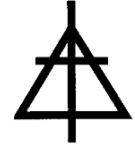




CLASSIS LAKE SUPERIOR



OF

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Meeting March 6-7, 2023

At the Calvary CRC, 5300 France Ave S, Edina, MN
Beginning 10:15 am Monday and to conclude @ 2:00 pm Tuesday.

Classis Lake Superior is a covenanted fellowship of churches that seek to be faithful Reformed expressions of the body of Christ, honoring the triune God through worship and prayer, making disciples for Jesus Christ, and proclaiming and portraying His love in their communities and the world.

We help each other fulfill our calling to be Christ's Church in the following ways:



Classis Lake Superior is to be:

Classis Lake Superior is to be:

A Place of Discerning the Spirit in Community:

*When classis delegates gather,
they are to discern God's will with others
on behalf of their larger church community.
Classis, as a deliberative assembly,
is a community where this discernment happens.*

A Network of Support and Accountability:

*Because disciples are made to live in relationships,
church leaders need a community of churches
with which to share joys and struggles,
to be encouraged and challenged.*

Living into a Collective Calling:

*At some point, churches that are in healthy relationships with one another
will begin to ask
how God might be calling them to serve their city or region together. Many
Ministry opportunities
go beyond the ability of any one church.
Some of these will be classis wide,
while others may be in major urban centers of a large, geographically spread classis.*

A Connection into the Wider Church:

*For many people, their main experience of being part
of the broader family of the Christian Reformed Church is via classis.
Churches participate in their denomination
through classical structure and opportunity.
Classis also connects the broadness of North American ministry
into the individual church's own regional and local context,
providing an avenue for a meaningful relationship
with the denominational ministries.
In addition, Classis should encourage churches
to live outside themselves into the broader Christian community.*

PREPARATORY INFORMATION:

I. Registration:

A. COUNCILS, DELEGATES and GUESTS, PLEASE NOTE:

Complete on-line forms for registration as delegate or guest by **February 20.**

Register for Classis, for which meals and for lodging if needed.

The links for registration will be emailed to you or posted on the website when available.

B. Visitors, invited or coming on their own.

1. Are welcome to attend.

Meetings are open to the public except when executive sessions are declared.

2. Costs – though visitors are welcome, there are costs needing to be paid either by those who invited you or by yourself.

Take note of the following policy:

A. Classis will cover expenses for

1) required delegates and alternates, representatives of Classis' supported ministries or committee members who need to be present at Classis to expedite their work or reporting* (often an annual appearance is the standard practice) and

2) any others whom Classis has invited to attend.

B. The expenses of those invited to attend by local churches as a learning experience or for any other reason should be covered by the local church.

C. Others who come on their own or beyond an annual committee/ministry appearance should cover their own costs. (e. g. travel, lodging, and meals)

*(When feasible, committee members who happen to be delegates are also encouraged to report for committees.)

C. CREDENTIALS – Nominations

Synod 2023: Please come prepared with nominees on your credentials for Synod 2023.

Synod meets at Calvin in Grand Rapids, Friday, June 09, through Thursday, June 15.

Classes are to

- delegate one Minister of the Word, one elder, one deacon, and one other officer.
- make an effort to include women and persons of ethnic background as delegates in order to better reflect at Synod the diversity of believers in the body of Christ.

Nominations – It's encouraged that when elder and deacon nominees are put forward for delegation to Synod, that if possible include some biographical information or have the pastor or other council members who know them well introduce them to Classis.

II. ON ARRIVAL AT CLASSIS

A. **Bring a check** for Classis Meeting Expenses of \$5 per active professing member of your congregation. Place it in the designated box on clerk's/registration table.

B. Tend to the following:

--Turn in your expense sheets, or pick up an expense sheet for your personal expenses.

--Put on a name tag.

--Turn in any **late reports to the clerk** for copying and/or distribution.

Classis will decide whether to let it be on the agenda.

III. LODGING

A. Lodging will be at the Holiday Inn Bloomington West MSP Airport Area
5120 American Blvd West Bloomington MN 55437
PHONE: (612) 452-5510; FAX: (952) 835-5909

Directions:

We've not been at this location before but it is similarly accessible from 494

From the East:

--France Ave Exit, south, then take American Blvd, first street on the right, south of 494.

Hotel is 1 mile west.

From the West:

-- Take exit 7B onto County Rd 34/Normandale Blvd south;

-- You'll then make 3 quick successive right turns, onto W 84th, then Noman Centre Dr, then American Blvd West, as you loop around to arrive at the hotel.

B. Classis Policy:

a. Lodging for delegates and guests will be provided free of charge for those who
1) must come over 200 miles; or 2) need to make a meeting before 10 am the next morning.

For Sunday night this means lodging is free only for those farther away than East Grand Forks or who may be meeting with CIC early Monday am.

For Monday it would be available for anyone who chooses this rather than their own bed.

b. All lodging will be double occupancy unless a single room is specifically requested.

C. Price for a single room

Cost is \$108.80 including tax for double occupancy. If you request a single room, instead of sharing with another delegate, you must reimburse Classis for the cost of the other delegate who would have shared your room, or half the cost of the room, **i.e. \$54.40 per night. (To make payment for your room, deduct your room expense (54.40 for one night, or \$108.80 for two nights)** from the other expenses you are claiming on your Classical Expense form.

If your lodging amount is greater than your other expenses, then contact the Treasurer, Kristi Santema, for payment arrangements.

IV. AGENDAS AND MATERIALS

- A. All required documents will be
1. emailed to your church office and pastor 4 weeks before Classis.
 2. posted on the Classis Web site: ClassisLakeSuperior.org.
You can find them under: “Meetings and Committees”,
then under: “Classis Meeting Information”,
then under: “Meeting Documents” as March 6-7, 2023.
- B. Printed Agendas
Printed copies of this agenda will **ONLY** be available by specific request.
Please consider printing your own copy or using a digital version.

V. OPENING EXERCISES

- A. **ALL FIRST TIME DELEGATES** will be asked to affirm their agreement with the Doctrinal Standards of the CRCNA by signing the Covenant for Officebearers as printed below.

Covenant for Officebearers in the Christian Reformed Church*

We, [the undersigned][i.e. delegates of Classis Lake Superior], believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, which proclaims the good news of God’s creation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Acknowledging the authority of God’s Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith.

We affirm three creeds—the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ.

Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote and defend their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also recognize the witness of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is not the teaching of God's Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. If the church asks, we will give a full explanation of our views. Further, we promise to submit to the church's judgment and authority.

We honor this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*To be signed by professors, ministers, commissioned pastors, elders, and deacons when ordained and/or installed in office. Adopted by Synod 2012. This is also signed when delegated to Classis or Synod.

VI. SCHEDULE.

Monday:

08:00 - 10:00 – CIC meeting

10:00 - 10:15 – Registration

10:15 - - Pre-Classis Seminar introductions

10:30 - 12:00 – Pre-Classis Seminar

12:00 - 1:00 – Lunch

12:15 - First Time Delegate Orientation

1:00 - 2:30 – Pre-Classis Seminar Cont'd

2:30 - 2:45 – Break

2:45 - 5:30 – Classis Convenes, Roll call, Business

5:30 - 6:45 – Dinner

6:45 - Worship and NORTH region churches/ministry sharing and prayer.

Tuesday

8:00 - 8:30 – opening exercises

8:30 - 10:00 – Classis Ministry Agenda

10:00 - 10:15 – Break

10:15 - 12:00 – Classis Ministry Agenda

12:00 - 1:00 – Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 – Classis Ministry Agenda

2:30- Closing Reflections, Evaluation, Prayer, and Adjournment!

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Agenda for the Meeting of Classis Lake Superior
To convene at Calvary CRC,
Edina, MN
March 6-7, 2023

Art. 1 **Officers**

President: Rev. Dan DeGraff
Vice-President: Rev. Aaron Greydanus
Stated Clerk: Rev. Henry Gunnink

Art. 2 **Opening and Organization**

Monday -- 2:45 pm

- 2.1 Chair opens with devotions, welcome and remarks
- 2.2 Roll Call and Review of Time Schedule
- 2.3 First time delegates sign the Covenant for Officebearers
- 2.4 Declaration of Classis being constituted
- 2.5 Welcome - all delegates, missionaries, agency representatives, and visitors
- 2.6 Appointment of Committees
 - 2.6.1 Credentials: Transcona, Hancock
 - 2.6.2 Overtures/Deliberative Matters: Pease, Unity
 - 2.6.3 Balloting: Calvary, Brooten

2.6.4 Classical Expense Committee: Hope, Faith

Note: First named chairs the committee, each can choose who reports on the floor.

Art. 3 CIC report and/or Correspondence of the Secretary of Classis

Art. 4 Reports and other agenda items.

A Place of Discerning the Spirit in Community: *When classis delegates gather, they are to discern God's will with others on behalf of their larger church community. Classis, as a deliberative assembly, is a community where this discernment happens.*

PRE- CLASSIS SEMINAR

Monday, March 6 2023

10:30 - 12:00 – Pre-Classis Seminar Session 1

1:00 - 2:30 – Pre-Classis Seminar Session 2

Topics: CIC has invited several presenters/facilitators.

Delegates will be invited to attend/participate in 2 of 4/5 offerings.

OVERTURES

BALLOTING -- (Actual Ballot Included in Appendix -2)

Elections

I. Vice-president of Classis, September 2023

a. Rules of Procedure:

At each meeting of Classis, Classis shall elect a vice-president from a list of at least three nominees presented by the Classical Interim Committee. This person shall serve as vice-president at the next meeting of Classis and as president at the subsequent meeting.

b. CIC Nominations:

Vote for one –

e. g. Circle – the one with the highest number of votes will be Vice President.

