

MINUTES
of the 61th meeting of
CLASSIS CENTRAL U.S.
of the

UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA
Convening 6:30 p.m. on September 15, AD 2025
convened and hosted by Cornerstone URC, Sanborn, Iowa

Article 1 Opening Matters

Rev. Dan Donovan, chairman *pro tem*, calls the meeting to order. He reads Psalm 116 and leads in prayer. He calls for the singing of TPH #116B:1, 2, 3, 9, 10, *I Love the Lord, the Fount of Life and Grace*.

Article 2 Roll Call

The stated clerk calls the roll of delegates. The following delegates are present:

CHURCHES	DELEGATE	DELEGATE
Beecher, IL – Faith United Reformed	Rev. Nathan Voss	Elder Warren Siebert
De Motte, IN – Immanuel United Reformed	Rev. Joel Worries	Elder Mark Van Der Molen
Des Moines, IA – Providence Reformed	Rev. Jody Lucero	¹
Doon, IA – Doon United Reformed	Rev. Daniel Hofland	Elder Roger Tubergen
Hills, MN – Hills United Reformed	Rev. Praveen Muthusamy	Elder Howard Van Wyhe
Kansas City, MO – Covenant Reformed	Rev. Matthew Nuiver	Elder Pete Hondred
Lansing, IL – Oak Glen United Reformed	Rev. Steve Oeverman	Elder Robert Venhuizen
Lynwood, IL – Lynwood United Reformed	Rev. Nick Alons	Elder Keith Bultema
Oak Lawn, IL – First United Reformed of Oak Lawn	Rev. Harold Miller	Elder Chuck Van Groningen
Orange City, IA – Redeemer United Reformed	Rev. Todd De Rooy	Elder Merlin De Groot
Pella, IA – Covenant Reformed	Rev. Greg Lubbers	Elder Jeff De Rooi
Rock Valley, IA – Rock Valley United Reformed	Rev. Caleb Castro	Elder Korrie Van Maanen
Saint John, IN – Redeemer United Reformed	Elder Dave Iwema	Elder Ryan Knoll
Sanborn, IA – Cornerstone United Reformed	Elder Mark Uittenbogaard	Elder Don Mastbergen
Schererville, IN – Community United Reformed	Rev. David Klompien	Elder Bruce Aardsma
Sioux Center, IA – Sioux Center United Reformed	Rev. Jon Bushnell	Elder Rob Balt
Sioux Falls, SD – Christ Reformed Church	Rev. Joe Hamm	Elder Adam Sturlaugson
Waupun, WI – Grace United Reformed	Rev. Paul Freswick	Elder John Karsten
Wellsburg, IA – United Reformed of Wellsburg	Elder David Pruin	²

Article 3 Reading of Form of Subscription

The chairman *pro-tem* reads the *Form of Subscription* and asks the delegates to rise to indicate their agreement to it. All the delegates stand indicating their agreement.

Article 4 Seating of Officers

Classis is declared constituted. Rev. Nathan Voss, chairman for the meeting, assumes the chair. Rev. Joel Worries serves as vice-chairman. Rev. Greg Lubbers serves as clerk. The chairman welcomes numerous visitors including Rev. Ralph Pointer, Rev. Elijah Anderson and Rev. Ben Davenport, non-

¹ One delegate given planned delegate's hospital work schedule.

² One delegate given planned delegate's attendance to a funeral.

delegated ministers of classis. He also welcomes various fraternal delegates and observers. The chair acknowledges both Rev. Daniel Hofland, recently ordained and installed minister of Word at Doon URC, and Rev. Steven Oeverman, recently installed minister of Word at Oak Glen URC, as first time delegates to Classis Central U.S.

Article 5 Agenda & Time Schedule

- A. A motion is made and supported to adopt the schedule of a fifteen-minute break at 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m., and one-hour breaks at 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The evening session is to end at 9:00 p.m. On Tuesday, the starting time is 8:30 a.m.
ADOPTED
- B. A motion is made and supported that the request for advice from Christ Reformed Church - Sioux Falls, S.D. be taken up immediately following morning devotions and preliminary matters on Tuesday.
ADOPTED
- C. A motion is made and supported that we limit the discussion on the matter of advice for Christ Reformed Church - Sioux Falls, S.D. to 45 minutes.
ADOPTED
- D. A motion is made and supported to adopt the provisional agenda.
ADOPTED
- E. A motion is made and supported that non-serving Elder Vander Kam be allowed to attend the executive session dealing with advice from Christ Reformed Church - Sioux Falls, S.D.
ADOPTED
- F. A motion is made and supported that Rev. Kirk Gibbons be allowed to be present and to have the privilege of the floor in executive session.
ADOPTED

Article 6 Credential Committees Appointment

The chairman appoints the delegates from Grace United Reformed – Waupun, Wisconsin, Rev. Paul Freswick and Elder John Karsten, to examine the delegates' credentials.

Article 7 Interim Committee Report

- A. Rev. Donovan presents the report for the Interim Committee, which is included in the agenda materials.
- B. Opportunity is given for questions or comments.
- C. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Interim Committee.

