

**MINUTES OF CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS**  
Meeting at Crossroads CRC, West Des Moines, IA  
Saturday, February 20, 2021

Art. 7506 – Rev. Nate Klingenberg opened with devotions and prayer

Art. 7507 – 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	Calvin Rozenboom	Grant Van Den Heuvel
<b>PEACE CR</b>	Gary Brouwers	Ross Van Laar	Marie Vanourny
<b>GENEVA</b>	Tom Wolthuis	---	---
<b>LEIGHTON</b>	---	Ed Meinders	Nathan Vande Voort
<b>TRINITY STL</b>	Mike Bentley	Larry Birchler	Migael Randall*
<b>NEW LIFE PRISON</b>	Rick Admiraal	---	---
<b>NEWTON</b>	Aaron Gunsaulus	Erik Kamp*	Verle Sjaardema
<b>IOWA CITY CHINESE</b>	Ed Jiang		
<b>BETHEL OSKY</b>	---	Greg Westra Dave Van Donselaar	Tayler Riggen
<b>FIRST OSKY</b>	Jonathan Spronk	Mark Boender	Tim Jabaay*
<b>CALVARY</b>	Brad Bierma	Galyn Vande Zande	Amy Bandstra
<b>FAITH</b>	Dale Slings	Ron Groenenboom	---
<b>CONNECT</b>	---	Fred Van Den Berg	Wayne Van Walbeek
<b>GRACE</b>	Chris Allen		
<b>PEORIA</b>	George Den Oudsten	Frank Reitsma*	Marshall Fynaardt*
<b>SECOND PELLA</b>	Paul Bradford	David Stevenson	Jamis Christensen*
<b>PRAIRIE CITY</b>	Matthew McClure	Dennis Kadner	---
<b>SULLY</b>	Brian Ochsner	Arvin De Nooy	Nolan Vos
<b>TRACY</b>	---	Dan Sneller*	Dwain Holmes*
<b>CROSSROADS</b>	Mark Jicinsky	Mike Rye	Drake Van't Hul*

\*First time delegates who signed the Covenant for Officebearers

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

Chair: Rev. Nate Klingenberg

Vice-Chair: Rev. Chris Allen

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. Todd Zuidema (Classis Heartland)

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

Ms. Carol Van Klompenberg – Classis delegate to World Renew Board

Art. 7508 – Church Order Art. 10 - Examinations of Jaebok Choi for Ordination as Minister of the Word

A. Practica

- a. Rev. Rick Admiraal led practica examination.
- b. Motion made and supported to proceed with the examination.**

**Carried**

B. Sermon Evaluation

- a. Rev. Aaron Gunsaulus presented the sermon critics' report on behalf of fellow examiners, Pastor Al Bandstra, Rev. Jin Young Lee (Classis Northcentral Iowa), and Rev. Moon Kim (Classis Grand Rapids North).
- b. Motion made and supported to proceed with the examination.**

**Carried**

c. The synodical deputies concurred.

C. Biblical-Theological

- a. Rev. Matthew McClure led the biblical-theological examination.

D. The chair declares Executive Session.

E. In Executive Session:

- a. Motion made and supported to sustain Dr. Jaebok Choi 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 Jaebok Choi as a Minister of the Word for the Christian Reformed Church. Ordination date is April 11, 2021 and will take place at Trinity CRC, St. Louis.

Art. 7509– Church Order Art. 12c – Change in ministry position for Rev. Scott Chiang

**A. Motion made and supported to declare the position of “Nurture Process Ministry Leader and Pastor” consistent with the calling of a Minister of the Word, per Church Order Article 12c.**

**Carried**

B. The synodical deputies concurred.

Art. 7510 – Church Art. 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 Escazu Christian Fellowship, Costa Rica under C.O. Art. 13c for an additional period of two years.**

**Carried**

- B. The synodical deputies concurred.

Art. 7511 – Overture from Peoria CRC regarding the Office of Social Justice and Office of Race Relations

- A. Overture from Peoria is brought to the floor and discussed.  
**B. Motion made and supported to postpone overture at discretion of Classis Interim Committee to make amendments.**

**Carried**

- C. Motion to task CIC to create Ad Coc committee to partner with Peoria in drafting additional material.**

**Carried**

Art. 7512 – Overture from Peoria CRC regarding Neland Avenue CRC

- A. Overture from Peoria is brought to the floor and discussed.  
B. Friendly amendment is made and supported by Peoria CRC delegates to add “to direct Classis Grand Rapids East” into the overture.  
**C. Motion made and supported to approve the following overture for Synod 2021.**

**Carried**

#### **Overture regarding Neland Avenue CRC**

As Classis Central Plains, we were grieved to hear of Neland Avenue CRC’s actions to knowingly install an individual to the Office of Deacon who is involved in a same-sex marriage.

Out of love for God and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Neland Avenue CRC, we are compelled to overture Synod to direct Classis Grand Rapids East to administer godly admonishment, and appropriate disciplinary action if necessary, to bring Neland Avenue CRC back within the bounds of scripture, our confessions, and the covenant made with the denomination and her sister churches.

Grounds:

1. Neland Avenue CRC has taken action contradictory to the current positions and decisions of CRCNA Synods of 1973, 2003 and 2016 (Church Order Supplement 69-c).
2. Neland Avenue CRC proceeded with its actions despite having full knowledge that the denomination’s Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality was to be released prior to Synod 2021 and taken up in its agenda.

