

Classis Central Plains Agenda Supplement

September 24-25, 2021

Classis Leadership Team (CIC)

Meeting September 23, 2021 at Faith CRC

Present: Brian Ochsner, Aaron Gunsaulus, Brad Van Kooten, Ivan Mulder, Jon Spronk, Chris Allen (Fall meeting Chair)

Absent with notice: Sheldon Starkenburg

1. Brian prayed and called the meeting to order
2. We reviewed the credentials for the upcoming meeting.
 - a. One request from Sully is for a Counselor in the vacancy. We hope to have one arranged by the Classis meeting.
3. The Agenda for the Fall Classis meeting was reviewed and discussed.
4. Aaron reported on an Ad hoc committee that was created by CIC after the previous Classis to work with Peoria CRC and the Office of Social Justice and any potential overtures for the Spring 2022 meeting. The committee is Aaron Gunsaulus, Chris Allen and Gary Brouwers.
5. Meeting is adjourned and Chris concludes in prayer.

Jon Spronk

Stated Clerk

Classis Ministry Leadership Committee

September 2021

Report from Classis Ministry Leadership Committee

Mandate: CMLT's work closely with individuals preparing for ministry in the CRC by providing support and encouragement. They work in partnership with the Candidacy Committee to ensure that the processes leading toward ordination are performed in a just, equitable, and welcoming manner. Classis Central Plains has tasked its CMLT with interviewing students preparing for ministry in the CRCNA, and recommending to Classis financial assistance in support of these students. To this end, the CMLT presents the following report:

1. Current membership: Chairman Aaron Gunsaulus, Greg Westra, Will Verhoef, and Ruth Verhoef.
2. The CMLT met via ZOOM on January 13, 2021, and July 14, 2021.

3. Through the CMLT, Classis Central Plains is currently financially supporting two students—one a student at Calvin Theological Seminary, and the other a student with Coram Deo.
4. The CMLT has also been in contact with the classical treasurer and the Candidacy Committee, as needed, for information and clarification.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Gunsaulus
For the CMLT



Fall 2021 Classis Update

Fall is a time for harvest in many places in the U.S. We are reminded of the many blessings that we have received, and yet we also remember those who are less fortunate.

Hunger is on the rise. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that there was a “dramatic worsening of hunger in 2020.” This means that the number of people experiencing the pains of hunger has increased significantly, partly due to climate variabilities, conflict, economic downturns, and certainly exacerbated by the global pandemic. Until this past 18 months, the world was on a different track: one that saw the end of hunger and severe malnutrition by 2030. About one-tenth of the world’s population is hungry, food insecure, or malnourished - this is up to 811 million people (an increase of 118 million from the past year). Further, the report highlights that healthy diets are “out of reach” for 3 billion people.

Because of your support, World Renew has been able to work with local churches to address hunger through peace-building work in Nigeria, climate resiliency work in Kenya, Village Saving and Loans (VSL) groups in Mozambique, tilapia ponds in Nicaragua, land rights advocacy in Laos, maternal and newborn child health programs throughout our regions, and more.

Please continue to join us in ministry by participating in this year’s World Hunger Sunday. Resources are available at worldrenew.net/world-hunger-church-resources.

Support for Deacons

A number of educational webinars for deacons and other ministry leaders will launch this fall. Visit <https://worldrenew.net/cace> for the current schedule.

In addition, starting in September, a new online networking group for anyone involved in community engagement and diaconal work will meet to learn from and share with one another.

For information about joining, or for help with best practices to care for each other, develop partnerships and engage more deeply with your community, contact Jodi Koeman at jkoeman@worldrenew.net.

Disaster Response Services (DRS)

DRS is thrilled to announce that reconstruction work will begin at long term sites in Dickinson, Orange, Victoria, and Rio Grande Valley, TX this fall, as well as a new site in North Carolina. These sites will be focusing on recovery work due to Hurricane Harvey (2017) and the many storms that occurred from 2019-2021, including Hurricanes Imelda, Laura, Delta, and Hannah. While these teams will be smaller in size than usual, the extra sites will allow more volunteers to get back to work. The Groups program is looking to jumpstart their program this fall with clean-up work in Detroit, MI and reconstruction work in King Lake, NE and Pamlico Co, NC....there is much work to be done!

Along with reconstruction and clean-up efforts, the Needs Assessment program has also been busy doing virtual training for needs assessments with hopes of doing an in-person needs assessment on the west coast later this fall or early winter.

Prayers would be appreciated for the upcoming months...that sites will be able to open as planned, for the safety of our volunteers, and that we will be able to bring hope to the disaster survivors that have been waiting so long for help to come.

Visit worldrenew.net/drs to sign up for email updates.

International Disaster Response

After an outpouring of generosity, our work in India amidst the COVID crisis continues. With your help, 5,495 families in 123 communities were reached with COVID-19 education and hygiene kits. 1,155 additional families in Jharkhand state received cash transfers for essential food and medicine. We've also focused on providing oxygen for patients in hospitals, and PPE kits and supplies for the staff.

These vulnerable families living in rural, hard-to-reach communities had hope in the midst of crisis. Your prayers and contributions have left lasting impacts, and will continue for months and years to come.

World Renew also continues to work around the world to provide food, diapers, farming inputs, and shelter to those affected by natural and man-made disasters. Visit <https://worldrenew.net/idr-projects> to see where we are currently working.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support that makes this ministry possible!