

# AGENDA MATERIALS

## CLASSIS CENTRAL US – MARCH 7-8, AD 2022

### Table of Contents

	Page
Agenda .....	2
Lodging Information .....	3
Credential .....	4
Convening Consistory Report .....	5
Stated Clerk Report .....	6
Treasurer Report .....	8
Consistory Supervising Classis Website Report .....	9
Church Visitor Reports	
Doon .....	10
Hills .....	11
Orange City .....	12
Des Moines .....	13
Sioux Center .....	14
DeMotte .....	15
Lynwood .....	17
Oak Lawn .....	19
Sanborn .....	21
Fraternal Observer/Delegate Reports	
Rev. Vermeer to Classis Minnkota .....	22
Rev. Miller to the Presbytery of the Midwest .....	23
Consistory Supervising CPAC Report .....	24
CPAC Report .....	25
Report on Luz de Vida, Quito, Ecuador .....	26
Missions Committee Representative Report .....	30
CERCU Representative Report .....	31
CECCA Representative Report .....	33
WOC Representative Report .....	34
Appeals Committee Representative Report .....	35
Overtures	
Orange City re. National Synods .....	36
Sanborn re. CO Art. 64 .....	39
Request for Aid from the Classis Church Assistance Fund .....	41
Classis Functionaries List .....	42
Record of Bi-Annual Church Visits .....	44

# AGENDA

## **The 53<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Classis Central U.S. URCNA**

Convened by **Oak Glen United Reformed Church**, Lansing, IL

**March 7-8, AD 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

1. Opening Devotions – By Member of Convening Consistory serving as Chairman *Pro Tem*
2. Presentation of the Credentials and Roll Call of the Delegates
3. Reading of the *Form of Subscription* and the Delegates' Response of Agreement
4. Declaration that Classis is Duly Constituted.
5. Seating of Officers: Chairman from the Pella URC and Vice-chairman from the Rock Valley URC.
6. Adoption of Agenda, including the following Time Schedule: 15-minute breaks at 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. One-hour breaks at 12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m. Evening session to end at 9:00 p.m. Morning session to begin at 8:30 a.m.
7. Appointment of Committee to Examine the Credentials of the Delegates
8. Classis Reports:
  - a. Interim Committee by Convening Consistory
  - b. Stated Clerk
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Consistory Supervising Classis Website
  - e. Church visitors
  - f. Fraternal Observers and Delegates
  - g. Ecumenical Activities by the Churches
  - h. Consistory Supervising CPAC
  - i. CPAC
  - j. Consistories Concerning Church Plants and Chaplains
9. Federation Reports:
  - a. Missions Committee
  - b. Committee for Ecumenical Relations and Church Unity (CERCU)
  - c. Committee for Ecumenical Contact with Churches Abroad (CECCA)
  - d. Website Oversight Committee (WOC)
  - e. Appeals Committee
10. Fraternal Greetings
11. Overtures
  - a. Orange City Overture re national synods
  - b. Sanborn Overture re CO Art. 64
12. Request for aid from the Classis Church Assistance Fund – Oak Lawn
13. Elections & Appointments:
  - a. Church Visitor East
  - b. Alternate Church Visitor East
  - c. Alternate CPAC member
  - d. Alternate Web Oversight Committee
14. Determination of Stated Clerk's Remuneration (currently \$1,500/year).
15. Credentials Committee Report

16. Next Meeting:
- a. Date for next Meeting. (*Rules of Procedure* I.B., "Two meetings shall be held each year: in the second full week of April and in the second full week of September.") Monday and Tuesday, September 12-13, 2022.
  - b. Place – Lynwood, IL is next in rotation to convene classis.
17. Closing Matters:
- a. Thanks to Host Church
  - b. Concept Minutes
  - c. Prayer and Adjournment
- 

#### **DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE:**

As listed below, please prepare to lead devotions during the upcoming Classis. This schedule goes beyond the anticipated length of classis, just in case.

- ☐ Opening of Classis Monday, 6:30 pm (*Scripture, Prayer, Song*)..... Chairman *Pro Tem*
  - ☐ Closing of Session #1 Monday evening (*Scripture, Prayer, Song*) ..... Orange City
  - ☐ Opening of Session #2 Tuesday morning (*Scripture, Prayer, Song*) ..... Pella
  - ☐ Closing of Session #2, prior to Noon Meal (*Prayer*)..... Rock Valley
  - ☐ Opening of Session #3, after Noon Meal (*Scripture, Prayer, Song*)..... St. John
  - ☐ Closing of Session #3, prior to the evening meal (*Prayer*) ..... Sanborn
  - ☐ Opening of Session #4 after the evening meal (*Scripture, Prayer, Song*) ..... Schererville
  - ☐ Closing of Classis (*Scripture, Prayer, Doxology*) ..... Chairman
- 

## **Lodging Information**

### **CHURCH AND SUGGESTED LODGING LOCATIONS**

#### **Oak Glen United Reformed Church**

2244 Indiana Ave., Lansing, IL 60438

Take Exit 161 south off I-80 for approximately 1 mile. Turn west on Indiana Avenue and Oak Glen will be on your right, one block down.

#### **Comfort Inn**

7813 Indianapolis Blvd., Hammond, IN 219-845-4678

A block of rooms has been reserved under the name of Classis Central US. A double or single queen is available at \$101 per night. The deadline for reserving a room at the group rate is February 14. Breakfast is served.

#### **Hampton Inn & Suites**

8936 Calumet Ave., Munster, IN 219-836-5555

We were not able to reserve a block of rooms at this location. Rates are \$140 for a double queen room and \$150 for a king room. Breakfast is served.

Please print this page separately, fill it out and bring the hard copy to classis.

### CLASSICAL CREDENTIAL

To Classis Central US of the United Reformed Churches in North America, to convene on \_\_\_\_\_ (date), at \_\_\_\_\_ (place).

The Consistory of \_\_\_\_\_, member congregation of the United Reformed Churches in North America, has appointed brothers \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as delegates to represent said church at the meeting of the classis. The alternate delegates are: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

We hereby instruct and authorize them to take part in all the deliberations and transactions of the classis meeting regarding all matters legally coming before the meeting and transacted in agreement with the Word of God, as interpreted by the Three Forms of Unity, and applied in the Church Order.

By the order of the Consistory,

Done in Consistory on

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

#### Church Order Article 26 Questions

1. Are Consistory and diaconal meetings held regularly? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is the Word of God faithfully preached? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are the sacraments faithfully administered? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is church discipline exercised? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are the poor cared for? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is God-centered schooling promoted? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Does the Consistory need the advice or help of the classis for the proper government of the church? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, use the reverse side.

Done in Consistory on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

Please e-mail the correct spelling of the delegates' names to the clerk ASAP at [ClassisCentralUS@gmail.com](mailto:ClassisCentralUS@gmail.com)

**Report of the Convening Consistory  
Of Classis Central US – March, 2022**

Brothers,

We are sincerely grateful for the privilege to act as your Convening Consistory of the March, 2022 Classis Central US. We hope that our efforts will be found acceptable, and that they will provide everything you need while conducting the work of the Classis. The following constitutes our initial Provisional Agenda report.

September 22, 2021

The Consistory reviewed a series of communications regarding a request by Christ Reformed of Sioux Falls to modify the language of Article 17B in the Fall 2021 Classis Central US minutes; specifically, to remove the original more explicit language used and state only that grounds were presented. After extensive discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve removing the explicit language and only reference that grounds were given. The arguments and grounds given by Christ Reformed were found to be substantive.

October 6, 2021

Assignments were made in regard to carrying out the various tasks necessary to prepare for the Spring Classical meeting.

January 5, 2022

Reports were received from those charged with making the necessary arrangements for the Spring Classis. It was determined that everything was moving along smoothly except that most hotels, due to Covid, are no longer offering blocks of rooms. Work will continue on recommendations for lodging.

January 10, 2022

A block of rooms was arranged at a nearby hotel and a backup hotel has also approved.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. We pray you have a blessed time together, all to His glory!

Respectfully submitted,

The Consistory of  
Oak Glen United Reformed Church  
Lansing, Illinois  
Fred A. Colvin, Clerk

# **CLASSIS CENTRAL U.S.**

*of the*

## **UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA**

Rev. Ralph A. Pontier  
Stated Clerk of Classis  
641-230-3880

118 Holland Drive  
Pella, IA 50219  
ClassisCentralUS@gmail.com

### **REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

**January 10, AD 2022**

Dear Brothers,

Since my last written report on September 11, 2021, I have attended to the following matters:

1. Follow up after the last classis
  - a. I prepared the minutes and report of our last classis meeting which was held on September 13-14, 2021. They were distributed to the classis mailing list on September 14, 2021, but not to the rest of the federation.
  - b. The next day, a request was made to the next convening consistory to amend the minutes that had been approved at classis to eliminate a stated ground for an action in view of the ninth commandment and previous precedent. The request was granted, I amended the ground, and distributed the revised minutes to the classis on September 23. The revised minutes were distributed to the rest of the federation on September 24.
  - c. On October 14, 2021, I posted on the classis website a copy of the 2021- 09 Minutes of Classis Central US and the Classis Report. Only the report is available to the public.
  - d. On December 17 and 18, I updated both the classis and federation websites with the date, time, and place of our next meeting and set up both a classis and federation forum notice to go out weekly reminding recipients of the agenda deadline for that meeting.
2. I forwarded to the classis mailing list, on the date indicated, the following materials:
  - a. 9/24 The minutes of Classis Ontario East held on September 23, 2021.
  - b. 9/29 The minutes of Classis Pacific NW held on September 28, 2021.
  - c. 10/13 The minutes and report of Classis Michigan held on October 12, 2021.
  - d. 10/22 The minutes and report of Classis Southwest US held on September 7-9, 2021.
  - e. 10/26 The October 2021 mission report of Rev. Landázuri.
  - f. 10/27 The minutes and report of Classis Eastern US held on October 19-20, 2021.
  - g. 10/28 The agenda for a December 7, 2021 meeting of Classis Michigan.
  - h. 11/09 The agenda for a November 17, 2021 meeting of Classis Western Canada.
  - i. 11/19 The minutes and report of the November 17, 2021 meeting of Classis Western Canada.
  - j. 12/7 The agenda for a December 14,, 2021 meeting of Classis Eastern US.
  - k. 12/18 The minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting of Classis Eastern US.
3. [Classis Website](#)  
Nothing to report.

