

Classis Iakota
AGENDA
September 15, 2026 (9:00 A.M.)
Place: First Sioux Falls CRC
Pastor Gary Maas, Chair **Rev. Scott Nichols, Vice-Chair**

I. INITIAL BUSINESS

- A. Opening Devotions (host church)
- B. Presentation of Credentials & Roll Call
 - Signing of the Covenant for Officebearers for those not having done so in 2026
- C. Declaration that Classis is constituted.
- D. Welcome to delegates and other attendees
- E. Adoption of time schedule: 9:00-noon; lunch; 1:00-3:15; break; 3:30-4:30
- F. Tally Committee (provided by the host church)

II. INSTRUCTIONS AND OVERTURES FROM ANY OF THE CHURCHES

III. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS FUNCTIONARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Stated Clerk (p. 2) | F. Classical Treasurer |
| B. Interim Committee (pp. 2-3) | G. Church Visitors |
| C. Classical Missions Team (pp. 3-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report from Areopagus (p. 4)• Report from New Roots (p. 5)• Oral report from Mark Klompfen | H. Church Counselors |
| D. Ministerial Leadership Team | I. Regional Pastors |
| E. Finance Committee (pp. 6-7) | J. Safe Church Team |
| | K. Synodical Delegates' Report (pp. 8-9) |
| | L. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (pp. 10-11) |

IV. ELECTIONS/NOMINATIONS

- A. Classical Interim Committee—a clergy member is needed
- B. Classical Interim Committee—a clergy alternate member is needed
- C. Classical Missions Team—nominees are needed for a lay member
- D. Classical Ministerial Leadership Team—a clergy member is needed
- E. Classical Ministerial Leadership Team—a clergy alternate member is needed

V. CLASSICAL/REGIONAL REPS TO SYNODICAL BOARDS/AGENCIES AND OTHER SPEAKERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. Calvin University | E. Resonate Global Missions |
| B. Calvin Theological Seminary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holly Small | F. Thrive (pp. 12-13) + short video <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lee Carter |
| C. Council of Delegates | G. World Renew |
| D. Dordt University (p. 7) | |

VI. DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT MINISTRY MATTERS (per Church Order Article 41); more details to come later

VII. CLOSING BUSINESS

- A. Items from the Credentials not already addressed
- B. Next Meeting: March 2, 2027 (Calvin CRC in Rock Valley is next in line to host)
- C. Closing Remarks (chairman)
- D. Closing Prayer
- E. Adjournment

Stated Clerk's Report – September 2026

Since the March 2026 meeting of classis, I have handled the following:

- Received and responded to e-mails or phone calls 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 classis
- Updated the list of classical functionaries and posted this and some other documents onto our classical website (classisiakota.org)
- Prepared an agenda for the special classis meeting on July 30 and secured synodical deputies for that meeting
- Attended a Zoom gathering of stated clerks on 7/22 which included a review of decisions made by Synod 2026 as they relate to the handling of classical matters
- Met with the Lakota CIC on 8/11/26 to finalize the planning process for the 9/15 classis meeting and discuss other matters pertaining to the needs of classis
- Prepared the agenda for the 9/15 classis meeting

Classical Interim Committee Report to Classis Lakota – September 2026

Your Classis Interim Committee met on August 11, 2026 and corresponded regularly as to the ongoing needs of classis between meetings. The following business was handled by our team:

1. CIC membership: CIC member Rev. Drew Hoekema has taken a call to a church in classis Chicago South. Drew's term on Lakota's CIC ends in September 2026. Rev. Bob Drenten, as CIC alternate, is completing that term.

Request: that classis elect a new CIC member to replace Rev. Hoekema.

2. Rev. Bob Drenten has resigned from the Council of Delegates. The stated clerk will contact churches to have nominations (with brief biographies) submitted prior to the September meeting of classis.

Request: that classis elect a new delegate to the Council of Delegates.

