

Classis lakota

AGENDA

September 20, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

**Place: First Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley, Iowa
Rev. Scott Van Voorst, Chairman Rev. Kyle De Young, 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

III. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS FUNCTIONARIES

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| A. Stated Clerk (p. 2) | E. Finance Committee (p. 5) |
| • Update on Disbanding of Hope
CRC in Rapid City (pp. 2-3) | F. Church Visitors |
| B. Interim Committee (p.3) | G. Church Counselors |
| C. Classical Missions Team (p. 4) | H. Regional Pastors |
| D. Ministerial Leadership Team (p. 4) | I. Minn-I-Kota Youth Network (p. 6) |
| | J. Safe Church Team (pp. 7-8) |
| | K. Classical Treasurer |

IV. ELECTIONS/NOMINATIONS

- A. Classical Missions Team (Jacklyn Nieuwendorp has completed her second term; note: this also impacts the Finance Committee as she serves on that committee as the representative from the Classical Missions Team)

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Calvin University | E. Faith Formation Ministries |
| B. Calvin Theological Seminary | F. Resonate Global Mission |
| C. Council of Delegates | G. World Renew |
| D. Dordt University | |

VI, FOLLOW-UP BUSINESS

- A. Ad Hoc Committee to study the feasibility and focus of establishing a new ministry similar to the Siouxland Diaconal Conference
- B. Report from Oversight Committee for First Sioux Falls CRC

VII. CLASSICAL "CHURCH VISITING" IN SMALL GROUPS (p. 9)

VIII. CLOSING BUSINESS

- A. Report from the Credentials and Article 41 Committee
- B. Next Meeting: March 7, 2023 (Is Rock Rapids CRC willing to host this meeting?)
- C. Closing Remarks (chairman)
- D. Closing Prayer
- E. Adjournment

Stated Clerk Report – September 2022

Since the March 2022 meeting of classis, I have handled the following:

- Received and responded to e-mails from individuals and/or churches who had a question about an ecclesiastical matter or want to bring a ministry-related matter to the attention of our classis.
- Per the appointment by the chairman of the March classis meeting Gary Maas and I had several conversations with the Hope CRC council in Rapid City (mainly Eric Kelderman) pertaining to the disbanding of this congregation and dissolution of their property (see our report below)
- Will be attending a Zoom gathering of stated clerks on September 8 which will include a review of Synod 2022 decisions as they relate to classes and to introduce the stated clerks to our new General Secretary, Zach King
- Sent out reminders of our 9/20/22 meeting to the councils of our classis and other ministry leaders who give reports to classis.
- Met with the Lakota CIC on 8/5/22 to begin the planning process for the 9/20 meeting of classis.

Update on the Disbanding of Hope CRC in Rapid City

After the minutes of the March meeting were sent out, Rev. Keith Doornbos, the executive director for the Center for Church Renewal, sent some material to Bernie Haan about the Legacy Project, which is a ministry of the Center and is connected to the Barnabas Foundation. This ministry helps churches in the CRCNA with the process of disbanding.

Gary Maas and Bernie Haan had a conference call with the four members of the Hope CRC council on 4/13/22 to discuss the disbanding process and what decisions would be needed about their members and their property. They were introduced to the Legacy Project and this seemed promising to them. At their 5/11/22 meeting they had a conference call with Keith Doornbos and Philip Leo who represents the Barnabas Foundation. The council was very impressed with the advice they were given and in a couple of follow-up meetings with Doornbos and Leo a plan was put together for the dissolution of the property.

On 7/20/22 there was a congregational meeting and after a lengthy discussion a plan for the dissolution of the property was approved. Below are the percentages for the distribution:

- 50%** -to Classis Lakota (to be used for a church plant where Classis believes it appropriate)
- 14%** -to be distributed evenly to the CRC congregations in Platte, Harrison, New Holland, and Corsica (the churches that planted Hope CRC)
- 4%** - to the Center for Church Renewal Legacy Project (for their work and the work of the Barnabas Foundation in selling the property)
- 12%** -to Resonate World Missions (with a specific requirement that 2% of the allocation go directly to the Cady family mission, a family with direct ties to Hope CRC) and World Renew (formerly CRWRC, where some Hope CRC members served on different projects; they are combined because some Hope CRC members pointed out they are now both under the same umbrella.)
- 7%** - Love INC (which Hope CRC hosted, funded, and helped support from its infancy)
- 3%** - Church Response (which members of Hope CRC organized, and which Hope CRC supported for many years)
- 2%** - Habitat for Humanity
- 2%** - Cedar Canyon Youth Camp
- 2%** - Cornerstone Rescue Mission
- 4%** - Hope Center in Rapid City

As noted in the CIC report below, the Hope CRC council is still in the process of figuring out a way to properly transfer the property to Barnabas Foundation, and the matter of membership transfers still needs to be handled.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernie Haan
Gary Maas

Classis lakota Interim Committee Fall 2022 Report

1. Diaconal ministry:

The CIC hopes a new classical diaconal ministry in partnership with Classis Heartland will eventually start. We plan to contact people who have expressed interest in this and will continue working with Classis Heartland.

