

Classis Iakota
MINUTES
March 13, 2018
Inspiration Hills Retreat Center
Host Church: Cornerstone Prison Church – Sioux Falls, SD

Art. 3405: After Norlyn Van Beek, the Executive Director for Inspiration Hills, welcomes everyone David Heilman, the Inspiration Hills Advancement Coordinator provides the delegates with some information about the facilities. Cory Grimm, an RCA pastor who helps with the music ministry for Cornerstone Prison Church, then leads the delegates in the singing of “I Surrender All” and “Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone.” This is followed by Doug De Groot, one of the pastors of the Cornerstone Prison Church, sharing a brief message on “The Forgiveness of God” from Oswald Chamber’s devotional book, My Utmost for His Highest, and leading the delegates in prayer.

Art. 3406: Presentation of Credentials and Roll Call

<u>Churches</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Corsica	Dan De Graff	Gordon Feenstra	
Harrison	Gary Maas	Wayne Lefers	Kent Spoelstra*
Inwood		Galen Vande Vegte*	Chad Berenschot
		Gerald Zwart	
Menno – Peace	Steve Moerman	Orville Hauck	
New Holland	John Gorter	Willis De Lange*	
Platte	Drew Hoekema	Michael Kuipers	Jeremy Bultsma*
Rapid City – Hope	Paul Birnbaum		
Rock Rapids	Cliff Hoekstra	John Van Veldhuizen	
Rock Valley – Calvin	Gideon Wamala	Les Burggraaf	Dan Verburg*
Rock Valley – First	Matthew Haan	Fred Van Kley	Mike Pollema*
Rock Valley – Trinity	Stanley Groothof	Todd Van Tol	Lance Vander Pol*
Amistad Christiana	Eddy Olguin	Daniel Sanchez*	
Sioux Center – Bethel	John Lee	Brian Koedam	Tom De Jong*
Sioux Center – Bridge of Hope	Joel De Boer*	Mark Buss	
Sioux Center – Covenant		Dennis De Jong	Carol Oostra*
		Sanneke Kok*	
Sioux Center – Faith	Bob Pollema	Gerald Droog	Jon Dekkers
Sioux Center – First		John Wesselius	Joel Sikkema*
Sioux Center – Lebanon		Harry Dekkers	Derek Bonnema*
		Myron Gradert	
Sioux Falls – Cornerstone Prison	Doug De Groot	Marlin Van Ruler	Rick Van Ravenswaay
Sioux Falls – First	Cal Hoogendoorn	Don Kooiman	Phil Bonnema*
Sioux Falls – Shalom	Kyle De Young	Eric Aasen	Nathaniel Spronk*
Valentine – Lakeview	Mark Langenbach	Dean Noteboom	

*Indicates first time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers

Art. 3407: Classis is declared constituted by Cal Hoogendoorn, 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: Peace Menno CRC, New Holland CRC, Platte CRC, Calvin Rock Valley CRC, First Rock Valley CRC. Kyle De Young serves as Vice-chair and Bernie Haan as Clerk for the meeting.

Art. 3408: The Chair welcomes the delegates and visitors. The Chair appoints the delegates from the Shalom CRC of Sioux Falls to serve as the Credentials and Article 41 Committee, and he appoints the delegation from the Bethel CRC of Sioux Center to handle the prayer concerns.

Art. 3409: The Chair notes the time schedule for the day (9-11:45, lunch, 1-3:15, coffee, 3:30-)

Art. 3410: The overture from Peace, Menno CRC requesting transfer to Classis Minnkota (see Agenda, pp. 2-3) is presented and acted on.

- A. **Motion** to approve the overture from the Council of the Peace CRC of Menno, SD, to overture Synod 2018 to permit the transfer of the Peace CRC, Menno, South Dakota from Classis Iakota to Classis Minnkota.