David Zigterman; Brian Bolkema; Marg Rekman

c. Other Nominations from councils. _____

Note: Additional nominations for vice-president of next classis meeting are welcome

II. Nominations for delegates to Synod

Rules of Procedure state:

IV. A. 10. Minister delegates to Synod and their respective alternates shall be chosen by free ballot for the first two ballots. Delegates and alternates must receive majority votes. Prior to the balloting, the Secretary of Classis shall inform Classis as to who were the delegates to Synod the two previous years.

There were no Synods held in 2020 or 2021.

Delegates to Synod 2022 were:

Ministerial Delegate:	Ben Verkerk;	Alternate:	Aaron Greydanus
Elder Delegate:	Rob Braun;	Alternate:	Gaye Rieger
Deacon Delegate:	Marilyn Stulen;	Alternate:	None
Fourth Delegate:	Dan De Graff;	Alternate:	Nick Van Beek.

Ordained Ministers/Pastors of Classis Lake Superior, Spring 2023

Dan DeGraaf	Baldwin, WI	Aaron Greydanus	Raymond, MN
	Brandon, MB	David Zigterman	Renville, MN
	Brooten, MN	David Huizenga	Savage, MN
	Bunde, MN	Marg Rekman	Thunder Bay,
Eli Groenendyk	Edina, MN -		ON – Bethlehem
	Calvary		Thunder Bay,
Nick Van Beek	Edina, MN-		ON – First
	Calvary	Robert Hoekstra	Thunder Bay,
Marno Retief	Emo ON		ON – Hope
David Dick	Hancock, MN	Kyle Sandison	Trinity, Hill
	Inver Grove		Willmar, MN
	MN–Grace	Ben Verkerk	Winnipeg, MB
	New Brighton,		– Covenant
	MN -Faith		Winnipeg, MB
Michael Ten Haken	Pease, MN		– Good News
Mark Brouwer	Princeton, MN	Brian Bolkema	Winnipeg, MB
Steven Zwart	Prinsburg, MN		– Transcona

Ministers in Special Ministries

Dan Crapo
 Michael Miedema
 Gerald Van Smeerdyk

Mayo Hospice Chaplaincy,
 Headingly Correction Centre, Headingly, MB
 Elim Village, Surrey BC

Retired Ministers

Evert Busink	Winnipeg, MB	Jim Petersen	Tarpon Springs,
Jim Busscher	Mendota		FL
	Heights, MN	Norm Prenger	Thunder Bay,
Harold De Jong	Rosslyn, ON		ON
Stan De Vries	Eagan, MN	Anthony Schweitzer	Winnipeg, MB
Henry Gunnink	Inver Grove	Doug VandeKamp	Brandon, AB
	Heights, MN	Jack Vanden Heuvel	Victoria, MN
John Keizer	White Bear	Jack Van Marion	Bloomington,
	Lake, MN		MN
Les Kuiper	Centerville, MN	Cecil Van Niejenhuis	Willmar, MN

III. Functionaries of Classis

Key: Yellow needs attention Green: Proposed changes

1. CHMC-CA -shall have 5 members: 2 clergy, 3 lay, with 2 alts, 1 clergy, 1 lay. Currently has 1 clergy, 2 lay. Needs 1 more clergy reg. 1more lay reg member; and 2 more alternates.

Existing: Classical Home Missions - CAN (3 yr. term)

Ben Verkerk	Chair (1st)	22	25
Henrietta Hielema	(2nd)	21	24
Gloria Richardson	(1st)	22	25
Minister reg.=		23	26
Lay reg. =		23	26
2 alts		23	26

Ballot:

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Min Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Lay Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
1 Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
2 Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

2. **Existing: CHMC-US** –shall have 3 reg clergy, 2 reg lay, + 1 alt of each

David Zigterman Chair (2nd)	20	23
Adam Stout (2nd)	22	25
Dan DeGraff (1st)	22	25
Travis Berry Lay (1st)	22	25
David Huizenga (1st)	22	25
Lowell Schwitters Lay (1st)	22	25
Mark Brouwer, Clgy-Alt (1st)	22	25
Lay Alt (1st)	23	26

Ballot:

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Lay Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

3. **Existing: CMLT** –Classical Ministerial Leadership Team

There shall be four regular members and at least one clergy and one non-clergy and either a clergy or non-clergy alternate.

Eli Groenendyk Clergy-Reg (2nd)	23	26
Dan DeGraff , Chair Clergy- Reg (2nd)	23	26
David Dick Clergy- Reg (1st)	22	25
Jason Wright Non-Clergy-Reg (1st)	22	25
Alt =	23	26

Ballot:

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Min Reg	Eli Groenendyk	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Min Reg	Dan DeGraff	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
1 Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

4. **Synodical Deputies** –both need approval for a 2nd term

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Synod Dep	Harrison Newhouse	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Synod Dep	Jack Van Marion	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

5. **Existing: Church Visitors**

Central		
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David Zigterman	(2 nd)	20	23
Alt. Dave Huizenga		21	23
Aaron Greydanus,	(1st)	22	25
East			
Dan DeGraff	(1st)	21	23
Adam Stout	(2 nd)	20	23
Dave Huizenga, Alt	(1st)	21	23
North Winnipeg/Brandon			
Fred Rekman	(2nd)	22	25
Robert Hoekstra	Alt. (1st)	21	23
(Need another)	(1st)	21	23
North Thunder Bay/Emo			
Fred Rekman	(2nd)	22	25
Need another	Reg (1 st)	21	23
Ben Verkerk	Alt. (1st)	21	23

Ballot: Church Visitors

Central

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

Ballot: East

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg	Dan De Graff	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Reg	Dave Huizenga	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Alt		2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

Ballot: North—Winnipeg/Brandon

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg	Ben Verkerk	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Reg	Brian Bolkema	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Alt	Marno Retief	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

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Ballot: -- Thunder Bay/Emo

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Alt	Ben Verkerk	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Reg	Marno Retief	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

6. **COD –Canada Corps**, Classis rep. only to balance off Classis having a US COD rep.
As a bi-national Classis. Only if Canadian councils want representation.

Existing:

Ben Verkerk	1 st	20	23
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Ballot: COD –Canada Corp Classis Rep.

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

7. **CRCNA Agencies:**

– Canadian Region 2

Existing	End date
Richard Mast (Calvin Univ.) (2nd)	23
Frank Zee, (Calvin Sem) Calling for Canadian Clergy nominees --	23
Resonate Global Missions Western Can rep -- Rich Braaksma	n/a
Dan Mack, Emo (WR Can) (1st)	21
DMC Regional Ministry Developer Mark Vanderwees	
Diaconal Coach (formerly Diaconal Ministry Developer) - Teda Heerema	
DMC Board Member - Yvonne Schenk	

Ballot CRCNA CA Agencies

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Cal Sem		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Resonate		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
WR		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

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8. Region 8 US – **World Renew needs a rep from Classis.** – Contact WR.

A Network of Support and Accountability:

Because disciples are made to live in relationships, church leaders need a community of churches with which to share joys and struggles, to be encouraged and challenged.

A. Monday night worship, sharing and prayer

1. Bethlehem CRC will co-host with Grace CRC.
 - a. Grace worship team members will lead in worship.
 - b. Pastor Marg will bring a message.
2. **North Region Churches** and ministries will relate God’s blessings as well as the challenges they face **to be included in our prayers.**

Brandon, Transcona, Good News Fellowship, Covenant, Hope Centre, Emo, Bethlehem, First, Hope, Gathering Place, and Prayer Ministry.

B. Report of Classical Interim Committee --

To Classis Lake Superior, March 6-7, 2023

Classical Interim Committee Report (CIC)

To: Classis Lake Superior, meeting March 6-7, 2023

The members of the CIC are: Brian Bolkema (chair), Aaron Greydanus, Jim Lipscomb, Marg Rekman, Carol Veldman Rudie, and Henry Gunnink (ex officio, stated clerk of classis). Though Jim Lipscomb is the alternate, he has been taking the place of Harrison Newhouse who asked to take a temporary leave for personal reasons.

Your CIC has met via Zoom on October 18, December 13, January 17 and 24. Here is a summary of what we have been doing on your behalf.

1. A Place of Discerning God's Will

- a. **Making plans for Classis meetings.**
 1. After receiving a mutual request from Faith CRC and Rev. Adam Stout to release Adam from his call to Faith via CO Article 17, CIC considered the request and made arrangements to meet on **January 9, 2023**. In addition, the CIC has identified potential persons to serve on the oversight/care committee for Rev. Adam Stout, following the decision of Classis. Members of CIC are contacting these people to determine their willingness and availability. The oversight committee for Faith CRC council will be composed of church visitors Rev. Dan De Graff and Rev. Dave Huizenga. The third member will be the church counselor (who has not been determined at the time of this report).
 2. CIC made plans for the **March 6-7, 2023** meeting of Classis at Calvary CRC in Edina, MN. Preparations included deciding on a pre-classis seminar topic and making nominations for officers and committees.
 3. CIC agreed to reserve accommodations at Lake Geneva Christian Center for a **September 18-19, 2023** classis meeting (\$100 deposit).

