

MINUTES OF CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS

Meeting at Bethel CRC, Oskaloosa, IA

Thursday, May 19, 2022, 7PM

Art. 7554 – Before the meeting, a supper meal was provided for the delegates by Rev. Jonathan Spronk and Bethel CRC.

Art. 7555 – Rev. Doug Vander Pol opened with devotions and prayer.

Art. 7556 – Constituting Classis

A. Roll call indicates the following delegates are present:

CHURCH	MINISTER	ELDER	DEACON
CEDAR	John Ritsema	---	---
PEACE CR**	---	Brent Disselkoen	Morgan Van Laar
GENEVA	Thomas Wolthuis	---	---
LEIGHTON	---	Ed Meinders	
TRINITY STL	---	---	---
NEW LIFE	---	Dave Gritters	Tricia DeHaan
NEWTON	Aaron Gunsaulus	Collin Reynolds	*Steve Laffoon
IC CHINESE	(Tom Wolthuis was sent as well by ICC)	---	---
BETHEL OSKY		Alan Veenstra Alan Van Waardhuizen	Russell Terpstra
FIRST OSKY	Erik Kamp	Kurtis De Bruin	*Karl Boender
CALVARY	Sheldon Starkenburg	---	Barb Van Gorp
PELLA			
FAITH PELLA	Brian Ochsner	Lois Vermeer	*Maryanne Vink
CONNECT	Brad Meinders	Fred Van Den Broek	Pat Callahan
PELLA			
GRACE PELLA	Chris Allen	Linda Groenendyk	*Howard Wilson
PEORIA	George Den Oudsten	*Bernie Veenstra	*Bret Fynaardt
CORNERSTONE	---	Jon Van Woerkom	*Shane Tukker
PELLA			
PRAIRIE CITY	Matt McClure	John McClellan	*Dustin De Raad
SULLY		*Lawrence Van Zee Mike Arkema	Jamie Van Kooten
TRACY	---	Marvin Ozinga	---
CROSSROADS	Mark Jicinsky	Brad Van Kooten	*Kyle Hoekstra
DSM			

- First time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers
- ** Peace Cedar Rapids delegates attended the meeting via livestream

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

Chair: Rev. Matt McClure

Stated Clerk: Rev. Jonathan Spronk

Art. 7557 – Church Order Art. 18 Retirement request for Rev. Sheldon Starkenburg – from Calvary CRC

A. Motion made and supported to approve an Art. 18 retirement due to age for Rev. Sheldon Starkenburg, effective June 30, 2022.

Carried

Art. 7558 – Church Order Art. 24-e Retirement request for Commissioned Pastor Alvern Boetsma – from First CRC Oskaloosa and Good News Chapel

A. Motion made and supported to approve an Art. 24-e retirement due to age for Commissioned Pastor Alvern Boetsma and for Pastor Boetsma to retain the authority to perform official acts of ministry in ways consistent with his ordination prior to retirement, effective August 31, 2022.

Carried

B. Rev. Matt McClure leads the delegates in a time of prayer and thanksgiving for Rev. Starkenburg and Pastor Boetsma, thanking God for their service to the CRC and our Classis. The Clerk notes that the two had served our Classis for over a combined 80 years!

Art. 7559 – Classical Leadership Team (CLT, formerly CIC), Rev. Brian Ochsner, reporting

A. Rev. Brian Ochsner reports on the work of CLT. The minutes of the latest CLT are included below since they were not distributed in the Classis Agenda before the meeting.

Minutes of the Classis Leadership Team

5/16/22 at 1:30PM Faith CRC

1. Members present: Brian Ochsner, Jon Spronk, Aaron Gunsaulus, Fran De Haan; Chair of upcoming Classis: Matt McClure; Members absent: Brad Van Kooten
2. Brian opened with prayer.
3. Motion was made on April 7 via email for Rev. Brad Meinders to serve as Classical Counselor for Cornerstone CRC Pella in light of their recent vacancy – *carried.*
4. The diaconal fund still has just over \$1000. Since the Diaconal Committee has been discontinued, the fund has not had any use and has gone inactive.
 - a. Motion was made on April 11 via email to give \$500 to the Well in Pella and \$500 to Love INC of Mahaska County (Oskaloosa) and close the account – *carried.*

5. Agenda for upcoming Classis meeting for May 19 is reviewed with CLT and Matt.
6. Motion is made and supported to approve Luke Nieuwsma to serve as a Church Visitor alongside Rev. Brad Bierma – *carried*.
7. Discussion is made about the recent Classis decision for a list of pre-approved Scripture passages that can be assigned to potential Candidates for Classis sermon evaluation. Brian and Aaron will work on a potential list for approval.
8. Discussion of the 2021-23 Classis ministry plan is held and the following notes are made.
 - a. Point 1 encourages CLT to clarify the roles and expectations of Classis Committees and Functionaries. With the turmoil of the last couple of years on regular committee meetings and gatherings now coupled with some turnover in committees, CLT is striving to have all the committees up to full capacity with the desired future of having a full CLT in the future.
 - b. Point 7 encourages broader participation by opening up the chair role of classis to all delegates. The Clerk will send a note to the churches encouraging the councils to identify potential individuals who are equipped to serve as Chair and let the Clerk know.
9. Matt concludes the meeting with prayer.

Art. 7560 – Classical Mission Committee, Rev. George Den Oudsten, reporting.

- A. Written report was received for information. Rev. Den Oudsten notes that this is his last Classis meeting as he has accepted a call to Alamosa CRC, Alamosa, CO.

Art. 7561 – Denominational Board reports.

- A. Written reports from the CRCNA Council of Delegates and the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees are received for information.

Art. 7562 – Credential Matters – from First CRC Oskaloosa

- A. Rev. Jonathan Spronk briefly addresses Classis with a request from his church in regards to information about ongoing ministries in the Oskaloosa/Pella area that are targeting the young adult, twenty-something age group. First CRC is seeking to collaborate with such ministries. If any of the Classis churches have any info or guidance, they are encouraged to contact Rev. Spronk at pastorspronk@gmail.com or statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com

Art. 7563 – Classis Delegate Workshop

- A. The rest of the meeting is led by Ms. Trudy Ash, Regional Catalyzer with CRC Faith Formation Ministries and Connection Project. Ms. Ash leads the delegates in a

discernment exercise based on the *Our Journey 2025* materials with reflections and prayers.

Art. 7564 – Ms. Trudy Ash closed the session with prayer.

Art. 7465 – Classis adjourned.

Next regular session of Classis will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, 2022 (Location to be determined). Agenda materials are due to statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com by Aug. 15, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jonathan Spronk

Stated Clerk, Classis Central Plains