3. Classical functionaries:
 - a. The CIC advises that classis change our rules of procedure regarding the make-up of the CMT. Our rules of procedure (p. 6, article D, 1) currently state:
This committee shall be composed of seven members: four ministers and three lay members, chosen to a three-year term with at least one minister and one lay member elected each year. CIC advises that we change the article to say:
This committee shall be composed of seven members: three ministers and four lay members, chosen to a three-year term with at least one minister and one lay member elected each year.

Grounds:

1. Lay members of our congregations are both called to mission and are frequently passionate, knowledgeable, and have significant experience with both home and world missions. Increased lay membership gives those members opportunity to share their expertise and experience and serve the classis in this way.

2. We have a great need of classical functionaries and a limited amount of available pastors.

Request: that classis approve this change to our rules of procedure.

b. Vacancies within classical teams:

i. The stated clerk will send an email to chairs of teams reminding them that the teams need to provide nominees to classis to fill vacancies.

ii. Rev. Gary Maas' second CMT term ends, leaving one vacancy on the CMT.

iii. Rev. Kurt Monroe's second term on CMLT ends, leaving one vacancy on the CMLT.

Request: that classis elect new members to fill vacancies on the CMT and CMLT.

4. We discussed assigning the chairman, vice chairman, and agenda items for the September meeting, including tabled motions, report from a synod delegate on synod 2026, Article 41 discussion, and requests from previous meetings as well as requests from agency and institutional representatives to speak at the meeting as well as the location of the spring 2027 meeting.
5. The CIC is engaged in the processing of the transfer of Rev. Drew Hoekema's ministerial credentials.
6. In response to the challenges and needs of the churches of Classis Iakota, the CIC discussed the possibility of changes to the regional pastor position and responsibilities. This will be part of the Church Order Article 41 discussion at the September meeting.
7. Areopagus Campus Ministry has requested that classis Iakota be represented on their board with a member filling a 3 year term. The CIC recommends that we fulfill this request from the ministry.
Request: that classis elect a board member to serve a 3 year term on the board of directors of the Areopagus Campus Ministry at Iowa State University.

Classical Missions Team Report for Fall 2026

The Classical Mission Team met on July 2, at Shalom CRC.

We received reports from:

- Pastor Mark Klompier - missionary to Nepal
- Pastor Fred Wilgenburg - New Roots Ministry
- Pastor Keo - Siouxland Unity CRC in Sioux City
- Pastor Scott Van Voorst - Cornerstone Prison Ministry

Each of the reports were informative and encouraging. Pastor Mark Klompier also presented a possible opportunity to work with the ministry in Nepal by securing land and a structure to house the seminary.

A motion was made, supported and passed to support the following ministries at the level presented.

Areopagus Campus Ministry at Ames Iowa- \$7,000

Geneva Campus Ministry at Iowa City - \$6,900

Prairie Light - \$5,000

New Roots - \$16,000

Siouxland Unity - \$24,000

Cornerstone - \$30,000

Amistad - \$20,000

Klompens in Nepal - \$20,000

Helfers in South Africa - \$6000

During the past six months we have approved mission projects of \$5,000 for Amistad and Trinity CRC.

We look forward to more opportunities to assist in ministry and to hear what God is doing through His church.

Gary Maas

Report from Areopagus

31 July 2026

Dear Classis,

The Psalmist confesses to the Lord, *"Our times are in your hands."* (Psalm 31:15). Lora and Areopagus are trusting the Lord of our times, as they begin to move into a new season. After four years of growing together, Lora announced a few weeks ago that she will be stepping down from this full time ministry in order to take up a fuller role with the denominational magazine, *The Banner*.

Lora and Joel are so grateful to the students, the donor groups, the board and the ISU community for being such a wonderful group among which to minister.

Meanwhile, the Areopagus board has received interest in our posted job description and has begun interviews in earnest. (Praise the Lord!) Please pray for these transitions —especially as we prepare for a new students arriving for the Fall semester and as we depend on the Lord's leading in this search for our new director.

