

Classis Iakota
AGENDA
Special Session July 30, 2026; 6:30pm
First CRC in Sioux Falls, SD
Robert Drenten, Chairman
Kurt Monroe, Vice Chair

I. INITIAL BUSINESS

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Presentation of Credentials & Roll Call
- C. Signing of the Covenant for Office Bearers by new 2026 delegates
- D. Declaration that Classis is constituted.
- E. Welcome to the delegates, the Synodical Deputies, and any visitors

II. FAITH CRC REQUESTS APPROVAL OF BIBLE & THEOLOGY TEACHER POSITION (Art. 12-C)

- Mission Statement and Job Description (pp. 2-3)
- Concurrence from Synodical Deputies is needed

III. CORNERSTONE CRC REQUESTS APPROVAL to CALL ARC PASTOR (Art. 8, Supplement G)

- Cover Letter and Job Description (pp. 4-5)
- Concurrence from Synodical Deputies is needed

IV. BETHEL CRC REQUESTS RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONED PASTOR POSITION (Art. 23-A)

- Presentation of the Ministry Need (pp. 7-8)
- Job Description for a Church-planting Missionary (pp.8-10)
- Concurrence from Synodical Deputies is needed

V. SHALOM CRC REQUESTS the EXAMINATION OF ERIC AASEN for LICENSE TO EXHORT

- Introduction of the applicant
- Applicant addresses Classis on a Scripture text
- Applicant is examined as to Knowledge of Doctrine and Holy Scriptures, Christian Ethics, and Practica
- Upon motion to grant licensure, classis discusses and acts on the motion in executive session

VI. MISCELLANEOUS (time permitting)

- A. Church Counselor Reports
- B. Report from the Delegates to Synod 2026
- C. Possible follow-up matters

VII. CLOSING BUSINESS

- A. Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson
- B. Closing Prayer
- C. Adjournment

Next Meeting is Tuesday, September 15 at First Sioux Falls CRC.

Unity Christian High School Mission Statement

“Proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord of all, we provide a Biblically based education to guide and equip young people to serve both God and neighbor in all aspects of life.”

5101 Philosophy of Education

At Unity Christian High School, we believe that the Creator and Ruler of the universe makes Himself known through the creation, through history, and most clearly, through His infallible Word--the Bible. The Bible and the Reformed Confessional Standards drawn from the Bible provide the basis of our instruction.

The Bible teaches that God has established a special relationship or covenant with believers and their children. The connection between this covenantal relationship and education began when God gave parents the responsibility to train their children in the way of the Lord. As an extension of the home, we believe the responsibility of educating the total child is best achieved when the home, school, and church work in a dynamic partnership.

The Bible teaches that the heavens, the earth and all that is in them belong to the Lord. Although sin has spoiled everything He made, God has begun a grand project to restore and reclaim it all. Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we are an academic community dedicated to equipping students to be effective servants, disciples, and ambassadors for Him in His plan for redeeming the world.

5102 Student Learning Goals

- All students will develop a redemptive, God-centered worldview.
- All students will cultivate spiritual discernment.
- All students, as image bearers of God living in community with others, will value and respect the individual.
- All students will be prepared for the stewardly application of life's vocational and educational opportunities.
- All students will be effective communicators.
- All students will learn how to think critically.
- All students will become life-long, self-directed learners.

5103 The Knight's Armor

The Knight's Armor are 11 common language characteristics we infuse in our curriculum in the classroom and in all our school programs.

1. God-worshippers – those who offer up their entire, ordinary life to God as an act of worship and pursue a relationship with God and other believers through shared worship experiences.
2. Community-builders – those who pursue and build communal shalom and joy.
3. Servant-workers – those who humbly look for opportunities to serve God and others.
4. Justice-seekers – those who advocate for change on behalf of other image-bearers by identifying and responding to injustices.
5. Creation-caretakers – those who respond to God's call to be stewards of God's creation.
6. Beauty-creators – those who celebrate God's creation by creating and enjoying what is good and beautiful.
7. Truth-promoters – those who winsomely express the truth of a biblical worldview and identify the idols of our time.
8. Temple-respecters – those who cultivate minds, bodies, and spirits for continual growth as image bearers of God.
9. Prayer-intercessors – those who are committed to bringing praise, confession, thanksgiving and intercession before the Lord in all circumstances.
10. Vocation-cultivators – those who identify and refine their spiritual gifts while seeking and responding to God's call.
11. Order Discoverers – those who delight in discovering order, harmony and purposeful design in God's wise and diverse creation.

Bible & Theology Teacher

Job Description

REPORTS TO: Principal

WORK SCHEDULE: Full-time faculty are expected to maintain professional office hours of at least 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Attendance at all scheduled in-service days, conferences, faculty meetings, and attendance is mandatory and based on contract.

