

Classis Iakota
MINUTES
March 5, 2019
Shalom CRC – Sioux Falls, SD

Art. 3467: The meeting begins with a time of worship being led by Kyle De Young, the pastor of the host church, who uses the theme of Philippians to help set the tone for the day’s meeting: that of humility, extreme service and love for others, seeking to know Christ and nurturing our relationship with Christ, experiencing joy and vibrancy in the midst of trials and challenges, and knowing that the Lord is always with us. The time of worship also includes prayer and the singing of “To God be the Glory,” and “How Great is Our God.”

Art. 3468: Presentation of Credentials and Roll Call

<u>Churches</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Corsica	Dan De Graff	Dan Noteboom	Dick Borderwyk
Harrison	Gary Maas	Marlin Maas	Kent Spoelstra
Inwood	Adam Eisenga	Nathan Nieuwendorp*	Chris Patterson
New Holland	John Gorter	Delwin Feenstra	Ben Kroese
Platte	Drew Hoekema	Keith Sybesma	Curt Pheifer*
Rapid City – Hope	Paul Birnbaum		
Rock Rapids	Cliff Hoekstra	Ron Vander Veen	
Rock Valley – Calvin		Corwin Harthoorn	Matt Kooima*
		Dave Ver Burg*	
Rock Valley – First	Matthew Haan	Mark Vant Hul*	Rob Jensen*
Rock Valley – Trinity	Stanley Groothof	Leon Vanden Bosch	Jason De Groot*
Amistad Christiana	Eddy Olguin	Daniel Sanchez	Elizabeth Anzia*
Sioux Center – Bethel	John Lee	Dave Tinklenberg	Mick Visser*
Sioux Center – Bridge of Hope	Joel De Boer	Judy Dirkse	Jeris Vande Zandschulp
Sioux Center – Covenant	Joel Kok*	Steve Holtrop	Carol Oostra
Sioux Center – Faith	Bob Pollema	Lyle Gritters*	Steve Boer*
Sioux Center – First		Dennis De Kruyf	David Vander Tuin*
		Will Maas	
Sioux Center – Lebanon	Cory Van Sloten	Dan Dunn*	Jaron Van Beek
Sioux Falls – Cornerstone Prison	Doug De Groot	Bob Schunneman	Gordon Dyk
Sioux Falls – First	Cal Hoogendoorn	Virg De Jongh	Carl Van Stryland*
Sioux Falls – Shalom	Kyle De Young	Dave Pluim*	Chris Dieleman*
Valentine – Lakeview (the delegates from Lakeview are unable to attend due to severe weather in their area)			

*Indicates first time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers

Art. 3469: Classis is declared constituted by Gary Maas, the Chairperson of the day, with the following councils recording their protest of the seating of women delegates, seeing this as a violation of the Word of God: New Holland CRC, Platte CRC, Calvin Rock Valley CRC, First Rock Valley CRC. Adam Eisenga serves as Vice-chair and Bernie Haan as Clerk for the meeting.

Art. 3470: The Chair welcomes the delegates and visitors. The Chair appoints the delegates from the Faith CRC of Sioux Center to serve as the Credentials and Article 41 Committee, and he appoints John Gorter to handle the prayer concerns.

Art. 3471: The Chair notes the time schedule for the day (9-11:45, lunch, 1-3:15, coffee, 3:30-)

Art. 3472: The overture from First, Rock Valley regarding Resonate Global missionaries being placed into individual Classes is presented and acted on (see Agenda, p. 3).

- A. **Motion** to approve the overture from the Council of the First Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley, Iowa, to recommend that Synod place all Resonate Global missionaries into individual Classis’s for funding, support and care.

Grounds:

1. Our denominational missionaries are not called by God to fundraise first and provide ministry second.
2. Our missionaries have to raise a large majority of their own support prior to going on the mission field.
3. 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.
4. This would provide greater transparency and accountability between churches and missionaries and open new possibilities for stronger mutual support.
5. Lastly this would drastically reduce the travel time and expenses that are currently required for going across all of North America. In this way the missionary families could experience rest and renewal prior to going back to the mission field.
6. For those Classis's that struggle to support one missionary they could be shared with another adjoining Classis.
7. Our goal would be to get more funded missionaries in the field.

-Adopted

Art. 3473: The overture from the Council of the Corsica CRC regarding recommendation 20 of the Synod Review Task Force is presented and acted on (see Agenda, pp. 3-4).

- A. **Motion** to approve the overture from the Corsica CRC to overture Synod 2019 to not accede to recommendation 20 of the Synod Review Task Force.