2. CRC Ministry Share pledges:

Recognizing it is hard for churches to know in September what they will pledge for the following year, we decided to ask each delegation to submit with their classical credentials what they pledged for CRC Ministry Shares this past year and how they arrived at that figure, assuming similar processes and figures will be used in the coming year.

3. Disbanding of Hope CRC Rapid City:

Motion: Classis lakota acquiesces to the disbanding of Hope CRC Rapid City with the distribution of the assets as indicated by the congregation at their meeting on 20 Jul 2022 pending satisfactory legal transfer of assets to the Barnabas Foundation.

Notes: Memberships still need to be transferred to other churches. A pastor from another church in the area has been caring for former members of Hope CRC.

4. Financial matters:

4.1. **Motion:** Classis lakota increases the reimbursement rate for classical preaching appointments from \$100 to \$125 per service.

Note: The CIC requests the Finance Committee to set this rate in the future.

4.2. **Motion:** Classis lakota increases the reimbursement for meals at classis meetings to \$8 per person plus a \$60 gratuity.

Note: The CIC requests the Finance Committee to set this rate in the future.

5. Lifeline Children's Services:

The CIC welcomes Lifeline Children's Services to have a display table at our classis meeting.

6. Church visiting:

Church visitors will conduct roundtable church visits during our upcoming classis meeting like we did at the March 2020 classis meeting using the same set of questions that address the joys and challenges church leaders have in their particular settings.

7. The remainder of our work is reflected through the classis meeting agenda.

CMT Classis Report *Fall 2022*

Members: Mr. Gord Dyk, Rev. Adam Eisenga (secretary), Rev. Drew Hoekema (chair), Mr. Piet Koene,
Ms. Jacklyn Nieuwendorp, Pastor Gary Maas, Rev. Gideon Wamala

Ministry shares

We met with representatives and read reports from the ministries supported by our classical ministry shares. While in past years, we would here include our proposed numbers for support, we now submit said information to the finance committee for their consideration and await their recommendation to classis. Therefore, I simply list these ministries—Amistad, Areopagus, Cornerstone, Geneva, Klompiens in Nepal, New Roots, Prairie Lights, and Siouxland Unity.

Tyler Helpers has transitioned from Areopagus to Stellenbosch International Fellowship (SIF) in South Africa. Laura Copley, formerly of Classis Red Mesa, is now with Areopagus. Tyler heard about our classis' desire to support gospel ministry and met with us regarding his upcoming work in South Africa. After that conversation, we as a committee began a conversation about our criteria for supporting ministries both local and global.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CHMT,
Rev. Adam Eisenga

CMLT Classis Report *Fall 2022*

Members: Rev. Doug DeGroot, Rev. Adam Eisenga (chair), Mr. Orlan Gulker, Rev. Kurt Monroe, Mr.
Nathan Nieuwendorp, and Mr. Bob VanRuler

Anna (Christians) Mooers is at Western Theological Seminary with the goal of becoming a minister of the word. She is enrolling in the EPMC program at Calvin Seminary and is currently interested in serving as a chaplain. She is a member of Covenant CRC in Sioux Center. She has just requested financial assistance for this school year.

Trevor Mouw is at Sioux Falls Theological Seminary with the goal of becoming a minister of the word. He is enrolling in the EPMC program at Calvin Seminary. He is a member of Faith CRC in Sioux Center. He has just requested financial assistance for this school year.

We currently have two individuals—**Brent Nymeyer** and **Dustin VanderHaar**—who are repaying their loans monthly and have been for some time.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CMLT,
Rev. Adam Eisenga

**Finance Committee
Report to Classis Iakota
September 2022**

Items of Note

- The committee is developing a process for reviewing (“auditing”) the work of the classis treasurer. This process will be used soon to review the work for fiscal year 2021.
- The committee reviewed the proposed budget for 2023, which is attached to this report.

Recommendations

1. The treasurer and finance committee took note of surplus balances, especially in accounts under the care of the Classical Mission Team (CMT). The Finance Committee suspects that the CMT is not aware of these balances.

