

MINUTES OF CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS

Meeting at Cedar CRC, Cedar, IA
 Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 8AM

Art. 7621 – Rev. John Ritsema led in worship with devotions and prayer.

Art. 7622 – Constituting Classis

A. Roll call indicates the following delegates are present:

| CHURCH | MINISTER | ELDER | DEACON |
|---|---|---|--|
| CEDAR | John Ritsema | William Hol | Grant Van Den Heuvel |
| PEACE CR LEIGHTON | Gary Brouwers | -- *Benjamin Anum- Higher | -- *Dan Hol |
| TRINITY STL NEW LIFE | Mike Bentley | Dan Frieswick Dave Gritters *Max Killoren | *Ben Eberenz |
| NEWTON IC CHINESE BETHEL OSKY | Aaron Gunsaulus -- | Craig Van Wyngarden *Tom Fisher Dale Hessing Gordon Struit | Caleb Gunsaulas --- *Jon Veenstra |
| FIRST OSKY CALVARY FAITH CONNECT | Jonathan Spronk Brad Bierma Brian Ochsner | Brent De Ronde Roger Van Hal *Gerrit Brouwer *Greg Dielema *Matthew Spoelstra | *Brennen Plate *Lee Roose *Curt Kelderman *Al Kopaska |
| GRACE | --- | Linda Groendyk Jodi Tukker | -- |
| PEORIA | | Mark Franje Henry Vande Voort | Matt Vander Hart |
| CORNERSTONE PRAIRIE CITY SULLY | --- Matthew McClure | -- Landon Van Zante | Robert Rus Dustin DeRaad *Zach Dunsbergen |
| TRACY CROSSROADS | Al Bandstra Mark Jicinsky | Doug Veenstra *Jason De Bruin | --- Kyle Hoekstra |

*First time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers

B. The Chair declared Classis Central Plains constituted with the following officers:

Chair: Rev. Aaron Gunsaulas

Vice-Chair: Rev. Brian Ochsner

Stated Clerk: Rev. Jonathan Spronk

C. The Chair welcomed the following Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Rus Boersma (Classis Northcentral Iowa)

Rev. Brian Hofman (Classis Heartland)

Rev. Roger Sparks (Classis Minnkota)

Art 7623 – Church Order Art. 55 Communion Requests from Grace Fellowship and New Life Prison Church.

A. Motion made and supported to give Grace Fellowship and New Life Prison Church permission under Church Order Art. 55 to have their Elders administer communion in 2024 unless they have called a pastor who has accepted and can administer the sacraments by that time.

Carried

a. For Grace Fellowship, Virgil Jansen will be the Administrating Elder.

b. For New Life, Dave Gritters will be the Administrating Elder.

Art. 7624 – Church Order Art. 10 - Examinations of Brandon Mick for Ordination as Minister of the Word

A. Practica

a. Pastor Al Bandstra led Practica examination.

b. Motion made and supported to proceed with the examination.

Carried

B. Sermon Evaluation

a. Rev. Erik Kamp and Elder Matt Jennings presented the sermon critics' report.

b. Motion made and supported to proceed with the examination.

Carried

c. The synodical deputies concurred.

C. Biblical-Theological

a. Rev. Jonathan Spronk led the Biblical-Theological examination.

D. The Chair declares Executive Session.

E. In Executive Session:

a. Motion made and supported to sustain Mr. Brandon Mick in his examination for ordination as Minister of the Word.

Carried

b. The synodical deputies concurred.

F. Classis returned to open session. The chair announced classis' decision approving Brandon Mick as a Minister of the Word for the Christian Reformed Church. Brandon has received a call from Calvary Pella to serve as a Chaplain to Vermeer. Ordination date is announced as March 24, 2024 at Calvary Pella.