Art. 7513 – Overture from Peoria CRC supporting the report from the Committee on Human Sexuality

- A. Overture from Peoria is brought to the floor and discussed
- B. Motion is made, but not supported, to postpone the overture and work with Peoria on overture to present at next classis.
- C. Motion is made and supported to approve the overture.**

**Failed**

Art. 7514 – Classical Leadership Team (Interim Committee), Rev. Brian Ochsner, reporting

- A. Rev. Brian Ochsner presents the report from the Leadership Team and the proposed Classis Central Plains Ministry Plan for 2021-23 as follows:

*Purpose: A ministry plan is simply an articulation and commitment to align all that we do as a Classis to our vision. We believe this will promote better stewardship of our time, energy, and resources so that we can experience better together the benefits of Classis with the end result of healthy churches in our Classis.*

*Vision: Healthy Local Churches celebrating new life in Christ.*

*1. Through the leadership of the Classis Leadership Team to clarify the roles and expectation of the Classis Committees and Functionaries to ensure committees and functionaries are working towards the common vision of Classis.*

*2. Continue in the practice of holding a fellowship time including a formal meal connected to at least one classis meeting each year to encourage and build relationships among churches.*

*3. Promote a stronger connection to the denomination by encouraging churches to utilize in their congregations the recently developed denominational strategic plan called “Our Vision 2025”.*

*4. Engage the churches with a call to continuing education for their pastor(s). This may include both providing educational opportunities through classis or churches encouraging the participation in the Vermeer Leadership events.*

*5. Engage our churches to take seriously the Prayer and Praise Sheets requested from Classis by spending focused time at two of the three Classis meetings each year uplifting one another in a time of prayer.*

*6. Commit to practicing and receiving a more consistent church visitor experience to promote health, vitality and care for our churches.*

*7. Encourage broader participation by opening up the Chair role of classis to all delegates. (Pastors, Elders, or Deacons if gifted and willing).*

*8. Review current ministry plan and develop new ministry plan for the February 2023 meeting.*

- B. Motion made and supported to adopt the Classis Central Plains Ministry Plan.**

**Carried**

- C. Rev. Ochsner notes that the Leadership Team approved the Article 18a “retirement due to age” for Rev. Rich Loerop effective Feb. 1, 2021.
  - a. Rev. Jonathan Spronk has been appointed as Church Counselor for Tracy and Leighton.
  - b. Commissioned Pastor Emeritus Al Bandstra has been contracted to serve Tracy and Leighton as pastor.

**D. Motion made and supported to approve the work of the Classical Leadership Team**

**Carried**

Art. 7515– Classis Finance Committee/Treasurer Report

- A. Finance Committee report is received for information.
- B. 2021-22 Budget is presented (*budget is listed at end of minutes*)
- C. **Motion made and supported to approve the 2021-22 Budget.**

**Carried**

**D. Motion made and supported to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to send \$25,000 out of existing funds to Dordt University**

**Carried**

Art. 7516 – Classis Nomination Committee

**A. Motion made and supported to appoint Rev. John Ritsema to the Finance committee.**

**Carried**

- B. Delegates are reminded that the Nomination Committee is looking for further nominations for the Finance Committee.
- C. (No nominations were made for Synod delegates as Synod 2021 was postponed by the COD due to COVID)

Art. 7517 – Classis received the following written and verbal reports for information:

- A. Stated Clerk
- B. Classical Ministry Leadership Team
- C. CRC Council of Delegates – Rev. Brian Ochsner

Art. 7518 – License to Exhort renewals

**A. Motion made and supported to approve two-year renewals for License to Exhort for the following individuals (through December 31, 2022):**

**Scott Roose, Nathan Schelhaas, Royce Spoelstra, Joel Vander Molen**

**Carried**

Art. 7519– Communications from Churches

- A. Chair notes a communication received for information from Second CRC Pella of a name change to Cornerstone Church effective Feb. 14, 2021.

- B. Chair notes a communication received for information from Sully CRC of support for the Synodical reports to be considered by Synod 2021:
  - a. Committee to Articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality
  - b. Ecclesiastical Marriage Task Force
  - c. Study of Bivocationality Task Force

Art. 7520 – The following speakers addressed Classis on behalf of their ministries:

- A. Ms. Carol Van Klompenberg – World Renew
- B. Rev. Todd Zuidema – Dordt University
- C. Rev. Rick Admiraal – New Life Prison Church

Art. 7521 – Rev. Nate Klingenberg closed in Prayer.

Art. 7522 – Classis adjourned.

Next regular session of Classis will be held on Thursday, May 20th (location to be determined). Agenda materials are due to [statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com](mailto:statedclerk.centralplains@gmail.com) by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Jonathan Spronk

Stated Clerk, Central Plains

Classis Central Plains  
2021-2022 Budget

	Actual 20-21	Requested 21-22	Pledged 21-22
Student Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Home Missions			
Committee Expense	\$1,500	\$200	\$200
Geneva Campus Ministries	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Areopagus Ministries	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500
New Life Prison	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000
Total	\$50,000	\$48,700	\$48,700
Dordt University	\$87,310	\$165,380	\$80,150
Church Development Grant	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
New Church Plant	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Classis Expense			
Travel Expense	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Classis Meals	\$750	\$750	\$750
Printing, Postage	\$50	\$50	\$50
Treasurer Bond	\$100	\$100	\$100
Conferences	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750
Clerk	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Treasurer	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total	\$11,150	\$11,150	\$11,150
Total	\$167,460	\$246,230	\$161,000

Total active professing members  
Ministry shares per member

2406  
\$102.33