Grounds:

1. Classis Iakota and other classes have experienced disagreement regarding individual churches having women in office as delegates to classical and synodical meetings. The denomination officially recognizes that there are biblical grounds for both the positions to allow women in office as well as to not allow. To require every classis to potentially send at least one woman delegate would create hardship or a burden on the consciences of those classes which do not permit women as delegates or who are not able to find a woman delegate.
2. Classis Iakota and other classes are made of local congregations that are predominantly monocultural. In many places, this reflects the cultural, racial, and ethnic make-up of the communities they are located in. We are not against diversity or striving to reflect the all nations, languages, tribes, and races make-up that we believe Christ's kingdom to include. We, local congregations and classes, should be encouraged to pursue welcoming and including ethnic minorities in our congregations, and if qualified and called by God, to include those members in our leadership. However, with a limited number of people from ethnic minorities in our churches currently, a "requirement" to have an ethnic minority as part of our delegation, particularly if a classis will not send a woman, is an unnecessary burden.

3. The SRTF offers no protocol or option if a classis is unable or unwilling to send either a woman or an ethnic minority person. It's unclear but assumed, if this is a requirement, that classes which are unable or unwilling to send such a delegate, then they may only send three delegates rather than four. The addition of deacon delegates has noticeably been a hardship for some classes since their addition, resulting in some classes not being able to send a full delegation and thus not having an equal voice. This recommendation would create an unnecessary change to synodical practice limiting certain classes.

-Adopted

Art. 3474 The request from the Council of the Trinity CRC of Rock Valley to approve a job description for a Commissioned Pastor is presented and acted upon (see Agenda, pp. 5-6).

- A. **Motion** to approve the establishment of need and the job description for a Commissioned Pastor with Cornerstone Prison Church and Living Stone Prison Ministry as requested by the Trinity CRC Council, with the view to calling Stanton Visser to serve in this role.

-Adopted

The Synodical Deputies concur with this decision.

Art. 3475: The Stated Clerk's Report (see Agenda, p. 2) is noted and an additional verbal report is given

- A. **Motion** to approve the work of the Stated Clerk

-Adopted

Art. 3476: The Classical Interim Committee Report is presented by Stanley Groothof (see Agenda, p. 7-9).

- A. Regarding the formation of a Classical Safe Church Team.

1. **Motion** that Classis Iakota develop a Safe Church Team jointly with Classis Heartland.

-Adopted

2. **Motion** to approve the mandate for the Safe Church Team as proposed by the Interim Committees of Classis Iakota and Classis Heartland.

-Adopted

3. **Motion** to approve the Safe Church Team consisting of a coordinator, and a clergy member and lay member from each classis.

-Adopted

4. **Motion** to approve the position of a Safe Church Team Coordinator along with the job description and stipend as proposed by the Interim Committees of Classis Iakota and Heartland.

-Adopted

5. **Motion** to approve the appointment of Tara Boer to serve as the Safe Church Team Coordinator.

-Adopted

6. **Motion** to approve the nomination of John Gorter to serve a two-year term on the Safe Church Team as the clergy member from Classis Iakota.

-Adopted

- B. Regarding an overture addressing issues of abuse of power in the CRCNA received from Ms. Judy De Wit.

1. **Motion** to declare this overture out of order because its submission did not follow procedure in that it was not acted upon by the church council in which the author was a member.

-Adopted

- C. A survey from the Classis Renewal Advisory Team about a possible change to the name "classis" is distributed, and the delegates are encouraged to fill it out and return it to the secretary of the CIC by the end of the day.

Art. 3477: Elections/action taken throughout the course of the day renders the following results:

- A. Classical Ministerial Leadership Team Lay Member – Nathan Nieuwendorp
- B. Ministerial Delegate to Synod 2019 (by rotation) – Stanley Groothof
- C. Ministerial Alternate Delegate to Synod 2019 (by rotation) – John Lee
- D. Elder Delegate to Synod 2019 – Gerald Zwart (note: no elder nominees were submitted on the credentials from any council or at the meeting; this nominee from Inwood CRC was submitted after the classis meeting concluded and was approved by the CIC)
- E. Elder Alternate Delegate to Synod 2019 – unfilled
- F. Deacon Delegate to Synod 2019 – David Van Schouwen
- G. Deacon Alternate Delegate to Synod 2019 – unfilled
- H. Fourth Officebearer Delegate to Synod 2019 – Adam Eisenga
- I. Fourth Officebearer Alternate Delegate to Synod 2019 – Cal Hoogendoorn

Art. 3478: Classical Home Missions Team Report is presented by Drew Hoekema (see Agenda, p. 9)

- A. Jack Gray reports for the Church Plant sub-committee (see Agenda, p. 10).
 - 1. **Motion** to dismiss the Church Plant sub-committee with thanks.