Addendum Post Meeting

[The Central Plains Stated Clerk missed getting proper Art. 12-c approval on the agenda at the Feb. 24, 2024 meeting. After the meeting, the Classis Interim Committee in communication with the Synodical Deputies approved a 12-c request that Brandon Mick serve as a Chaplain with call from Calvary Pella under the stipulations of Supplement, Art. 12-c, part b. On March 12, 2024, Synodical Deputies (Rus Boersma, Brian Hofman, and Roger Sparks) concurred. Full approval by Classis of the Art. 12-c will be on the Agenda of Classis in May 2024]

Art. 7625 – Church Order Art. 14b Release for Rev. Rick Admiraal

- A. Rev. Rick Admiraal has accepted a call from the Lakeview Community Church in the Reformed Church in America and is seeking ordination in the RCA.
- B. **Motion made and supported to declare via Art. 14b that Rev. Rick Admiraal is honorably released from the office of Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America effective Dec. 15, 2023.**

Carried

- C. The Synodical Deputies concurred.

Art. 7626 – Church Order Art. 14c Release for Rev. Justin Van Zee

- A. Rev. Justin Van Zee has resigned his position with Resonate Global Mission to pursue a non-ministerial vocation in Cambodia.
- B. **Motion made and supported to declare via Art. 14c that Rev. Justin Van Zee is honorably released from the office of Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America effective April 30, 2023.**

Carried

- C. The Synodical Deputies concurred.
- D. The Chair thanks the Synodical Deputies for their work

Art. 7627 – Church Order Art. 18 Retirement Request from Rev. Dan Brouwer

- A. Rev. Dan Brouwer served Second CRC (now Cornerstone) until 2015 and subsequently has served the denomination as a Specialized Transitional Minister for a number of congregations since. Rev. Brouwer has requested an Article 18 retirement due to age from Classis Central Plains.
- B. **Motion made and supported to grant Rev. Dan Brouwer an Article 18 retirement due to age.**

Carried

Art. 7628 – Classis Finance Committee/Treasurer Report, John Ritsema, reporting:

- A. Financial report for March 2023-Feb. 2024 is presented.
(Report is listed at end of Minutes)

- B. **Motion made and supported to approve the financial report for March 2023-Feb. 2024.** **Carried**
- C. **Motion made and supported to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to send \$25,000 out of existing funds to Dordt University.** **Carried**
- D. **Motion made and supported to increase the pulpit supply rate for Classis Central Plains to \$175/service.** **Carried**
- E. **Motion made and supported to increase the fee given to the Stated Clerk to \$4,000/year** **Carried**
- F. 2024-25 Budget is presented.
(Budget is listed at end of Minutes)
- G. **Motion made and supported to approve the 2024-25 Budget.** **Carried**

Art. 7629 – Synod 2023 Delegate Selection

- A. Ballot is presented to delegates for voting. The following slate of delegates is approved:
1. Minister: Rev. Mark Jicinsky
 2. Elder: Dan Frieswick
 3. Deacon: --
 4. Other Officebearer: Rev. Michael Bentley
 5. Minister Alternate: Rev. Johnlo Xu
 6. Elder Alternate: --
 7. Deacon Alternate: --
 8. Other Officebearer Alternate: --
- B. **Motion made and supported to task the Classis Leadership Team with seeking a Deacon Delegate after the meeting.** **Carried**

Art. 7630 – Nomination Committee

- A. Ballot is presented to delegates for voting. The following positions are approved:
- a. Synodical Deputy: Rev. Brad Bierma
 - b. Synodical Deputy, Alternate: Rev. Michael Bentley
 - c. Council of Delegate Representative: Rev. Erik Kamp
 - i. Rev. Kamp is finishing the term of Rev. Tom Wolthuis on the COD as Rev. Wolthuis has resigned his position, effective Feb. 28, 2024.

Art. 7631 – Classis received the following written and verbal reports for information:

- A. Stated Clerk – Rev. Jonathan Spronk
- B. Classical Ministry Leadership Team – Rev. Aaron Gunsaulus

1. Will Brouwers, CTS student who is serving as an intern at Dispatch, KS, has recently been approved by CMLT as he completes his Candidacy process and hopes to be approved as a Candidate for Ministry at Synod 2024.

C. Classis Missions Committee – Rev. Mark Jicinsky

D. Church Counselors

E. Healthy Church Advocates (Church Visitors)

1. With recent transfers and retirements, Classis is reminded that we are in need of more volunteers to serve as Healthy Church Advocates.

