

Classis Central US of the URCNA

Report

September 14 & 15, AD 2020

A *colloquium doctum* for an emeritus minister was the main item on the agenda for the 50th meeting of Classis Central US, convened and hosted by the Doon United Reformed Church of Doon, Iowa on September 14 and 15.

Classis was called into session at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening by host pastor, Rev. John Vermeer. After opening devotions, a roll call, and assent to the Form of Subscription, Rev. Nick Alons assumed the chair. The report of the convening consistory was received.

Classis then went directly to the *colloquium doctum* for Rev. Marvin Leese. Rev. Leese enrolled in Mid-America Reformed Seminary in 1983 and then served two Christian Reformed Churches, the first in Mountain Lake, MN from 1985-1993 as stated supply, and then the Sibley, IA CRC, as interim pastor, from 1996 to 1997. In 1997 he met the candidacy requirements for the CRC and was called, ordained, and installed as the minister of the Sibley CRC. He then served the Bethel CRC in Oskaloosa, IA from 2001-2010, after which he was granted emeritus status. He re-entered full time ministry in 2012 to serve the Hospers CRC. He served there for six years, retiring again in 2017 at the age of 73. The exam occupied classis until its break for the day at 9:00 p.m. and was concluded on Tuesday morning around 10 a.m. Rev. Leese sustained his exam and was declared eligible for a call according to synodical guidelines but intends to be received as an emeritus pastor of the Sioux Center URC and is not seeking a call.

After the exam and a short coffee break, classis received the report of the stated clerk, the report of the classis treasurer, Mr. Harlan Harmelink, and the report of the Classis Church Planting Committee (CPAC). The CPAC budget proposal was approved.

Fraternal greetings were received from Rev. Steve Vandavelde of Classis Manitoba of the CanRC. He serves a congregation in Denver, Colorado and therefore was not hindered in attending by the closed US/Canadian border. Two RCUS classes were represented including Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner who brought greetings on behalf of the South-Central Classis, and Rev. Richard Stetler who brought greetings on behalf of the Covenant East Classis. Also present as a fraternal observer was Rev. Roger Sparks of Classis Minnkota of the CRC. At our last meeting, we extended an invitation to that classis to enter into fraternal relations with our classis, but they have not yet had opportunity to act on that invitation. Rev. Sparks addressed the classis briefly concerning the encouragement of our invitation.

Election of classis functionaries was conducted. Rev. Ralph Pontier was elected to a second three-year term as stated clerk. Rev. Harold Miller was elected alternate stated clerk. Rev. Spencer Aalsburg was elected a church visitor for the West side of classis and Mr. Korrie Van Maanen was elected as alternate church visitor for the West. Mr. Bruce Aardsma was elected to serve on CPAC and Mr. Korrie Van Maanen was elected as an alternate to CPAC.

Advice was given on several matters of church discipline. Classis adjourned at about 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The next meeting of classis is scheduled for March 15-16, 2021 to be convened and hosted by the Hills United Reformed Church.