The Finance Committee recommends that classis directs the Classical Mission Team to develop a strategy to use the existing surplus funds, with a view especially to fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The Finance Committee also recommends that about 25% of the surplus in each account be held in reserve.

Grounds:

- a) The funds have been given by the churches for the operational support of its missions and ministries.
 - b) A strategy that makes use of these funds spread over a few years avoids abrupt changes from year to year in revenue streams.
 - c) Decisions about funding and ministry share recommendations for these accounts is the responsibility of the CMT.
2. **That Classis sets the annual stipend for 2023 for the Classical Treasurer and Stated Clerk each at \$3,000, an increase from the current rate of \$2,750 for each position.**

Grounds

- a) These amounts are in alignment with regional classes.
 - b) The work is worthy of this compensation.
3. **That Classis sets the ministry share for the Classical Expense Fund at \$4.00 per member for 2023.**

Grounds:

- a) This amount will sufficiently fund anticipated classis expenses of \$15,000 for 2023, including the modest increase in stipends for 2023. (The 2022 ministry share is \$2,75.)
 - b) This will greatly help toward erasing a deficit in this account.
4. **That Classis Iakota adopt a December 15 deadline for churches to report their denominational (CRCNA) ministry share pledges to the Classical Treasurer.**

Grounds:

- a) This date allows sufficient time for churches to process their annual pledges.
 - b) This date allows the Classical Treasurer sufficient time to report these pledges to the CRCNA.
5. **That Classis Iakota approve the work of the Finance Committee.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bob Drenten, Chair

2022 Fall MIK Youth Report

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO MINNKOTA, IAKOTA, HEARTLAND, SUPPORTING CHURCHES, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO, SINCE 1948, HAVE HELPED MAKE MINNIKOTA YOUTH NETWORK MINISTRY POSSIBLE THROUGH CLASSICAL SHARES, CHURCH OFFERINGS, PERSONAL DONATIONS, AND CONTINUED PRAYERS. IT HAS BEEN A TRUE BLESSING TO BE ABLE TO SERVE YOU, YOUR COVENANT YOUTH, AND THEIR LEADERS OVER THE YEARS!

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

MINNKOTA CLASSIS: REPRESENTATIVE-VACANT, CARMEN VIS (SEC), SARAH VAN DYKEN (SEC).
IAKOTA CLASSIS: REPRESENTATIVE PASTOR HENRY LENGKEEK, DAN ELGERSMA (PRES), SHELLI KOLLIS.
HEARTLAND CLASSIS: REPRESENTATIVE PASTOR BEN WIERSMA, KODY TESCH (TREAS), BETH HEERSPINK.

FYI: AFTER MUCH PRAYER AND DISCUSSION THE BOARD HAS HIRED PASTOR DOUG DE GROOT TO WORK PART TIME ALONG SIDE LEE, WHILE HE CONTINUES FULL TIME AS PASTOR OF ROCK RAPID, IA CRC.

2022-2023 RECENT EVENT:

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 FRIDAY NIGHT-THUNDER ROAD SIOUX FALLS, SD ALL NIGHTER (11PM-4AM) KICK OFF: OUTDOOR ATTACTIONS FROM 11PM-1AM, DEVOTIONS AND PIZZA FROM 1-2AM, AND INDOOR ATTRACTIONS (EXCLUDING AXE THROWING) FROM 2-4AM.

2022-2023 UPCOMING EVENTS:

TRAVELLING LESSON PLAN TITLED "WOULD YOU RATHER...?" FROM NUMBERS 22:21-39. WE ARE AVAILABLE TO LEAD THIS LESSON THE 2nd and 4th WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OF EACH MONTH. WE HAVE ABOUT A DOZEN WEDNESDAY NIGHTS STILL AVAILABLE IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR TO SHARE THIS LESSON IN YOUR CHURCH/COMMUNITY. "IF YOU WOULD RATHER" HAVE MIK YOUTH COME IN ON A SUNDAY NIGHT WE HAVE A FEW OF THOSE OPEN AS WELL. CALL, TEXT, EMAIL SOON TO PUT THE TRAVELLING LESSON PLAN ON YOUR CALENDAR. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT- WOULD YOU LIKE MIK YOUTH TO HOST A WEDNESDAY NIGHT DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, OR NOVEMBER? LET MIK YOUTH KNOW AND THEY WILL DO ALL THE ORGANIZING. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT (JANUARY, 2023) ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT- WOULD YOUR CHURCH/COMMUNITY LIKE TO HELP HOST A P&W NIGHT? LET'S TALK ASAP AND GET IT ON THE CALENDAR. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com.

PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND-FEBRUARY 17, 18, 19, 2023-THE HIGH SCHOOL GATHERING

APRIL 21, 22, 23 2023-JR HIGH (6TH-8TH GRADE) RETREAT AT INSPRIATION HILLS INWOOD, IA.

LEADERS' NETWORKING NOON LUNCHEs: ONCE A MONTH IN SIOUX FALLS OR SIOUX CENTER...WATCH FACEBOOK AND EMAILS FOR DATES/LOCATIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN EVENING NETWORKING SUPPER LET MIK YOUTH KNOW... WE WILL GET IT ON THE CALENDAR. 712-470-4244 OR mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com.

STAY CONNECTED:

EMAIL-mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com, WEBSITE-minnikotayouthnetwork.com, FACEBOOK-Minnikota Youth

***Alethea "Lee" De Groot~Minn-I-Kota Youth Ministry Coordinator &
Faith Formation Champion/Executive Team (Region #5)***

712-470-4244 307 South Union Street Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246

"Christ Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone, by the Glory of God Alone!"

Classis Heartland & Iakota Safe Church Report Fall 2022

Prepared by: Dr. Tara Boer, LISW
Iakota & Heartland Safe Church Coordinator

Date Prepared: 08/09/22

Iakota & Heartland Classical Safe Church Team Members: Pastor Henry Lengkeek (Trinity CRC-Iakota), Heidi Van Roekel (Bethel CRC-Iakota), Pastor Jesse Walhof (Living Water CRC-Heartland), Dr. Tara Boer (Hope CRC, Heartland).

Classical Safe Church Team Tasks:

- The Safe Church Team serves as a consultative role for churches who are developing (or reviewing/revising) congregational safe church policies.
- The Safe Church Team serves as a resource for churches dealing with allegations of abuse.
- The Safe Church Team serves as a clearing house of best practices and periodic trainings for Classis Heartland and Classis Iakota regarding abuse awareness, prevention, and response.

Team Meeting:

The team met on 05/24/22 at Hope CRC in Hull. This meeting also included Pastor Aaron Gonzales and Pastor Ben Wiersma (Heartland) to discuss how to support church health, church order, and advisory panel recommendations. Follow up meetings were had via zoom on June 7 and July 1 to consult with safe church team lead, Amanda Benckhuysen, to discuss best practices, church order, and ways to appropriately and effectively advocate for victims.

Safe Church Committee Activity

Team members continue to review church policies, provide education and consultation, and serve as advocates for victims.

Safe Church Team Goals:

The safe church team goals remain that each church in Iakota and Heartland establish a 2-3-person safe church team, have an updated policy, and implement background checks for all of those that care for children and teens in their ministry programs. For churches that have established this, please consider implementing the Circle of Grace curriculum in your Sunday school programming to teach children and teens about boundaries, safety, and healthy relationships.

We hope that all churches are making progress in ensuring that your ministries have clear policies and practices that aid in the protection of children and vulnerable people from being harmed. If you have any questions about what should be included in your policy or procedures, please familiarize yourself with the [policy resources](#) on the [CRC Safe Church website](#) and contact one of our team members to help you. In August, safe church also released a [model policy](#) that can be downloaded and edited to fit your congregational needs. It's much easier to do the hard work of ensuring that you have good policies and practices now than it is to have to respond to abuse situations unprepared and unequipped.

The safe church team is asking that you consider appointing someone who might be willing to be trained as a panelist in the [advisory panel process](#) if a case of abuse or misconduct surfaces alleging a ministry leader by another adult. **Contact Tara if know of someone willing to serve in this way.**

*Please be reminded that if a child/teen discloses physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or if a child/teen is present in a domestic violence situation, you should promptly report the incident to the Department of Human Services (1-800-362-2178). Also, contact safe church **BEFORE** approaching the accused if an allegation of abuse (adult or child) surfaces in your church.

Dr. Boer will be offering virtual office hours to ministry leaders on the last Monday of each month from 10-11am starting August 29. This is a good time and space to ask questions about policies, procedures, and best practices as it pertains to minors and vulnerable people. Please watch your email for a zoom link (and save the link as it will be used for all meetings). You may also email me to request the link or ask additional questions.

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of our committee if you would like to talk about any needs your church may have. You may communicate with any committee member or contact Tara directly at 712-898-6468 (cell) or tara.boer@dordt.edu. You're also welcome to visit drtaraboer.com for additional mental health education, resources, and services.

