

MINUTES OF CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS

Meeting at Calvary CRC, Pella, Iowa

Thursday, May 16, 7PM

Art. 7455– Before the meeting, a supper meal was provided for the delegates by Rev. Jonathan Spronk and Calvary CRC.

Art. 7456– Rev. Brad Meinders opened with worship, devotions and prayer.

Art. 7457 – Constituting Classis

A. Roll call indicates the following delegates are present:

CHURCH	MINISTER	ELDER	DEACON
CEDAR	John Ritsema	Matthew Groenendyk	Loren Bolkema
PEACE CR	Gary Brouwers	Vern Beninga	Marie Vanourny
GENEVA	Thomas Wolhuis		
LEIGHTON	Rich Loerop	Byron Van Gorp	Calvin Vande Voort
TRINITY STL	Michael Bentley (via phone)		
NEW LIFE PRISON		Fran De Haan	
NEWTON		Aaron Gunsaulus Craig Van Wyngarden	Verle Sjaardema
IOWA CITY CHINESE	John Xu	Leon Qiao	Nemo Lu
BETHEL OSKY		Ken Rozenboom Mike Veenstra	Stuart Van Donselaar
FIRST OSKY	Jonathan Spronk	Jeff Van Donselaar	Luke Roozenboom
CALVARY PELLA	Brad Bierma	Bruce Ribbens	Josh Pommer
FAITH PELLA	Don De Waard	Glenn Vander Ley	Karen Spoelstra
FIRST PELLA	Brad Meinders	Russ Van Hemert	Pete Keuning
GRACE PELLA	Chris Allen	Bod Blunck	Doug Spurgeon
PEORIA	George Den Oudsten	Todd Vander Molen	Calvin Bandstra
SECOND PELLA	Paul Bradford	Jerry Uitermarkt	Will Van Wyngarden
PRAIRIE CITY	Matt McClure	Gene Steenhoek	Zach McClellan
SULLY	Brian Ochsner	Cale Van Wyk	Alex Van Wyngarden
TRACY		Doug Veenstra	Brad Ozinga
CROSSROADS DSM	Mark Jicinsky	Tim Roetman	Bret Groenenboom

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

Chair: Rev. Brad Bierma

Vice-Chair: Rev. George Den Oudsten

Stated Clerk: Rev. Jonathan Spronk

C. The chair welcomed the following visitor throughout the course of the classis meeting:

Rev. Sheldon Starckenburg, pastor of Calvary CRC

D. The chair acknowledged three notes on the credentials

a. From Trinity St. Louis

i. Communication from Trinity St. Louis that their attendance to mid-week evening classis meetings will be difficult given the distance and travel considerations. Rev. Michael Bentley will be attending tonight via phone.

b. From First Pella

i. The Council of First Christian Reformed Church wanted to inform classis of our recent decision to change our name through a DBA (Doing Business As) to "Connect Church." The main reason for this change is to communicate what God is doing among us and to what we believe He is calling us. In everything we do, we desire to connect people to Jesus because He transforms lives. Therefore, from now on, we will be known as Connect Church. Also, we want you to be aware that we have been in communication with the denomination and have made them aware of this change.

c. From Second Pella

i. The church is thankful for progress on our building project and we would appreciate continued prayers that it would be successful.

Art. 7458 – Classical Interim Committee, Rev. Brian Oschner, reporting

A. On behalf of classis the CIC approved the appointments of Sarah Vandenberg Van Zee to serve as Classis Safe Church Coordinator and Rev. Brad Bierma as Safe Church Pastor Liaison.

B. On behalf of classis the CIC approved the appointment of Rev. Nathan Klingenberg to serve as Classis Youth Ministry Champion and to annually provide \$400 for Faith Formation Ministries conference attendance.

C. Motion made and supported to approve the work of the interim committee.

Carried

Art. 7459 – Classical Mission Committee

A. Written report was received for information.

Art. 7460 – Advisory Committee on Classis Budget Process

- A. Motion made and supported to accept the three adaptations as given in the report (Agenda p. 6):

A) At the end of each fiscal year, the Finance Committee should formally review the balance in the account, and determine what a good minimum balance should be. It is acknowledged that this minimum could change each year, depending if Classis is contemplating a new ministry.

B) If the Finance Committee deems that there are excess funds in the account, it makes a recommendation to Classis on how those funds should be distributed.

C) Emphasize the need for the individual church councils to provide input on Classis Ministry priorities at the same time that pledged amounts are submitted.

Carried

Art. 7461 – Church Health Team, Rev. Brad Meinders, reporting

- A. Motion made and supported to accept a proposed Ministry Plan for 2019-2020 in accordance with Church Order Art. 75:

- a. Motion made and supported to amend the Ministry Plan with a definition of Healthy Church and Healthy Pastors values as listed in the Plan. Definition will be formulated by Church Health Team.

Carried

- B. Motion to accept amended Ministry Plan for 2019-2020 (see attached plan)

Carried

- C. Motion made and supported to disband the Classis Diaconate Committee

Carried

- D. The chair tasks CIC to examine the status of the Classical Ministries Coordinator position now that Diaconate Committee is disbanded.

Art. 7462 – Treasurer’s Report

- A. Written report received for information.

Art. 7463 – Council of Delegates (COD), Rev. Brian Ochsner, reporting

- A. Rev. Ochsner shared COD information about the Call, Click or Chat project, Faith Formation Ministries and Raise Up Ministries. Also, there is an overture for Synod 2019 coming that will restructure Ministry Shares for the denomination similar to how our classis structures Classical Shares. Also, Synod may be examining the role of bivocational ministry.

Art. 7464 – Calvin Seminary Report

- A. Written report received for information

Art. 7465 – Final Matters

- A. The chair recognized that Mr. Aaron Gunsaulus will be graduating with his M.Div this spring and will be candidating beginning this summer.

Art. 7466 – Rev. Brad Bierma closed the session with prayer.

Art. 7467 – Classis adjourned.

Next regular session of Classis will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 20-21, 2019 at Newton CRC. Agenda materials are due to statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com by July 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Jonathan Spronk

Stated Clerk, Central Plains