Grounds:

1. Peace CRC cannot in good conscience remain in a classis that allows the ordination of women to the offices of minister and elder, and seats them at the shared assembly.
2. Peace CRC wishes to join a classis in which it can serve in harmony as opposed to serving in protest. Synod provides such allowance (see Church Order Art. 39 and its Supplement).
3. Synod 2007 permitted the churches to seek out like-minded classes with which to participate and has set precedent to do so (e.g., Mt. Pleasant CRC, Mich., 1997; Pine Creek CRC, Holland, Mich., 1997; South Bend CRC, Ind., 1999; First CRC, Prinsburg, Minn., 2007; Alto CRC, Waupun, Wisc., 2017).
4. Synod has declared that churches and delegates to classis should not be forced to participate against their convictions (see Church Order Art. 3, and Supplement, Art. 3-a, 1, b and c, 3, and 5).
5. Peace CRC has been in contact with Classis Minnkota regarding their desire to join them. Peace CRC received a positive response from Classis Minnkota at its meeting on March 1, 2018.
6. We think that the seating of women as delegates forces delegates who disagree with the seating of women delegates to compromise their own Scriptural convictions if they are to participate within Classis Iakota assemblies. (Gen. 2:16-25, Acts 6:1-7, I Corinthians II:2-16, 14:33-35, Ephesians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:18, I Timothy 2:10-14, 3:1-13, II Timothy 2:2, Titus 1:5-9, I Peter 3:1-8)
7. Geographically Classis Minnkota churches are not much further away than what many of the Classis Iakota churches are. Culturally most of the Minnkota churches are in small town or rural settings as is Peace.

-Defeated

Art. 3411: The Stated Clerk's Report (see Agenda, p. 5) is noted and an additional verbal report is given

- A. A letter is read from Dr. John Kok requesting extension of his license to exhort for two years. **Motion** to grant the request. *-Adopted*
- B. A letter is read from Barry Miedema requesting extension of his license to exhort for two years. **Motion** to grant the request. *-Adopted*
- C. A letter is read from Jeff Santema requesting extension of his license to exhort for two years. **Motion** to grant the request. *-Adopted*
- D. **Motion** to approve the work of the Stated Clerk *-Adopted*

Art. 3412: The Classical Interim Committee Report is presented by Stanley Groot Hof (see Agenda, p. 5-6).

- A. Regarding the request of the First Sioux Falls CRC to examine Candidate Sarah Hoogenboom by way of *classis contracta*.
1. Per Church Order Article 40-b synodical deputies were consulted in this matter and it was the judgment of Synodical Deputies Jack Van Marion (Classis Lake Superior), Roger Sparks (Classis Minnkota) and David Heilman (Classis Heartland) that there are justifiable circumstances in this case to conduct a *classis contracta*. It was

pointed out by them that the Supplement to Church Order Article 3-a states: “No members of classis shall be required to participate against their convictions in a candidate’s examination. . . . The examination for ordination of a female candidate may then be conducted by a *classis contracta* consisting of delegates from churches that do not object” (Church Order and Its Supplements, p. 12).

2. The delegates are informed that a *classis contracta* has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 (7 pm) at the First CRC of Sioux Falls. An e-mail message will be sent out to the churches to find out how many are willing to send a delegation to this meeting.
- B. It is noted that the First Sioux Center CRC has sent out a letter (on file) to the churches about the process being pursued with regard to a job description for a Commissioned Pastor position with the hope of acting on this at the September meeting of classis.
- C. The report of the combined meetings of the classical interim committees of Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota (see Supplement to the Agenda, p. 2) is noted.
1. **Motion** to have Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota mutually recognize those who have been granted license to exhort within their respective classes (C.O. Art. 43-b). Those licensed to exhort will be contacted by their respective classes that, unless otherwise indicated by the licensees, they will be made available for exhortation within the churches of either Classis Heartland or Classis Iakota. Future licensees will also be mutually recognized. Renewal of license to exhort will be handled by the classis in which the license is granted. -Adopted
- D. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee -Adopted

Art. 3413: Elections/action taken throughout the course of the day renders the following results:

- A. Classical Home Missions Clergy Member – Matt Haan (second term)
- B. Classical Ministerial Leadership Team Clergy Member – Cory Van Sloten (second term)
- C. Classical Ministerial Leadership Team Lay Member – Gerald Van Voorst (second term)
- D. Classical Ministerial Leadership Team Lay Alternate – Orlan Gulker (second term)
- E. Stated Clerk – Bernie Haan (second term)
- F. CRCNA Council of Delegates – John Lee
- G. Ministerial Delegate to Synod 2018 (by rotation) – Cal Hoogendoorn
- H. Ministerial Alternate Delegate to Synod 2018 (by rotation) – Steve Moerman
- I. Calvin Theological Seminary Region 8 Board Member: Rev. Robert Drenten--43 votes
Rev. David Huizenga--11 votes
- J. Elder Delegate to Synod 2018 – Sanneke Kok (note: no elder nominees were submitted on the credentials from any council or at the meeting; this nominee from Covenant CRC of Sioux Center was submitted after the classis meeting concluded and was approved by the CIC)
- K. Elder Alternate Delegate to Synod 2018 – unfilled
- L. Deacon Delegate to Synod 2018 – David Kuipers (note: no deacon nominees were submitted on the credentials from any council or at the meeting; this nominee from the Platte CRC was submitted after the classis meeting concluded and was approved by the CIC)
- M. Deacon Alternate Delegate to Synod 2018 – unfilled
- N. Fourth Officebearer Delegate to Synod 2018 – Dan De Graff
- O. Fourth Officebearer Alternate Delegate to Synod 2018 – Cliff Hoekstra

Art. 3414: The Siouxland Diaconal Conference Report is given (see Agenda pp. 14-15).

- A. Rod De Boer reports for the SDC as the chairman of their board. The Siouxland Diaconal Conference is an organization independent of any classis but is supported by and provides services to Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota. He reports that a loan was extended without SDC board approval to another not-for-profit organization. The SDC board is taking steps to address both the situation and the circumstances which led to this action. Mr. De Boer offers an invitation to the diaconates of Classis Iakota to attend their next board meeting which will be March 20, 2018 at the Calvin CRC in Rock Valley, and/or to contact him directly regarding the work of the SDC.
- B. John Gorter offers a prayer for this ministry

Art. 3415: Classical Home Missions Committee Report is presented by Drew Hoekema (see Supplement to the Agenda, p. 3)

- A. Cliff Hoekstra reports for the New Church Plant sub-committee (see Supplement to the Agenda, p. 4)
 - 1. **Motion** to a) grant the request of the sub-committee to provide the churches of classis with a monthly prayer update as they continue to investigate and pursue this exciting possibility, and b) permit the sub-committee to proceed with the church plant. *-Adopted*
- B. Tyler Helfers of Areopagus Campus Ministry gives an update on his work with this ministry on the campus of Iowa State University. Drew Hoekema offers a prayer for this ministry.
- C. Fred Wilgenburg, director and pastor of New Roots Ministry, thanks Classis Iakota for their support and provides a brief update on this ministry which takes place in the Sioux Falls area.
- D. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Home Missions Committee *-Adopted*

Art. 3416: Classical Ministerial Leadership Team Report is given by Dan De Graff (see Agenda, pp. 7-10).

- A. **Motion** to approve a new funding policy: 1) Up to 75% of current tuition at Calvin Theological Seminary (MDiv program) not to exceed 75% of CTS's current tuition at three years of full-time residential study. (2) Up to 50% of CTS's current tuition at other seminaries, at the discretion of the CMLT, not to exceed 50% of CTS's current tuition at three years of full-time residential study.

Grounds:

- 1. Our previous funding of other "Reformed" seminaries such as Mid-America Reformed Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, Western Theological Seminary (RCA) and Westminster Seminary (CA and PA) didn't seem to be in tune with where CRCNA candidates are attending seminary and excluded several solid evangelical seminaries.
- 2. Every candidate for ministry in the CRCNA who doesn't attend Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) must go through the same EPMC program through CTS and the same candidacy process through the Candidacy Committee of the CRCNA.
- 3. Under our new policy, funding students at "other" seminaries is at our discretion, and forces the CMLT to exercise due diligence in not only evaluating other seminaries but also in directing our students in their choice of seminary.
- 4. This new policy still gives clear preference to CTS over other seminaries.