F. World Renew Update for Classis

Art. 7632 – The following speakers addressed Classis on behalf of their ministry:

A. Ms. Carol Van Klompenburg – World Renew Board

- a. Carol is finishing her second term on the WR board. We hope to hear from World Renew soon about approval of a new nominee.

B. Rev. Lora Copley – Areopagus Campus Ministry at Iowa State University

C. Elder Dave Gritters – New Life Prison Church

D. Mr. Brett Erikson – Geneva Campus Ministry at University of Iowa

Art. 7633 – Rev. Aaron Gunsaulus closed the Classis meeting in prayer.

Art. 7634 – Classis adjourned.

Art. 7635 – Delegates entered into small group prayer time followed by the noon meal.

Next regular session of Classis will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at Cornerstone Pella. Agenda materials are due to statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com by May 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jonathan Spronk - Stated Clerk, Central Plains

Classis Income/Expense Mar '23-Feb 24

Income

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Interest Income | \$212.65 |
| Ministry Shares | \$149,717.11 |

Total Income \$149,929.76

Expense

Church Development Grant \$500.00

Classis Expense Fund

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Classis meeting expense | \$2,769.25 |
| Office expense | \$157.40 |
| Stated Clerk fee | \$3,000.00 |
| Travel | \$1,716.26 |
| Treasurer fee | \$3,000.00 |

Total Classis expense fund \$10,642.98

Dordt University \$80,150.00

Home missions

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Areopagus | \$12,000.00 |
| Geneva Campus Ministry | \$23,410.00 |
| New Life Prison Church | \$16,500.00 |

Total Home missions \$51,910.00

Student fund

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Will Brouwers | \$5,500.00 |
|---------------|------------|

Total Student fund \$5,500.00

Total Expense \$148,702.98

Net Income \$1,226.78

Financial Contributions Mar '23 - Feb 24

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Bethel | \$5,250.00 |
| Calvary | \$25,306.90 |
| Cedar | \$1,450.00 |
| Chinese Church of Iowa City | \$6,500.00 |
| Connect | \$5,000.00 |
| Cornerstone | \$8,310.00 |
| Crossroad Fellowship | \$12,266.32 |
| Faith | \$17,979.00 |
| First Oskaloosa | \$27,000.00 |
| Grace Fellowship | \$5,754.00 |
| Korean | \$1,700.00 |
| Leighton | \$663.00 |
| Newton | \$5,000.00 |
| Peace | \$3,640.98 |
| Peoria | \$12,938.00 |
| Prairie City | \$4,259.00 |
| Tracy | \$4,000.00 |
| Trinity | \$2,700.00 |
| TOTAL | \$149,717.11 |

**Classis Central Plains
Budget
2024-2025**

| | Actual | Requested | Pledged |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 23-24 | 24-25 | 24-25 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Student Fund | \$11,000 | \$11,000 | \$11,000 |
| Home Missions | | | |
| Committee Expense | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 |
| Geneva Campus | | | |
| Ministries | \$23,500 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Areopagus Ministries | \$12,000 | \$13,000 | \$13,000 |
| New Life Prison | \$16,500 | \$16,500 | \$16,500 |
| | | | |
| Total | \$52,200 | \$59,700 | \$59,700 |
| Dordt University | \$80,150 | \$159,575 | \$71,650 |
| Church Development Grant | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| New Church Plant | \$4,500 | \$4,500 | \$4,500 |
| Classis Expense | | | |
| Travel Expense | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 |
| Classis Meals | \$750 | \$750 | \$750 |
| Printing, Postage | \$50 | \$50 | \$50 |
| Treasurer Bond | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Conferences | \$1,750 | \$1,750 | \$1,750 |
| Clerk | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$4,000 |
| Treasurer | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| | | | |
| Total | \$10,150 | \$10,150 | \$11,150 |
| | | | |
| Total | <u>\$160,000</u> | <u>\$246,925</u> | <u>\$160,000</u> |
| Total active professing members | | 2306 | |
| Ministry shares per member | | \$107.08 | |