2. A Place of Support and Accountability

- a. CIC sent communication to CHMC-US regarding The Broken. We asked CHMC-US to provide some kind of plan that would help classis anticipate the funding requests that may be coming to classis for this ministry in the coming years.
- b. CIC is reviewing the process by which funding requests are made to classis. The goal is to have a clear process involving the treasurer, Home Missions Committees, and the Finance Team.
- c. CIC approved the **transfer of Ecclesiastical Credentials** for Rev. Jeff Vanderhooft from Rock of Life in Willmar, MN to Covenant CRC in Cutlerville, MI (Classis Grand Rapids South).
- d. CIC approved an 8.7% COLA **increase in stipends** for the Clerk and Treasurer as required by the Rules of Procedure. The CIC also increased the stipend for Regional Pastors. The changes are as follows:

Stated Clerk	2022	\$4,700.00	2023	\$5,110.00
Treasurer	2022	\$3,900.00	2023	\$4,240.00
Regional Pastor	2022	\$1,200.00	2023	\$1,310.00
- e. **Safe Church.** In March 2020, classis approved a proposal to divide the classis into four safe church teams according to region. Each congregation was asked to provide the name of their safe church coordinator and some of those coordinators would become part of the regional safe church team. CIC took the action of contacting congregations to confirm that a safe church policy is in place and identifying coordinators from each congregation.

3. A Place of Living into Our Collective Calling

- a. At the classis meeting of March 2020, CIC was asked to form a task force that would implement whatever changes might be necessary to continue as a **bi-national classis**, in light of concerns that had been raised at the denominational level about compliance with Canadian tax law in regard to charities. Currently,

we are reviewing by-laws for *Classis Lake Superior (Canada) Inc.*, which is the legal corporation of all the Canadian congregations in Classis Lake Superior. We continue to consult with a lawyer, Michael Stienstra, who is also a member of Transcona CRC, about this process.

4. A Place of Connection to the Wider Church

- a. CIC asked the CHMC-CAN to find nominees from the Canadian congregations to attend the **Canadian National Gathering** in Ottawa, May 25-28, 2023. A key emphasis will be on *Hearts Exchanged* and the work of reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters.
- b. The CRCNA Canada Board has called a second **Canada-wide conversation** on January 28, 2023. CIC asked those who participated in the September 24, 2022 conversation to participate again. Rob Reinink (Transcona CRC, Winnipeg) and Rev. Marg Rekman (Bethlehem CRC, Thunder Bay) were available to participate.

Respectfully submitted on January 27, 2023 by Brian Bolkema, CIC chair

C. Clerk report

Secretary/Stated Clerk Report to Classis Lake Superior, March 6-7, 2023

I sit and wonder exactly what kind of a report to create. Should I give data for the amount of contacts, communications, or actions engaged; should I highlight facilitating major events like holding an additional Classis Contracta; draw attention to ways in which I've been called upon to assist others to know how to handle matters; what questions were researched for clarification; possible trends that might be starting up; or what? Since last October 1st it seems like there's been a lot of activity crossing my desk in all those areas. I'll do my best to summarize it in an enlightening way.

We try to view Classis activities under 4 headings, the first being

Discerning the Spirit in Community.

1. I've received inquiries about how to recommend persons for the Canadian National gathering in Ottawa next spring. It has not always been clear that there are 2 distinct movements going on, with 2 different purposes, Conversations and the CNG. The CNG began in 2016, met again in 2019 and is planned for May 2023. It's a visioning process for ministry in Canada intended to "refresh our

reading of our context in Canada, share local strategies for more effective ministry, link them nationally, and renew our energy for making a difference in Canada.” It gets linked to the Our Journey 2020. We send delegates to the CNG.

Conversations has representatives, not delegates. It is more focused on structure, bi-nationality, Joint Ministry Agreements and is connected to the COD Canada Corps. 2. A couple times I was consulted on how to proceed with Article 17 and participated with the Faith council and Church Visitors re these concerns. Those were the main discernment matters.

The second heading for Classis activities concerns being a **Network of Support and Accountability.**

I lent support by providing:

1. appropriate certificates and documents when requested.
2. information on what needs to be done to help a church plant, wanting to affiliate with the CRC, and how to handle contributions as a registered charity, etc.
3. info to Kyle Sandison re what needed to be done to get Organization of Trinity Hill on the agenda for March 2023 classis.
4. info about Specialized Transition Ministers, cost, names, etc.
5. info on how to arrange for church visitors to meet with local council.
6. compiled info from several CRCNA PCR websites and clarifications about Article 17 as “a calling coming to an end,” and church visitor involvements and communications with PCR.
7. communication from CIC to CHMC-US with questions about supervision of the Broken ministry and work load of Youth Champion.
8. info on how someone, ordained or non-ordained, could perform wedding ceremonies in the State of Minnesota.
9. reminder notices for Classis meetings and reports
10. for the transfer of Ministerial credentials in and out of Classis.
11. a ton of research, review, and organization for holding a Classis Contracta.

Thirdly, as Classis, together, we seek to **Live into our Collective Calling.**

This was encouraged by:

1. providing info re Church revitalization funds and how to apply for them through CHMC's.
2. helping stick handle a request from Al Postma re \$3,950 for 4 delegates to CNG in May, which eventually ended up with CHMC-CA.
3. passing along reports/request/invites from Travis Deur re youth leader events.

Finally, as Classis we

Connect to the wider Church Body.

1. I handle communications from Synodical offices for nominations, deadlines, Committee appointments, Synodical delegates, feedback on reports or CO.
2. I received summary reports of 2022 Canadian Conversations
3. Our new Executive Director, Zachary King, asked for and I received feedback on the recent Synodically adopted Code of Conduct, and I channeled that back to him.
4. We maintain a healthy interaction with other Canadian Classes seeking information from one another. One Classis wanted to compare costs of holding Classis meetings in Canada. Our meeting cost was at or near the top at \$16,000 Canadian. Due to high meeting costs, less than ours, some Classes are holding 1 online meeting and 1 in person meeting per year. We also shared how Commissioned Pastors are sent as delegates to Classis.
5. We were introduced to a new Resonate Global Missions regional director, Brad Meinders
6. PCR, Lis Van Harten, once more sent out notice of Sabbatical grants for pastors from Lilly Endowment for US Pastors only. March 23 deadline.
7. I engaged in discussion with Peter Bulhuis of World Renew-CA on how to find a new Canadian WR rep for CLS.
8. Arranged for Kyle Sandison to represent Classis and the CRCNA at a Twin Cities organization called the Minnesota Heads of Communion. There he could tell his faith story as well as inform about Trinity Hill ministry.
9. Lastly, after a 3-year hiatus due to covid restrictions, I was privileged to gather with maybe 40+ other Stated Clerks and denominational staff at a Stated Clerks Conference in Bellflower, CA. It was a great opportunity to meet Zach King, our new General Secretary; Scott De Vries who is taking Dee Recker's position as Director of Synodical Services; Kathy Smith, Adjunct Professor of Church Polity at Calvin Seminary, whom I consult

regularly about how to do things; and many retired colleagues serving as clerks, including Roger Kramer, former pastor at Calvary CRC, who sends his greetings. Thanks for giving me the privilege of networking with all these “behind the scenes” persons who make up the “office” of the CRCNA and help the church to hum.

10. One additional last item, last year it was discovered there was a several year gap in our written Classis minutes. When consultation with former clerks, and diligent searching of boxes etc. did not find them, I reached out to the Denominational Archives who sent electronic copies of the missing minutes free of charge. So, all’s well that ends well, though we may never know how those old “Classis-filed” documents got lost or if any pastors might still have such in their possession. This is just a subtle reminder of the value of sending materials to the denominational archives on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Gunnink, clerk

Note: A detailed record of my activities is available upon request.

D. Church Visitor Reports

North Region: Thunder Bay/Emo

Early November 2022 an urgent matter came to the attention of Ben Verkerk and Fred Rekman. A phone discussion was held. Contact was made with the chair of Hope council to discuss the matter and offered to meet with the executive. Hope CRC contacted Pastor Church Relations (Grand Rapids), who in turn visited with them late 2022.

We have allowed Pastor Church relations to do their work and are awaiting word. Thank you Ben Verkerk & Fred Rekman.

Central Region--Minnesota

Church Visitor Report to Bunde CRC.

Church visitors Rev. Jeff Vanderhooft and Rev. David Zigterman visited, along with Rev. Steve Zwart, with the elders of Bunde CRC for two and a half hours on October 14, 2019. The visitation was conducted in executive session.

Submitted, Rev. David Zigterman

E. Church Counselor Reports

Church Counselor Report from Rev. Brian Bolkema,
Counselor to **First CRC Brandon**

January 23, 2023

First CRC continues their search for a pastor. One of their concerns as a small congregation has been the ability to provide adequate compensation. Because of that, they invited me to review a proposed salary and give them feedback. In addition, I have had a conversation with a pastor engaged in conversations with the search team. Pray that those engaged in these conversations will discern God's leading clearly.

Brian Bolkema
Pastor, Transcona Christian Reformed Church
brianbolkema@gmail.com
Office: 204-222-4336

Counsellor's Report for Emo CRC

1. Emo CRC held a service of ordination and installation for Rev. Marno Retief on October 4, 2022. Rev. Robert Hoekstra officiated.
2. Also, during the summer of 2022, Emo CRC installed Rev. Gerald VanSmeerdijk as chaplain at Elim Village in Surrey, B.C. This was done via ZOOM.

This concludes my work as Counsellor for Emo CRC.

Submitted by Counsellor Harold de Jong

Church Counsellor Report for **First CRC, TB**
To March 6-7, 2023 meeting of Classis Lake Superior

1/26/23

We join First CRC Thunder Bay in praising God for His continued provision of gifts for His church. Though it has been a long journey for First CRC Thunder Bay, we place our trust in the LORD's never-ending faithfulness to His people.