Thank you for your partnership and encouragement through these years. Ruth 2:12

May the Lord richly return all the kindness you've blessed our ministry and students with! To Jesus be all the praise and glory!

Lora A. Copley

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out... My new email - lcopley@crcna.org
Same cell: 505-387-6861



New Roots Ministry Report for Fall 2026

Thank-you, Classis Iakota, for tremendous support for New Roots Ministry, now in its 20th year!

The family of God is growing through the efforts of New Roots Ministry:

- Fuad passed away a few months ago due to failing health largely caused by alcoholism. His family is originally from Bosnia, and most of the roughly 700 Bosnians in Sioux Falls identify as Muslim. I was blessed to lead the graveside service for Fuad, whom I would describe as perhaps being spiritually at the level of the thief on the cross—believing but not understanding much. I trust that by God's grace, Fuad, who really appreciated our prayers, is now in the paradise Jesus referred to; that is between God and Fuad. A few weeks after his dad's passing, **Suad**, the 35-year old son, **told me that** after all of his reading and our talking, **Jesus is his Savior and Lord**. I believe Suad will become an effective witness among the Bosnian people.
- Ujal is a 20-year old who is originally from Nepal. He somehow made it through rebellious teenage years, to receive Jesus as his Savior last year. Life continues to be difficult, especially financially, as he and his girlfriend have a baby daughter, and he is having to pay fines for some of the reckless actions of his life. Ujal is the first Christian in a large Nepali Hindu family. It has been challenging to consistently disciple Ujal, as his life is busy with work, it is quite unorganized, and he lacks in timely communication, but I believe God will shine through Ujal to the rest of his family, which has been a common pattern for Nepali people coming to faith.
- Amadu is a 20-year old and a new believer within a Muslim family. His older brother, Ibrahim, is in prison and is strongly considering coming to know God personally. These were the two most troubled members of their family of eight. My prayer is that the rest of the family sees the newly transformed lives of Amadu and Ibrahim as of God, and they desire a taste of that. We know the parents well, so we will continue walking with the whole family.
- We could share more stories like those....AND most of them arise through relationships developed through our ministries like Liaison work, driver training, workplace chaplaincy, Timothy Leadership Training, and empowering immigrant churches.

Many are being equipped and enriched with Gospel sharing training and cross-cultural experiences.

- Specifically, 10 groups from churches and mission agencies have hung out with New Roots Ministry this year for cross-cultural experiences, and/or Gospel conversation training. Two of these groups came through CRC's Resonate, and were largely El Salvadoran and Chinese. Another group will likely hang out yet this year.

Finance Committee Report

September 15, 2026

The Finance Committee met August 11, 2026. Members Eric Maas, Darrel Raih, and Rev. Bob Drenten were present, joined by Treasurer Bob Van Ruler (ex officio) and Classis Mission Team liaison Leonard Hoekstra.

