

**MINUTES OF CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS**

Meeting at Newton CRC, Newton, Iowa  
Friday and Saturday, September 20-21, 2019

Friday, September 20, 2019

Art. 7468– Rev. George Den Oudsten opened with worship, devotions and prayer.

Art. 7469 – Constituting Classis

A. Roll call indicates the following delegates are present:

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>ELDER</b>	<b>DEACON</b>
<b>CEDAR</b>	John Ritsema	Matthew Groenendyk	William Hol
<b>PEACE CR</b>	Gary Brouwers	John Vander Zee*	Marie Vanourny (Fri) Alvin Wheagar* (Sat)
<b>GENEVA</b>	Thomas Wolthuis		
<b>LEIGHTON</b>		Rich Vande Voort Byron Van Gorp*	Josh Van Kooten*
<b>TRINITY STL</b>	Michael Bentley		
<b>NEW LIFE</b>	Rick Admiraal	Fran De Haan	
<b>PRISON</b>			
<b>NEWTON</b>		Aaron Gunsaulus Dave Nunnikhoven*	Fred Van Zante
<b>IOWA CITY</b>	----	----	----
<b>CHINESE</b>			
<b>BETHEL OSKY</b>		Ken Rozenboom Mike Veenstra	Russell Terpstra
<b>FIRST OSKY</b>	Jonathan Spronk	Larry De Groot*	Brett De Bruin*
<b>CALVARY PELLA</b>	Brad Bierma (Fri) Sheldon Starkenburg (Sat)	Jay Schelhaas*	Shawn De Vries*
<b>FAITH PELLA</b>	Ryan Faber	Rick Gritters*	Kevin Van Arendonk* (Fri) Ken Meinders* (Sat)
<b>CONNECT/FIRST</b>	Brad Meinders	Fred Van Den Broek*	Wayne Van Walbeck*
<b>GRACE PELLA</b>	Chris Allen	Bruce Vander Wal*	Jodi Tukker
<b>PEORIA</b>	George Den Oudsten	Lawrence Roose	Terry Fopma (Fri) Calvin Bandstra (Sat)
<b>SECOND PELLA</b>	Paul Bradford	Wes Veenstra*	Corey Magnussen
<b>PRAIRIE CITY</b>	Matt McClure	Gene Steenhoek	Brett Daniels
<b>SULLY</b>	Brian Ochsner	Mike Van Soelen*	Nathan Nikkel*
<b>TRACY</b>	Rich Loerop	Phil Groenendyk*	Kyle Snell*
<b>CROSSROADS</b>	Mark Jicinsky	Marlin De Vries*	Bret Groenenboom*

\*First time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers

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

Chair: Rev. George Den Oudsten  
Vice-Chair: Rev. Rich Loerop  
Stated Clerk: Rev. Jonathan Spronk

- C. The chair welcomed the following Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Rus Boersma (Classis Northcentral Iowa)  
Rev. Daniel De Groot (Classis Iakota)  
Rev. Robert Drenten (Classis Heartland)

- D. The chair welcomed the following visitors throughout the course of the classis meeting:

Trudy Ash – Faith Formation Ministries  
Tyler Helpers – Areopagus Campus Ministry (ISU)  
Rev. Peter Kelder – CRCNA and Resonate Global Mission  
Dr. Wayne Kobes – Dordt University

- E. The chair acknowledged two notes on the credentials

- a. From Trinity St. Louis
  - i. Trinity CRC of St Louis, MO would request an update on our request of being able to attend virtually to the classis meetings.
- b. From Tracy
  - i. The Tracy CRC council asks the churches of Classis Central Plains to inquire among their members whether anyone would be willing to help volunteer with the GEMS program at Tracy CRC. We have three GEMS leaders but are in need of a couple of more. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor Rich at 641-629-0388 for more information.

Art. 7470 – Church Order Art. 10 - Examinations of Aaron Gunsaulus for Ordination as Minister of the Word

- A. Practica

- a. Rev. Mark Jicinsky led practica examination.
- b. Motion made and supported to proceed with the examination.

**Carried**

- B. Sermon Evaluation

- a. Rev. Jonathan Spronk and Elder Royce Spoelstra 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. Michael Bentley led the biblical-theological examination.
- D. The chair declares executive session.
- E. In executive session:
  - a. Motion made and supported to sustain Mr. Aaron Gunsaulus 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 Aaron Gunsaulus as a Minister of the Word for the Christian Reformed Church. Ordination date is announced as October 6, 2019 at Newton CRC.