4. Ecumenical Matters
  - a. As instructed at our last meeting, I sent a letter of greeting to Presbytery of the Dakotas, OPC, which met in Magna, Utah on September 28.
  - b. I sent a note of greeting to the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC meeting in Orland Park, IL on September 17-18, because our appointed fraternal delegate had taken ill and was not able to attend their meeting on our behalf.
  - c. I was notified by Rev. Christoffels, Stated Clerk of Classis Minnkota, that their next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2022, which is after our meeting on March 7 and 8. I have attempted to get one of our NW Iowa pastors to volunteer to be a fraternal delegate and have the convening consistory appoint him as such.
  - d. The Presbytery of the Midwest, OPC, has invited us to send a fraternal delegate to their March 11-12 meeting in Momence, IL. Classis should be prepared to respond to this invitation either by instructing the clerk to send a letter of greeting or appointing someone to represent us.
5. I compiled the agenda for this meeting with the assistance of the convening consistory.
6. It is a privilege to serve the churches of Classis Central US as clerk. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this way.

Respectfully submitted, your servant,  
Ralph A. Pontier

**Classis Central US**  
**United Reformed Churches in North America**  
**Harlan Harmelink, Treasurer**  
**Sioux Center URC, Supervising Consistory**

**Beginning Balance - All Classical Funds (7/1/21) \$16,730.27**

<b>General Fund</b>		
Beginning Balance		\$6,296.33
Income:		
Classical Askings	\$3,685.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 16.85</u>	
Total Income	\$3,701.85	
Expenses		
CPAC	\$897.71	
Church Visitors/Delegates Expense	899.35	
URCNA Web Fund	200.00	
Service Life	255.00	
Classis Meals (September 2021)	1,592.36	
Clerk---2021 Remuneration	1,500.00	
Treasurer---2021 Remuneration	<u>2,000.00</u>	
Total Expenses	(\$7,344.42)	
Net Change		<u>(\$3,642.57)</u>
Ending Balance		\$2,653.76

<b>Classical Assistance Fund</b>		
Beginning Balance		\$10,433.94
Income	\$804.00	
Disbursements	\$0.00	
Net Change		<u>\$804.00</u>
Ending Balance		\$11,237.94

**Current Balance- All Classical Funds (12/31/21) \$13,891.70**

Please forward all Askings, bills, or questions to:

Harlan Harmelink  
1441 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
(712) 441-0573 (cell)  
[Harlan.Harmelink@dordt.edu](mailto:Harlan.Harmelink@dordt.edu)



January 08, 2022

Esteemed brothers,

The Consistory of the Grace United Reformed Church (Waupun, Wisconsin) presents this report to Classis Central US for our duties as the Oversight Consistory for the Classis Central US website listed at <http://www.ClassisCentralUS.info>

The only actions taken since the last Classis report were to pay for items related to the operation of the website and then to be reimbursed by the Classical treasurer. We also provided technical support to Rev. Pontier in how to edit the web site.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the Lord of the churches in this capacity.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Elder David Kok

Clerk

Grace United Reformed Church (Waupun, Wisconsin)

## Classis Central U.S. - Official Church Visitor's Report

Church Visited: Doon United Reformed Church, Doon, IA  
Date Visited: April 5, 2021  
Church Visitors: Rev. Joel Vander Kooi and Elder Korrie Van Maanen

This official visit was announced to the Doon Congregation two weeks prior to the visit. All the members of the Council were present - five Elders and four Deacons - as well as Rev. John Vermeer. The visit was conducted by Rev. Vander Kooi using the theme "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" from 1 Thessalonians 5:11 as a guide in conducting the visit and the asking of questions required by our Church Order.

The Council members testified to the faithfulness of God in the Doon Congregation as the members work together to encourage one another in their faith and strive to build one another up even during difficult times. Worship services are held twice on the Lord's Day and on special religious holidays. The Council expressed appreciation for the work of Rev. Vermeer as he faithfully proclaims God's Word from week to week. All the office bearers have signed the Form of Subscription and the Elders meet monthly and faithfully rule in Christ's Name. The Deacons also meet monthly and shared that the congregation is faithful in their giving to the work of the Lord.

The Sacraments are faithfully administered according to the Word of God and our Church Order. Visitors are asked to fill out a "Communion Request Form" which is approved by the Elders. Parents presenting children for baptism are instructed in the meaning of baptism.

The Doon congregation has several Bible study groups with Rev. Vermeer leading both men's and women's studies. In addition to the Pastor, the Elders are involved in teaching catechism classes.

The Council takes responsibility for the honorable support of their pastor and does its best to follow Synod's guidelines regarding retirement, disability insurance, life insurance and health insurance. Rev. Vermeer expressed his appreciation for the care he receives from the Council and the congregation. The minutes of their meetings were examined and found to be in good order.

The Church visitors were encouraged by this visit and commit the Doon Congregation to the care of our Heavenly Father as they continue their faithful worship and ministry in Spirit and in Truth.

Humbly Submitted,

Rev. Joel Vander Kooi  
Elder Korrie Van Maanen

## Classis Central U.S. - Official Church Visitor's Report

Church Visited: Hills United Reformed Church, Hills, MN  
Date Visited: September 2, 2021  
Church Visitors: Rev. Joel Vander Kooi and Elder Korrie Van Maanen

This official visit was announced to the Hills Congregation two weeks prior to the visit. All the members of the Council were present. The visit was conducted by Rev. Vander Kooi using John 15:1-17 as a guide in conducting the visit and the asking of questions required by our Church Order.

The Council members testified to the faithfulness of God in the Hills Congregation as the members work together to encourage one another in their faith and strive to build one another up even during difficult times. Worship services are held twice on the Lord's Day and on special religious holidays. All the office bearers have signed the Form of Subscription and the Elders meet monthly and faithfully rule in Christ's Name. The Deacons also meet monthly and shared that the congregation is faithful in their giving to the work of the Lord.

The Sacraments are faithfully administered according to the Word of God and our Church Order. Visitors are asked to fill out a "Communion Request Form" which is approved by the Elders. Parents presenting children for baptism are instructed in the meaning of baptism.

The Hills congregation has several Bible study groups for all age groups of men and women. One of the men's Bible studies meets once a month on a Saturday morning, studying the book of Genesis, and includes 8th grade boys through 80 year old seniors. The mixture of ages allows the senior members to impart wisdom and the truth of God's Word to the younger men and boys, preparing them to serve God in the church as well as the home. The Elders are involved in teaching catechism classes. The minutes of their meetings were examined and found to be in good order.

Since they are currently vacant, the Council appreciated having Mr. Praveen Phinehas, a student from Mid-America Reformed Seminary, serve his summer internship with the Hills URC from June 6 through August 8. They also look forward to having Rev. Ralph Pontier providing pulpit supply from Sept. 19 through the end of November. The Church visitors answered some questions the Council had about calling a new Pastor.

The Church visitors were encouraged by this visit and commit the Hills Congregation to the care of our Heavenly Father as they search for a new Pastor and continue their faithful worship and ministry in Spirit and in Truth.

Humbly Submitted,

Rev. Joel Vander Kooi  
Elder Korrie Van Maanen

## Classis Central U.S. - Official Church Visitor's Report

Church Visited: Redeemer United Reformed Church, Orange City, IA  
Date Visited: October 18, 2021  
Church Visitors: Rev. Joel Vander Kooi and Elder Korrie Van Maanen

This official visit was announced to the Redeemer Congregation two weeks prior to the visit. All the members of the Council were present - seven Elders and seven Deacons - as well as Rev. Todd De Rooy. The visit was conducted by Rev. Vander Kooi using John 15:1-17 as a guide in conducting the visit and the asking of questions required by our Church Order.

The Council members testified to the faithfulness of God in the Redeemer Congregation as the members work together to encourage one another in their faith and strive to build one another up even during difficult times. Worship services are held twice on the Lord's Day and on special religious holidays. The Council expressed appreciation for the work of Rev. De Rooy as he faithfully proclaims God's Word from week to week. All the office bearers have signed the Form of Subscription and the Elders meet monthly and faithfully rule in Christ's Name. The Deacons also meet monthly and shared that the congregation is faithful in their giving to the work of the Lord.

The Sacraments are faithfully administered according to the Word of God and our Church Order. Visitors are asked to fill out a "Communion Request Form" which is approved by the Elders. Parents presenting children for baptism are instructed in the meaning of baptism.

The Redeemer congregation has several Bible study groups as well as an active Youth Group. In addition to the Pastor, the Elders are involved in teaching catechism classes. They also shared with us that a young couple from the Chicago area began listening to their services on Sermon Audio and moved to Orange City to become members of the Redeemer congregation. We are again reminded that God uses a variety of means to gather His people to Himself.

The Council takes responsibility for the honorable support of their pastor and does its best to follow Synod's guidelines regarding retirement, disability insurance, life insurance and health insurance. Rev. De Rooy expressed his appreciation for the care he receives from the Council and the congregation. The minutes of their meetings were examined and found to be in good order.

The Church visitors were encouraged by this visit and commit the Redeemer Congregation to the care of our Heavenly Father as they continue their faithful worship and ministry in Spirit and in Truth.

Humbly Submitted,

Rev. Joel Vander Kooi  
Elder Korrie Van Maanen

## Classis Central U.S. - Official Church Visitors Report

Church: Providence United Reformed Church- Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Monday, 19 July 2021

Classically appointed church visitors: Rev. Spencer Aalsburg and Rev. Joel Vander Kooi

This official visit was announced to the Des Moines Congregation two weeks prior to the visit. All 4 members of the Des Moines Council were present: 1 Elder, 1 Pastor, and 2 Deacons. All the office bearers are required to sign the form of subscription when they are installed to office. The visit was conducted by Rev. Spencer Aalsburg who read 'C.O. Art. 27 – Church Visitors' aloud. Acts 2:36-47 was read and used as a discussion guide in conducting the official visit with a special emphasis on the spiritual life and the weekly worship of the Des Moines congregation.

