

Classis lakota
AGENDA
September 21, 2021, 9:00 A.M.
Place: Harrison Christian Reformed Church
Rev. John Lee, Chairman Rev. Joel Kok, 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

- Report and Request from Cornerstone Prison Church (pp. 2-3)

III. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS FUNCTIONARIES

- A. Stated Clerk (p. 3)
- B. Interim Committee (pp. 4-5)
- C. Home Missions Team (p. 5)
 - 1. Hope CRC Oversight Team (p.6)
 - 2. New Roots (p. 6)
- D. Ministerial Leadership Team
- E. Finance Committee (pp. 7-9)
- F. Church Visitors
- G. Church Counselors
- H. Regional Pastors
- I. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (pp. 9-10)
- J. Safe Church Team
- K. Classical Treasurer

IV. ELECTIONS/NOMINATIONS

- A. Classical Interim Committee (Rev. Matthew Haan has completed a second term)
- B. Classical Home Missions (Piet Koene has completed his second term)
- C. Classical Home Missions (nominee needed to serve as lay alternate)
- D. Classical Min. Leadership Team (Bob Van Ruler has completed his first term)
- E. Minn-I-Kota Youth Board (Rev. Henry Lengkeek has completed his first term)

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

- A. Calvin University (pp. 10-12)
- B. Calvin Theological Seminary
- C. Council of Delegates
- D. Dordt University
- E. Faith Formation Ministries
- F. Resonate Global Mission (pp. 13-14)
- G. World Renew

VI. DISCUSSION IN SMALL GROUPS REGARDING MINISTRY SHARE PLEDGES

VII. CLOSING BUSINESS

- A. Report from the Credentials and Article 41 Committee
- B. Next Meeting: March 1, 2022 (Is Bridge of Hope willing to host this meeting?)
- C. Closing Remarks (chairperson)
- D. Closing Prayer
- E. Adjournment

Classis lakota Cornerstone Report

The Ambassador Board of Cornerstone Prison Church and the council have been patiently waiting for the Holy Spirit to lead in this church behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary. We have been actively searching through the past 9 months for a servant leader/leaders for this church.

We have been continuing worship services and Bible study on the inside since our former pastor left in October of 2020. Gord Dyk was allowed to replace Pastor Doug De Groot and continue with the Monday night Bible study and Friday night worship services in the prison. The Bible study is currently being led by an inmate with Gord facilitating this inmate. The Friday night messages were via a video recording by different ministers in the area. Visitors were allowed to come back into the prison on May 24, 2021. Pastor Cory Grimm has been serving as our worship coordinator for the past 8 or so years.

We started our search for a pastor by putting an ad in The Banner which produced 4 possible candidates for the position of pastor. We interviewed them via Zoom and sent our inquiries from former churches of these men. We eventually were led by the Spirit to two prospects which we interviewed for a second time. We also asked them to produce sermons which were again done via video for the congregation at Cornerstone to see and the board to evaluate. After this process, one man decided to withdraw his name and at that time our worship coordinator was interested in the position since we were looking at two pastors to fill this role at Cornerstone instead of just one.

We decided to call Pastor Scott Van Voorst from the Friendship Community Church in Sergeant Bluff, IA and Pastor Cory Grimm from the American Reformed Church in Primghar, IA. Pastor Scott has accepted our call but Pastor Cory through much decision decided to decline the call because the timing was not right for him and his family. We are hoping to have Pastor Scott start on September 3, 2021, with his installation service sometime after that in September. As far as a second pastor, we are putting that on hold for the time being.

We ask for the continued prayers of classis for the Ambassador Board, Cornerstone Council and congregation as we move into a new place with Pastor Scott Van Voorst as our servant leader for this church behind the walls of the SDSP.

We would also like to update you on the commissioned member piece, which we at Cornerstone have been working on with the help of Rev. Bernie Haan, our classical counselor, and the Celebration Fellowship Church in Ionia, Michigan which has 3 different churches in various prison facilities. What this consists of is the possibility of members at one church on the outside being able to be commissioned members at a church on the inside. Here are the guidelines for this concept:

- The members on the outside will maintain a dual membership specifically they will be officially commissioning the professing member per his/her request to become a commissioned member in the ministry of the Cornerstone Prison Church.
- The commissioned member remains a professing member of the home/sending church for Sunday worship, spiritual formation, discipleship training, Christian fellowship, mutual service and pastoral care. A commissioned member remains under the supervision of the elders and council that holds his/her membership. The home church includes the person requesting this commissioned membership in their report to the denomination of total professing members and computation of denomination and classical ministry shares.
- The commissioned member agrees to participate in the life of the Cornerstone Prison Church in various ways (examples: attending Friday night worship services, participation in a Bible study group, promotion of the ministry I his/her home church, involvement in a prayer ministry, contributing financially to this ministry)

