May 2020)
Anna Christians Dordt University Covenant CRC Sioux Center	MDiv / Western Theological Seminary / May 2023 Goal: Minister of the Word	\$8,000	\$0
Luke Vander Leest Dordt University First CRC, Sioux Falls	MDiv / Sioux Falls Seminary / May 2025 Goal: Minister of the Word	\$4,000	\$4,000
Total:		\$4,000 (\$4,000 last year)	

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CMLT,
Rev. Cory Van Sloten*

Minn-I-Kota Youth Network Ministry
Report to Classis Iakota
September 15, 2020

Thank you all for the prayers and support for the Minn-I-Kota Youth Network Ministry and for the Faith Formation Ministry. I would also like to thank everyone for taking time to remember all our Graduates during this uncertain and ever changing time. Thank you for “going with the flow” and for praying us through the past 6 months of this pandemic!

WOW! 2020 has been anything but “normal”! At the spring Classis meetings I reported on several events that were still on the school and summer calendar year for 2019-2020! Unfortunately NONE of them happened!

Yet, as we figure out what the new “normal” is...we cherish our many mass Zoom meetings and continue to connect through social media, emails, and phone calls. Through this technology we get a chance to network and learn from each other with each passing week. Let’s continue to thank God for the given opportunities we have to share even at a distance. I heard someone once say, “Even when it is overcast, the sun still shines above the clouds.” That could not be truer with how this year has gone.

This season of restrictions and cancellations has caused MIK Youth to pause and evaluate what the 2020-2021 school year may have in store; it is our desire to provide safe opportunities to reconnect with each other and to personally grow in Christ together.

I hope to meet with as many leaders as possible through a one-on-one/face to face basis or in a small group gathering to hear how your church youth group is and how your group will “do” Youth Ministry this school year. My focus this year will be “Tell Me More”...asking the right questions and listening to each group so I know how to help and how to pray more intentionally with the given circumstances you are faced with.

Does MIK Youth have any big events on the calendar for 2020-2021? As of right now we have the Jr High Retreat scheduled for April 16-18, 2021 at Inspiration Hills. As we get into the school year a little further it is our hope to get a better feel for how things will proceed. So stay tuned!

There is still so much that can be done for you and your youth group, and we want to help in whatever way we can. MIK Youth still has many resources to borrow...faith based movies, games (including 9 square in the air), and curriculum. If there is a topic your youth group would like to study or hear an individual speak about please let MIK Youth know, and we will work through this together. Thank you once again! Take care and God bless you!

Alethea "Lee" De Groot

Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Coordinator & Faith Formation Champion/Executive Team

712-470-4244

1121 Elm Street Hull, IA 51239

mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

CLASSICAL FUNCTIONARIES
As of July 2020

Classical Interim Committee	Serving Until
Rev. S. Groothof	Sept. 2020 (2)
Rev. M. Haan	Sept. 2021 (2)
Rev. B. Haan, <i>ex officio</i>	Mar. 2021 (2)
Rev. J. Lee	Sept. 2020 (1)
_____, alternate	_____
Stated Clerk	
Rev. B. Haan,	Mar. 2021 (2)
Rev. S. Groothof, alternate	Sept. 2020 (2)
Classical Treasurer	
Mr. Robert Van Ruler	Sept. 2021 (2)
Mr. Mick Visser, alternate	Sept. 2021 (2)
Classical Home Missions	
Rev. J. De Boer	Sept. 2021 (1)
Rev. M. Haan	Mar. 2021 (2)
Mr. Piet Koene	Sept. 2021 (2)
Rev. R. Pollema	Sept. 2022 (2)
Mrs. Jacklyn Nieuwendorp	Sept. 2022 (2)
Rev. D. Hoekema	Mar. 2023 (2)
Mr. Gord Dyk	Mar. 2023 (2)
_____, Clergy alternate	_____
_____, Lay alternate	_____
Classical Ministerial Leadership Team	
Rev. C. Van Sloten	Mar. 2021 (2)
Mr. Gerald Van Voorst	Mar. 2021 (2)
Rev. Adam Eisenga	Mar. 2023 (2)
Rev. Doug De Groot	Sept. 2020 (1)
Mr. Robert Van Ruler	Sept. 2021 (1)
Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp	Mar. 2022 (1)
Mr. Orlan Gulker, Lay alternate	Mar. 2021 (2)
_____, Clergy alternate	_____
Classical Safe Church Team (along with Classis Heartland)	
Rev. J. Gorter	Mar. 2021 (1)
Ms. Tara Boer (Coordinator)	Mar. 2022 (1)
• Tara.boer@Dordt.edu; cellphone #: 712-898-6468	
Ms. Heidi Van Roekel	Mar. 2022 (1)
Ms. Heather Buys, Lay Alternate	Mar. 2022 (1)
Rev. Jesse Walhof, Clergy member from Classis Heartland	
Mr. Del Wallinga, Lay member from Classis Heartland	
Minn-I-Kota Youth Board – Ministry Representative	
Rev. H. Lengkeek	Sept. 2021 (1)