Council members testified to the faithfulness of God in preserving the Des Moines congregation in spite of several families moving away. Worship services are held twice on the Lord's Day and on special religious holidays. These Worship services are Word centered, Christ centered, and God glorifying! Priority is given to the Psalter in the singing of the congregation. Concern was expressed that many church members live a great distance from church and have the habit of attending only one worship service per Sunday. This calls into question their level of commitment to the life of the church and their eligibility to serve as officers within the church.

Council members put special emphasis on the Grace of God as they experienced it in their corporate worship services, especially through the faithful preaching of God's Word and a worship service well planned around God's Word. Appreciation was expressed for the work of Pastor Jody Lucero who has faithfully served as their under-shepherd for nearly fifteen years.

The Elders meet monthly and faithfully rule in the Name of Christ. They maintain good discipline in the Des Moines Congregation and exercise a loving care over the flock. The Sacraments are faithfully administered according the Word of God and our Church Order. Parents presenting children for baptism are instructed in the meaning of baptism. Visitors on Communion Sundays are asked to fill out a 'Communion Request Form'. The Des Moines Congregation urgently needs more men who are qualified for the office of Elder.

The Deacons meet monthly and report to the elders on their work, the Deacons records for the last two years 2019 / 2020 were found to be in good order. The Council takes responsibility for the honorable support of their pastor and does its best to follow Synod's guidelines regarding Retirement, Disability Ins., Life Ins., and Health Ins.

The Des Moines Council and Congregation seek to practice evangelism as a way of life rather than a series of programs. The Church visitors commit the Des Moines Congregation to the Grace of God and His Blessing upon their faithful worship and ministry in Spirit and in Truth.

Sincerely Submitted by Visit Reporter for Classis Central of the URCNA, Rev. Joel Vander Kooi

## Classis Central U.S. -Official Church Visitors Report

Church: Sioux Center United Reformed Church - Sioux Center, Iowa

Date: 20 APR 2021 @ 7:00 pm.

Classically appointed church visitors: Rev. Spencer Aalsburg and Rev. Joel Vander Kooi

This official visit was announced to the Sioux Center Congregation two weeks prior to the visit. Nearly all 13 members of the Sioux Center Council were present, including their pastor, Rev. Jon Bushnell. Opening Devotions were led by Rev. Spencer Aalsburg, who read Acts 2:36-47 and used this passage as an outline to guide the questions and discussion of the evening.

Council members were in good spirits and testified to the faithfulness of God in blessing them with the faithful preaching of the Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Worship services are held twice on the Lord's Day and on special religious holidays. Various Council members testified to the evidence of God's Grace and the work of God the Holy Spirit in their church fellowship, the sharing of one another's burdens, and the willingness of church members to minister to one another's needs without being asked or assigned to do so. The deacons also report a joyful spirit of giving and contributing to the needs of God's saints, as well as the budget of the church.

The Sioux Center Congregation has been blessed with over 100 children and young people and continues to grow. Additionally, every school year sees their numbers swell with students from Dordt University, who are encouraged to sign up for a 'Student Membership' at Sioux Center URC so that they will have a church home while away from home. These students have been a tremendous blessing to the congregation and vice versa. Space and facilities are becoming a challenge, and the Council and Congregation are on the lookout for solutions to this challenge.

The Elders meet monthly and are faithful in their oversight of the church, the Minister of the Word, and the members at Sioux Center URC. Family Visitation is conducted annually over a period of 3-4 months. The Deacons also meet monthly and report to the elders on their work. Both the Deacon's minutes and the Council's Minutes for the last two years (2019 -2020 up to the present date in 2021) were found to be in very good order. The Council takes responsibility for the honorable support of their pastor and does its best to follow Synod's guidelines regarding Retirement, Disability Ins., Life Ins., and Health Ins.

Your church visitors found the office bearers of Christ's church in Sioux Center doing their best with help of God to shepherd the flock under their care, enthusiastically exercising their responsibilities and counting it a privilege for Christ's sake.

Sincerely Submitted by Church Visit Reporter, Rev. Joel Vander Kooi

**Classis Central US**  
**United Reformed Churches in North America**  
**Church Visitors' Report**  
**Immanuel URC DeMotte Indiana**

On the evening of April 20, 2021, at the invitation of the Council of Immanuel URC (DeMotte IN) Rev. Ed Marcusse of Oak Glen URC (Lansing IL) and I conducted a regular church visit per the provisions of Article 27 of the Church Order. The brothers warmly welcomed us.

The visit was opened with prayer and with Elder Rudy Tolkamp reading and offering comments on Ezekiel 34 and John 10:7-18. Rev. Marcusse then led the visit using a series of questions designed to stimulate discussion with the brothers regarding whether they were faithfully performing their duties, adhering to sound doctrine, observing in all things the adopted order and properly promoting the edification of the congregation by word and deed.

We were pleased and encouraged by the responses of the Immanuel Council. The Word and the Catechism are being faithfully preached; the Lord's Supper is administered eight times per year; and the business of the church is regularly attended to through monthly meetings of the elders, deacons and Council. Sunday school, Catechism and society/Bible studies are being conducted.

There appears to be an atmosphere of love, mutual respect and encouragement among the elders and deacons. The elders are faithful and diligent in overseeing the doctrine and life of the congregation in a spirit of love and encouragement. When necessary church discipline is purposeful and practiced in love. The elders also oversee the work of the deacons through regular monthly reports and meetings. They oversee the church education activities through approval of material to be used and the teachers/leaders as well as serving as Catechism teachers and conducting regular, periodic visits to the classes. The elders, with a fellow elder, strive to annually conduct family visitation with each family in their district.

The elders are diligent in ensuring that the Word and the Catechism are faithfully, and regularly preached and Christian education is encouraged and supported. The elders regularly meet with Rev. Rossi to discuss his work. He provides a monthly written report to the elders for their review. The elders meet with his spouse every six months to discuss work/life balance. Rev. Rossi is provided one Sunday evening service out of the pulpit each month. Additionally, an elder and a deacon meet with Rev. Rossi annually during the budget preparation process to discuss his financial needs.

The deacons are faithful and diligent in administering the resources provided by the congregation for the support of various mission and other Christian causes including addressing individual financial needs through benevolence. With respect to the counting and handling of the monies donated, the deacons were encouraged to consider policies

and procedures which ensure that more than one deacon count the proceeds of the collections and that more than one deacon is responsible to deposit the collections in a locked bag with the bank on Sunday evening. The deacons ensure that annual contributions are timely made to the federation and to classis. The approved giving causes and the missionaries supported are annually reviewed.

The Council was encouraged to continue to make use of secure offsite storage for all of the records of the congregation including minutes of meetings, correspondence, membership information and the like to ensure the ability to recreate the records in the event of a situation in which the current storage arrangements are damaged or destroyed.

Overall the visit with the Council of Immanuel URC went very well. We commend the office-bearers for their diligence and faithfulness, and we encouraged them to stay the course. It was a blessing to hear the reports of the brothers regarding the faithfulness of the elders and deacons in the execution of the tasks and responsibilities to which the Lord has called them. We rejoice with them as we received the report that the spiritual condition of the congregation is good and that there is positive growth in Christian love and faithfulness among the brothers and sisters in Christ worshipping at Immanuel. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and equip them to do His work to which we all have been called.

The visit was closed with Rev. Marcusse reading portions of the charge from the form for the ordination of elders and deacons. A prayer and mutual encouragement was offered, and well wishes were given and received.

Respectfully submitted,

John Surowiec  
Church Visitor East  
Community United Reformed Church  
Schererville, Indiana



**Classis Central US**  
**United Reformed Churches in North America**  
**Church Visitors' Report**  
**Lynwood United Reformed Church Lynwood IL**

On the evening of August 3, 2021, at the invitation of the Council of Lynwood United Reformed Church (Lynwood IL), Rev. Ed Marcusse of Oak Glen URC (Lansing IL) and I conducted a regular church visit per the provisions of Article 27 of the Church Order. The brothers warmly welcomed us.

Rev. Alons opened the visit with prayer. Rev. Marcusse led the visit using a series of questions designed to stimulate discussion with the brothers regarding whether they were faithfully performing their duties, adhering to sound doctrine, observing in all things the adopted order, and properly promoting the edification of the congregation by word and deed.

We were pleased and encouraged by the responses of the Lynwood Council. Two worship services are held on the Lord's Day during which the Word and the Catechism are being faithfully preached. The Lord's Supper is administered seven times per year and mutual censure is conducted per the requirements of Church Order. The business of the church is regularly attended to through monthly meetings of the elders, deacons and Council. The elders oversee Sunday School and Catechism instruction, Bible studies and the other church sponsored activities (GEMS, Cadets, Young Peoples) by approving the materials used and the teachers/leaders. Rev. Alons teaches the high school Catechism classes and a pre-profession of faith class. The elders teach the other Catechism classes. The elders periodically visit the Sunday School and Catechism classes as well as the Bible studies and other activities taking place (GEMS, Cadets and Young Peoples' meetings). Seeking to obey our Lord's call in Matthew 28, there are focused activities and efforts to reach out to the surrounding community through "Love for Lynwood" during which members of the congregation participate in community support activities such as working in the local parks picking up trash, attending to flowers and shrubs and the like.

There appears to be an atmosphere of love, mutual respect and encouragement among the elders and deacons. The elders are faithful and diligent in overseeing the doctrine and life of the congregation in a spirit of love and encouragement. When necessary, church discipline is purposeful and practiced in love. The elders oversee the work of the deacons through regular monthly reports and meetings. The elders are preparing to begin a cycle of family visitation with the goal of meeting with each family in their district once every two years. Although personal visitation was limited by the recent COVID-19 restrictions, the elders were faithful in continuing support and encouragement of the congregation via non-personal contact means including phone calls and the like.

The elders are diligent in ensuring that the Word and the Catechism are faithfully and regularly preached and Christian education is encouraged and supported. The elders regularly meet with Rev. Alons to discuss his work. The elders strive to support and encourage Rev. Alons in his work.