The Search Committee of First CRC Thunder Bay has continued in her search for a pastor. When it appeared that nothing was forth coming from their efforts of reaching out to pastors from across the CRC denomination, behold, God provided. The Search Committee recommended to council Pastor Colin VanderPloeg & his wife Anita. Council extended a Call to Pastor Colin after the passing of a majority vote by the congregation of First CRC Thunder Bay. At the time of writing, First CRC council and congregation waits for a response from Pastor Colin.

God is Good and He gives! The Search Committee has been busy with further interviews with all parties aware a Call has been sent out yet appreciating that Pastor Colin may decline.

We uphold the Search Committee, the council and all of First CRC Thunder Bay in our prayers, already giving the LORD thanks for His faithfulness through all generations to those who love Him. We pray for continue strength and endurance for their journey ahead, filled with His peace and assurance that the LORD will provide, while praying He will richly bless the Call sent out and the interviews being conducted.

Respectfully in Christ,

Robert Hoesktra

Church Counselor Report

Michael L. Ten Haken

Classical Counselor to **Grace CRC, Inver Grove Heights**

Grace CRC continues to make progress in their search for a pastor. They have good pulpit supply in place, including once-a-month classical appointments. In addition, they have an arrangement with Pastor Henry Gunnink to provide pastoral care for their members as necessary.

In a meeting with a few members of their council on the morning of Friday, January 16, I was informed at that time that they are close to having their search team in place and are working on a mandate for that team. Grace will need to consider carefully as to whether or not they have the capacity to support a full-time pastor or if seeking someone who would consider a bi-vocational pastorate would be a good possibility for them and their situation.

Grace is doing well in this period of time and they are genuinely seeking the will of the Lord and depending on His Holy Spirit to lead and direct their steps.

In Service to the King,

Michael Ten Haken

F. Regional Pastors reports

CAN Regional Pastor Report, to Classis Lake Superior, -- March 2023, Evert Busink

In keeping with job description, Evert submitted a detailed report to the CIC as the Supervising committee who will consider it.

US Regional Pastor Report, to Classis Lake Superior, -- March 2023, Henry Gunnink

Twice annually I ask myself the questions, “What have I done as Regional Pastor since last Classis meeting?” and “Was it helpful?”

If I have been helpful, the irony is that when e. g. a doctor reports having treated many patients, it also means there were many who were sick enough to be treated. So, with this report, sadly, looking back I spent great deal of time dealing with Article 17 concerns. I heard that my presence in person or via phone or email with Pastor Adam and Erin or with members of Faith was much appreciated. I pray it will have helped soften the suffering or sense of aloneness, helped keep perspective, and bring the encouragement of hope and trust in God’s gracious help going forward. Also, I was very grateful that Pastor Jeff Vanderhooft could serve as an Advocate for Pastor Adam since there were other hats I had to wear through the process as well.

Since my last report, our fellowship also saw the deaths of two retired pastors’ spouses, that of Deb Newhouse and Marlene Kuiper. Though PCR advises these retired pastors don’t strictly fall under the Regional Pastor purview, real life relationships don’t always work that way, so both Harrison and Les have also been part of my ministry and prayers as well, as they walked through the valley of the shadow and began the journey beyond.

Speaking of prayers, we joined in prayer at Classis for our brother Mark Brouwer and continue to do so as we wait for results of his re-scheduled surgery in February.

I managed to have 6 meetings with pastors, -- 2 by phone and 4 in person, 1 for breakfast, 1 for coffee, 1 for lunch, 1 in office.

Additionally, since providing resources is part of the RP job description, I stepped out three times with resources. The easiest and best was provided by PCR, viz. Full Strength Network, the offer of a year’s counselling for a pastor, spouse and teen-age children for the amazing cost of only \$149. This was the package which Classis has given as a gift to Pastor Adam and Erin. It’s truly a basket full of resources beyond counselling, well worth any one’s gift to a pastor.

A second resource came from the Advent Calendar sent out online by Resonate Global Mission. It was a snippet from Charles Spurgeon's 1854 Christmas Eve sermon, focused on the name "Emmanuel." I spent time transcribing it from the Utube presentation, then sent out the link and message with the prayer that it's pithy message and punchy delivery would bring the Advent encouragement that "God with Us" is intended to evoke.

Finally, with an eye toward helping pastors have answers for concerns parishioners might have about the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act because of the hype and changes connected to it, I forwarded a message from CPJ-APJ (or IRFA, Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance a division of the Center for Public Justice) which explained the role of CPJ in helping to craft this legislation and a brief summary of the benefits/safeguards of this amended Senate bill for all parties, churches and religious institutions included. This was an answer to prayer and a blessing on a lot of hard work by fellow believers.

As we continue to move forward in God's time, circumstances continually change, challenges continually confront us, we do have this Word, "Rejoice in the Lord always. ... The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ... whatever is true, noble, ... etc...think about such things. ... (Practice what you've seen in Scripture) ...And the God of Peace will be with you." Philippians 4:4-9. What more could we ask for!

Respectfully submitted,
CLS - US RP, Henry Gunnink

Living into a Collective Calling:

At some point, churches that are in healthy relationships with one another will begin to ask how God might be calling them to serve their city or region together. Many ministry opportunities go beyond the ability of any one church. Some of these will be classis wide, while others may be in major urban centers of a large, geographically spread classis.

Ministry Reports

Treasurer's report

Home Missions Committees

CHMC report to classis

1/26/23

Members: David Zigterman (2nd) 20-23; Dan DeGraff (1st) 22-25; Travis Berry Lay (1st) 22-25; David Huizenga (1st) 22-25; Mark Brouwer Alt (1st) 22-25; Lowell Schwitters Lay (1st) 22-25

Since the fall classis of 2022, the CHMC has experienced a lot of transitions and turn over. Our first meeting on Dec. 7 was mainly to get organized and make sure each member knew their roles.

We met again on January 25. During this meeting we discussed classis' partnership with The Broken. We are still trying to discern how best to support this ministry going forward and hope to have more clarity by the fall classis. The main issue is that the Church Planting Fund is running low and a lot of the support for The Broken has come from that fund. To help steer that conversation Lowell Schwitters and Dave Huizinga were appointed to provide more direct and consistent oversight for The Broken. A letter from Chris Alle, the pastor of The Broken, has been included at the end of the report. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers.

We heard an update from Kyle Sandison about Trinity Hill. He informed us Trinity Hill hopes to become an organized church at this classis. Gratitude was also expressed to Bridgewood CRC who has helped them with this transition.

Our youth champion, Travis Deur, continues to encourage and support the various youth groups of this classis.

New Life SEA has been supported by classis for many years. An effort will be made to encourage them to have greater self-sufficiency in the future.

We also discussed the Church Revitalization Grant. Emden CRC gave a report on the grant they received in 2021 to renovate their kitchen. That grant has served as a catalyst for starting a number of outreach events including community movie nights, pancake breakfasts, and meals for farmers.

As a reminder to classis, grants up to \$5,000 are available to encourage revitalization.

We also hope to introduce a revitalization coaching cohort that will allow the CHMC to work intentionally with churches to become more missionally focused. This will take the place of educational seminars.

Finally, there was agreement that the position of lay alternative is not necessary.

Here is update on the two funds the CHMC oversees:

Funds Update (as of 9/2022)

- a) Church Planting: \$113,300.72
 - 1. \$58,000.00 reserved for Trinity Hill
 - 2. \$15,000.00 designated for The Broken in 2023
 - 3. \$40,300.72 available
- b) Church Revitalization Fund: \$273,803.00 (all available)

Finally, here is **a letter from Chris Alle:**

To Classis,

Greetings to you, brothers, and sisters, in Christ. I hope that you are doing well. I'm giving a brief check-in for this new year.

As The Broken goes into a new year, we have a clear agenda for this year and the next. I plan on working with one of the brothers in our congregation on preaching. He has a passion for the truth of the Bible to be preached/heard. I will spend much time with this brother this year, and we hope he will begin preaching next year. As I have said once before, we are interested in making leaders in Christ, not followers of men.

We have a very healthy elder and deacon board that was solidified last year, and we are now coming into the new year with all guns blazing. It has taken some time to get the right people in the correct positions, but now that we have that, I believe it will help our church run even smoother.

Other than that, things have been going well. We continue to push through and reach the “unlovable” in the eyes of many. And we continue to give grace and love to those still on milk as we walk with them as they grow and seek Christ. Blessings to you from our church, and thank you for your continual support.

Pastor Chris Alle

Home Missionary/Church Planters

YOUTH CHAMPION

Youth Ministries Champion's Report to Classis

January 25, 2023

YOUTH CHAMPION REPORT

Group Zoom Sessions

- November call for Classis Lake Superior. The primary focus of that connection was mentoring and engaging youth in the life of the church. Several of our regular participants attended, along with a number of first timers. We heard reflections from classis attendees of a three-day Generation Spark conference in Minneapolis which I also attended in October.
- In February I am co-hosting a Super Zoom with Trudy Ash. We have invited members of additional classes she serves and leaders from ministry organizations. The focus will be on teens' views of Jesus, Christianity, the Bible, and service in their world. The launching point for this was a three-part seminar from the Barna Group which I attended in October. Their report includes significant data to help understand teens and the ways we can engage them better.

Sampling of Classis Connections

- Conversation with Dr. Retief and the Veldhuisens about the launch of their new middle school youth program at Emo CRC for their church and community.
- Continued conversations with Bunde CRC about their youth ministry leadership opening. This became an opportunity to share experiences from Faith CRC after leading the search and hiring process for our new Director of Worship and Music. I shared their posting with my regional and denominational contacts.
- Preached at Grace CRC and connected with leadership and a few students around the service.
- Collaborative Saturday afternoon youth event with New Life Church and Faith CRC.
- Connected Bethel CRC to ThereforeGo Ministries to explore summer service options.
- Conversations with Pastor Phonh of New Life about explaining Reformed foundations to members coming from a Baptist influence. Provided several books to him and others around the classis during the last six months.
- Spoke with David Zigterman (new lead of the Classis Home Missions Committee) about my transitional duties at Faith CRC and my ongoing efforts as Youth Champion.