Matters at Hand

- The following funds have now been consolidated into the Mission Opportunities Fund: *Church Grant Fund, Mission Renewal Fund, New Church Start Fund, Funds for Church Plant*. Classis Iakota holds additional funds under the care of the Classis Mission Team which are available for future church planting we may pursue.
- The committee has worked closely with the treasurer over the past several months to reconcile a handful of bookkeeping discrepancies that were discovered. By the end of this calendar year the balances of all funds held by Classis Iakota will reflect these corrections. In all cases, the corrected balances are a bit higher than those previously reported.
- The Safe Church Coordinator stipend for 2026 remained at a total of \$2,000, shared equally by Classes Heartland and Iakota. In September 2026, our committee mistakenly recommended an amount of \$2,500 to be paid by *each* classis. While Classis Iakota adopted that recommendation, Classis Heartland did not. After consulting with Classis Heartland, our committee will recommend a 2027 stipend of \$3,000 shared by *both* classes; that is, each classis would contribute \$1,500.
- The committee continued to explore ways to update and enhance our care for the funds of Classis Iakota. At present we have been unsuccessful in securing a candidate for alternate treasurer. Additionally, we have not been able to migrate our accounting to any computer-based tools. We are exploring the feasibility of outsourcing our bookkeeping and modifying the treasurer's job description to more of an administrative role.
- The committee expects to review the proposed 2027 Budget for Classis Iakota as the treasurer is able to compile it once all reports have been submitted from its committees and supported ministries. To date, these are in hand:
 - Dordt University – Requests \$72.65 per confessing member in 2027.
 - Minn-I-Kota Youth Network – Requests \$24,000 total support in 2027.
 - Safe Church Coordinator – Requests \$1,500 from Classis Iakota in 2027.
- The committee reviewed items funded by the Classical Expense Fund. The following will be recommended for approval:
 - Classis Iakota Stated Clerk Stipend 2027 - \$4,000. This is an increase from \$3,500 in 2026, reflecting the increasing expectations of stated clerks throughout the denomination and the value provided by their services.
 - Classis Iakota Treasurer Stipend 2027 - \$4,000. This is an increase from \$3,500 in 2026, reflecting increasing responsibilities of our classical treasurer and the value of this service.
 - Classis Host Church Meal Reimbursement - \$19 per plate in 2027.

Recommendations

1. That Classis Iakota approves the following stipend and reimbursement amounts for 2027:
 - a. Stated Clerk - \$4,000.
 - b. Classis Treasurer - \$4,000.
 - c. Host Church Meal Reimbursement - \$19 per plate.
 - d. Safe Church Coordinator - \$1,500 (Classis Iakota 50% share of total).

Grounds

1. The stipend amounts help reflect the level of responsibility and the value received by classis from its functionaries.
 2. The meal reimbursement aligns with national, federal guidance, per policy adopted by Classis Iakota.
- 2. That Classis Iakota sets the Classical Expense Fund 2027 ministry share amount at \$3.50 per confessing member.**

Grounds

- a. This amount more closely aligns income and expense amounts anticipated in 2027.
 - b. This is the amount approved by classis for 2025 and is in keeping with the historically approved level of funding for its expenses.
- 3. That Classis Iakota approve these requests for its supported ministries in 2027:**
- a. **Dordt University - \$72.65 per confessing member** (see letter below)
 - b. **Minn-I-Kota Youth Network - \$24,000 from Classis Iakota** (see report below)

Grounds

- a. These have been historically supported by Classis Iakota through long-standing agreements.
 - b. Classis charges its Finance Committee with presenting these requests.
- 4. That Classis Iakota approves the work of its Finance Committee.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bob Drenten, Chairman
Darrel Raih
Eric Maas

Leonard Hoekstra, *ex officio* Classical Mission Team Liaison
Treasurer Bob Van Ruler, *ex officio*
August 4, 2026

Letter from Dordt University

Dear Stated Clerk,

Greetings from Dordt University!

As we approach a new academic year, we are thankful for your commitment to partner with us as we keep our covenant promises to provide an education where a “biblical, Reformed vision of Christ’s lordship over all creation is clearly taught” (c.f. Art 71, Church Order of the CRCNA).

We remain firmly committed to the Founders Vision which stated that, “An education that is Christian not merely in the sense that devotional exercises are appended to the ordinary work of the college, but in the larger and deeper sense that all the class work, all of the students' intellectual, emotional, and imaginative activities shall be permeated with the spirit and teaching of Christianity.”

Dordt University is financially healthy, balancing careful stewardship of our current assets with investment in future growth and sustainability. Our current needs stem largely from increased enrollment: new residential living spaces to accommodate growing numbers of students, new or upgraded facilities to meet our educational needs, and qualified faculty who can effectively communicate Dordt's mission.

Long-term support from churches and classes continues to be essential to that health. Our alumni are also generous supporters — 21.4% make some level of donation to Dordt University, compared to a 7% national average.