The deacons are faithful and diligent in administering the resources provided by the congregation for the support of various missionaries and other Christian causes including addressing individual financial needs through benevolence. The approved giving causes and the missionaries supported are annually reviewed. The deacons faithfully budget for the annual contributions to the federation and to classis. Since the deacons make use of an individual who is not a deacon to process the payments approved by the deacons, they were encouraged to ensure that the contributions are being timely and faithfully made as directed by the deacons. With respect to the counting and handling of the monies donated, the deacons were encouraged to consider policies and procedures which ensure that more than one deacon is physically involved in the deposit of the collections in a locked bag with the bank.

All the records of the congregation, including minutes of meetings, correspondence, membership information and the like are kept in physical form on the church site and are also all stored electronically using cloud storage to ensure the ability to recreate the records in the event of a situation in which the current physically storage arrangements are damaged or destroyed.

Overall, the visit with the Council of Lynwood URC went very well. We commended the office-bearers for their diligence and faithfulness, and we encouraged them to stay the course. It was a blessing to hear the reports of the brothers regarding the faithfulness of the minister, elders and deacons in the execution of the tasks and responsibilities to which the Lord has called them. We rejoice with them as we received the report that the spiritual condition of the congregation is good and that there is growth in Christian love and faithfulness and an excitement and enthusiasm to serve the Lord among the brothers and sisters in Christ worshipping at Lynwood URC. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and equip them to do His work to which we all have been called.

The visit was closed with Rev. Marcusse reading portions of the charge from the forms for the ordination of ministers, elders and deacons. Mutual encouragement was offered, and well wishes were given and received.

Respectfully submitted,

John Surowiec  
Church Visitor East  
Community United Reformed Church  
Schererville, Indiana

**Classis Central US**  
**United Reformed Churches in North America**  
**Church Visitors' Report**  
**First United Reformed Church of Oak Lawn IL**

On the evening of May 4, 2021, at the invitation of the Council of First United Reformed Church of Oak Lawn (Oak Lawn IL), Rev. Ed Marcusse of Oak Glen URC (Lansing IL) and I conducted a regular church visit per the provisions of Article 27 of the Church Order. The brothers warmly welcomed us.

Rev. Marcuse opened the visit with prayer and then led the visit using a series of questions designed to stimulate discussion with the brothers regarding whether they were faithfully performing their duties, adhering to sound doctrine, observing in all things the adopted order and properly promoting the edification of the congregation by word and deed.

We were pleased and encouraged by the responses of the Oak Lawn Council. Two worship services are held on the Lord's Day during which the Word and the Catechism are being faithfully preached. The Lord's Supper is administered five times per year and mutual censure is conducted per the requirements of Church Order. The business of the church is regularly attended to through monthly meetings of the elders, deacons and Council. Currently there are no children in the congregation who are of Sunday school age, however, Rev. Miller teaches Catechism and society/Bible studies are being faithfully held. The elders oversee these activities by approving the leaders and study material used and by periodically visiting the meetings. Seeking to obey our Lord's call in Matthew 28, Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be conducted this summer.

There appears to be an atmosphere of love, mutual respect and encouragement among the elders and deacons. The elders are faithful and diligent in overseeing the doctrine and life of the congregation in a spirit of love and encouragement. When necessary church discipline is purposeful and practiced in love. The elders oversee the work of the deacons through regular monthly reports and meetings. After being put on hold last year in response to the COVID-19 related restrictions, the elders are restarting family visitation with the goal of meeting annually with each family in their district. Although personal visitation was limited by the restrictions, the elders were faithful in continuing support and encouragement of the congregation via non-personal contact means including phone calls and the like

The elders are diligent in ensuring that the Word and the Catechism are faithfully and regularly preached and Christian education is encouraged and supported. The elders regularly meet with Rev. Miller to discuss his work. He provides a monthly written report to the elders for their review. The elders strive to support and encourage Rev. Miller in his work.

The deacons are faithful and diligent in administering the resources provided by the congregation for the support of various missionaries and other Christian causes including addressing individual financial needs through benevolence. Seeking to encourage personal contact with and commitment to the missionaries being supported, the deacons have focused their support on four designated missionaries in addition to other causes recommended by the deacons and approved by the Council. The approved giving causes and the missionaries supported are annually reviewed. The deacons ensure that annual contributions are timely made to the federation and to classis. With respect to the counting and handling of the monies donated, the deacons were encouraged to consider policies and procedures which ensure that more than one deacon count the proceeds of the collections and that more than one deacon is responsible to deposit the collections in a locked bag with the bank on Sunday evening.

The Council was encouraged to investigate and begin to make use of secure offsite storage for all of the records of the congregation including minutes of meetings, correspondence, membership information and the like to ensure the ability to recreate the records in the event of a situation in which the current storage arrangements are damaged or destroyed.

Concluding the visit, the brothers sought advice regarding a matter that has arisen with a sister URC congregation. After discussion regarding the matter, advice was given and the brothers expressed their thanks for the opportunity to address the matter during our visit and indicated that they would give prayerful consideration to proceeding accordingly.

Overall the visit with the Council of First URC of Oak Lawn IL went very well. We commend the office-bearers for their diligence and faithfulness, and we encouraged them to stay the course. It was a blessing to hear the reports of the brothers regarding the faithfulness of the elders and deacons in the execution of the tasks and responsibilities to which the Lord has called them. We rejoice with them as we received the report that the spiritual condition of the congregation is good and that there is positive growth in Christian love and faithfulness among the brothers and sisters in Christ worshipping at Oak Lawn URC. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and equip them to do His work to which we all have been called.

The visit was closed with Rev. Marcusse reading portions of the charge from the form for the ordination of elders and deacons. I closed the visit with prayer. Mutual encouragement was offered, and well wishes were given and received.

Respectfully submitted,

John Surowiec  
Church Visitor East  
Community United Reformed Church  
Schererville, Indiana

Church Visitor's Report  
Cornerstone URC, Sanborn, IA

November 19, 2021

On the evening October 27, 2021, the Council of Cornerstone URC in Sanborn, IA, invited Rev. Ralph Pontier and myself for a regular church visit in accordance with Article 27 of the Church Order.

The chairman of the Cornerstone Council opened the meeting by reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 and with prayer. Rev. Pontier conducted the church visit using Article 27 as a structure for the visit, and asking questions to address the content of Article 27.

We were pleased and encouraged by the Council's answers. It is evident that the brothers at Cornerstone are carrying out their duties for corporate worship and the discipling of the members. The Great Commission is being carried out faithfully by the brothers, with much prayer and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. All of the general questions regarding the work of the Consistory and Council were answered satisfactorily.

Rev. Pontier asked specific questions of the minister, of the elders, and of the deacons. Rev. Donovan gave a good account of his labors in the ministry of the Word, of his dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and prayer. The Elders are faithfully engaged in giving oversight to the preaching of the Word, to the other office bearers, and to ensuring the members of the church are being taught God's Word. The deacons are active in addressing the needs of the congregation. There is mutual accountability among the office bearers. The minutes of all the meetings were examined and found to be in good order.

Overall, there is a spirit of unity and strength in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. By God's grace, Cornerstone URC is steadily serving the Lord in faithfulness. We commend the office bearers at Cornerstone and encourage them to remain faithful. We rejoice with them to hear that, by God's grace, the spiritual condition of the church is strong and growing.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Todd De Rooy  
Church Visitor (alternate), Classis Central US

## **Fraternal Delegation Report – Classis Minnkota (CRCNA), September 16, 2021**

In Leota, Minnesota, I attended the afternoon session of the September 16, 2021 meeting of Classis Minnkota of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) as your fraternal delegate. As most of you know, Classis Minnkota has become an ecclesiastical body within the CRCNA that has become a haven of sorts for some conservative CRCNA churches that are outside of the Minnkota region, which are seeking like-mindedness in approaching the pressing pastoral and ecclesiastical issues of the day.

The agenda was a bit more local and classical in nature in contrast to the previous meeting that I attended on March 4, 2021. I missed the classical licensure examination that was held in the morning session, but was able to witness Mr. Sam Gesch sustain a “commissioned pastor” examination that would allow him to serve in that capacity at Faith Community Church in Colton, South Dakota. “Commissioned pastor” is an office recognized by the CRCNA. Prior to 2012 the name of the office was “ministry associate” (2003). and prior to 2003 the office was called “evangelist.”

I was at the meeting for around five and a half hours, but one large takeaway for me was that, while the churches of this classis were working well together, the churches in certain circumstances also needed the support of one another to promote the kind of local cohesion which we all pray that our churches will continually exhibit.

I was approached by one delegate about the process of churches being received into the URCNA federation. His inquiry made me reflect, not only on the importance of these times that our two classes can observe one another on a classical level, but also the importance of local churches within our classis and that of Classis Minnkota growing in their mutual acquaintance.

During the meeting, at breaks, and following the conclusion of the meeting, I was once again warmly received. I was given the privilege to address the delegates at the end of their meeting, and I appreciated the opportunity that was given to me to provide a gospel word of encouragement to the delegates.

It was a pleasure to serve the classis once again as a fraternal delegate to Classis Minnkota. I believe that there is profit in being able to attend these meetings as a fraternal delegate in a repeated fashion, and so I would be happy to return to the next meeting of Classis Minnkota if our classis deems it appropriate for me to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

John Vermeer

Rev. Harold Miller

January 8, 2022

1<sup>st</sup> United Reformed Church of Oak Lawn  
Oak Lawn, Il.

Rev. Ralph Pontier

Clerk, Classis Central United States

Dear Mr. Clerk.

The fathers and brothers of classis Central appointed me to represent classis as fraternal delegate to the Fall 2021 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. I was thankful and looked forward to being with the fathers and brothers. However, I did become ill and was wholly unable to attend. I am thankful that you, Mr. Chairman were able to send a letter to the Presbytery on short notice. I was sad to be unable to attend.

Should our classis feel it wise to send me as fraternal delegate to some future meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest I would count it an honor.