- A commissioned member (male or female) is eligible to be on the Ambassador Board.
- A male commissioned member acknowledges that he is eligible to be an elder or deacon of the Cornerstone Prison council provided he is not currently an office bearer in his home church.
- Commissioned member status can be concluded by written notice of the home church, the commissioned member and/or the Cornerstone Prison Church.

We at Cornerstone are asking for classical support and approval of this idea.

Thanks

Ambassador Board and Cornerstone Council.

Stated Clerk Report – September 2021

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. 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.
4. With the help of Diane Moerman from the Oostra Bierma Law Office the 2021 Biennial Report was filed with the Iowa Secretary of State's office.
5. The Classical Rules of Procedure were updated.
6. Met with the lakota CIC on 7/28/21 to begin the planning process for the 9/21 meeting of classis.
7. Dr. Jason Lief and Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp were notified that their license to exhort is due to expire on September 21, 2021, and were told that if they desired to continue serving in this way, they would need to ask Classis lakota for a renewal of their license.
 - On July 27, 2021 the following message was received from Nathan Nieuwendorp: *"Please accept this email in place of written correspondence regarding my licensure to exhort. It is my desire and request that Classis lakota renew my license to exhort for another two years. I am a member in good standing at Inwood CRC. In the past two year I have provided pulpit supply approximately 30 times."*
8. Made the necessary arrangements for the 9/21/21 classis meeting, including correspondence with individuals who requested to speak or report to Classis. Added to this agenda is the list of classical functionaries that can also be found on our website.
9. 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

Classical lakota Interim Committee Report to Classis

1. Nominations and leadership

- 1.1. We seek input and approval of nominations to various committees (see elsewhere in the agenda).
- 1.2. The licenses to exhort for Jason Lief and Nathan Nieuwendorp expire in September. With appreciation for their ministry within Classis lakota and Classis Heartland, they have been invited to renew their respective licenses for two more years of serving in this capacity.
- 1.3. We recommend that the Church Visitors list remains the same for 2022-2023 because no changes are currently necessary.

2. Overture

We remind the churches that the following motion made at the March meeting was tabled:

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).

Assuming we take this up again, we see value in the churches reviewing this and potentially addressing points made in other overtures that have since been submitted.

3. Cornerstone Prison CRC update and request

- 3.1. We give thanks that Scott Van Voorst has accepted the call from Cornerstone Prison CRC and plans to start in September. His installation is scheduled for 10 Sep 2021.
- 3.2. The Ambassadors Board and the council of Cornerstone Prison CRC request Classis lakota to approve their proposal for commissioned members to enhance their ability to provide church leadership and do ministry. We note that Calvin Theological Seminary's Adjunct Professor of Church Polity Kathy Smith endorsed this arrangement in an email with Bernie Haan dated 22 Jun 2021. We note that the home church remains the supervising church of the commissioned member. To avoid someone serving as an officebearer in two churches at one time, we suggest a clarification in the 5th bullet point: "A male commissioned member acknowledges that he is eligible to be an elder or deacon of the Cornerstone Prison CRC council *provided he is not currently serving as an officebearer in his home church.*" Approval of this is contingent on the approval of the council and congregation of Cornerstone Prison CRC to update their by-laws as necessary to implement this change. Please see Appendix for the full proposal.

4. Other matters

- 4.1. We appointed Kyle De Jong as the Regional Pastor for the South Dakota churches.
- 4.2. We processed the ecclesiastical credentials of retired pastor Timothy Ouwinga from Pipestone CRC in Classis Minnkota to Faith CRC Sioux Center.
- 4.3. We processed the ecclesiastical credential of Norlyn Van Beek from Ireton CRC in Classis Heartland to Shalom CRC Sioux Falls.
- 4.4. We are arranging preaching appointments this fall for the churches that requested it, namely Bridge of Hope Ministries Sioux Center, Lakeview CRC Valentine, and New Holland CRC.

Classis lakota Home Missions Team
Report for Classis – Fall 2021

The Classis Home Missions Committee (CHMC) is comprised of Pastors Bob Pollema (Chair), Drew Hoekema (Secretary), Adam Eisenga (Inwood), Gideon Wamala (Calvin-Rock Valley), with lay-members Jacklyn Nieuwendorp (Inwood), Gord Dyk (Cornerstone) and Piet Koene (Amistad).