Matching the Dordt University fiscal year of 2026-2027 the ministry share request is **\$72.65** (per professing member). This figure was determined by looking at a combination of factors: student enrollment, professing members in historically supporting classes, and carefully evaluating the costs related to Christian higher education.

Your investment in Dordt University has consistently produced tangible results by equipping generations of faithful, Christ-following leaders for the church and world.

Thank you again for your faithful support both in prayer and gifts. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Serving with you,

Todd Zuidema
Director of Church Relations
todd.zuidema@dordt.edu

Synodical Delegates' Report 2026

The Lord is on the move with the gospel of Christ Jesus in the CRC.

That theme was heard in some way in every speech and floor motion, Advisory committee report and plenary session. The Lord is truly on the move in our denomination and in our churches; Praise the Lord!

Some true highlights from Synod:

1. As a denomination we have committed ourselves to Church growth and renewal over the new decade. This commitment is for all 948 churches to grow and look for ways to plant 150 additional churches and see renewal in all churches. This is a great vision, and we should pray fervently for this as a body.
 - a. This is particularly important as 500 churches in our denomination have fallen below 70 attending.
 - b. Our prayer would be that in the next decade that most of these churches would reach 150 attending weekly.
2. Synod will continue to meet annually.

3. The CRC has withdrawn its membership from the WCRC. This is a huge statement as we are both founding members and large contributors. But the WCRC has become a place where abortion is promoted, God's Word is no longer seen as infallible, and its member denominations no longer see Jesus as the only way to eternal life. We pray that this organization will repent. But it was necessary that we removed ourselves from this unfaithful group to focus our efforts on faithful partnerships.
4. *Our World belongs to God* was removed from the covenant for officebearers. This is a great thing as it was bringing confusion to our understanding of the three forms of unity.
5. The Dignity team will come to a close, as its work is already accomplished by other agencies in the denomination.
6. The Ecclesiastical governance chair will be an ex officio member of the program committee.
7. Membership in the CRC remains confessional.
8. We continued to emphasize accountability to the Classis and Synod where office bearers need ongoing discipleship.
9. Rules were ironed out for multi-site churches to exist and flourish as part of a church planting strategy.
10. Exceptions for Classis Red Mesa for electing officebearers was struck from the church order.
11. New servant Leaders were appointed for the Banner, Thrive, and ReFrame. In addition, a new Old Testament professor was approved for Calvin Theological Seminary.
12. Speaking of the Seminary they were able to show their new dorm for seminary housing. Even as they celebrate the final year of the current president.
13. Greater transparency will now be seen in the denominational finances including how many employees and the budgets of each agency.

Two study committees were appointed.

The first is to study Christian Nationalism.

Second is a study committee put forth to look at restricting classes throughout the denomination.

Items that remain ongoing:

1. Calvin University was unwilling to give reason and ground for indefinite exemptions for faculty to our three forms of unity.
 - a. They did make strides this past year, but there is still a long way to go.
2. The denomination currently has 123 FTE which is far too many for a denomination our size. This will need to be reduced to be between 25-40 in the years to come to be in line with similar Reformed denominations.

Overall, Synod 2026 was a very productive Synod. We praise the Lord for faithful direction, decisions, and drive. We look forward to see how the whole of the denomination lives into the decisions made, particularly the church renewal and church planting goals. Thank you for each prayer offered for the whole of Synod and for Benjamin and I, personally.

Blessings,

Pastor Matt Haan

Minn-I-Kota Youth Network Report

BOARD MEMBERS:

MINNKOTA : Representative-Pastor Greg Timmer-9/2022, Karmen Vis-Secretary-9/2017, Rachel Guthmiller.

IAKOTA: Representative-Pastor Scott Van Voorst-9/2024, Dan Elgersma-President-1/2019, Shelli Kollis-1/2020.