Fraternally yours in Christ our Lord,

Harold Miller

**REPORT TO CLASSIS CENTRAL U.S.  
FROM THE OVERSEEING CONSISTORY OF  
THE CHURCH PLANTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Dear Fathers & Brothers,

The consistory of Immanuel United Reformed Church, DeMotte is privileged to continue to serve classis as the overseeing consistory of the Church Planting Advisory Committee. CPAC has faithfully provided us with its meeting minutes which are reviewed at our consistory meetings. CPAC's Chairman and our consistory committee representative are responsive to our inquiries and guidance.

We approved the work of CPAC and continue to uphold them in our prayers as they seek to assist the churches in their work of missions and advancing the Kingdom of Christ in Classis Central.

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard Ridder Jr.  
Clerk, Immanuel United Reformed Church, DeMotte, Indiana

*Consistory approved on December 7, 2021*



**The Church Planting Advisory Committee**  
**Report to Classis Central U.S.**  
**March 7-8, 2022**

Esteemed fathers and brothers in our Lord Jesus,

The men currently serving on the Church Planting Advisory Committee (CPAC) consider it a privilege to aid classis in its mission efforts, and we thank you for the opportunity and for your support. CPAC continues in its regular functions (see *Rule of Procedure*, IV. B. 4), meeting monthly by teleconference. On Nov. 17-19 we had a face-to-face meeting in Schererville, IN – our first with Rev. Roberto Rossi, the most recent addition to this committee. We are very pleased now to have serving on CPAC a member of our overseeing consistory at Immanuel URC in DeMotte. At this meeting we gave some attention to the developing Latino Mission at Cornerstone URC of Sanborn; we give the Lord thanks that with the aid of Arturo Gomez they have begun outreach to the Hispanic people around them.

At our fall meeting the committee also considered how things might continue to develop with the handful of people in Columbus, NE, who hope one day to begin a URC plant in their town. CPAC remains in regular contact with this group, largely through Zoom video conferences. During the summer months we (Revs. Lucero & Worries) led them through a study of biblical, Reformed worship with the help of the book *With Reverence and Awe* by D.G. Hart & John Muether – this study concluded on Sept. 30 with a review of a public worship service held at Redeemer URC, Orange City. We have advised the group in Columbus to make use of the helpful 9Marks book *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus* by J. Mack Stiles. These dear saints are admirably committed to thoroughgoing study for their own growth as disciples of Christ, but it will be important for them to be equally committed to sharing the riches of God's truth and grace with others for the making of more disciples. If the Lord God is pleased to bless this group with some numerical growth, CPAC will want to connect them with one of the consistories of classis. If a consistory is interested in initiating that discussion, please contact us.

We concluded our face-to-face meeting last fall by visiting with Rev. Ruben Sernas, who reported that his ministry among the Latino people of Chicago Heights has been especially challenging during the virus pandemic – he feels the need for an administrative assistant or a co-laborer in ministry so that he can remain focused on teaching. Our discussion resulted in asking Rev. Sernas to complete El Pacto's Annual Update *not* this winter but rather next summer when their fiscal year has been completed (we will look to include that update in the agenda for the classis meeting to take place in the fall of 2022).

CPAC remains in contact with the Pella consistory, which strives to provide Rev. Pablo Landázuri with faithful care. Their Annual Update for the Quito mission work should follow this report (we remind you that Covenant-Pella does not oversee a church-plant in Quito but only the missionary). We praise God for many blessings upon this developing ministry – three men are now being trained for the Gospel ministry; a new church plant has begun in the southern part of the city. Consistories are encouraged to give due consideration to this Annual Update so that it can receive the attention that it deserves at our spring classis meeting. Below you will find our one recommendation regarding this mission work.

Your fellow-laborers in Christ Jesus,

Elder Bruce Aardsma	Rev. Roberto Rossi
Elder Grant Diekevers	Rev. Joel Worries, <i>chairman</i>
Rev. Jody Lucero, <i>clerk</i>	

**Recommendation:**

That Classis Central continue classical assistance for the work of Rev. Pablo Landázuri in Quito.

## Annual Update for Assisted Mission Works of Classis Central U.S.

Consistory Updating: Covenant Reformed, Pella  
Church Planter: Rev. Pablo Landázuri in Quito, Ecuador  
Date: December 14, 2021

### ***1. What is going on in the life of this church (studies, events, activities, worship services)? What has changed over the last year?***

#### Studies:

Rev. Landázuri teaches a midweek study which is held in Luz de Vida building and broadcasted through zoom. He also teaches a basic and membership course every Sunday after the morning service for those visitors interested in becoming members of the Church. At this time a family and four individuals are taking the course. Three more families have expressed their desire to take the courses eventually.

#### Worship Services:

Luz de Vida offers two worship services every Sunday at 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. Our Misión Reformada del Sur (Reformed Mission of the South) offers two services as well at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

#### Licensure Examinations:

Mr. Steve Wuori was licensed during 2020 but had to return to the U.S. in May 2021 due to job related issues. Mr. Ronald Cagua a student of the Programa de Formación Pastoral sustained his examination for licensure on October 2021. Mr. Johan Pintado is expected to be examined by the end of December 2021, and Mr. Jean Carlos Morán in January 2022. All three of them are full time students of the Programa de Formación Pastoral.

#### Programa de Formación Pastoral and Seminario Reformado de las Américas:

As reported last year, the Programa de Formación Pastoral was started in order to train local men for ministry. At this time three men (members of Luz de Vida) have completed their first year, and several others from different churches and countries have taken some courses for credit or as audit students.

During the first year the following courses were offered: Greek 1 and 2, Hebrew 1 and 2, Hermeneutics, Theological Foundations, Liturgics, Homiletics, Covenant Theology, Apologetics 1, and Doctrine of God.

Starting January 2022, the Seminario Reformado de las Américas (SRA) will be taking up the training offered by the Programa de Formación Pastoral. SRA is a branch of City Seminary in Sacramento, CA, an institution overseen by men of the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS). Its goal is to provide sound training to the Spanish-speaking world from a distinctive Reformed perspective and faculty. Three men will be teaching in this Seminary: Rev. Ruben Zartman, Rev. Valentín Alpuche and Rev. Landázuri.

### ***2. How are your prayers being answered? What joys and growth (spiritual & numerical) are you experiencing? What struggles? What are your current prayer requests?***

Despite the great difficulties Ecuador faced during the pandemic, the Lord allowed Luz de Vida to start a church plant and train men through the Programa de Formación Pastoral, now transitioning under the administration of the Seminario Reformado de las Américas.

As mentioned, three men are currently working full time on their ministerial training with the goal of becoming pastors and church planters in Ecuador. This is definitely an answer to prayer.

There has been a small reduction in membership because two families and one individual transferred their membership to churches outside Ecuador. Also, one member passed recently. However, thirteen people are expected to be received as members. Some already finished the required courses and were interviewed, and some others are about to finish the courses.

Membership Statistics:

Year	Professing Members	Members by Baptism	In Course
2017	33	10	
2018	49	12	
2019	62	22	
2020	81	29	
2021	77	25	13 (including 3 children)

Our current prayer requests are:

1. For the financial situation in the country due to the pandemic; specifically for those that lost jobs.
2. For the church plant in the South.
3. For our three students in seminary.
3. For our future church plant efforts in the country.

***3. How many people are involved with this work? How has composition of the core group changed?***

At this time Luz de Vida has 102 members. The core group is technically the same. The congregation grows organically, fundamentally through the witness of the membership to other friends and family.

A group of about twenty members of Luz de Vida are currently attending the Church plant in the South of the city.

Luz de Vida has a Council composed of: Rev. Landázuri, Rev. Donoso (E); Elders: Mr. Fausto Mora, Mr. Franklin Bayas, Mr. Ernesto Ordoñez (candidate to office of elder); Deacons: Mr. Francisco Campos, Mr. Esteban Grijalva and Mr. Ronald Medina.

***4. What efforts are being made to promote participation in this group?***

The Misión Reformada del Sur was just started. Only four services have been held so far. Services are offered under the supervision of a Luz de Vida Council's official. At this point our goal is more evangelistic.

***5. How is the vision of this church plant being advanced or changing?***

Our vision has remained the same with no fundamental change. The objective is to plant confessional Reformed churches in Ecuador.

***6. What progress is being made in calling a minister?***

Rev. Landázuri is pastoring Luz de Vida. We expect to have three men trained for the ministry in three more years.

***7. What progress is being made in training office bearers?***

The Pastoral Training Program is an answer to that need. For more details, see point 1 above.

Before the pandemic every fifth Monday was used for elder and deacon training. We are hoping to resume this practice in 2022. A workshop for elders and those interested is scheduled for January 2022.

***8. What challenges have you experienced in faithfully shepherding this church plant?***

The main challenge during this year has been the pandemic. The Ecuadorian government has been very strict on imposing restrictions on some groups, including churches. Thankfully we have been able to resume almost all of our regular activities.

A case of discipline is being managed by the Consistory at this time.

***9. What kind of community outreach is occurring? How comfortable has the congregation been in embracing new visitors?***

Luz de Vida feels very comfortable performing its mandate to reach out and to embrace new visitors. Despite our efforts to reach neighbors through door to door visits, very few attend Luz de Vida. Family and friendship ties seem to be the way the Lord has used more effectively. A couple of families have recently started attending more faithfully after asking for counseling on marriage issues.

A significant way of reaching out is the church plant in the south of the city and the training of three Luz de Vida men. Each of these men study full time and receive a stipend of 500 USD per month. All these efforts are funded only with Luz de Vida local offerings.

***10. How have the proposed plans changed? What change have you seen in the group's assets and liabilities, strengths and weaknesses? How have you handled successes? How have you handled failures?***

Essentially our vision and plan remains the same. Luz de Vida has a clear Reformed identity; it understands the foundational importance the Word has in its life and missional calling; the church seeks to be faithful in its testimony to the community. The Lord has blessed us with two more deacons, another elder, and a new candidate to the office of elder during this year.

Successes and failures are generally taken with humility and maturity. Luz de Vida's Consistory has older men with much experience in church life and with an apt piety that have been key in supporting Rev. Landázuri's ministry.