Ongoing Ministry Work:

CHMC convened in July to submit ministry share recommendations to the Classical Budget Committee for 2022 regarding ministries supported by Classis lakota. We received updates from these ministries, including in-person and virtual conversations of encouragement.

Church Planting:

The committee has continued to focus on church planting exploration in two areas.

West Sioux Falls: After a potential church planting candidate from last year fell through, two new individuals expressed interest in being involved as a church planter in West Sioux Falls. CHMC sat down with each of them to determine their potential as a church planter and their commitment to the Reformed faith. We now stand at a point where we are collaborating with Resonate Global Mission on how to proceed. **We intend to hand out a working document outlining the motivation behind this effort for any congregations who wish to be involved as a sending/planting church.**

Hope CRC – Rapid City: Drew Hoekema serves as Classis Counselor and a member of the advisory team for Hope, and the CHMC wishes to encourage revitalization here. If this church desires to go in a “replanting” route, the team communicated its support and an intention to partner alongside them.

Please pray with us that God’s Kingdom would continue to expand in His mission field of Iowa and South Dakota.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Hoekema, CHMC Secretary

Hope CRC Oversight Committee

Dear Classis lakota,

The Hope CRC Oversight Committee continues to walk alongside the people of Hope in discerning a way forward after their Article 17 process.

First, Rev. Drew Hoekema met in-person with the church council this past winter, and the church took advice of beginning Pastor-Church Resources' discernment process, *At a Crossroads*. They have reflected on their church's story, have named their churches present, and soon will have a final discussion to discern their future. Rev. Joy Engelsman has traveled to Rapid City to facilitate this process on behalf of PCR.

Second, Rev. Henry Lengkeek traveled to Rapid City this spring and led Sunday worship, encouraging the congregation and continuing to reinforce their connection to Classis lakota.

We plan to continue to be involved in this discernment and to advise them further on behalf of Classis lakota.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Hoekema
Henry Lengkeek

New Roots Ministry September 2021

Classis lakota members, **receive our deep gratitude for the tremendous support you provide!**

Since year 2007, New Roots Ministry has been serving as "a Springboard for new Americans & their Churches," through:

- Workplace Chaplaincy
 - Smithfield Foods Sioux Falls (85% of employees born outside US)
 - Bilingual chaplaincy (We recently began serving at our 3rd commercial dairy farm. Each of the chaplains have received their certificate of completion of Timothy Leadership Training.)
- Educational Opportunities
 - Timothy Leadership Training is continually offered. Our present class includes students in Sioux Falls, as well as three Ethiopian students in Cyprus joining by Zoom.
 - Our next Special Event will be held this Fall. It will be a worship-reunion of All Nations City Church, which New Roots Ministry was instrumental in beginning.
- Equipping Ministry
 - Church groups and/or individuals join New Roots staff in serving in new-American owned stores, in learning from new Americans, and/or in engaging in spiritual conversations.
 - We continually attend new American churches and network with about 65 new American pastors.
 - Share pulpit/microphone with upcoming new-American leaders
 - Strategic Planning for Meeting Goals (offered to new Americans)
 - Driver training for new Americans (**our newest ministry**)

**Finance Committee
Report to Classis lakota
September 2021**

The Finance Committee met on July 14 and August 5, 2021 (minutes attached). Most of its time was spent fleshing out and clarifying the mandate given by Classis lakota.

Observations

At its March 2020 meeting, Classis lakota expressed a desire to form a Finance Committee which would prepare and submit a unified budget from requests submitted by committees by June 30 of each year (*Minutes of Classis lakota*, Art. 3523). Also, Classis lakota augmented this charter in September 2020 tasking the Finance Committee with encouraging good stewardship, tracking receipts and expenditures in preparation of a unified budget, and receiving pledges for denominational and classical ministry shares.

In order to honor the desires of Classis lakota, the Finance Committee worked toward defining a more clear mandate of its work, seeking to make explicit its role and relationship within classis, and to flesh out its responsibilities to classis. The attached document, "Mandate Scratchpad," summarized the expectations and reflections gleaned from the history of this committee's formation. This document was the basis of discussion and recommendations to Classis lakota.