Sampling of Denominational Connections

- Continued conversations and learning opportunities with Ron DeVries (Youth and Emerging Adult Consultant), the Youth Champions network (bi-monthly group calls and additional correspondence), Trudy Ash (Regional Catalyzer), and others.
- Opportunity to participate in and present during the September CRC Town Hall meeting.
- I will be in Grand Rapids the weekend preceding classis for the SERVE Summit and will be connecting with denominational entities and leaders before and during the event.

Travis Deur, Youth Ministries Champion
Classis Lake Superior
tdeur7@gmail.com / 612-381-7705

Prayer Coordinators

US Central Coordinator

January 27, 2023

Prayer Coordinator Report - US

Every other month I ask a church in the western section of Classis to give me prayer concerns so that I can share them with the other area churches. This is an attempt to have our churches praying for one another.

When I become aware of a specific prayer request, I also info the churches to lift said concern before our God in prayer.

As a prayer coordinator, I consider it a privilege to encourage our churches to be faithful in prayer. I want to remind everyone that our God is interested in the details of our lives and God is waiting for us to lift before him our concerns, worries, praise, and thanksgiving, trusting that he is able to more than we can ask or imagine. Meaning no prayer - no blessing of answers! Let's do our part and PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.

Submitted by Lowell Schwitters

Lowell Schwitters,
US Prayer Coordinator, Central Region
Rob Braun, East Region

March 2023 Report of Canadian Prayer Mobilizer ~ Sonya Cahais

Report of Canadian Prayer Mobilizers - December 30, 2022 Sonya Cahais

Mission Statement: To teach and model the centrality of Christ and an intimate love relationship with God through encouraging individual and corporate prayer.

Six of the eight churches in Classis Lake Superior - Canada have prayer coordinators.

They are:

- Brandon First CRC ~ Dianne van den Ham and Paulette Kelly
- Winnipeg Covenant ~ Alyce Baardman
- Emo CRC ~ Carolyn Stang
- Thunder Bay Bethlehem` ~ Dini and Hank Makkinga
- Thunder Bay Hope ~ Isabel Van Ramshorst and Sonya Cahais
- Thunder Bay First ~ Harry Prenger

Thank you to Linda S who served faithfully for many years as Prayer Coordinator for Transcona CRC. She will be missed!

Past 6 months:

- We continue to meet via zoom to pray for each other as Prayer Coordinators and the needs of each congregation in our Classis area and beyond. These times of prayer together always prove to be uplifting and encouraging.
- **Dunamis Project #5, Equipping for Spiritual Warfare took place the last week of October in Winnipeg. As a host team our prayer was answered with the blessing of unity as God poured out His Spirit in very powerful and tangible ways. The Prayer Coordinators who were able to participate all spoke of how grateful they were to be able to attend.**

Looking Ahead:

- As Prayer Mobilizer I hope to attend the Prayer Catalyst Gathering 2023 in February, a gathering to seek the Face of God together for our denomination.
- Dunamis Project # 6 Listening Evangelism will take place in April, 2023. For more information check out <https://dunamisfellowshipcanada.org/>
All are welcome to attend!

Prayer and Praise:

Please join us in praying:

- For the Prayer Catalyst Gathering 2023. For safety for all travelling ...that those attending will be led by the power of the Holy Spirit to pray His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

- That God would make clear the way for all He is calling to participate in the Dunamis project #6.
- That the Lord will place it on the hearts of those He is calling to come forward as Prayer Coordinators at Transcona CRC and Good News Fellowship.

Submitted with praise and thanksgiving to God for this opportunity serve,
 Sonya Cahais, Prayer Mobilizer Classis Lake Superior - Canada

The Gathering Place

-----Yvonne Schenk



The Gathering Place
 239 Amelia Street W.
 Thunder Bay, ON



What is The Gathering Place? In 1985, the three Christian Reformed Churches founded The Gathering Place in Thunder Bay. Our mission is to be a safe place for people to meet Jesus and just as Jesus fed and taught the crowds that followed Him, we seek to offer support for both the body and the soul. We nourish the body by handing out food hampers and clothing items to those who are in need. We nourish the soul through relationship building, a men’s and women’s group, a crafting group and coffee/water drop-in times.

Funding: We receive funding from the three CRCs in Thunder Bay, Classis Lake Superior and private donors. We have been very blessed!

Our Programs:

1. Nourishment for the body:

- Open Hands:** In 2022, we handed out almost 2200 hampers of food. During Open Hands, we are always looking for opportunities to connect. More and more often, people have been filling out requests for prayer – either for themselves or for their loved ones. Sometimes they will be open to pray with us; sometimes they just want to give us their request and trust us to pray for their prayer request. We have a table with literature on it – while people wait they are looking and taking various items, especially the brochure “How’s Your Anxiety?” from Focus on the Family as well as copies of Our Daily Bread and Today. A lot of Bibles go out as well – we are always in need of more Bibles.

b. **Clothing:** On the Tuesdays that we aren't having Open Hands, "Hope"-fully Yours is open. Again, we are blessed with donations of clothing and small household items as well as the volunteers who help with sorting and setting out the items and help clients find what they are looking for. In December alone, we had 30 people coming in looking for items – especially items for winter. Volunteers and staff are available again to connect with people and build relationships.

2. **Nourishment for the soul:**

a. **Community Connection:** We are always looking for ways to increase our presence in the community, outside of offering food and clothing, especially to those who live in Spence Court. Wednesdays has a small group of women meeting for structured Bible study. Thursdays we host a drop-in time. This includes hot dogs, cold drinks and coffee/tea. Games are out on the tables (the current favorite is Connect 4); we have a craft ready to go for those who like doing crafts; a jigsaw puzzle for those who are inclined to work on those. And we have listening ears for those who are in need of someone to listen to their story. Pastor Robert has been so helpful and faithful in coming to our Drop-In and getting to know those who have been coming.

We also hosted a Christmas evening on Dec. 14. Thirty people came and we spent the evening talking together, playing games, listening to the Christmas story and singing Christmas carols. It was a lot of fun! A number of people commented that having somewhere to go in the evening is so appreciated as it gives them something to do other than drinking.

b. **Church Connection:** Written reports are sent in twice a year for congregational meetings and Yvonne tries to visit these meetings in person to speak, when possible. We have also met with deacons of some of the churches to discuss how we could collaborate with them in offering food to those in need. The churches receive regular communications throughout the months.

Prayer Concerns:

1. **Spence Court:** Spence Court is the apartment building across the road from us. It has been plagued in the past years with violence and addictions. Please pray that God would break through these patterns. Pray for protection and safety for those who live there.
2. **Board and Staff Retreat:** In March, the board and staff will take some time to look strategically at our mission and vision goals and how we will work towards that. Please pray for unity and discernment.
3. Please pray for those who struggle with **mental illness** – especially when accompanied by addiction issues. Pray that we might have opportunities to speak God's love and grace and truth into those situations.

Submitted by Yvonne Schenk, Executive Director for **The Gathering Place**



HOPE CENTER
hopecentreministries.org 204-479-4893
Report to Classis Lake Superior
March 2023

Shellie Power

Thank you for the faithful care that you provide for Hope Centre Ministries. Your ongoing financial support means the world to the men and women who find care and belonging at HCM. Ministries.

A Year in Review:

This has been an incredible year of growing and changing. Here is a snapshot of the difference your gifts have made in 2022:

- You have helped mail 1,104 care reminders that let people with disabilities know that they are noticed, known, and missed.
- You have provided 184 home visits.
- You have ensured the delivery of 92 special Christmas reminders.
- You have produced over 300 Friendship from Home kits and hosted 210 Friendship from Home meetings!
- You guaranteed that the HCM budget remained stable and that critical supports continued.

The Year Ahead:

It is amazing how growth and change happen both slowly and all at once. The need to expand our staff team has been on our plate for a while, but this Fall we decided to approach it differently.

Rather than simply hire one-person full time, we chose to hire 3 part time—in areas of strength. Our staff team has grown! We hired 1 student, who works at prepping the materials for upcoming Bible Studies, 1 part time community builder to plan small group connecting opportunities as well as communicate gathering plans with individuals and their support staff, and 1 administrative support person who is streamlining processes and creating several data bases.

Additionally, the HCM Program Coordinator will be taking a maternity leave, and we were able to hire her replacement in November to ensure great transition.

This year will hold other creative solutions as well, as HCM is now at a critical need for space. The building where we are tenants has rented out all flex space. We are experimenting with mall meetings but also are starting to investigate acquiring space where we can have dedicated program space as well as space for curriculum production.

Thank you for also committing to pray for us. After 50 years of God's great provision, we believe a wonderful foundation has been established for us to increase our reach, our impact, and service to people with disabilities. With God's help, we will boldly reach for the next plateau in terms of programs staff, facilities, church connections, partnerships, and greater awareness. And THAT will take a lot of prayer!

In Christ,

Shellie Power

Executive Director, Hope Centre Ministries

CMLT--Classical Ministerial Leadership Team -- Dan DeGraff, Chair.

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

A Connection into the Wider Church:

For many people, their main experience of being part of the broader family of the Christian Reformed Church is via classis. Churches participate in their denomination through classical structure and opportunity. Classis also connects the broadness of North American ministry into the individual church's own regional and local context, providing an avenue for a meaningful relationship with the denominational ministries.