***11. The churches of classis are committed to prioritizing giving for classically assisted works. To better help us understand your financial situation, please let us know how you have been provided for this last year. Where are you still lacking? Using the table below, please provide your most recently completed fiscal year, your current fiscal year-to-date, and your most current budget – also, feel free to specify and explain as you deem appropriate (e.g., assets and/or liabilities). There are spaces to include your financial projections for the years to come.***

	Last Completed Year (2020)	Current Fiscal YTD (Jan. to Nov.)	Current Budget (Jan. to Dec.)	2022 Budget estimate	2023 Budget estimate
Total Budget	\$84,749.39	\$100,995.79	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
<u>Income:</u>					
<i>Internal Offerings</i>	\$57,620.00	\$60,823.00	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
<i>External Support</i>	\$27,129.39	\$40,172.21	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
<u>Expenditures</u>	\$81,485.60	\$82,402.21	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Difference					
Assets/Liabilities					

**URCNA Synodical Missions Committee**  
**Report to Classis Central U.S.**  
**March 7-8, 2022**

To the Consistories of Classis Central US:

Esteemed fathers and brothers in our Lord Jesus,

It is a privilege for us (Harold Meinders and Rev. Jody Lucero) to serve as classis representatives on our federation's Missions Committee. For much of the past year the full committee has continued meeting by way of video conference every other month.

Much of our attention in 2021 was devoted to revisions of the majority and minority reports, containing two very different mission plans which will be considered at the next synod, the Lord willing. Please do what you can to make sure that your consistory gives due consideration to these plans in the months leading up to synod.

The Missions Coordinator, Rev. Rich Bout, has remained very active in visiting missionaries both in North America and abroad. We give the Lord thanks that Rev. Bout has managed to travel so much in spite of the continuing pandemic with its resulting restrictions. Toward the end of 2021, he spent about six weeks in Italy and Uganda, during which time he was able to visit a handful of missionaries. On such visits, Rev. Bout primarily seeks to encourage missionaries, their families and co-laborers, but he is also uniquely blessed to see how the Lord is working in various mission fields.

Another missions conference, originally scheduled for the spring, had to be postponed until the fall. Please be on the lookout for more information, and advertise accordingly in your congregation.

Also, please continue to pray for all missionaries, for the mission fields, and for Rev. Bout. Pray also that the Lord would be pleased to grant consistories wisdom, faithfulness, and unity as they consider how the federation might grow in its endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission.

There is much darkness in the world, many people are hurting, and countless souls are perishing in their sin and unbelief. Since the church has the ultimate answer, the Missions Committee encourages all church leaders to be focused on Gospel ministry that builds up the saints so that they would be equipped to reach out to people in their respective communities with the truth and love of Christ, our Lord. His light continues to shine, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Your fellow servants in Christ our Lord,

Rev. Jody Lucero  
Harold Meinders

Dear Brothers of Classis Central US,

Thank you for the privilege of serving the churches in the important work of ecumenicity. We are grateful to the Lord that we were able to meet together at NAPARC with the other member churches this past November. You have had opportunity to read our report on NAPARC, as well as the press release from NAPARC. It was another time of joyful and refreshing fellowship and encouragement!

CERCU has continued its practice of meeting via Zoom at least twice a year, and then meeting face-to-face at NAPARC. Six of our committee members were able to attend NAPARC this year.

Our dear brother, Rev. Rick Miller, passed away the week after NAPARC. We will miss his passion for ecumenicity, and his candid way of speaking during our discussions. He brought great joy to our committee and he will be greatly missed.

The main fruit of our work recently has been the survey that was sent out to the churches. At the time of the writing of this report, we have not yet processed the responses from the consistories or councils. Our plan is to meet together in early March to assess the survey responses.

By way of reminder, here is the first part of the synodical mandate for CERCU:

“With a view toward complete church unity, the Committee for Ecumenical Relations and Church Unity shall pursue and make recommendations regarding the establishment of ecumenical relations with those Reformed and Presbyterian federations selected by synod and in keeping with Article 36 of the Church Order.”

The design behind the survey that was sent to the churches was to get feedback from the churches regarding our ecumenical activity and discussions. Repeatedly in this Classis there have been opportunities to ask questions, to talk with the CERCU representative, or to raise any concerns or objections the work of ecumenicity. It has become apparent that the importance of the work of ecumenicity is not appreciated. CERCU wonders why this is the case. Other classical representatives receive the same underwhelming response. One thing we hear from other NAPARC churches is that the URCNA functions like independent congregations. They wonder how the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace function even among our own churches. Perhaps this independent spirit is the root of the indifference toward ecumenicity that is being observed. Ecumenical relationships between churches are a witness to the world of the power of the gospel to unite and reconcile believers together, even believers from different Reformed and Presbyterian churches and practices.

CERCU wants to carry out its mandate faithfully. We are asking the churches to help us do that.

As a second reminder, brothers, this is a summary of our current ecumenical relationships:

*Churches in Phase One – Corresponding Relations*

1. Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC)
2. Free Reformed Churches (FRC)
3. Heritage Reformed Congregations (HRC)
4. Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)
5. Korean Presbyterian Church in America – Kosin (KPCA)
6. Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)
7. Presbyterian Reformed Church (PresRC)

*Churches in Phase Two – Ecclesiastical Fellowship*

1. Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC)
2. Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)
3. Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)
4. Reformed Church of Quebec / L’Eglise reformee du Quebec (ERQ)
5. Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)

If any Consistories or delegates have any questions about CERCU's work, or our ecumenical relationships with sister churches, please feel free to contact me personally or at Classis. I would also encourage Classis and convening Consistories to consider making arrangements for a concurrent Classis with neighboring NAPARC Classes and Presbyteries. I am willing to help with any such arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Todd De Rooy  
pastorderooy@gmail.com  
712.395.8933



Classis Central US  
January 14, 2022

Dear Brothers,

CECCA has not met since our classis meeting last spring. The only activity has been to send out a report and fraternal greetings to some of the assemblies we were not able to attend. The Free Reformed Churches of Australia (FRCA) and Reformed Churches of New Zealand(RCNZ) both met for their synod and we sent fraternal greetings to them.

Gerry Swets

CECCA Representative

## **Classis Central U.S. Website Oversight Committee Report**

Submitted by: Mr. Micah Van Maanen (WOC delegate) on January 10, 2022

Brothers,

The purpose of the Website Oversight Committee (WOC) is to maintain the federation's website located at <https://www.urncna.org>. The current Webmaster, Mr. Gary Fisher, does the majority of the work and keeps the Classical delegates informed of any major issues or developments throughout the year. The following is a summary from the reports the Webmaster has provided to the committee over the past year.

In the first half of 2021 the website underwent a successful "mechanical" upgrade and various fixes have been taking place throughout the rest of 2021.

One matter I'd like to ask you again to bring to your Classis member churches is the system we have in place for self-recovery of login credentials. I still get requests every week from churches that have misplaced their passwords. This is no burden on me, of course, but the churches could save themselves considerable time by using the "Forgot Username? / Forgot Password?" feature to get online in minutes instead of waiting for email back and forth.

Despite the continued efforts of Mrs. Luth, our Statistician, in prompting churches to keep their statistics and other information up to date, this remains a struggle, with many churches neglecting to make any updates except the most major ones, e.g. a ministerial change, until they've been pled with, cajoled, and sometimes threatened at the close of the year. For example, we often aren't informed of a church's current clerk until his term is almost over, a huge inconvenience (at best) to other churches, committees, etc. needing to contact them. If you look at the Federation Statistics posted twice a month under the Classes tab in the top menu (while logged in) you'll find that many churches are currently reporting NO Baptisms, NO Professions, and NO growth to date in 2021, which would be troubling if it weren't so absurd. PLEASE try to encourage the churches of your classes to make a habit of updating their info whenever it changes, and of confirming their online info at least every three or four months. Sorry to sound like a broken record, but keeping up-to-date info was one of the main reasons the website was created.

The website received around 410,000 visitors in 2021.

Lastly, the Trinity Psalter Hymnal app is now available for both IOS and Android. Details are on the site but in brief the app includes every song from the TPH in both text and musical format as well as a simple, but acceptable, synthetic piano accompaniment for each song. There are several more features, and the developers expect to be adding more (possibly including the Forms and Prayers and/or the Three Forms) and improving the app at no additional cost. The cost is \$9.99.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

In Christ,  
Gary Fisher  
Webmaster, URCNA.org

As the WOC delegate for our Classis, I also encourage you to bring any feedback, concerns, or possible improvements for the website to my attention so that I may in turn inform the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. Micah Van Maanen

## URCNA APPEALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

As the representative appointed by Classis Central U.S. to serve on the URCNA Appeals Committee, I provide you the following report:

Since my last report to Classis in the spring of 2021, the Committee did not meet at all in 2021 because we did not receive any additional appeals to review. However, I am informed there are some appeals pending in another Classis which are scheduled be taken up at their spring meeting. Those appeals would be forwarded to our Committee for review if those appeals are not resolved at the Classis level.

The Report to the Synodical Advisory Committee will be finalized when the deadlines for appeals has passed (*date to be determined once it is firmly decided when the next Synod will be held*) and the Committee has reviewed all appeals submitted by that deadline.

In His service,

Mark Van Der Molen, Immanuel URC, DeMotte

## **Overture to Classis Central U.S. March 2022**

### **Introduction**

Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, IA, wishes to overture Classis Central U.S. to overture Synod Redeemer 2022 (or the next Synod of the URCNA) to amend the *Church Order* and the *Regulations for Synodical Procedure* to establish national synods in addition to a general (international) synod where delegates to the general synod are chosen by the classes.

### **Background**

The idea of national or regional synods is not new. Regional synods were prescribed in the Church Order created by the National Synod of Dordrecht (1618-1619) and have a long history in the Reformed tradition. They have helped expedite the work of general synods. When the broadest assembly is a delegated assembly where not all the consistories are directly represented, regional synods allow for greater participation of all the consistories in those matters that proceed to the general synod.

As our federation grows, a general synod with every consistory represented will become more of a convention than a deliberative assembly. Already we have the prospect of a synod with over two-hundred delegates meeting for only five days, which does not allow for the majority of delegates to enter into debate. Increasingly, the heart of synod's deliberative work will be done in smaller advisory committees with the plenary sessions limited to voting up or down the recommendations of the committees. That is the direction in which we are moving.

Recent developments regarding cross border restrictions provide added incentive to have a general synod where it is not necessary for every consistory to be represented.

