

**MINUTES OF CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS**

Meeting at Second CRC, Pella, Iowa  
Saturday, February 9, 2019, 8AM

Art. 7440 – Rev. Paul Bradford opened with worship, devotions and prayer.

Art. 7441 – Constituting Classis

A. Roll call indicates the following delegates are present:

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>ELDER</b>	<b>DEACON</b>
Cedar	*John Ritsema	Ken Van Gilst	William Hol
Cedar Rapids Peace	Gary Brouwers	*Richard Underwood	*Deborah Roberts
Iowa City, Chinese	John Xu	Kung-sik Chan	*Lin Lu
Iowa City, Geneva	Tom Wolthuis		
Leighton		Richard Vande Voort Byron Van Gorp	Calvin Vande Voort
Newton		Aaron Gunsaulus Craig Van Wyangarden	Rick Backus
Newton, New Life	Rick Admiraal		
Oskaloosa, Bethel		Dale Hessing Alan Van Waardhuizen	Bryan Mulder
Oskaloosa, First	Jonathan Spronk	Royce Spoelstra	Doug DeBruin
Oskaloosa, Good News			
Pella, Calvary	*Nate Klingenberg	Randy Nugteren	Andrew De Haan
Pella, Faith	Ryan Faber	Arvan Van Zee	Wes Van Maanen
Pella, First	Brad Meinders	Russ Van Hemert	Wayne Van Wallbeck
Pella, Grace	*Chris Allen	Larry Eggink	*Linda Groenendyk
Pella, Second			
Peoria	Paul Bradford	Steve Roose Daryl Bouwkamp Tim Franje	Byran Harthoorn Ben Lefevre
Prairie City		Gene Steenhoek Jeremy VanDeNoord	Andy DeVries
St. Louis, Trinity	*Mike Bentley		*Josh De Groot *Hannah Yakubu
Sully	Brian Ochsner	Gary Fynaardt	Nolan Vos
Tracy	Richard Loerop	Marvin Ozinga	Gary Crozier
West Des Moines, Crossroads	Mark Jicinsky	Kevin Vryhof	*Rodell Nydam

\* First time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers

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

Chair: Rev. Tom Wolthuis  
Vice-Chair: Rev. Brad Meinders  
Stated Clerk: Rev. Jonathan Spronk

- C. The chair welcomed the following visitors throughout the course of the Classis meeting

Doug Van Der Pol, pastor of Bethel, Oskaloosa  
Wayne Kobes, Dordt College  
Bradley Van Kooten, Crossroads Fellowship

- D. Motion made and supported to seat two deacon delegates from Trinity St. Louis in lieu of an elder and a deacon.

Carried.

Art. 7442 – Finance Committee – Rev. Ryan Faber, reporting

- A. Treasurer’s Report and Finance Committee Report were received for information.  
B. Audit of Classis accounts will be completed at end of fiscal year.

Art. 7443 – Classical Pulpit Supply Rate

- A. Motion made and supported to continue the rate for Classical Pulpit Supply at the current amount of \$100 and mileage at the IRS rate.

Carried

Art. 7444 – FY 2019 Budget

- A. Motion made and supported to approve the FY2019 Budget (Appendix A) as presented.

Carried

Art. 7445 – Overture from Peoria CRC

- A. Overture from Peoria CRC re:Synod Review Task Force recommendation 20 is brought to the floor.  
B. Motion made and supported to remove the last sentence of Ground 2: *“The ethnically diverse delegate may be left wondering if they have been delegated because they are viewed as capable (which they may certainly be) or because they are needed as a “token” ethnic delegate and happen to be willing.”*

Carried

- C. Motion made and supported to remove Ground 2.

Defeated

- D. Motion made and supported to add a new Ground 5: *The proposal is outside the mandate of the Task Force in proposing a change to Church Order Art. 3.*

Defeated

E. Motion made and supported to add a sentence to Ground 4: *“Synod has been and will continue to be well served by its non-voting advisers, including youth and theological advisers.”*

Carried

F. Motion made and supported to add a sentence to the Background in the first paragraph: *“Although encouraging ethnic diversity is commendable, requiring ethnic and gender diversity is unwise and impractical.”*

Carried

G. Motion made and supported to accept the Overture to Synod 2019 as follows:

### **Overture re: Synod Review Task Force recommendation 20**

#### **I. Background:**

The Synodical Review Task Force recommendation 20 suggests “That synod encourage diversity in classical delegations to synod, as previously approved by synod, and require each classis to include at least one woman *or* one ethnic minority person in its delegation of one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other officebearer to synod.” Although encouraging ethnic diversity is commendable, requiring ethnic and gender diversity is unwise and impractical.

Note the word “require” and compare this to the Acts of Synod 2000, p. 694, Recommendation 2 as adopted: *“although there are within the denomination firmly held differences on the issue of ordaining women to the offices of elder, minister, and evangelist\* these differences do not separate us from Christ, nor are they of such an essential nature that they warrant division within the church. Therefore, it is our responsibility to seek earnestly to live together in unity and to minister together for the glory of God.”* (\*now commissioned pastor)

*Grounds:*

- a) The Lord of the church and his apostles call us to live in unity (John 17; Eph. 4:1-3).*
- b) In spite of different conclusions, all have drawn their arguments from Scripture and are together in desiring to honor Christ as Head of the church.*
- c) As a denomination we have a rich heritage together and have been led into many important ministries.*
- d) Living and serving together in love will be a blessing to us and our children, a witness to other churches and the world, and God glorifying.*

#### **II. Overture**

Classis Central Plains overtures Synod 2019 to reject the Synod Review Task Force recommendation 20.