In addition, Classis should encourage churches to live outside themselves into the broader Christian community.

Chaplains Reports

23 January, 2023

Annual Report to Classis Lake Superior

Rev Gerald Van Smeerdyk

Elim Village, Chaplain

Greetings,

It has now been a year and a half since I retired as a military chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces. It is abundantly clear to me that the Lord has led me to take up the ministry of Chaplaincy in Surrey, BC at Elim. Elim is a Christian Long-Term Care Facility and Retirement Home founded by members of the First Christian Reformed Church of Langley – now called the

Willoughby CRC. Elim provides elderly people with Independent Living, Assisted Living and End of Life Care. Since I began my employment here, I have been working in Full Care. Full Care, as the name suggests, provides residency to elderly people who are severely frail, physically or cognitively, or both. Along with regular visitation and chaplain support to these residents and their families, I also provide two worship services each Sunday and a Bible study each Monday.

I am part of an excellent team of other chaplains, 4 in total, who minister with me in the other care settings at Elim. We meet weekly and support each other by sharing about our lives and ministry and by praying for each other and Elim. We work closely with the care staff of doctors, nurses, care aids and wellness assistants and support them as well. The Lord continues to be my strength and leads and guides us by his Spirit as we minister to the needs of our residents. We see his hand at work in us through the outpouring of gratitude by the residents and staff.

We are currently praying for the provision of another chaplain who will provide support while I and another chaplain receive surgery this spring. I need to have my right hip replaced, and the other chaplain will soon receive knee replacement surgery. Please pray for the doctors and nurses who provide us with this needed care, that their work may bless us with renewed strength.

We would also appreciate your prayers of support for myself and another chaplain as our fathers are in their last days. We both rejoice that they are children of our heavenly Father and we know they are in the Lord's hands, but this is a hard time for us. Pray for peace and strength that we may continue our work in the joy of the Lord.

This year I have also become a member of the Chaplaincy Ministry Advisory Council (CMAC) and play an active role in supporting our chaplains and interviewing new candidates for this important ministry. It was always a wonderful task to be involved in the recruiting and care of other chaplains when I was in the military and I am grateful that I may now continue this work for our denomination.

Recently, at the conclusion of another Bible study, one of the members burst into spontaneous praise, lifting his hands in prayer, thanking our Lord Jesus for his care and presence in this challenging chapter of his life. The Lord is faithful, and we rejoice in the opportunity to be servants in his ministry.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter,
May the God of grace and compassion continue to strengthen and bless us all in his mighty work,
<signed> Gerald Van Smeerdyk
COD (Council of Delegates) -----

Board of Trustees: Calvin University ----- Rick Mast, Region 2 rep.

News from Calvin University

The university inaugurated Dr. Wiebe Boer on October 26, 2023 as its 12th president, marking his official introduction to the university — though he has been serving in the role since July.

Dr. Boer was born and raised in Nigeria as the son of missionary parents. He is a '97 Calvin alum and went on to earn his PhD and two master's degrees from Yale. Dr. Boer and his wife, Joanna ('03) have four sons: Jehan, Stephan, Gerrit, and Markus.

In his inaugural remarks, Dr. Boer stated, for all to note:

“In a world more polarized than ever, divided by arguments – some pertinent and some petty, we need to be laser focused in our mission of equipping students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal.”

The inauguration ceremony is available to be viewed online (<https://calvin.edu/offices-services/president/inauguration/>).

One really significant development is this...

- Renewed Commitment to Work Closely with CRC

As part of the inauguration and Board meetings, university leadership renewed its commitment to work closely with the CRC. Dr. Boer addressed this commitment in his inaugural address, pledging to “recommit to our engagement in our own church and our own community, showing that our mission is not just for Calvin or the CRC, but (the holistic well-being of souls) around the world.”

A HUGE sign of this commitment is that Calvin University is excited to announce the Canadian Exchange Rate Grant for residents of Canada. This grant helps you pay your US tuition bill in Canadian Dollars. Qualifying students will receive a grant from Calvin for the 2023–24 academic year (<https://calvin.edu/offices-services/financial-aid/apply/incoming-students/canadian/>).

Calvin University is united in the commitment to engage and collaborate with the CRC moving forward – being just one of our excellent options for a solid post-secondary Christian education.

On your behalf, in and through Christ alone,

Rick Mast
Calvin University Regional Representative board member
(rmast@ualberta.ca)

October 2022

Dear Members of Region 5 Classes:

The Calvin University Board of Trustees recently completed their Fall meetings and, while you may have heard about the expansion in athletic programming, we wanted to make sure that you are aware of other significant events and decisions that took place.

First, the university inaugurated Dr. Wiebe Boer as its 12th president, marking his official introduction to the university — though he has been serving in the role since July.

Dr. Boer was born and raised in Nigeria as the son of missionary parents. He is a '97 Calvin alum and earned his Ph.D. and two master's degrees from Yale. Dr. Boer and his wife, Joanna ('03) have four sons: Jehan, Stephan, Gerrit, and Markus.

In his inaugural remarks, Dr. Boer outlined a vision for Calvin to renew its call to the global good. "In a world more polarized than ever, divided by arguments – some pertinent and some petty, we need to be laser-focused in our mission of equipping students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal," he said. (The inauguration ceremony is available to be viewed on Calvin's YouTube page.)

Second, as part of the inauguration and Board meetings, university leadership renewed its commitment to work closely with the CRC. Dr. Boer addressed this commitment in his inaugural address, pledging to "recommit to our engagement in our own church and our own community, showing that our mission is not just abstract but put into action for the welfare of the CRC, the city of Grand Rapids, and communities around the world." He and the Board are united in our commitment to engage and collaborate with the CRC moving forward.

Third, the Calvin University community has been well served throughout its 150-year history by having diverse viewpoints among its faculty and remaining committed to upholding the confessional standards of the CRC. Synod has supported the university's approach to both confessional commitment and academic freedom.

Following the 2022 Synod, some faculty members expressed difficulty with one aspect of the CRC position on human sexuality. The university's Professional Status Committee (PSC) reviewed those disagreements according to established procedures approved by Faculty Senate, the Board, and in some cases, Synod. The PSC recommended that the faculty members be allowed to continue to serve at the university within clear, established guidelines for teaching, scholarship, and personal conduct that align with the CRC position.

The Board voted in favor of the recommendation, finding it "respectful of the university's covenantal partnership with the CRC, consistent with confessional commitment, congruent with existing policies and procedures, supportive of academic freedom, and reflective of constructive

engagement.”

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of us as your regional representatives to the Calvin University Board of Trustees.

Kathleen Ridder

kathleenridder7@gmail.com

Heather Ramirez

hvramirez18@gmail.com

Tim Goudzwaard

tsgoudzwaard@gmail.com

Board of Trustees: Calvin Seminary

--

Robert Drenten

Rev. Robert Drenten

CTS Board of Trustees, Region 8 robert.drenten@gmail.com

(712) 395-0552 (Voice and Text)



**CALVIN
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**

**Calvin Theological Seminary
Canadian Church Relations Liaison Report
Winter 2023 Classis Meeting**



**CALVIN
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**

Major Initiative Brings Tuition Parity for Canadians

Tuition parity has arrived! At their October 2022 meeting, the Board of Trustees for Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) approved a bold initiative that will enable the seminary to accept tuition funds paid in Canadian currency “at par” with the American dollar. For students enrolled in either the MDiv or MA program, \$1 CAD will be considered equivalent to \$1 USD.

This exciting news means a savings for Canadian students of approximately 30% or more. Over the last five years, the exchange rate between the CAD and USD dollar has sometimes been as high as 45% but has averaged about 30%. In recent months, the rate has hovered in the 34-35% range. Historically, the rate has served as a huge hurdle for Canadians preparing for ministry in the CRCNA but, with this new decision, that obstacle has been removed.

Presently, CTS awards almost \$1.5 million in scholarships to students. It's the hope of the seminary that these scholarships, coupled with parity, will enable students to graduate from the MDiv or MA program without having to incur any financial debt over the course of their CTS studies. It's clearly a win for the students and their families, but it's also a win for the churches and ministries that eventually support them as they finish their studies and launch into Kingdom leadership.

Of course, a vital part of the support students receive is also the support of their classis. THANK YOU for your ongoing encouragement and support for those preparing for ministry! In Canada, the majority of classes pay a significant portion of the tuition for students under their care who are pursuing ministry degrees at CTS. That kind of partnership between the Church and CTS is an essential part of our covenant commitment to work together to nurture and equip future leaders.

The parity initiative has been made possible by some generous Canadian donors. It's their hope, and the seminary's hope, that you won't simply see parity as the opportunity to save the classis some money but rather, as an opportunity to provide additional kinds of support for your students. We encourage you to consider maintaining your budgeted support at its current level and, with the savings due to parity, seek other ways to walk alongside your student. Tuition is certainly not the only cost students face! Canadian students in the distance program, for instance, must bear the cost of a trip to the CTS campus once each semester. Students who choose the residential (on-campus) option for their degree face moving costs to Michigan. Students would be incredibly grateful if some of the monies that your classis saves from the parity initiative went to fund some of these kinds of additional costs. Speak to your students, determine their wide range of needs, and encourage them with your ongoing support above and beyond tuition! This new initiative now makes that possible!



By the Numbers:



Canadians continue to be well-represented at CTS! The present academic year began with the following students from Canada:

- MDiv (online distance program): 14
- MDiv (on-campus residential program): 5
- MA (online distance program): 3
- DMin (online distance program): 3

In addition to these Canadians, of course, CTS continues to also serve a number of individuals in the EPMC program.

