

**Report on meeting of Classis Central US
of the United Reformed Churches in North America**
Convening at the Oak Glen United Reformed Church in Lansing, Illinois
September 10-11, 2018

Classis Central US spent most of its time conducting a candidacy exam at its recent meeting.

Delegates from 19 congregations convened on Monday evening, September 10, at the Oak Glen URC in Lansing, Illinois. They worked for two hours on Monday night and then reconvened on Tuesday morning, laboring from 8:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. In addition to the exam, there were fraternal greetings, missionary updates, elections to various committees, a report from the classical Church Planting Advisory Committee, and advice to four consistories regarding discipline matters.

The bulk of classis' time was devoted to the candidacy exam of Mr. Danial Beezhold, a recent graduate of Mid-America Reformed Seminary and a son of the Oak Glen congregation.

Mr. Beezhold acquitted himself well and classis declared that he had sustained the exam and exempted him from an ordination exam should he accept a call within Classis Central US.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Beezhold's former pastor, Rev. John Vermeer, who served the Oak Glen congregation from 2002 until earlier this year. It was a poignant moment for Rev. Vermeer to present a classical diploma to his former parishioner and catechism student.



Classis also was blessed to receive greetings from Rev. Dr. Alan Strange representing the Presbytery of the Midwest of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. We are developing strong fraternal ties with the OPC through a concurrent meeting of that presbytery and our classis in March of this year, our concurrent major assemblies in June at Wheaton College, and our well received new common song book, the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal* which was used throughout the meeting. A letter of greeting was also received from Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Classis was privileged to hear from Rev. Allen Vander Pol concerning his work with MINTS International Seminary. He requested prayer for his trips to India and a translation project of 20 MINTS courses into the Telugu language. Classis was also favored to have Rev. Ruben Sernas present who reported on the work at El Pacto de Gracia in Chicago Heights, Illinois where outreach efforts are both in Spanish and English. Rev. Todd Joling gave a report on Chaplain Andrew Spriensma who recently returned from a tour of duty in the Middle East.

In other business, Classis reappointed Rev. Jody Lucero and Rev. Spencer Aalsburg to third terms on the classical Church Planting Advisory Committee. Rev. Joel Worries was appointed to his first term on that committee. In response to a request from synod to all the

classes, classis elected a second representative from our classis to the synodical Missions Committee, Elder Harold Mienders of Covenant URC in Pella, Iowa. Elected to the new synodical standing Committee on Appeals is Elder Mark Van Der Molen of the Immanuel URC in De Motte, Indiana. Elder John Surowiec of Community URC in Schererville, Indiana was elected as a classical church visitor for the east side of classis, replacing Rev. Tom Wetselaar who informed classis he would not be able to fill out his term because he has accepted a position as chaplain at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Indiana.

The Church Planting Advisory Committee highlighted their report and presented a budget which was approved. They also requested and received ten minutes to discuss and receive feedback regarding the mission emphasis program that they had promoted recently in classis. Several expressed appreciation.

The next meeting of Classis Central US has been scheduled for Monday night and Tuesday, April 8-9, 2019 in Wellsburg, Iowa.

Classis wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Oak Glen congregation for its gracious hospitality and to the consistory for its work in preparing for this meeting. In light of their work at this classis and their tremendous efforts in convening our synod three months earlier, they have earned our respect and gratitude.

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