HEARTLAND: Representative-Pastor Ben Wiersma-9/2021, Kody Tesch-Treasurer-11/2019, Scott de Boom-9/2024.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM EACH OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF MIK MINISTRY:

1.JR HIGH RETREAT: 2026 was our 16th Annual JHR. We had 85 in attendance from: **SUPPORTING CHURCHES:** Rock Valley Calvin CRC, Rock Valley Trinity CRC, Rock Valley 1st CRC, Sioux Center Faith CRC, Orange City Imm CRC, Sioux Center Bridge of Hope CRC, Sioux Falls 1st CRC, Sioux Center Bethel CRC, Hull 1st CRC, Rock Rapids CRC, Ireton CRC. **VISITING CHURCHES:** Doon URC, Doon 1st Ref, Sioux Center URC. **FUN FACTS:** 3 of our Dordt University Student Leaders went through as Jr High Students and 2 of our DU Student Leaders had siblings go through this retreat. **THIS YEAR'S THEME & THEME SONG WERE FOCUSED ON THE RED LETTERS OF THE BIBLE:** Jesus said, **"If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH will set you free."** John 8:31-32 and our theme song this year was **"Antient Words"**.

2.HIGH SCHOOL: We continued to travel to supporting churches throughout the spring semester, either leading one of our Travelling Lesson Plans or our Traveling Escape Room.

3.MIK + POST HIGH SINGLE YOUNG ADULTS: We finished our Bible Study on the book of Ephesians. Thank you to Inwood IA CRC for letting us use their Youth Room and Kitchen one Saturday night a month for our Bible Study Nights. On our 'Off' Saturday nights we enjoyed hanging out doing various activities: bowling in Luverne and out for pizza together, game night and meal at our house, and we also did a "Bob Ross Painting Night" led by Karinda De Boom at WCHS art room.

ADD THESE DATES TO THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR: ONE FOR EACH OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE MIK MINISTRY:

1. JR HIGH 17th ANNUAL RETREAT: APRIL 16-18, 2027 @ INSPIRATION HILLS.

2.HIGH SCHOOL: BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR KICK OFF AT THUNDER ROAD IN SIOUX FALLS, SD. Friday night August 28 at 11pm-Saturday morning August 29 at 4am. We will meet at TR at 11pm-11:30pm to check in. From 11:30pm-1:30am we will enjoy the activities outdoors. From 1:30am-2am we will have devotions and pizza/pop. From 2am-4am we will get to play all the indoor games. It is \$38/person for 5 hours of fun and reconnecting with other CR Churches that support the MIK Youth.

3.MIK+ POST HIGH YOUNG SINGLE ADULT: We will be trying something "new" that is old.... we will be studying the book of James through Lectio Divina. And then we will make a list of what we all, individually, pondered...we then apply this knowledge and understanding to an activity or service project in our communities/region. We are hoping this will help us slow down, read a portion of scripture, re-read the same portion of scripture, meditate, pray over this scripture, listen, and then take notes from what we are hearing from this scripture. We will then share our notes and insight. It would be our intention then to think of ways for the MIK+ group of young adults to bring these shared ideas into our communities through service projects.

Stay connected to the Minnikota Youth & MIK+ ministries through our facebook page...Minnikota Youth. We continue to ask for your prayers as we navigate through another school year serving you, your church, the Youth Leaders/Youth Pastors/Youth Director, and our Covenant Youth of the region. Thank you for your support!