Innovation:

Led by the Spirit, CTS is continuing to innovate in a variety of ways to better serve the Church:

- A new competency-based MA pilot program was launched this year with over 20 participants.





- The new MDiv curriculum was implemented this academic year with major implications for Canadians! The online (distance) MDiv degree can now be completed in four years instead of five! The on-campus (residential) MDiv can be completed in three years.

- Life-Long Learning opportunities for existing pastors and church leaders continue to grow. This past fall, for instance, CTS hosted a free retreat in Alberta called “Navigating The Storm: Maintain Your Emotional And Spiritual Health While Leading Through Turbulent Times.” Other retreats, workshops, seminars, lectures, and cohort opportunities will be hosted throughout Canada in the near future. Watch for them!

- A Public Reading of Scripture (PRS) initiative was launched this year and has provided students with yet one more opportunity to develop and foster new disciplines toward their spiritual formation.

I Want to Serve You!

From my home office just east of Peterborough, ON, it’s my privilege to continue strengthening partnerships between CTS and local churches, pastors, and ministries across Canada. Let me know how I can serve you!

Pastor Shawn Brix

Canadian Church Relations Liaison,
 Calvin Theological Seminary
srb08@calvinseminary.edu
 705-975-3566

Resonate Global Missions

World Renew

Classis Lake Superior (CDN) Report – winter, 2023

Submitted by Peter Bulthuis, Canadian CORE Team Leader

A. General Updates:

Thank you for you continued prayers for God’s children around the world. And thank you for supporting World Renew’s efforts at putting those prayers into concrete action. From responding to disasters in more than 50 countries over the last several years, to transformational community

development in 20 countries in 2022, to teaching, seeking and advocating for justice, you are making a difference in more than 1,000,000 people's lives.

Last year, World Renew became 60 years old; 60 years of being driven by the grace of Jesus to be a conduit for your prayers and support.

(At the time of this writing, mid-January) Last year, the CDN churches of classis Lake Superior donated an **amazing \$66,845.60** for that work. **On behalf of those 1M people, thank you so very much.**

B. Upcoming Synodically-Designated Church Offerings:

Some of the ways that churches can partner with and support the work of World Renew, are through the "Special Sunday" offerings below that Synod suggests CRCs use as opportunities for engagement. (Resources for these and all Special Sundays are ordered from FAITH ALIVE on a regular schedule, with reminders sent out.)

Mar. 5: CFGB Sunday, to support the work of this amazing organization, of which World Renew is a leading partner,

April 2: Refugee Sunday, to support World Renew as a "Sponsorship Agreement Holder" (SAH)

June 25: Justice for All Sunday, to help equip communities to overcome injustice.

Thanksgiving, Oct. 9: This day starts the World Hunger campaign, which culminates on Nov. 5. Many resources are available for order, and online.

Nov. 5: World Hunger Sunday, to support communities around the world as they walk their journeys of ending their poverty and hunger.

C. Community Development:

The people in the Turkana South region of Kenya have endured a prolonged drought. Hunger and scarcity are on the rise and so too are feelings of hopelessness – especially for those living with a disability.

Wheelchair-bound Simon Lochor Amojong, a married father of



three children, was born and raised in Shanti Village in Turkana South. A self-taught beader, Simon relied on what he earned selling



necklaces, called shanga, that he made to generate income to support his family. But he just did not earn enough to meet his family's basic needs – and as the drought grew worse, so too did his financial woes. Eventually, Simon's family left him and he began to depend entirely on the kindness of his neighbors for survival. He shares, "I lived hand-to-mouth as the little I got from

my beading was not enough for my very basic needs... my shanga-making business would barely bring me 100 KES (\$1.10 CAD) per day.”

With funding from the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**, World Renew implemented a food distribution program in Turkana focused on supporting people living with disabilities, the elderly, orphans, and the most vulnerable. The project came at a time when Simon had lost all hope. He and other beneficiaries were given 50 kilograms of sifted maize flour, 10 kg of beans, 3 litres of vegetable oil, and 0.5 kg of table salt monthly for a period of 9 months.

The food support was what Simon needed to lift his spirits and restore his hope for the future—there was enough to feed his family and he rejoiced when his children and wife returned home. Then, with the guidance of the project staff, Simon began to focus on his potential and his bead-crafting skills. He began to grow maize, tomatoes, green grams, cowpeas, and other crops on a half-acre of irrigated land that he had left unattended. And he revived his shanga business. Now, with the money he earns farming and from shanga sales he is able to support his family, including paying for school fees for his children and buying school uniforms and household necessities.

Simon says, “This project brought hope to my life”. Learn more at [World Renew.ca/community-development](https://www.worldrenew.ca/community-development).

God calls us to respond in conditions like the ones that Simon finds himself in. **Thank you, Classis Lake Superior.**

D. International Disaster Response (IDR)

As a result of the overwhelming current world food crisis, the prayers and generosity of God’s people, and support from various organizations (like CFGB, Canadian federal government), World Renew is able to provide assistance for more than 400,000 people worldwide **right now**, with 42 programs in 22 countries.



The conflict in Ukraine has sparked a severe shortage of food worldwide, and World Renew is helping to ensure that impacted folks in parts of Africa, the Middle East and other areas in Asia are supplied with food. **Thank you.**

E. Disaster Response Services (DRS)

In response to the devastating flood of November, 2021, World Renew’s partnership with Gateway CRC in the Abbotsford community continues in 2023 through supporting the *Abbotsford Disaster Response Coalition (ADRC)*. Early in 2022, DRS gave the ADRC funds to walk along-side families who had lost part if not all of their homes; later in the year, and into this year, DRS is supporting the ADRC through funding the role of the coordinator. Churches and individuals donated to recovery efforts from the effects of Hurricane Fiona on the east coast in late September, 2022. Those funds were split between assisting the [Maritimes](#)

[Salvation Army](#) with food distribution, and the rebuilding of a youth-support building in Glace Bay on Cape Breton Island (website [here](#));

These two documents are descriptions of how each church and each reader can volunteer to continue that long legacy of making a difference: [Supporting Communities when Disaster Strikes](#), and [Volunteer! Repair Disaster-Damaged Homes](#).

Learn more from the World Renew website [here](#). **Thank you.**

F. Refugee Settlement Activities:

With unprecedented numbers of refugees in the world today, refugee sponsorship and resettlement is more urgent than ever. We are grateful for the churches that commit to providing safety, protection and hope for a better future through World Renew’s Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Program (RSRP). We are a “Sponsorship Agreement Holder” (SAH) which enables and supports churches’ desire to sponsor refugees; World Renew helps make the complex sponsorship process more manageable for churches and other groups.

As well, World Renew, along with other SAHs across Canada have been advocating for a fair, consistent and equitable Canadian response to global crises through the development of a *Large-Scale Emergency Refugee Response Framework*, allowing for rapid and fair responses in times of crisis for all displaced persons, in addition the response offered to Ukrainian refugees in 2022.

Thank you.

Churches across Canada that have sponsored and resettled refugees: **73 congregations, 42 of which are CRCs.**

Top three countries of origin in 2022: **Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq.**

	# of Refugees Sponsored	# of Arrivals
2022	200	193
2021	115	96
2020	205	55
2019	226	224
2018	216	190

G. What else can the people and the churches of Classis Lake Superior do?

-Donate for the ongoing disaster response work in around the world, especially in response to the

World Hunger Crisis, on our website [here](#); use the **DONATE** button.

-Be open to the Spirit’s leading, and connect with us to learn about a possible partnership with a program of project in an area outside of North America. Contact Iona Buisman (ibuisman@worldrenew.ca) Blessings,

P. Bulthuis

Peter Bulthuis, Canadian CORE Team Leader, pbulthuis@worldrenew.ca; c. 289-983-9293

PRESS RELEASE

World Renew Canada

Contact: Naomi Bula, Director of Marketing and Communications nbula@worldrenew.ca

Release date: January 24, 2023

Jamie McIntosh announced as new Executive Director for World Renew Canada

BURLINGTON, ONTARIO, January 23, 2023 — On January 23, 2023, World Renew Canada Acting Board Chair Dennis DeGroot announced that the Canadian Board of Directors approved Jamie McIntosh to the office of executive director for Canada. McIntosh will be introduced to the Christian Reformed Church of North America's Council of Delegates in May and the decision will be ratified by the denominational Synod in June.



McIntosh has obtained an undergraduate degree in pastoral studies from North Central University, a graduate degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford, and leadership training through Genesis Fellowship, Arrow Leadership and Africa Board Fellowship.

McIntosh will transition into the Canadian directorship over two months beginning February 16. He succeeds Ida Kaastra Mutoigo, who held the role from 2006 until 2022, and Kenneth Kim (Director - International Disaster Response), who graciously stepped into the role in an interim capacity over the past year and will continue on for the transition period before returning to his previous role.

“We are excited to have a dynamic and inspired person such as Jamie McIntosh in this executive co-leadership role, leading us into what we know to be a challenging and exciting time in our world as we seek to meet the urgent needs for justice and mercy, reconciliation, and restoration, bringing to life Christ’s Kingdom realities for the world’s most vulnerable,” said DeGroot.

McIntosh will be working alongside Carol Bremer-Bennett, Executive Director for World Renew, U.S. McIntosh’s extensive experience in international humanitarian, development and justice work includes more than 25 years of organizational leadership in a variety of pastoral and executive positions in Canada and the United States. His professional activities also include board and advisory roles for child development, entrepreneurship, and community health organizations around the world. He is perhaps best known to many in the Christian Canadian community as founder of International Justice Mission Canada.