-Adopted

B. **Motion** to approve the funds for the 2018-2019 school year for three students totaling up to \$26,000. *-Adopted*

Student:	Degree/Institution/Anticipated Graduation/Vocational Goal:	Recommended amount:	Support to date: (through May 2018)
Adam Ramirez Amistad Cristiana CRC Sioux Center	MTS, Calvin Theological Seminary ~ May 2019 Goal: Commissioned Pastor	\$10,500	\$19,500
Damon Hawes Dordt College First CRC Sioux Center	MDiv, Calvin, Princeton, Regent, or Western ~ May 2021 Goal: Minister of the Word	*\$11,500 if CTS *\$7,500 if other	\$0
Carlye Tazelaar Dordt College Covenant CRC Sioux Center	MAICS, Fuller Theological Seminary ~ May 2022 Goal: Commissioned Pastor	\$4000	\$0
Total:		*\$26,000 / \$22,000 (\$15,500 last year)	

C. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team *-Adopted*

Art. 3417: Church Visitor reports are received regarding...

- A. the visit made to the Peace, Menno CRC (see Agenda, pp.3-4)
- B. the visit made to the Calvin, Rock Valley CRC (see Agenda, p. 11)
- C. **Motion** to approve the work of the Church Visitors *-Adopted*

Art. 3418: The Classical Treasurer’s Report is given by Robert Van Ruler

- A. The Treasurer’s Report for 2017 is distributed and various items within the report are noted.
- B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Treasurer *-Adopted*

Art. 3419: Church Counselor Reports

- A. Dave Heilman reports as the counselor for the Inwood CRC (written report is on file)
- B. Now that Joel De Boer has been duly installed as the pastor for Bridge of Hope Ministries, Bob Pollema’s service as their counselor is complete.
- C. No report from John Lee, the counselor for the Covenant, Sioux Center CRC
- D. No report from Carl Klompjen, the counselor for the First, Sioux Center CRC
- E. **Motion** to approve the work of the Church Counselors *-Adopted*

Art. 3420: Regional Pastor Report is received from Dave Smit, the Regional Pastor for the Iowa churches of Classis Iakota and John Gorter, the Regional Pastor for the South Dakota churches (see Agenda, p. 12)

- A. John Gorter offers a prayer for recently retired pastor Carl Bruxvoort and his wife Kathy as Kathy’s health is greatly diminished due to her battle with cancer.
- B. **Motion** to approve the work of the Regional Pastors *-Adopted*

Art. 3421: Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Report is noted (see Agenda, pp 16-17).

- A. **Motion** to approve the work of this ministry *-Adopted*

- Art. 3422:** The February 2018 Calvin Theological Seminary Board Report (see Supplement to the Agenda, p. 5) is noted.
- Art. 3423:** Council of Delegates Report is given by Cal Hoogendoorn
- Art. 3424:** The following guests are given the opportunity to address classis for a few minutes.
- A. Daniel De Vries, the Regional CRCNA/RCA Disabilities Advocate
 - B. Rhonda Haverhals, co-director for Kingdom Boundaries, a prison aftercare ministry in Sioux Falls
- Art. 3425:** The Resonate Global Mission Report is noted (see Agenda pp. 17-18)
- Art. 3426:** The World Renew Report is given by Cliff Hoekstra
- Art. 3427:** Classis breaks into designated small groups for an hour of communal “church visiting” (see Agenda, p. 19)
- Art. 3428:** The Credentials and Article 41 committee reports that the credentials are in order. The following items are brought to the attention of classis:
- A. **Motion** to grant the request from Trinity, Rock Valley CRC to note the retirement of Rev. Dale Ellens, which took place on April 1, 2015, due to age. *-Adopted*
 - B. Advice is sought from the Cornerstone Prison Church as they consider having all of their council members inside the walls fill the office of elder so as to operate more effectively and efficiently within the prison walls while the office of deacon would be filled only by council members outside the walls.
- Art. 3429:** Chairperson Cal Hoogendoorn thanks the staff at Inspiration Hills for their hospitality and thanks the delegates for their gracious attention and spirit of unity.
- Art. 3430:** John Lee 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.3431:** Classis adjourns. The meeting concludes with the singing of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.”

Rev. Bernie Haan
Stated Clerk