Synodical Deputy¹

Rev. Dan De Groot

June 2021 (2)

Rev. G. Wamala, alternate

June 2021 (2)

CHURCH VISITING TEAMS: 2020-2021

Group #1: Bethel, SC / Covenant, SC, / First, SC – Rev. Cal Hoogendoorn

Group #2: Bridge of Hope, SC / Faith, SC / Lebanon – Rev. Joel Kok

Group #3: Inwood / Amistad Cristiana / Rock Rapids – Rev. Gideon Wamala

Group #4: Calvin, RV / First, RV / Trinity, RV – Rev. John Lee

Group #5: First, SF / Cornerstone, SF / Shalom, SF – Rev. Robert Pollema

Group #6: Harrison / New Holland / Platte – Rev. Adam Eisenga

Group #7: Corsica / Lakeview / Rapid City – Pastor Gary Maas

REGIONAL PASTORS

Dakota Churches – Rev. John Gorter

Iowa Churches – Rev. David Smit

DENOMINATIONAL FUNCTIONARIES

From Classis Iakota or District 8

Council of Delegates – CRCNA

Rev. John Lee

Back to God Ministries

Rev. John Lee (as member of Council of Delegates)

Calvin College Board of Trustees

Mr. Jon Kuyers

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees

Rev. Robert Drenten 2021 (1)

Dr. Charles Veenstra

Resonate Global Mission Regional Team

Rev. John Lee (as member of Council of Delegates)

World Renew

Rev. Cliff Hoekstra 2020 (1)

Banner Correspondent

Kyle Hoogendoorn

¹ Per standard procedure, terms of Synodical Deputies and alternates end with the month that Synod meets.

**MINISTERS AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY
IN CLASSIS IAKOTA**

These ministers are either retired or serving in non-parish ministry within Classis Iakota and may be available for pulpit supply. Please contact the Stated Clerk at iakotaclerk@outlook.com to add or delete from this list. For contact information on any of these ministers, please see the CRCNA Yearbook. Ministers who would like their contact information included on this list may contact the Stated Clerk.

1. Rev. Carl Bruxvoort
2. Rev. Jerry Buwalda
3. Rev. Joel De Boer
4. Rev. Dan De Groot
5. Rev. Dale Ellens
6. Rev. Jack Gray
7. Rev. Bernie Haan
8. Rev. Dave Heilman
9. Rev. Carl Klompjen
10. Rev. Dr. Wayne Kobes
11. Rev. Dave Smit
12. Rev. Duane Tinklenberg
13. Rev. Marvin Van Donselaar
14. Rev. Norlyn Van Beek
15. Mr. Stanton Visser
16. Rev. Dr. Carl Zylstra

LICENSED TO EXHORT IN CLASSIS IAKOTA

These individuals are licensed to exhort in Classis Iakota. The date their licensure expires is listed beside their name as is e-mail contact information. If the email address has been changed, or is no longer valid, please contact the Stated Clerk. It is the responsibility of licensees and their overseeing councils to request an extension (typically granted for a period of 2 years).

Dr. Jason Lief (9/2021)	(712) 441-2643	jason.lief@nwciova.edu
Mr. Barry Miedema (3/2022)	(712) 540-8131	barryamiedema@yahoo.com
Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp (9/2021)	(712) 395-8642	nathan.nieuwendorp@gmail.com

LICENSED TO EXHORT IN CLASSIS HEARTLAND

Classis Iakota also recognizes those who are licensed to exhort in Classis Heartland.

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