JOB SUMMARY: The Unity Christian High School Bible & Theology Teacher is called to be an academic leader of his/her classroom as well as a spiritual leader, modeling Christ-like character both in and out of school. The primary purpose is to instruct all students in the Word of God and to challenge all students to fulfill the mission and vision of Unity Christian High School to serve God and neighbor in all aspects of life. This role is instrumental in providing biblically-based education and fostering spiritual growth.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS & SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION

Spiritual and Foundational Qualifications

Employees must be born again Christians, living their lives as Christian role models. This position requires supporting and defending a lifestyle based on biblical standards of moral conduct.

The Bible & Theology Teacher must

1. Demonstrate a commitment to a mature walk with Christ, including regular spiritual disciplines and church attendance.
2. Teach the Word of God in accordance with Reformed principles and hermeneutics, recognize the Bible as God's holy, inspired, and infallible Word.
3. Practice spiritual care and concern for students as image-bearers of God and dearly loved children.
4. Agree to and abide by the UCHS Mission, the Faculty Handbook, Sexuality and Gender Position statement, Unity's Lifestyle statement, and Unity's Faith statement.
5. Possess a deep appreciation for the culture and values of Unity Christian High School.

Professional and Educational Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree or advanced degree from an accredited institution.
2. Valid Iowa teaching certificate in secondary education or the ability to obtain appropriate certification.
3. Outstanding content knowledge in their field.
4. Demonstrate excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.
5. Strong ability to integrate a biblical worldview into all duties.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Biblical Integration and Instruction

The Teacher ensures that all instruction is deeply rooted in the UCHS mission and philosophy.

1. Worldview Integration: Weave God's Word through the curriculum, recognizing that all truth belongs to God. Teach from a Reformed Christian perspective grounded in the biblical narrative of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration.

2. Instructional Excellence: Use teaching strategies that are academically engaging and biblically distinct.
3. Discipleship: Provide leadership in discipling students to be transformed by the application of the Knight's Armor.
4. Planning: Develop and implement curriculum and maintain thorough course planning, including a course map for each class by the third year of teaching.
5. Assessment: Grade student work in a timely fashion. Maintain technology expectations including attendance, assignment posting, Blackbaud use, and posting online grades.

Student Relationships and Supervision

1. Relationships: Build healthy student/adult relationships while maintaining clear, professional boundaries and upholding the dignity of the student as an image-bearer of God.
2. Conduct: Calmly discipline and counsel students, holding them accountable to policies. Use developmentally appropriate principles of behavior management.
3. Classroom Responsibility: Students in each class are the teacher's responsibility. Teachers must stay in the classroom while students are present.
4. Supervision Duties: Participate in assigned supervision duties (breaks, lunch, hallways) at a percentage comparable to their contract.

Professional Growth and Community

1. Communication: Engage parents as partners. Build partnership by communicating back to parents within 24 hours (or next day of work if over the weekend or a holiday) of an email or phone call. Speak positively of Unity, employees, and students in the general community.
2. Dress Code: Adhere to a business casual dress code during school hours.
3. Growth Commitment: Be committed to growing and learning, setting professional goals, and welcoming administrative feedback.
4. Professional Development: Attend all scheduled Professional Development (PD) sessions and mandatory Faculty Devotions (full-time staff). Part-time staff should attend at their percentage but are welcome to attend all.
5. Advanced Training: Full-time staff are strongly encouraged to enroll in a master's program, or work with administration on a plan for continued growth, within five years of starting at Unity.
6. School Service: Participate in the rotation of Class Sponsors and assist in leading class officers. Serve as a Capstone mentor in accordance with FTE. Attend and support all assigned school functions, such as Cleanathon and Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Drew and Steve,

I believe you have both seen the attached document. (see below)

It lists two full days per week with an additional half day from time to time. This basically means the expectation is 16-20 hours per week with more than 16 only happening when there are special events or If I am deployed. Cory has already been serving 8 hours per week as our worship director (one of his two ways off per week) and the arrangement with his church is that he would work one less day there per week and one more with Cornerstone.

The intent of the Cornerstone Board and I believe Cory's desire is that this be an indefinite arrangement (at least as long as he continues with the church in Primghar). Historically Cornerstone has strived to have two pastors or a pastor and a significant lay leader for continuity of institutional knowledge since we work in such a specialized location.

The final two bullets under essential duties and responsibilities indicate that workload and compensation may temporarily change. That is to leave room for increases above 20 hours per week for temporary times if I am away. There currently isn't a term to be assigned to that part as there is not a deployment scheduled at this time, but we could provide an example or flesh out more fully what that may look like in a "normal" deployment cycle. I imagine the Cornerstone Board would be open to laying out greater detail for that eventuality if it is needed to continue the process.