Our Reformed church order tradition from Dordrecht has long employed the practice of classes choosing the delegates for the general synod. The URCNA rejected that idea at its inception for a few reasons. The primary reason was that those who came out of the CRC thought the conservatives had lost control of the CRC because they had been underrepresented at the synods, that is, if every church had been represented, the conservative cause could have won the day. But that reasoning ignores the fact that since the early 1950's, most CRC ministers had imbibed deeply of liberalism at Calvin Seminary and, when at classis and synod, encouraged by their peers, often voted more liberal than they dared to preach at home. It is also the case that when women elders and ministers were approved based on a hermeneutic that contradicted the confessions, only about 10% of the CRC membership left. Progressive leanings and institutional loyalty, among both clergy and laity, were far more pervasive in the CRC than confessional integrity. The demise of orthodoxy in the CRC in the 1990's was inevitable regardless of whether all the churches had been represented at synod. Those who wanted to uphold the confessions were far fewer in number than they knew at the time.

We also rejected the idea of limiting the number of delegates to synod because we were small in number, came from all over the US and Canada, and needed time to get to know each other. We were dealing with foundational issues (e.g. a new church order) where input from everyone was vital. Now, our foundations have been laid and we are no longer small. We have established lines of communication by which we are able to keep in contact with one another so that a general synod meeting is no longer essential for that purpose.

This overture envisions a system where the general synod would normally meet once every three years and two national synods (one in the US and one in Canada) would also meet once in three years, perhaps

about four to six months before the general synod (or whenever they see fit), although the national synods could meet more than twice between the general synods if they so desired.

### **Overture**

Redeemer URC in Orange City, IA, overtures Classis Central U.S. to overture the next synod of the URCNA to amend the following articles of the *Church Order* and its *Appendices*, and the *Regulations for Synodical Procedure* as indicated. [~~Strike through~~ indicates removal from the present wording. *Italics* indicates addition to the present wording.]

1. **Article 16 – The *Four Assemblies***

Among churches belonging to the federation, ~~three~~ *four* assemblies shall be recognized: the consistory, the classis, *the national synod*, and the *general synod*. Classis, *the national synod*, and *the general synod* are broader assemblies that exist only when meeting by delegation. Only the consistory is a continuing body.

2. **Article 25 – Delegates and Matters of Broader Assemblies**

Those delegated to the broader assemblies shall be seated only with properly signed credentials, and each delegate shall have only one vote. In the broader assemblies only those matters that could not be settled in the narrower assemblies, or that pertain to the churches of the broader assembly in common, shall be considered. All such matters shall originate with a consistory and be considered by classis *and the national synod* before being considered by *general synod*. No broader assembly shall have the power to depose an office-bearer or otherwise exercise church discipline, since these powers belong to the consistory.

3. **Article ## – *National Synods***

*A national synod, consisting of all the classes within its nation's borders shall convene every year except the year of a general synod unless the convening church, in consultation with its classes' convening consistories, concludes that no matters have been submitted by the classes that would warrant the convening of a national synod. Each consistory shall choose two of its members to be delegated to its national synod. Cancellation of a national synod shall not be permitted to occur twice in succession. If it appears necessary to convene a national synod before the appointed time, the convening consistory shall determine the time and place with the advice of its classes' convening consistories. It shall also determine the time and place for the next national synod, and designate a convening consistory.*

4. **Article 28 – *General Synod***

The churches shall meet as a *general synod* at least once every three years. Each classis shall delegate six of its ministers and six of its elders to ~~this meeting~~ *the general synod at least eight weeks prior to the start of the general synod*. Each *general synod* shall determine a time and place for the subsequent synod and shall authorize a consistory to convene that synod. If a majority of the classes deem it necessary that a *general synod* meet earlier than the regular time determined, the consistory charged with convening the meeting shall determine when and where the meeting is to occur.

5. Make editorial changes to CO Articles 29, 32, 36, and 66 to change “~~synod~~” to “*general synod*” or “*the general synod*” and “~~by synodical decision~~” to “*by a decision of the general synod*, and “~~synodically approved Consistories~~” to “*the consistories approved by the general synod.*”

6. Make similar editorial changes to Appendix 7 (re. appeals) and Appendix 8 (re. membership).

7. Much of the *Regulations for Synodical procedure* can remain the same and function for both the national and general synods. However, the following amendments are here proposed:

- 1.3 Each consistory shall delegate two of its members to a national synod. *Each classis shall delegate six of its ministers and six of its elders to a general synod at least eight weeks prior to the start of the general synod.* Consistories and classes which cannot send ~~two~~ the requisite number of delegates shall be required to submit an explanation to synod.
- 1.4 “~~synod~~” to “general synod”

### Grounds

1. This will reduce the size and cost of general synods and promote the deliberative aspect of both the general and national synods. Deeper levels of fellowship will also be enhanced with fewer people in attendance.
2. If we learn to meet in general synod once every three years, and in national synod once in two years (assuming it will generally not be necessary to meet in national synod two years in a row, it will help promote the principle of subsidiarity – the principle that the best decisions for dealing with an issue are those taken at the lowest (or narrowest) possible level or closest to where they will have their effect. We should not think that we need a general synod every year or every other year to do the work of the church. Bigger isn’t always better. Local solutions are usually more informed and effective.
3. Dealing with overtures and appeals at a national synod before proceeding to a general synod will help reduce the work of dealing with them at the general synod.
4. Reducing the number of ministers and elders at the general synod level will make it easier to obtain delegates given the international travel restrictions presently imposed and which show no sign of being lifted or reversed anytime soon.

Approved in Consistory, January 3, 2022

Rev. Todd De Rooy, chairman

Elder Les Vander Plaats, clerk

OVERTURE FROM  
CORNERSTONE URC  
SANBORN, IA

---

**BACKGROUND**

Synod Wyoming (2016) approved the adoption of *Pastoral Advice Regarding Membership Departures* and placed this advice in a new appendix of the Church Order (Appendix 8). Synod Wheaton (2018) decided, with the required 2/3 majority decision for Church Order changes, to codify the advice given in Appendix 8 into Article 64 of the Church Order. The synodical decision was subsequently ratified by the required 2/3 majority of URCNA Consistories.

In making use of the wisdom and provisions of the Church Order and Appendix 8, we have noticed a discrepancy in the language, particularly as it pertains to the matter of erasure. According to Appendix 8.4, the *Pastoral Advice* states that Consistories seeking to erase the membership of one of its members must seek the advice of Classis before proceeding. According to the present reading of Church Order Article 64, however, the Consistories must seek the “concurring advice” of Classis. This is a more rigorous expectation, such that if Consistories fail to receive concurring advice, they may not proceed with the erasure of the membership.

It is our opinion that the present inconsistency is confusing and unhelpful for the churches and that the language of Church Order Article 64 and Appendix 8.4 should be brought in line with each other and harmonized. Furthermore, since we trust the Consistories of our Federation when it comes to the task of the shepherding and discipline of their respective congregations, we believe that it is the language of “advice” which ought to be used in both instances.

**OVERTURE**

**The Consistory of Cornerstone United Reformed Church (Sanborn, IA) overtures Classis Central US to overture Synod Redeemer (2022) to remove the word “concurring” from Church Order Article 64, in order to make it consistent with the language adopted in Appendix 8.4 of the Church Order.**

**THE PRESENT READING OF CHURCH ORDER APPENDIX 8.4** is as follows:

Consistories may erase the membership of those with whom they have had no contact for at least two years, thus rendering consistories unable to assess that member’s doctrine or life. Lack of contact must not be for lack of effort on the part of the consistory, but may be because the consistory cannot locate the member, or because the member is too distant to visit and will not respond to communication attempts. The ***consistory should seek the advice of classis*** before acting to erase a membership, demonstrating due diligence in its efforts to contact and give pastoral care to the member. The consistory should inform the congregation of this action and the reasons for it. (emphasis added)

**THE PRESENT READING OF CHURCH ORDER ARTICLE 64** (as amended by Synod Wheaton [2018], Article 89.5, with the required 2/3 majority for Church Order changes) is as follows:

Those who seek the transfer of their membership to another congregation within the federation or one in ecclesiastical fellowship shall request in writing that their current Consistory send to the receiving Consistory an official letter including pertinent membership information and testimony concerning doctrine and life, requesting the receiving Consistory to accept them under its spiritual care. The Consistory may release members in order to affiliate with congregations not in ecclesiastical fellowship when the Consistory

judges that doing so may aid the spiritual growth of the members. ***The Consistory may, with concurring advice from classis***, erase the membership of those with whom they have not been able to communicate for at least two years. (See Appendix 8.) (emphasis added)

PROPOSED CHANGE TO CHURCH ORDER ARTICLE 64 would be as follows:

Those who seek the transfer of their membership to another congregation within the federation or one in ecclesiastical fellowship shall request in writing that their current Consistory send to the receiving Consistory an official letter including pertinent membership information and testimony concerning doctrine and life, requesting the receiving Consistory to accept them under its spiritual care. The Consistory may release members in order to affiliate with congregations not in ecclesiastical fellowship when the Consistory judges that doing so may aid the spiritual growth of the members. ***The Consistory must seek the advice of classis prior to the erasure of*** the membership of those with whom they have not been able to communicate for at least two years. (See Appendix 8.) (emphasis added)

#### GROUNDS

- 1) Consistency between the language of Church Order Appendix 8.4 and the language of Church Order Article 64 is important to prevent confusion and potential disagreement among the churches.
- 2) Knowing that the Consistories of our Federation humbly strive to do a Christ-honoring job in the exercise of the duties of their office, we believe that this overture helps them toward that end, as the reading of the relevant Church Order Article (64) and Appendix (8.4) will be harmonized.
- 3) This change would also be in keeping with Church Order Article 55, which only requires Consistories to seek the advice of Classis in matters pertaining to formal, official church discipline.