Art. 7471 – Church Order Art. 12c – Change in ministry position for Rev. Scott Chiang

- A. Motion made and supported to declare the position of “Area coordinator with the Crescent Project” consistent with the calling of a Minister of the Word, per Church Order Article 12c.

**Motion Rescinded**

- B. Synodical deputies advise classis that a new call letter from Iowa City Chinese Church will be needed before a Art. 12c can take place. Additionally, further information about church oversight, financial support and pension support will be needed.

Art. 7472 – The following person addressed classis:

- A. Rev. Robert Drenten – Trustee of Calvin Seminary

Art. 7473 – Rev. Ryan Faber closed the evening session with prayer.

Saturday, September 21, 2019

Art. 7474 – Scott Roose (candidate for licensure to exhort) opened with devotions and prayer.

Art. 7475 – Examination of Scott Roose for licensure to exhort.

- A. Practica – Jay Schelhaas led practica examination.
- B. Biblical-Theological – Rev. Gary Brouwers led biblical-theological examination
- C. The chair declares executive session.
- D. In executive session – Motion made and supported to grant Mr. Roose licensure to exhort within the bonds of Classis Central Plains for one year (through December 31, 2020)

**Carried**

- E. Classis returns to open session. The chair announces classis' decision.

Art. 7476 – Licensure Renewal Requests

- A. Motion made and supported to renew the following persons' license to exhort within the bounds of Classis Central Plains for two years (through December 31, 2021):  
Bryan Bandstra, Larry Hanthorn, and Jon Neifert.

**Carried**

Art. 7477 – Discussion on possibility of New Life Prison Church moving from “emerging” to “organized” status via CO Art. 38b in 2020.

- A. Rev. Rick Admiraal and New Life board member Fran De Haan address classis on a proposal to move New Life to organized status in 2020. They present to classis a plan on seeking “commission members” who will have dual church memberships in New Life and their home congregation. A similar system has been used in other CRC prison churches that have sought organized status.
- B. Motion made and supported to give preliminary approval for New Life to seek organized status at the next classis meeting in 2020 and to seek commissioned members.

**Carried**

Art. 7478 – Finance Committee – Calvin Bandstra, reporting.

- A. Treasurer’s Report was received for information.
- B. The proposed FY2020 budget was received for information (for FY2020 budget see below). Churches are asked to consider Pledged Giving at \$100.50/member for FY2020. Please submit your pledge for FY2020 to the stated clerk (statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com) by December 15, 2019.

Art. 7479 – Classical Interim Committee

- A. Motion made and supported to appoint Rev. Brad Meinders as Regional Pastor pending Pastor-Church Resources approval.

Art. 7480 – Classis received the following written reports for information:

- A. Classical Interim Committee
- B. Regional Pastors’ report
- C. Classical Missions Committee
- D. Classical Ministry Leadership Team
- E. Church Visitors

Art. 7481 – The following speakers addressed classis:

- A. Trudy Ash – Faith Formation Ministries
- B. Wayne Kobes – Dordt University
- C. Tyler Helpers – Areopagus Ministry

Art. 7482 – Rev. George Den Oudsten closed in prayer.

Art. 7483 – Classis adjourned.

Next regular session of Classis will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020 (location to be determined). Agenda materials are due to [statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com](mailto:statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com) by December 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Jonathan Spronk

Stated Clerk, Central Plains

**Proposed Budget for FY2020**

	<b>FY2018 Actual</b>	FY2019 Budget	FY 2020 Request
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Student Fund	\$18000.00	\$14,000.00	\$10000.00
Home Missions			
Committee Expense	\$586	\$1,500	\$1,500
Geneva Campus Ministries	\$20,800	\$21,300	\$22,000
Areopagus Ministries	\$10,000	\$10,500	\$10,500
New Life Prison	\$18,000	\$17,000	\$16,000
New Church Plant	\$9,000	\$6,500	\$9,000
Total	\$58,386	\$56,800	\$59,000
Dordt University*	\$111,700	\$89,000	\$165,380
Diaconal			
Expenses & projects	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$0
Classis Expense			
Travel Expense	\$1,535	\$4,000	\$2,500
Newton Pulpit Supply	\$1,362	\$0	\$0
Classis Meals	\$0	\$1,100	\$750
Printing, Postage	\$0	\$50	\$50
Treasurer Bond	\$100	\$100	\$100
Conferences	\$848	\$1,750	\$1,750
Clerk	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Treasurer	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total	\$9,845	\$13,000	\$11,150
	\$200,930	\$175,300	\$245,530

\* \$67.64/member @ 2,445 members (reported with FY2019 pledges)

**2020 Classis Ministry Share Request - \$100.50**