Pastor Doug & Lee De Groot-Youth Coordinators

MINN-I-KOTA YOUTH Budget	2022 Approved Budget	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Approved Budget	2025 Approved Budget	2026 Approved Budget	2027 Proposed Budget
INCOME:						
Church Offerings	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Classis Reimbursement	\$45,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$72,000.00
Retreats and Events	\$17,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$10,000.00
Future Ministries Gift				\$895.00	\$1,602.78	\$2,503.91
Miscellaneous						
Total Income:	\$64,000.00	\$76,500.00	\$75,500.00	\$85,395.00	\$85,602.78	\$85,503.91
EXPENSES						
Total Salary and Benefits	\$38,592.00	\$46,949.76	\$49,105.00	\$49,350.17	\$51,222.78	\$54,808.37
				Lee Base \$37,065.17	Lee Base \$38,547.78	Lee Base (7%) \$41,246.12
				Doug Base \$12,285.00	Doug Base \$12,675.00	Doug Base (7%) \$13,562.25
Insurance for Lee				\$6,000.00	\$6,600.00	\$7,200.00
Klein & Klein	\$1,275.00	\$1,515.00	\$1,515.00	\$1,515.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Mileage	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,500.00
Youth Leader Training/Networking	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00
Youth Retreat and Events	\$26,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00
Resources, Supplies, Promotions:	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$2,700.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Website	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$320.00	\$530.00	\$530.00	\$570.00
Miscellaneous	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
Trailer Maintenance			\$200.00			
Total Expense:	\$74,417.00	\$74,764.76	\$75,290.00	\$85,395.00	\$85,602.78	\$85,503.91
		balance:	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Dear Classis Iakota,

At Thrive, we hold a clear and joyful vision of what a healthy, flourishing congregation can be: a community gathered under the loving reign of Christ, shaped by His Word, nourished by His Spirit, and sent into the world to bear witness to His reconciling mission. We see congregations as spiritual households rooted in worship, growing in lifelong discipleship, ordered for mutual care, marked by holiness, and engaging their neighbors compassionately with the good news of Jesus Christ. Thrive's calling is to journey alongside congregations as a humble companion, strengthening their worship, leadership, community life, embodied hospitality, and mission so that they may embody the good news of Jesus Christ faithfully and fruitfully in their particular contexts.

We're excited to play a role in the CRCNA's renewal and church planting efforts over the next several years through Thriving Congregations, an initiative designed to help your church leaders connect - with each other, with your local community, and with other congregations who share your ministry passions. By joining this renewal journey, your church will learn to refresh your vision, understand your mission, deepen your discipleship, and develop practical steps to live into the ways God has uniquely gifted your congregation. Thriving Congregations is about meaningful conversations and flourishing as you discern where God is leading you next. Our team is eager to journey alongside you in this renewal journey!

Thrive remains committed to our mission to equip and encourage congregations with the tools you need to flourish. Our hope is that you will be quick to approach us with questions, requests for support or resources, and stories of how God is working in your local context.

May God bless you richly as you continue to follow His leading in your ministry.

Peace to you,

Dr. Lee Carter
Director, Thrive

**Additional Information from Henry Meurs
Midwest Regional Connector for Thrive**

Elder Essentials

Elder Essentials is now available! This course closely follows ordination forms to equip new and experienced Elders to embrace their missional call. Participants will be equipped to have a deeper understanding of the unique role of Elders, gain tools to nurture a healthy, thriving congregation through preaching, sacraments, fellowship, faith formation, and gospel witness, and articulate how to participate in God's mission as it is embodied in your local church. Thrive will make one free copy available to every congregation this fall. To order additional workbooks, talk to your Regional Connector or visit crcna.org/elder-essentials

Thriving Essentials

Thriving Essentials is an interactive course that is renewing congregations and reenergizing engaged members across our denomination. Hosted in your own church and led by a qualified Thrive facilitator, participants will explore four core concepts of a healthy ministry: Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Alignment and clarity on these key foundations can bring renewed energy to a church's ministry. Inquire at crcna.org/ThrivingCongregations/thriving-essentials

Support for Vacant Congregations

Is your church in the middle of a vacancy or looking ahead to one? We can help! In transitional seasons such as vacancy, Thrive is able to come alongside congregations to help you be aware of unique needs that may arise, understand what may be going on in the hearts and minds of church members, and support wise decision-making for next steps. Talk to your Regional Connector or email thrive@crcna.org.