Please let me know if this information satisfies what the CIC is looking for or if we need to modify the job description to provide greater clarity on the temporary increases at times of military activation.

Scott Van Voorst
Cornerstone Prison Church

Cornerstone Prison Church Job Description

Job Title: Associate Pastor of Cornerstone Prison Church

Job Expectation: Equivalent ¼ Time (2 Full days per week with occasional extra half day for special events)

Reports To: Cornerstone Board

Purpose of Position:

In collaboration with Cornerstone pastoral staff and Board, provide consistent preaching at services, provide or provide for worship music at weekly services, leadership and oversight of Bible Studies, one on one care for the inmate population at facilities served, and representing Cornerstone at churches and events for advancement purposes.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Preaching of the Word – 5 out of 52 Services
- Worship Music- Planning, preparation, and leadership of Friday Night services and Faith Fellowship Weekends. Coordinating or leading music for special events, fundraisers, etc.
- Collaboration on Faith Fellowship theme, talks, administrative details.
- Shared responsibility of existing Bible Study Leadership on the Hill and Unit C with aim of also providing occasional temporary studies on the Hill
- Assist co-pastor, staff, and board as needs arise and prison situations change
 - o To Include- Shift from normal preaching load to 55% of preaching if current pastor is activated in his military role and coordinating with staff to secure remaining 45% of preaching in such times.
- Should the make-up and distribution of the current ministry staff change the Board is prepared to re-negotiate the work distribution and corresponding compensation.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Must be a Committed Follower of Jesus Christ with passion for extending the gospel to the incarcerated population of SD DOC.
- A four-year degree is required. Advanced degrees preferred, including licensure or ordination in the CRCNA or comparable Reformed denomination (with ability to sign the Covenant for Office Bearers of the CRCNA). A minimum of 3 years related experience or an equivalent combination of education, experience, and training is highly preferred.
- Worship Music Abilities and leadership required
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills including public speaking ability.
- Highly motivated, self-starter, organized and goal oriented.
- Independent worker with self-starting attributes.
- Efficient computer skills, including word processing, internet, e-mail, social media and network application experience will be essential.
- Ability to appropriately handle sensitive and confidential information.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers and constituents.
- Regular local travel will be expected, if corresponding bi-vocational employment allows. Classis and fundraiser events happen 3-10 times per year requiring travel in a 200 mile radius. Guest preaching regularly takes place in a 150 mile radius. Most travel is single day trips.

Compensation:

Knowing that Laborers are worthy of their hire, Cornerstone Prison Church is prepared to offer a total package of 36,300 annually for this position, understanding that all non-Salary benefits continue through the current church role.

Recognition of a Ministry Need for Ordained Leadership



Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa, follows the mission statement, “Connecting to Christ, His People, and His Mission.” While on earth, Jesus said, “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice; and they will become one flock, with one shepherd.” (John 10:17, NASB). In this passage, Jesus declared that it was not just Jewish believers that belonged to Him, but Gentile ones as well. Towards the end of His life, when asked by the High Priest if He were the Son of God, ‘Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”’ (John 14:62, NASB). This was to fulfill the words of Daniel 7:13-14.

“I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a son of man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.
And to Him was given dominion,
Honor, and a kingdom,
So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.” (Dan 7:13-14, NASB)

We see then that the nations and “populations of all languages,” are the inheritance of Jesus; they are His people. Yet many of these populations of certain languages have not been notified of this, and the praises of Jesus are not on their lips. As of yet Christ’s claim upon them as His inheritance and His bride has not been realized.

Bethel then, in seeking to connect to both Christ’s mission and His people, would like to connect to those people from language groups that do not have access to Christ and His Gospel. Bethel’s hope and prayer is that certain people from these language groups will come to learn that the Lord of all nations has claimed them specifically as His own and sought them out. After they learn this, our earnest hope and prayer is that some of them will believe on the Lord Jesus, and after believing be discipled, and through discipleship be trained up as deacons and elders, equipped to lead the church in previously unchurched regions.

In order to accomplish this endeavor, Bethel believes that it is necessary for the Word of God to be proclaimed by an equipped member of the church. Just as Jesus says in the aforementioned book of John, “they will listen to My voice; and they will become one flock, with one shepherd,” so it is necessary for a Christian to embody and preach the Word of Jesus so that the unreached might hear His voice. Paul, writing in Romans 10:14-15, confirms this conviction in us.

As the work of this role is ministerial in nature, it has been deemed necessary to commission this individual. Evangelism and church-planting are both mentioned explicitly in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook of the CRCNA, so it seems only right that this individual be commissioned according to the CRCNA guidelines. This is further confirmed to us by Holy Scripture in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and 1 Timothy 5:22.