The committee asks Classis lakota to help clarify three areas:

1. Its relationships with standing committees of Classis lakota. "Oversight" and "guidance" have been used repeatedly when envisioning the work of the Finance Committee in relation to the other standing committees of classis. The Finance Committee ought not become a "gatekeeping" committee granting permission to the standing committees of Classis lakota in its finances. The Finance Committee best serves to give helpful advice and counsel to its committees. In its mandate to develop a "unified budget," should Classis lakota envision the Finance Committee as the entity that helps its standing committees monitor resources or develop financial strategies to pursue its missions and ministries? If Classis lakota envisions the Finance Committee *proposing* a unified budget, rather than *projecting* a unified budget, hasn't the Finance Committee inserted itself between classis and its other standing committees?
2. Its relationship with Classis lakota. The Finance Committee will work closely with the Treasurer of Classis lakota. One aspect of tracking giving and spending, and encouraging good stewardship (*Minutes of Classis lakota* Art. 3560), means safeguarding the work of the treasurer. Does Classis lakota expect that the Finance Committee ought to take on the duties of securing audits of the treasurer's work, and receiving a detailed account of the treasurer's work? The committee understands it should.

The Finance Committee would also like to make more explicit the relationship between budget line items and the standing committee responsible for that item. The projected budget will reflect the attempt to show this. Does Classis lakota have an understanding of how *each* of its causes is related to a standing committee of classis? Is it the desire of classis to organize its budget in this manner?

All work of the Finance Committee should be subject to the approval of Classis lakota.

3. Proper responsibilities of the Finance Committee. The committee is asking Classis lakota to adopt the recommended clarification and additions to its mandate, below.

Questions

In its early work, the Finance Committee has raised a few questions which will likely need clarification in the future. These questions are for the information of Classis lakota at this point.

1. By what criteria are the ministries, missions, and causes of Classis lakota assigned to a particular standing committee? One example the committee noted is the assignment of Heritage Churches to the Classical Home Missions Committee. (Note – The Finance Committee minutes of August 5, 2021, raise the question of funding for Lakeview CRC, Valentine. This is not meant as a question about the worthiness of supporting Lakeview Church, not “should there be funding,” but “is there” a path to independence. The Finance Committee is only asking how this works.)
2. How ought Classis lakota relate to its causes that are not explicitly governed by a standing committee? Support for Dordt University, for the Safe Church Team, and for Minn-I-Kota Youth Network are three examples of causes without standing committee relationships. Also, Classis lakota received notice of several resources provided by Pastor Church Resources and Classis Renewal of the CRCNA, asking that classis consider providing funding toward these opportunities. Whose responsibility ought it be to bring these recommendations to Classis lakota?
3. Who has the authority to spend reserve funds, and what is the criteria for spending those funds? (For example, Classical Home Missions at present has a balance of about \$91,000, undesignated.)

Recommendations

The Finance Committee recommends the following to Classis lakota:

1. That the following mandate govern the Finance Committee.
 - a. Purpose – The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assist Classis lakota in the preparation of an annual, unified budget to fund its missions, ministries, and causes; to provide oversight and guidance to its standing committees for their funding requests; to safeguard the work of the Treasurer; and to assure the Treasurer’s reception of pledges contributions for denominational and classical ministry shares.
 - b. Membership – The Finance Committee membership will include
 - i. Two members with diaconal and/or banking experience, one each from South Dakota and Iowa
 - ii. One member from the Classical Home Missions Committee or with experience in its work
 - iii. One minister
 - iv. The Treasurer of Classis lakota, *ex officio*. (*Minutes of Classis lakota*, Art. 3560)

Terms of service are ordinarily three years, subject to review and renewal.

- c. Responsibilities
 - 1) Standing committees shall submit their proposed annual expenditures and/or ministry share requests to the finance committee for review and advice. This should be done prior to the standing committees’ submitting final reports and recommendations for the September meeting of Classis lakota.
 - 2) The finance committee with the classis treasurer compiles a projected budget for the September classis meeting, which will be subject to the approval of classis. Each item in the projected budget will be approved as classis adopts, amends, or rejects the funding proposals presented in the reports of its standing committees, i.e., Classical Home Missions Committee, Classical Interim Committee, Classical Ministry Leadership Team.