As Executive Director for World Renew Canada, McIntosh will provide overall direction to the organization, perform its executive and administrative functions, and support the Canada Board and US-Canada Joint Ministry Council.

“I’m excited to serve with World Renew, joining families courageously at work rekindling hope and reconciling lives in their communities, amidst rising volatility, vulnerability, and violence,” said McIntosh. “The hallmarks of dignity and equality evident in World Renew’s approach to

local empowerment resonate deeply, as does the urgent imagination to see all God’s creation, our battered planet, and our broken worlds beautifully restored. I am drawn to this expanding movement of souls seeking to live justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with all humanity, in the light of Christ’s boundless love.”

World Renew is a faith-based non-profit that works each year in more than 30 countries to address poverty, hunger, and injustice through development and disaster response programs in communities of poverty. These programs are carried out through local Christian partner organizations and churches and are supported by World Renew’s generous constituents in North America and its alliances with well-established networks of government and non-government organizations worldwide.

Diaconal Ministries Canada

Director of Canadian Ministries

Faith Formation Ministries

USA Midwest Classis Playlist Spring 2023

Playlist FAQs

1. **WHAT’S A PLAYLIST?** - A curated list of resources, one (or two) for each [Our Journey 2025 Milestone](#).
2. **WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS?** - You are a classis delegate and we want you to get a glimpse of what kinds of resources are available to your congregation.
3. **WHO IS THIS FROM?** - Your regional team, Brad and Trudy.



Trudy Ash Regional Catalyzer tash@crcna.org	Pastor Brad Meinders Resonate Regional Mission Leader bmeinders@crcna.org
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Our Journey 2025 Milestone #1: [Cultivate practices of prayer and spiritual discipline, transforming our lives and communities by the power of the Holy Spirit.](#)

- [Faith Practices Project](#): Take yourself or your church on a journey into 12 different spiritual practices with the help of these curated resources.
www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

- FYI: There are new resources on this website for [Intergenerational Worship and Gatherings](#). Some of these resources were developed by a congregation in our region: Covenant CRC in Sioux Center, IA!

Our Journey 2025 Milestone #2: Listen to the voices of every generation, shaping us for ministry together.

- [Thriving Essentials](#) is a new course for congregations and individuals. Four, one-hour sessions offer key ideas about mission, discipleship, discernment, and leadership. This is a great way to get all the generations of your congregation talking together about these important ideas. www.crcna.org/thrive
- **FYI:** Congregations in Classis Lake Superior, Classis Chicago South and some individuals from Classis Heartland and Lakota have been through this course already. If you'd like to hear a first-hand account of what it's all about, let us know, we'll connect you.

Our Journey 2025 Milestone #3: Grow in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation, and welcome, sharing our faith as we build relationships with and honor the cultures of our neighbors and newcomers.

- [Witness](#) is a curriculum designed to equip us to share Christ's love wherever you are located. Here's the website: www.resonateglobalmission.org/witness.
- **FYI:** Brad will be traveling to El Salvador in a few weeks with a pilot group for using the Witness curriculum on Vision Trips with our global missionary partners. More to come on that!

Our Journey 2025 Milestone #4: Share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant new churches in our neighborhoods as we discover how to connect with our local and global ministry contexts.

- [Go Local](#) is a process that helps congregations meet and engage with neighbors so that they can grow together as a community. **Resonate provides the framework for this change, coaches to help think through God's work in our lives, and a network that will help everyone learn and grow together.** For more information, reach out to us and/or check out the website: <https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/go-local>
- **FYI:** Brad is being trained as a coach for this process!

We look forward to walking alongside you as you do ministry in our region. As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to either one of us. If you're looking for a different resource, let us know... we'd love the opportunity to serve you!

Blessings, Trudy & Brad



Greetings from Redeemer University!

As we come to the close of this year, Redeemer University is tremendously grateful for the support received from the CRC churches in this 40th anniversary year. Many of you have supported us from the very beginning in 1982 (and even before that when it was still a dream!) This support has been vital in sustaining Redeemer financially and spiritually.

Redeemer welcomed 1,089 students this year - the [highest enrolment ever](#) - continuing a trajectory of enrolment growth. The university also saw the successful launch of the Innovation Centre, an initiative emerging out of Redeemer's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan (Key Strategy 2). Its purpose is to allow for an environment where all students, regardless of discipline, are encouraged to think creatively about solutions to problems in ways that combine faith, knowledge and innovative thinking.

Redeemer introduced its fifth degree with the [Bachelor of Kinesiology](#), which will enhance graduate success by challenging students to honour God through a holistic study of human movement in sport, recreation, disease and fitness, while also preparing them for professional roles in kinesiology and related fields with a clearly recognized degree credential. This was the second new degree launched in the last couple of years, following the granting of the recent Bachelor of Business Administration, now in its third year.

The Albert M. Wolters Centre for Christian Scholarship will be hosting public lectures that will take place three times a year and highlight speakers who apply the Reformed scholarly tradition to their subject area. Annual lectures are rooted in the Arts, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences, respectively. Additionally, we launched an [Awards page](#) with a section dedicated to the Wolters Worldview Award, a directed award where donors may support Christian graduates who desire to deepen their practical understanding of what it means to have a Reformed worldview.

Finally, Redeemer offers a special thank you to CRC congregants who attended the [40th anniversary celebration weekend](#). It allowed the Redeemer community the chance to reflect on the many challenges God has faithfully helped the university to overcome and the tremendous support Redeemer has received over four decades.

The university remains committed to teaching and research in the context of the Reformed Christian worldview, preparing the next generation of Christian leaders to reflect the love and hope of Jesus wherever they are called.

In Christ,

David Zietsma, PhD
President

CRCNA Archives

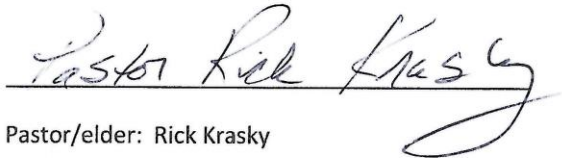
APPENDIX I -- Brooten Request

Classical interim Committee

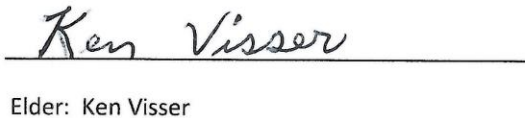
Classis Lake Superior

1-13-23

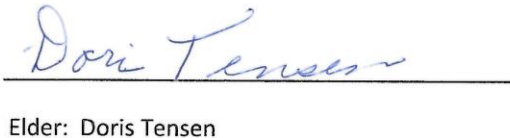
Requesting permission for elders of Brooten Community Church to administer the sacraments for the year 2023. Under article 55 of church order.



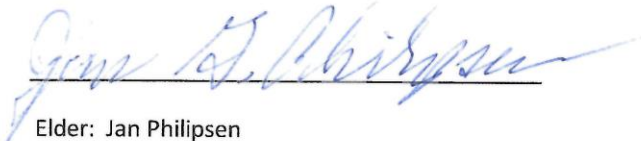
Pastor/elder: Rick Krasky



Elder: Ken Visser



Elder: Doris Tensen



Elder: Jan Philipsen

Appendix 2 – BALLOT

Elections

I. Vice-president of Classis, September 2023

1. CIC Nominations:

Vote for one –

e. g. Circle – the one with the highest number of votes will be Vice President.

David Zigterman; Brian Bolkema; Marg Rekman

2. Other Nominations from councils. _____

II. Nominations for delegates to Synod

Rules of Procedure state:

IV. A. 10. Minister delegates to Synod and their respective alternates shall be chosen by free ballot for the first two ballots. Delegates and alternates must receive majority votes. Prior to the balloting, the Secretary of Classis shall inform Classis as to who were the delegates to Synod the two previous years.

III. Functionaries of Classis

1. CHMC-CA -shall have 5 members: 2 clergy, 3 lay, with 2 alts, 1 clergy, 1 lay.

Currently has 1 clergy, 2 lay. Needs 1 more clergy reg. 1 more lay reg member; and 2 more alternates.

Ballot:

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Min Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Lay Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
1 Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
2 Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

2. CHMC-US –shall have 3 reg clergy, 2 reg lay, + 1 alt of each

Ballot:

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Lay Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

3. CMLT –Classical Ministerial Leadership Team

There shall be four regular members and at least one clergy and one non-clergy and either a clergy or non-clergy alternate.

Ballot:

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Min Reg	Eli Groenendyk	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Min Reg	Dan DeGraff	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
1 Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

4. Synodical Deputies –both need approval for a 2nd term

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Synod Dep	Harrison Newhouse	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Synod Dep	Jack Van Marion	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

5. Church Visitors

Ballot: Central

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Alt		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

Ballot: East

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg	Dan De Graff	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Reg	Dave Huizenga	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Alt		2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

Ballot: North—Winnipeg/Brandon

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg	Ben Verkerk	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Reg	Brian Bolkema	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Alt	Marno Retief	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

Ballot: -- Thunder Bay/Emo

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Alt	Ben Verkerk	2nd	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

Reg	Marno Retief	1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Alt					

6. **COD –Canada Corps**, Classis rep. only to balance off Classis having a US COD rep.
As a bi-national Classis. Only if Canadian councils want representation.

Ballot: COD –Canada Corp Classis Rep.

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Reg		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

7. **CRCNA Agencies:**

– Canadian Region 2

Ballot CRCNA CA Agencies

Role	Person	term	dates	Yes	No
Cal Sem		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
Resonate		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		
WR		1st	Sept 23 thru Aug 26		

8. Region 8 US –**World Renew needs a rep from Classis.** – Contact WR.