(Adopted by Bethel CRC Council – April 20, 2026)

Job Description for a Church-Planting Missionary among the Unreached

General Description: The end goal of a candidate serving in this position is the establishing of mature, biblical churches among the remaining ethnic groups on earth whose languages have no access to the Holy Scriptures, who have few to no believers and, consequently, no churches. If this is the goal, then there are many essential skills, character traits and giftings that the various members of a team will need to possess as a whole, and many processes and tasks that must be accomplished along the way.

A specific Description: With the above-mentioned end goal in mind, this job requires the following:

- 1) Being approved by a local church (Bethel CRC) to be sent to a people group that are as of yet unreached by the gospel
- 2) Training at the Safir International missionary training program in the areas of Mission; Culture and Language Acquisition; Cross-Cultural Living; and Creative and Sustainable Access for areas where a missionary visa is not an option.
- 3) Joining Global Serve International, or a similar sending agency, that can help Bethel CRC in working towards their goal.
- 4) Forming of a team.
 - a) This will be composed of individuals trained by Safir or an equivalent training program.
- 5) Fundraise and raise up partnerships with US churches and believers

- 6) Move to a country with unreached language groups and learn the primary trade/national language to a capable level (Advanced High on an ACTFL scale).
- 7) Attempt to locate to the region of an unreached language group
 - a) Most likely, this will require the establishment of a business in the area to be granted approval from the authorities.
- 8) Use the trade/national language as a bridge language to engage the people of an unreached language and learn their language
 - a) In all likelihood, there will be some bilingual speakers in the unreached language that have a moderate proficiency in the national language. Thus the national language can be used for initial relationship building, but it will be necessary to learn the local, native language for connecting with people on a world-view level.
- 9) If necessary, teach those from the unreached language group to read and write in their own language. In many cases this will involve developing an orthography.
- 10) Begin translating the Holy Scriptures into the unreached language.
- 11) Begin evangelism of those from the unreached language both by the display of a Christian character as well as by sharing explicitly with them the biblical narrative, so that they may understand and by God's grace believe the gospel.
- 12) Baptize and begin to disciple new believers who have put their trust in the Lord.
- 13) Form the new believers into a new church.
- 14) Teach and train in this new church plant.
- 15) As the church grows, start to set aside and train people for the offices of elder and deacon.
- 16) As believers mature, start to slowly phase out all foreign workers, giving more and more responsibility to the native church leaders.
- 17) Leave the church in the hands of local leadership, continuing translation work and frequent visits.
- 18) In addition to all the aforementioned roles, the job description also requires the "worker" (missionary) to take occasional trips back to the US over the years for what many call home assignment/furlough. During these times back in the US, the worker will share with their home church (Bethel CRC) what the Lord is doing, just as the Apostle Paul set the precedent for in Acts 21:17-19. During this time, the worker can receive further instruction and teaching from the church in the areas of preaching, theological study, ministry, etc. At Bethel CRC's discretion, the worker can also be invited in as pulpit supply so as to share more fully with the congregation what the Lord is doing through their shared efforts.

Responsibilities: Many of these can be deduced from the description, but some of the responsibilities are (or will be):

- 30-40 hours/week language and culture acquisition.
- Building relationships among the locals of an unreached language group, while being ready and willing to Christianly adapt to different cultures in a spirit of humility and discernment.
- Preparing lessons from the Bible, from Creation to Fall to Christ's Redemption to Consummation, for the purpose of eventual evangelism
- Preparing literacy primers for teaching local people to read and write their heart language.
- Translating the Scriptures into the local language (further training by the sending organization will be accomplished prior to this step).
- Administering the sacraments to any new converts.
- Discipling and training of new believers.
- Teaching and preaching in the new church.
- Establishing, appointing, and training local elders and deacons.

Requirements:

- The ability to clearly communicate the gospel to unbelievers and believers, both in English as well as the national and local languages of ministry.
- A knowledge of the local language to a level of being able to explain worldview-level concepts thoroughly and clearly, as well as translate the Bible and teach literacy programs.
- The necessary skills to accompany language acquisition (translation, literacy, phonetics, phonemics, etc.).
- Sufficient command of the divisions of Scripture and the basic hermeneutical principles required to interpret both testaments.
- Doctrinal knowledge at the level of Berkhof's *Manual of Christian Doctrine*.
- The authority and approval from Bethel CRC to administer baptism and communion to local converts.
- The authority and approval from Bethel CRC and classis Iakota to do pulpit supply as a means of serving the church and practicing preaching and teaching while in the US.
- The recognition from Bethel CRC that the candidate possesses the necessary character traits, giftings, and skills to attempt this weighty task.
- Above all, a love for Christ and His Gospel, and a desire to see His Name magnified among all the nations of the earth.
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(Adopted by Bethel CRC Council – April 20, 2026)