- 3) The classis treasurer informs and consults with the finance committee to help process any funding requests outside of the adopted annual budget in the interim between regular meetings of classis. Any such requests will be addressed in consultation with the appropriate standing committee of classis. All work of the finance committee is subject to the approval of classis.
 - 4) The classical treasurer gives a detailed accounting of classis financials to the finance committee at least annually. The finance committee arranges for audits of the work of the classical treasurer. Findings and reports related to the work of the classical treasurer will be presented to classis for information and/or approval.
 - 5) The work of the finance committee in its oversight, advice, and stewardship of the funding for Classis lakota ministries, missions, and causes is subject to the approval of classis. An account of its work will be reported to classis by the committee chair or secretary.
2. That the current membership of the Finance Committee serve until March 2023, and that its membership will begin to stagger its terms of service after March 2023.
 3. That Classis lakota approve the work of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Bob Drenten, Chair

Minn-I-Kota Youth Network Ministry Report to Classis lakota

Thank you so much for your support thru the years and especially thru this past year (2020-2021)!

HERE'S A FEW EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN THE SPRING OF 2021!!

JR HIGH RETREAT- On April 16-18, 2021 MIK Youth held its 11th Annual Jr High Retreat at Inspiration Hills (our 10th annual was planned but was cancelled due to COVID in 2020). Our theme was "ABLAZE" based on James 3:5. We limited the attendance to 100 this year and we had 100 registered by the deadline. Due to COVID restrictions just being lifted at the time of the retreat some things still looked different than previous years but that didn't put out the "FLAME" in these kid's hearts. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders came from 3 states: IA, SD, and MN. They were from 20 different churches: 14 of which were supporting churches from all three Classis: Minnkota, lakota, and Heartland. Once again the leaders were (20) Dordt University students: of these 20 DU student leaders three of them had attended this retreat when they were in Jr High. This is by far my favorite event of the year! It is not only great to see our Jr High students excited to learn and worship, but I also enjoy watching our college students become Leaders for The Church.

PARKING LOT PRAISE NIGHT- On May 6th we ended our school year with what was supposed to have been an outdoor Praise Night. However, due to very cold/rainy weather we were able to move the Praise Night into Hull Christian Grade School's gym. Troy Kooima along with his ministry Happy the Dog lead us in worship through songs. Troy is a Western Christian and Dordt graduate and was the Coordinator for Minnikota Youth along with Dawn Ryswyk for 10 years before I took over (along with Kandace Brands from 2010-2015). Between sets we listened to the testimonies of two dear friends of

mine: Caitie Fagen and Sean Baccam. Caitie Fagen is a 2020 graduate of Dordt University and is currently a Youth Director at the Sheldon 1st Reformed Church. Caitie was a DU Student Leader for the MIK Youth Jr High Retreat for 4 years and helped out with a handful of other MIK Youth events during her four years at DU. Sean Baccam is a lifelong volunteer Youth Leader at 1st CRC in Hull. He is also very involved in area youth outside the church, as he spends much of his spare time photographing our youth during their extra curriculum activities. Sean also served on the MIK Youth Board for several years and as the Board President. Both Caitie and Sean shared with us how God faithfully walked them through the struggles of life. We had approximately 200 in attendance: eight local youth groups, along with several adult church members from Hull 1st CRC. What a blessing it was to gather together once again! Sean's last sentence of his talk summed it up perfectly... "GOD IS GOOD!"

ON THE CALENDAR FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:

- MIK YOUTH ANNUAL KICK OFF- (Talking with Great Shots in Sx Falls) (Details to be announced)
- NAT'L VOLUNTEER YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING-September 18, 2021 hosted by Sx Cntr Bethel CRC/Dan Elgersma
- MIK YOUTH LEADERS RETREAT/CONFERENCE-October 15-16, 2021 at Inspiration Hills with speaker Pastor Steve VanWyhe.
- MIK YOUTH LAZER TUBING @ GREAT BEAR-Feb/March 2022-TBA
- MIK YOUTH 12th ANNUAL JR HIGH RETREAT-April 22-24, 2022.

Lee De Groot Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Coordinator & Faith Formation Champion/Executive Team
Hebrews 10:25 "...not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..."

Calvin University board notes Feb/May 2021

The board meeting February 4,5 was held virtually. The minutes from the October 2020 meeting were approved with minor changes as well as correspondence received and sent.

Michael Le Roy shared with trustees the details related to Calvin's potential bond restructuring. Calvin's important characteristics shared with the raters were:

- Calvin has a strong national and international reputation among Christian higher education, and Calvin's faculty shapes the conversation around faith and learning.
- Calvin has a strong, seasoned leadership team that has demonstrated its capacity to respond to adversity.
- Calvin has outstanding balance sheet, demonstrated fiscal discipline, and strong donor support.