-Adopted

- B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Home Missions Committee

-Adopted

Art. 3479: Classical Ministerial Leadership Team Report is given by Cory Van Sloten (see Agenda, p.11).

- A. **Motion** to grant Adam Ramirez, at his request, an additional \$500 for the 2018-19 school year. *-Adopted*
- B. **Motion** to approve the funds for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of \$3,500 to \$7,000 (depending on which institution he attends) for Luke Vander Leest. *-Adopted*
- C. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team *-Adopted*

Art. 3480: Church Visitor reports are received regarding ...

- A. the visit made to the Bethel CRC of Sioux Center by Cal Hoogendoorn and Jerry Buwalda (written report on file with the Stated Clerk)
- B. the visit made to the Covenant CRC of Sioux Center by Cal Hoogendoorn and Jerry Buwalda (written report on file with the Stated Clerk)
- C. the visit made to the Cornerstone Prison Church in Sioux Falls by Bob Pollema and an elder (oral report).
- D. the visit made to Bridge of Hope Ministries of Sioux Center by Dan De Graff and an elder (oral report)
- E. the visit made to the Lebanon CRC of rural Sioux Center by Dan De Graff and an elder (oral report)
- F. **Motion** to approve the work of the Church Visitors *-Adopted*

Art. 3481: Church Counselor Reports

- A. Carl Klompfen reports as the counselor for the First, Sioux Center CRC, sharing with the delegates the joyful news that Rev. Kurt Monroe, from Binghamton, NY, has accepted their call to serve as their pastor, with installation to take place sometime in June.
- B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Church Counselors *-Adopted*

Art. 3482: Regional Pastor Report

A. John Gorter, the regional pastor for the pastors in the South Dakota churches, gives a brief oral report.

B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Regional Pastors *-Adopted*

Art. 3483: The Classical Treasurer's Report is given by Robert Van Ruler

A. The Treasurer's Report for 2018 is distributed and various items within the report are noted.

B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Treasurer *-Adopted*

Art. 3484: The Siouxland Diaconal Conference Report is given by Rick Droog and Cliff Hoekstra (see Agenda pp. 12-13).

A. **Motion** to commend this ministry for its ongoing work within our region. *-Adopted*

Art. 3485: Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Report is given by Lee De Groot.

A. **Motion** to commend this ministry for its ongoing work within our region. *-Adopted*

Art. 3486: Dave Heilman, representing Inspiration Hills, is given the opportunity to address the delegates for a few minutes and concludes the morning session with prayer.

Art. 3487: The afternoon session begins with Classis entering into strict executive session to address two personal appeals from a couple of decisions made by a council within our classis.

A. **Motion** that Classis Iakota not sustain the appeals of this individual. *-Adopted*

B. Minutes of this strict executive session are on file with the stated clerk and may be accessed only upon request from and approval of the Classical Interim Committee.

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

Art. 3488: Classis concludes the strict executive session; visitors are welcomed back to the meeting.

Art. 3489: The Spring 2019 Calvin Theological Seminary Board Report is distributed and noted.

Art. 3490: Council of Delegates Report is given by John Lee who focuses on three items from the highlights of the February 21-22 meeting:

- The COD's review of a revised version of the Ministry Share Reimagined Report (initiated by Classis Iakota) which is being recommended to Synod 2019 for adoption
- The communication to U.S. stated clerks to provide nominations for a new committee to provide guidance and advice to the Office of Social Justice
- The COD's review of the Abuse of Power Committee Report which is scheduled to be presented to Synod 2019

Art. 3491: The Resonate Global Mission Report is noted (see Agenda pp. 14-15)

Art. 3492: The World Renew Report is given by Cliff Hoekstra.

Art. 3493: The Credentials and Article 41 committee reports that the credentials are in order.

Art. 3494: Chairperson Gary Maas thanks Shalom CRC for their hospitality and thanks the delegates for their gracious attention and spirit of unity.

Art. 3495: John Gorter leads the delegates in a closing prayer, including in his prayer are items of thanks and praise as well as matters of concern that have been brought out through the course of the meeting.

Art.3496: Classis adjourns. The meeting concludes with the singing of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.”

Rev. Bernie Haan
Stated Clerk