*Grounds:*

1. It is the prerogative of local congregations and classes to delegate those people they deem scripturally qualified, capable, and willing to go. (See Church Order Art. 3 and supplements; Supplement, Art. 40-a, point b; and Supplement, Art. 45, point b.1).

2. Mandates requiring certain diversity in makeup are arbitrary and unhelpful. Delegates will naturally reflect the makeup of the respective churches, and in many of our congregations, our current delegates faithfully reflect that makeup.
3. This requirement impinges on the consciences of members of our denomination. To require that delegates to synod have gender diversity overrides the classical-local option approved in 1995. Congregations and classes which see fit to ordain women are free to delegate them. At the same time, congregations and classes which understand that women serving as elders and pastors is in violation of the Word of God naturally will not have women to delegate as they are not serving in those offices. (see Acts of Synod 2000, p. 694, Recommendation 2 as adopted)
4. The second ground of the SRTF recommendation states “This practice would eventually eliminate the need for nonvoting advisers.” While this would be a way to cut costs, we need to remember that advisers are a good thing, not to be regarded as something to be eliminated. Synod has been, and will continue to be, well served by its non-voting advisers, including youth and theological advisers. Synod will never be a completely representative body and should continue to engage advisers as a necessary, worthwhile cost. Proverbs 15:22 “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Carried

Art. 7446 – Article 13c Request from Grace Fellowship, Pella.

- A. Motion made and supported to approve Grace Fellowship’s request to renew the loan of Rev. Don Ridder to Escauzu Christian Fellowship, Costa Rica under C.O. Art. 13c for an additional period of two years.

Carried

- B. The following synodical deputies concurred via email with the decision of Classis:
  - a. Rev. Russell Boersma (Northcentral Iowa)
  - b. Rev. Dan DeGroot (Iakota)
  - c. Rev. Robert Drenten (Heartland)

Art. 7447– Rev. Rick Admiraal, New Life Prison Fellowship

- A. Pastor Rick spoke about recent developments at New Life. Rick informed the delegates that the ministry is working with Calvary Pella to explore the possibility of moving from an emerging to an organized congregation following CO Supplement Art. 38b.

Art. 7448 – Classical Mission Committee

- A. Written report was received for information.
- B. Tim Franje presented on behalf of the committee, an upcoming event discussing “One-to-One Bible Reading” on 9AM, Saturday, March 2, at Calvary, Pella.

Art. 7449 – Classical Interim Committee, Rev. Brian Oschner, reporting

- A. Written and verbal reports were received for information.

- B. Classis Budget Process Review - Art. 7313 of the Feb. 2015 meeting states that Classis will review the Classis budgeting process at the Spring 2019 meeting. CIC is creating a Budget Process Review Team that will report at the May 2019 meeting.
- C. Motion made and supported to approve the work of the CIC.

Carried

Art. 7450 - Committee and Functionary Reports

- A. Written reports from Church Health Committee, Stated Clerk and Church Counselors were received for information.
- B. Rev. Mark Jicinsky, counselor for Cedar CRC, notes that Rev. John Ritsema has accepted the call to Cedar and was installed on Dec. 2, 2018.
- C. Rev. Matthew McClure, counselor for Grace Fellowship CRC, notes that Rev. Chris Allen has accepted the call to Grace Fellowship and will be installed on Feb. 24, 2019.

Art. 7451 - Speakers

- A. Rev. Kevin Vryhof and Bradley Van Kooten from Crossroads Fellowship addressed classis about ministry that their church has been doing in Liberia.
- B. Dr. Wayne Kobes, retired professor of Dordt College, addressed Classis.

Art. 7452 –Delegates for Synod 2019

- A. Classis elected the following persons for Synod 2019:
  - a. Minister – Rev. Gary Brouwers (by rotation)
  - b. Elder – Ken Rozenboom
  - c. Deacon – Marie Vanourny
  - d. Fourth Officebearer – Rev. Tom Wolthuis
  - e. Minister (alt.) – Rev. Mark Jicinsky
  - f. Fourth Officebearer (alt.) – Rev. Jonathan Spronk
- B. Motion made and supported to authorize the Classical Interim Committee to appoint alternates for Elder and Deacon delegates.

Carried

Art. 7453 – Rev. Tom Wolthuis closed the session with prayer.

Art. 7454 – Classis adjourned.

Next regular session of Classis will be held on May 16, 2019 at 7PM (location to be determined). Agenda materials are due to [statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com](mailto:statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com) by March 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Jonathan Spronk

Stated Clerk, Central Plains

Appendix A – FY2019 Budget

	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Request	FY2019 Budget
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Student Fund	\$20,000.00	\$16,500.00	\$14,000.00
Home Missions			
Committee Expense	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Geneva Campus Ministries	\$20,800	\$21,300	\$21,300
Areopagus Ministries	\$10,000	\$10,500	\$10,500
New Life Prison	\$18,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
New Church Plant	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$6,500
Total	\$59,300	\$59,300	\$56,800
Dordt College	\$111,700	\$170,036	\$89,000
Diaconal			
Expenses & projects	\$4,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
Classis Expense			
Travel Expense	\$5,300	\$4,000	\$4,000
Classis Meals	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
Printing, Postage	\$500	\$500	\$50
Treasurer Bond	\$100	\$100	\$100
Conferences	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,750
Clerk	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Treasurer	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total	\$15,000	\$13,700	\$13,000
	\$210,000.00	\$262,036	\$175,300