Joel Westra, Co-chair of the University Core Curriculum Task Force, provided an overview of the work of the task force and noted that the existing core lacked internal coherence and was adjusted to work for various programs. He shared that the revised core is intended to provide versatility to students as they seek to satisfy requirements. The proposal for the revised core was ratified by the Board and will be implemented this Fall.

The Board then moved into a discussion on the work of the Confessional Commitment and Academic Freedom (CCAF) sub-committee related to the CRCNA human sexuality report that was shared by the denomination in October 2020. The CCAF is gathering information that can be presented to the board in May to help them understand the potential impact of the study.

The discussion hinged on the difference between Reformed confessions and denominational position statements and what the implications are to the university. The board agreed that the CCAF sub-committee should continue their review and discernment in the matter and that they bring their findings back to trustees.

All trustees reviewed individual committee minutes prior to plenary IV, and several items of note arose during the committee Q & A time:

- Administration and Finance: Trustees will need to look at strategic budget planning, as the university will need to make substantive adjustments to produce a balanced budget for 2021-2022 in May.
- Enrollment Strategy: Calvin needs to keep increasing the recruiting funnel, and trustees were invited to help in the recruitment process. Materials will be sent to trustees.
- Executive: Nominations are open for officers. The secretary spot will be open. Send suggestions to Jan or Bruce.
- Trusteeship: The bylaws are being revised. The board officer structure has been modified to have a chair, vice-chair, and secretary. The duties of the secretary are for oversight and operation, while the day-to-day duties will be supported by administrative staff. The university president will be appointed by the board. Also, represented regions will move from 12 to 6. Bylaw changes need a 2/3 approval of the board and majority approval by the Council of Delegates of the CRCNA.

Items for Action:

- AA 3.160 Faculty Reappointments with tenure was approved.
- AF 3.116 2021-2022 Capital Budget Proposal was approved.
- AF 3.117 Debt Refunding Resolution Revision was approved.
- AD3.004 Athletic Stadium Fundraising was approved.
- TR 3.037 Board of Trustee Handbook Revisions to Section II was approved.
- TR 3.038 Bylaws Revisions was approved.

The consent agenda was ratified, endorsed, and approved with no opposing votes

Board meeting for May was held virtually.

After a review of the agenda and approval of the February 4-5, 2021, minutes and correspondence at Plenary I, Chair B. Los thanked Cabinet members and made personal comments of his appreciation for each of them.

Plenary II started with President M. Le Roy introducing Calvin's new provost, Dr. Noah Toly. Dr. Toly shared a bit about himself, his family, and his faith journey. He noted that he moved many times in his youth, so he gained exposure to different Christian traditions and started to establish his Reformed roots. Through it all, his immersion in scripture is the catalyst through which God works His way in him.

M. Le Roy then shared things at Calvin in which he finds joy and gratitude:

- Enrollment is on-track to meet the FTIAC goal of 725.
- Pandemic operations have been on-point and have helped Calvin students to be able to continue to meet on campus. The board authorized the conferral of degrees, honors, and certificates for the class of 2021.
- There is growth in awareness on campus of what it means to be a person of color in a predominantly white community.
- Fundraising continues to be outstanding: \$199 million has been raised for the campaign, \$28+ million for the Commons union, \$2.7 million for the annual fund, and \$29.5 million in new gifts and pledges.
- The structural aspects of the budget are being adjusted, but Calvin does have a balanced budget planned for the coming year.
- The debt structure has been simplified through a bond offering. Calvin received an A- rating from S&P.
- The university held a groundbreaking for the new business school this spring and building has commenced for this facility. A new dean, Dr. James Ludema has also been appointed to lead the School of Business.

Trustees heard a presentation on “Finance 101: Revenue” from J. English, L. Jensen and K. den Dulk. The presentation highlighted the distribution and sources of revenue for Calvin, the challenge of decreasing net tuition revenue from traditional undergraduate students, and the university response in working to expand our markets for undergraduate students and developing graduate programs that attract new learners.

The board then engaged with several students of color (Samuel Carrasco, Frank Jones Jr., and Shelton Rodriguez) who sit on the students of color presidential advisory council. Each shared about their Calvin experience and what they would like to see at Calvin related to racial reconciliation. The board was both inspired and grateful to these students and Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige for this excellent presentation.