Done in Consistory  
on December 26, 2021  
Elder Dave Hofland  
Clerk of Consistory/Council



December 13, 2021

Please accept this request as in keeping with Article VIII.C of our Rules of Classical Procedure. 1<sup>st</sup> Oak Lawn URC humbly requests up to \$20,000.00 of assistance from the Classis Church Assistance Fund to help us purchase and replace the current a wheelchair lift system in our church building. Over the last 10 years, our church has invested over \$60,000 in the installation and maintenance of the lift. Unfortunately, all maintenance efforts have failed, and the lift is inoperable.

Because our current system is irreparably broken, we are in danger of being non-compliant with ADA regulations. We currently have a two-year window to rectify the situation, or we have been threatened with closure. The need for this wheelchair lift system is also significant as some of our members cannot enter the church sanctuary and other parts of the church building since our facility includes four levels for various activities. The total cost of our lift needs is about \$55,000.00. We have begun fund raising within our congregation to achieve the balance of the funds needed for this project.

We are attaching the letter we earlier sent separately to the churches of Classis. We are early in the process and several churches have agreed to schedule offerings. At the classis meeting we will give an update on donations received by that time.

It would be a great encouragement to our congregation to receive some help from the classical fund as a means of reducing the amount of money we need to spend to meet this need. We are thankful to the Lord for your kind consideration.

For the Council at 1<sup>st</sup> Oak Lawn URC.  
Chuck Van Groningen  
Clerk of Council

---

## **VIII. CLASSIS CHURCH ASSISTANCE FUND**

- A. The Classis Treasurer shall separately account for funds designated for the “Classis Church Assistance Fund” (CCAF) and shall distribute such amounts as approved at a meeting of classis.
- B. Each church should decide the level and frequency of contribution to the CCAF, based on the needs that are presented at classis meetings. Such contributions are not part of the Classis “askings” for the ongoing expenses of classis functionaries or standing committee(s).
- C. Churches needing assistance shall present their request in writing, describing the circumstances and nature of the need, the amount of assistance requested, and the expected duration of the need.
- D. Requests for assistance shall be presented to the Clerk of Classis by the deadline for inclusion on the classis Agenda.
- E. Requests for assistance shall be placed on the Agenda and distributed to the churches of classis but shall not be published publicly.
- F. The delegates at classis shall vote on whether to approve all or any portion of the requested assistance.

9350 South 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Oak Lawn, IL 60453 • [www.oaklawnurc.org](http://www.oaklawnurc.org)  
• [www.oaklawnurc.org](http://www.oaklawnurc.org)

## **CHURCHES OF CLASSIS CENTRAL US**

**UPDATED OCTOBER AD 2021**

*Total of 20 Churches & Church Plants (19 organized, 1 unorganized)*

### **Churches (organized) alphabetical listing for rotation of hosting and chairing:**

1. Beecher, IL | Faith URC, Rev. Nathan Voss
2. De Motte, IN | Immanuel URC, Rev. Roberto Rossi
3. Des Moines, IA | Providence Reformed Church, Rev. Jody Lucero
4. Doon, IA | Doon URC, Rev. John Vermeer
5. Hills, MN | Hills URC, vacant
6. Kansas City, MO | Covenant Reformed Church, vacant
7. Lansing, IL | Oak Glen URC, Rev. Ed Marcusse
8. Lynwood, IL | Lynwood URC, Rev. Nick Alons
9. Oak Lawn, IL | First URC of Oak Lawn, Rev. Harold Miller
10. Orange City, IA | Redeemer URC, Rev. Todd De Rooy
11. Pella, IA | Covenant Reformed Church, Rev. Greg Lubbers
12. Rock Valley, IA | Rock Valley URC, Rev. Joel Vander Kooi
13. Sanborn, IA | Cornerstone URC, Rev. Dan Donovan
14. Schererville, IN | Community URC, Rev. David Klompier
15. Sioux Center, IA | Sioux Center URC, Rev. Jon Bushnell
16. Sioux Falls, SD | Christ Reformed Church, vacant
17. St. John, IN | Redeemer URC, Rev. Jacques Roets
18. Waupun, WI | Grace URC, Rev. Paul Freswick
19. Wellsburg, IA | URC of Wellsburg, Rev. Joel Worries

### **Church Plant (unorganized)**

20. Chicago Heights | El Pacto de Gracia, Rev. Ruben Sernas

### **Ministers of Classis Called to Foreign, Domestic, and Educational Missions and Ministries**

Rev. Ken Anema – Divine Hope Reformed Bible Seminary  
Dr. J. Mark Beach – Mid-American Reformed Seminary  
Rev. Nathan Brummel – Divine Hope Reformed Bible Seminary  
Rev. R. Andrew Compton – Mid-American Reformed Seminary  
Rev. Paul Ipema – Divine Hope Reformed Bible Seminary  
Rev. Pablo Landázuri – Quito, Ecuador | Iglesia Reformada Luz de Vida,  
Rev. Andrew Spriensma – US Army Chaplain  
Rev. Mark Vander Hart – Mid-American Reformed Seminary  
Rev. Allen Vander Pol – MINTS International Seminary  
Dr. Cornelis Venema – Mid-American Reformed Seminary

### **CLASSIS FUNCTIONARIES:**

#### **Stated Clerk** (2 term limit):

[Rev. Ralph Pontier](#), 641-230-3880 (cell)

Second term ends September 2023

#### **Alternate Stated Clerk**

Rev. Harold Miller

First term ends April 2023

#### **Treasurer**

Supervising Consistory: Sioux Center URC (appointed March 2014)

Treasurer: [Mr. Harlan Harmelink](#), (712) 441-0573 (cell)

1441 4th Ave SE

Sioux Center, IA 51250

**Church Visitors East**

Rev. Ed Marcusse  
Mr. John Surowiec (Schererville, IN)  
Alternate: Rev. Andrew Compton  
Alternate: Rev. Jacques Roets.

Term ends April 2022  
Term ends September 2024  
Term ends September 2024  
Term ends April 2022

**Church Visitors West**

Rev. Joel Vander Kooi  
Rev. Ralph Pontier  
Alternate: Mr. Korrie Van Maanen (Rock Valley)  
Alternate: Rev. Todd De Rooy

Term ends April 2023  
Term ends September 2024  
Term ends November 2023  
Term ends September 2024

**CPAC Membership**

Immanuel URC (De Motte, IN)  
Rev. Jody Lucero  
Rev. Joel Worries  
Mr. Grant Diekevers (Sanborn, IA)  
Mr. Bruce Aardsma (Schereville, IN)  
Rev. Roberto Rossi  
Alternate: Rev. Jacques Roets  
Alternate: Mr. Korrie Van Maanen (Rock Valeey)

Supervising Consistory  
Fourth term ends September 2024  
Second term ends September 2024  
Second term ends April 2024  
First term ends September 2023  
First term ends September 2024  
Second term ends April 2022  
Third term ends September 2023

**CECCA Delegate**

Mr. Gerald Swets (Schererville, IN)  
Alternate: Rev. John Vermeer

Second term ends April 2023  
Second term ends September 2022

**CERCU Delegate**

Rev. Todd De Rooy  
Alternate: Rev. Joel Vander Kooi

Second term ends September 2022  
Second term ends September 2022

**Missions Committee Delegates**

Rev. Jody Lucero  
Mr. Harold Meinders (Pella, IA)  
Alternate: Rev. Joel Worries

Third term ends March 2023  
Second term ends September 2024  
First term ends September 2024

**Web Oversight Committee**

Mr. Micah Van Maanen (Orange City, IA)  
Alternate: Rev. Joel Worries

First term ends September 2022  
First term ends April 2022

**Standing Committee on Appeals**

Mr. Mark Van Der Molen (DeMotte, IN)  
Alternate: Rev. Ralph Pontier

Second term ends September 2024  
Second term ends September 2024

NOTE: Synodical committee delegates & alternates serve three-year terms. As per Synod Wyoming 2016's (Article 77) modifying Synodical Regulations 5.3.2.c, each classis determines how many three-year terms their delegates may serve.

# RECORD OF BIENNIAL REGULAR CHURCH VISITS

## Article 27 of the Church Order

*Each Consistory of the classis shall invite two experienced office-bearers appointed by classis, either two ministers or a minister and an elder, to visit the council **once every two years**, who shall give account of their visit to the classis. These visitors shall inquire whether the office-bearers faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe in all things the adopted order, and properly promote as much as lies in them, by word and deed, the edification of the congregation, including the youth, to the end that these visitors may fraternally admonish those office-bearers who have in anything been negligent, and may by their advice and assistance help direct all things unto the peace, edification and greatest profit of the churches.*

### Church Visitors as of September 2021

East: Rev. Ed Marcusse, Mr. John Surowiec, Alternates: Rev. R. Andrew Compton, Rev. Jacques Roets

West: Rev. Joel Vander Kooi, Rev. Ralph Pontier, Alternates: Mr. Korrie Van Maanen, Rev. Todd De Rooy

CHURCH	Date Visited	Date Visited	Date Visited	Date Visited	Date Visited	Date Visited	Date Visited
Beecher	07/02/14	03/01/2017	01/06/2021				
De Motte	10/18/2016	04/20/2021	04/20/2021				
Des Moines	04/27/2015	06/14/2017	06/18/2019	07/19/2021			
Doon	06/8/2015	05/08/2017	09/04/2019	04/05/2021			
Hills	02/04/2015	06/05/2019	09/02/2021				
Kansas City	09/22/2014	09/22/2017	11/16/20				
Lansing	09/30/2015	10/05/2016	02/05/2020				
Lynwood	10/6/2015	09/05/2017	08/03/2021				
Oak Lawn	11/04/2014	05/07/2017	05/04/2021				
Orange City	07/04/2014	03/13/2017	09/04/2019	10/18/2021			
Pella	09/28/2015	02/04/2019					
Rock Valley	08/08/2016	04/09/2019					
Sanborn	01/26/2015	03/14/2017	06/05/2019	10/27/2021			
Schererville	03/19/2014	09/21/2016	11/20/2019				
Sioux Center	10/14/2014	09/06/2016	11/14/2018	04/20/2021			
Sioux Falls	02/04/2015 w/Hills	10/14/2018	11/12/2020				
St. John	04/12/2016	12/11/2018	09/08/2020				
Waupun	05/18/2015	03/20/2017	11/17/2020				
Wellsburg	10/24/2014	11/14/2016	10/16/2018				