The following items for action were approved:

- AA 3.171 Brandsen Provost Emeritus Status
- AF 3.118 Approval of 2021-2022 Operating Budget
- AF 3.119 Global Campus Tuition Rates
- AF 3.120 Retirement Plan Contributions
- AF 3.121 Endowment Fund Spend, Fees, and Designations
- EX 3.109 Conferral of Degrees, Honors, and Certificates
- EX 3.110 Revised Meeting Dates
- EX 3.111 Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer Appointments for 2021-2022 (B. Los, Chair; M. Tuuk Kuras, Vice Chair, J. English, Treasurer)
- EX 3.112 Secretary Appointment for 2021-2022 (Rhonda Roorda)
- The following trustees were approved: Jonathan Eigege (At-Large), Niala Boodhoo (At-Large), Heather Van Vugt Ramierez (Classis Region 9, At-Large), Rosanne Sweetman Lopers (Classis Region 3), Gary Bos (Classis Region 5), Kevin Adams/J. Todd Hoeksema (Classis Region 6 election outcome still pending), Michael Den Bleyker (Classis Region 7), and reappointments: Lois Miller, Andrea Karsten, Ben Ipema, CJ Grier, Andrew Elliot and Steven Triezenberg.

The consent agenda was also passed before M. Le Roy gave thanks to retiring trustees Jan Buikema, Fernando del Rosario, Wendy Hofman, Marge Hoogeboom, Tim Howerzyl, Alicia Sinclair, and Tom Wybenga

Since the board meeting in May, Jim English the VP of Finance has left the university to pursue another opportunity. We are grateful for the good work that Jim accomplished during his tenure at Calvin to balance the budget during the challenges of COVID and enrollment challenges.

President LeRoy also notified the board after the May meeting the 2021-2022 academic year will be his last year of leading Calvin. The board is very grateful for his outstanding leadership over the last 10 years. <https://calvin.edu/news/archive/president-michael-le-roy-announces-his-final-season-at-calvin>. There will be more information to share throughout the next few months.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Kuyers (Region 8 trustee)

Resonate Global Mission Classis Report: Fall 2021

Apart from the Chicagoland Classes, the Central US team partners with seven Classes—Central Plains, Heartland, Iakota, Lake Superior(US), Minnkota, North Central Iowa, and Wisconsin. Here are a few glimpses into the mission activity in each Classis.

Central Plains:

New Life Prison Ministry and Rick Admiraal have been deeply affected by the pandemic, since access to the facility in Newton was unavailable. Pray for momentum to increase when they are able to meet there again.

Resonate's journey of discernment called Go Local has been helpful to Grace Fellowship as they engaged spiritual practices (listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting), while engaging their neighbors.

Some other individuals in congregations of Classis participated in Joining God in the Neighborhood, a 4 session taste of the Go Local process.

Trinity, St. Louis, has embraced a Koren group using their church building. This hosting of an ethnic group is another way to love our neighbor different than you through hospitality.

Heartland:

Scott Van Voorst has taken a call to the Cornerstone Prison Ministry. Friendship Church is being assisted by the Classical Mission Committee for its future plans.

Kansas City area has New City Church working toward another site in a neighboring part of KC, MO and Kurt Rietema continues to develop and practice presence in KC, KS Argentine neighborhood.

F Street Church in Lincoln continues to find ways to bless its community through multiple ministries and to raise leaders for the mission of God there.

Iakota:

Journeys to Friendship, a cohort of like minded folks who focus on loving their neighbor different than themselves, is planning their June 2022 conference in NW IA/Sioux Falls SD. This group meets monthly to plan the event and also hear stories from around the world around international students, immigrants, refugees, and ethnic diversity. This would also be of interest to Heartland and Minnkota.

The Central US in partnership with Journeys to Friendship is looking for a Mission Network Developer in NW IA/ Sioux Falls SD area to help spread the word and assist on the ground planning for the conference. It is about an 8 hour per week job commitment. If you are interested or can suggest a person for this let me know at pkelder@crcna.org

Hope, Rapid City is working through At the Crossroads, a process that helps them celebrate their past, name their present and discern their future. Pastor Joy Englesman is assisting them in the process.

Lake Superior:

Trinity Hill in Chanhassen MN is a partner with Classis and Resonate as a new ministry. Kyle Sandison is stepping into a greater role of leadership there.

The Broken continues to minister to those freed from addiction or prison in Willmar MN. The Central US team would invite further discussion with them in the year ahead.

There is some interest in bringing the Deeper Journey retreats to this Classis. Further discussions are pending.

Minnkota:

Minnkota was seriously working in Marshall MN as a new ministry site. Pray for an opening so that this might continue in the months ahead.

North Central IA:

The campus ministry Areopagus led by Tyler Helpers at Iowa State University is supported by NC IA and others in the state.

Iowa State also hosts a Korean ministry which is going through a transition right now. Pastor Lee is returning to Korea and rev. S Kim is coming to take the campus position there.

Kanawha participated in the Go Local cohort. Their experiment during the pandemic was with their children's ministry and it grew to 65! Recently they planted a pumpkin patch near the church and look forward to a fall harvest.

Wisconsin:

Geneva Campus Church at the University of Wisconsin is entering a new chapter. Jim Kirk becomes the lead pastor as Mike Winnowski retires. Geneva wants to keep a focus on the campus, especially with graduate students (over 10,000) . The vision is to hire a second person for that purpose. Classis is being asked to partner with Geneva for this person.

Go Local and Joining God in the Neighborhood has been well received by Faith, Beaver Dam and also Marshview Ministries. A number of lay leaders in Oostburg and Waupun participated in Joining God in the Neighborhood.

A unique partnership is being formed by First, Oostburg and Kenosha CRC. This looks to be a foster/adoption merger. Pray that God can use this to benefit both congregations.

Peter Kelder, Regional Mission Leader
Central US Region

CLASSICAL FUNCTIONARIES

As of July 2021

	Serving Until
Classical Interim Committee	
Rev. M. Haan	Sept. 2021 (2)
Rev. S. Groothof	Sept. 2023 (3)
Rev. J. Lee	Sept. 2023 (2)
Rev. C. Hoogendoorn, alternate	Sept. 2023 (1)
Rev. B. Haan, <i>ex officio</i>	
Stated Clerk	
Rev. B. Haan	Mar. 2024 (3)
Rev. S. Groothof, alternate	Sept. 2023 (3)
Classical Treasurer	
Mr. Robert Van Ruler	Sept. 2021 (2)
Mr. Mick Visser, alternate	Sept. 2021 (2)
Classical Finance Committee	
Mr. Darrel Raih	Mar. 2022 (1)
Ms. Jacklyn Nieuwendorp, representative from CHMT	Sept. 2022 (2)
Mr. Eric Maas	Mar. 2023 (1)
Rev. R. Drenten	Mar. 2024 (1)
Mr. Robert Van Ruler, <i>ex officio</i>	
Classical Home Missions Team	
Mr. Piet Koene	Sept. 2021 (2)
Rev. R. Pollema	Sept. 2022 (2)
Ms. Jacklyn Nieuwendorp	Sept. 2022 (2)
Rev. D. Hoekema	Mar. 2023 (2)
Mr. Gord Dyk	Mar. 2023 (2)
Rev. A. Eisenga	Sept. 2023 (1)
Rev. G. Wamala	Mar. 2024 (1)
Pastor Gary Maas, Clergy alternate	Sept. 2023 (1)
_____, Lay alternate	_____
Classical Ministerial Leadership Team	
Rev. A. Eisenga	Mar. 2023 (2)
Rev. Doug De Groot	Sept. 2023 (2)
Mr. Robert Van Ruler	Sept. 2021 (1)
Mr. Nathan Nieuwendorp	Mar. 2022 (1)
Rev. C. Monroe	Sept. 2023 (1)
Mr. Orlan Gulker	Mar. 2024 (1)
Rev. R. Drenten, Clergy alternate	Mar. 2024 (1)
Classical Safe Church Team (along with Classis Heartland)	
Rev. H. Lengkeek	Mar. 2024 (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. Cliff Hoekstra

June 2024 (1)

Rev. Dan De Groot, alternate

June 2024 (1)

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. Kyle De Young

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

2023 (2)

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 | 9. Rev. Dr. Wayne Kobes |
| 2. Rev. Jerry Buwalda | 10. Rev. Tim Ouwinga |
| 3. Rev. Dan De Groot | 11. Rev. Dave Smit |
| 4. Rev. Dale Ellens | 12. Rev. Duane Tinklenberg |
| 5. Rev. Jack Gray | 13. Rev. Marvin Van Donselaar |
| 6. Rev. Bernie Haan | 14. Rev. Norlyn Van Beek |
| 7. Rev. Dave Heilman | 15. Mr. Stanton Visser |
| 8. Rev. Carl Klompier | 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@nwcsiowa.edu
Mr. Barry Miedema (3/2022)	(712) 540-8131	barrymiedema@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. Jamie Negus	(712) 363-0779	jamie.negus89gmail.com
Mr. Kurt Rietema	(913) 219-9498	krietema@youthfront.com