ADOPTED

Article 8 Stated Clerk's Report

- A. Rev. Lubbers presents the report for the stated clerk, which is included in the agenda materials.
- B. Opportunity is given for questions or comments.
- C. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the stated clerk.

ADOPTED

Article 9 Treasurer's Report

- A. Elder Harlan Harmelink presents the report for the treasurer, which is included in the agenda materials.
- B. Opportunity is given for questions or comments.
- C. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the treasurer.

ADOPTED

- D. A motion is made and supported to set the annual remuneration for the treasurer at \$2,200 per annum.
ADOPTED

Article 10 Classical Committee on Home Missions (CCHM)

- A. Rev. Jody Lucero presents the report for the CCHM, which is included in the agenda materials.

- B. Opportunity is given for questions or comments.
- C. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the CCHM.

ADOPTED

- D. A motion is made and supported to give official classical assistance to the daughter church plant of Christ Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, S.D.

ADOPTED

- E. A motion is made and supported to commit \$30,000 to the plant overseen by Christ Reformed Church of Sioux Falls for 2026.

ADOPTED

- F. A motion is made and supported to adopt the following budget for the CCHM of \$3,850.00 for 2026.

ADOPTED

Article 11 Mission Work Updates

- A. Rev. Joel Worries gives an update on the labors of Rev. Roberto Rossi as he serves as a navy chaplain. Note is taken of Rev. Rossi's ability to bring formal greeting to an upcoming meeting of classis. Rev. Worries offers prayer.
- B. Rev. Ben Davenport gives an update on the work of the church plant in Sioux Falls highlighting the positive fruit among that work.

Article 12 Fraternal Greetings

Rev. LeRoy Christoffels brings greetings on behalf of Classis Minnkota of the Christian Reformed Church in North America including updates on recent developments within the CRCNA. Rev. David Klompier gives a response and offers prayer.

Article 13 Overtures

- A. Overture #1: Flexibility for Dates of Classis Meetings
 - 1. Rev. Paul Freswick presents the overture from the Consistory of Grace United Reformed Church of Waupun, Wisconsin.
 - 2. A motion is made and supported to accede to the overture.

DEFEATED
- B. Overture #2: Financial Support of Minister Emeritus:
 - 1. Rev. Matthew Nuiver presents the overture from the Consistory of Covenant Reformed Church of Kansas City, Missouri regarding Financial Support of Minister Emeritus.
 - 2. A motion is made and supported to accede to the overture.

ADOPTED
- C. Overture #3: Calling a Special Meeting of Classis:
 - 1. Rev. Harold Miller presents the overture from the Consistory of First Oak Lawn United Reformed Church of Oak Lawn, Illinois regarding Calling a Special Meeting of Classis.
 - 2. A motion is made and supported to accede to the overture.

ADOPTED
- D. Overture #4: Editorial Changes for the Church Order:
 - 1. Rev. Greg Lubbers presents the overture from the Consistory of Covenant Reformed Church of Pella, Iowa regarding Editorial Changes for the Church Order.
 - 2. A motion is made and supported to accede to the overture.

ADOPTED

Article 14 Fraternal Report

Rev. Paul Freswick gives a verbal update on his recent visit to the Presbytery of Wisconsin and Ohio (OPC) noting several church plant works being undertaken by and within that presbytery.

Article 15 Recess

The body recesses at 7:50 reconvening at 8:05.

Article 16 Mission Work Updates

Rev. Elijah Anderson gives an update on the on-going outreach work among the Hispanic community in Northwest Iowa noting both the opportunities and challenges of such work.

Article 17 Overtures Continued

A. Overture #5: Deadline for Consistorial Adjudication of Appeals:

1. Elder Mark Van Der Molen presents the overture from the Consistory of Immanuel United Reformed Church of DeMotte, Indiana regarding Deadline for Consistorial Adjudication of Appeals.
2. A motion is made and supported to accede to the overture.

ADOPTED

B. Overture #6: Amend Church Order Article 27 to Clarify Church Visitors' Reports to Classis:

1. Elder Mark Van Der Molen presents the overture from the Consistory of Immanuel United Reformed Church of DeMotte, Indiana regarding Clarify Church Visitors' Reports to Classis.
2. A motion is made and supported to accede to the overture.

ADOPTED

Article 18 Fraternal Greetings

Rev. Dick Wynja brings fraternal greetings on behalf of Presbytery of the Dakotas of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. Harold Miller gives a response and offers prayer.

Article 19 Elections and Appointments

- A. Church Visitor West: Rev. Todd De Rooy is appointed as Church Visitor West.
- B. CECCA Alternate: Rev. Elijah Anderson is appointed as CECCA Alternate.
- C. Church Visitor West Alternate: Rev. John Vermeer is appointed as Church Visitor West Alternate.
- D. CERCU: Rev. Dan Donovan is re-appointed to CERCU.
- E. Web Oversight: Mr. Micah Van Maanen is re-appointed to Web Oversight Committee.

Article 20 Credentials Committee:

- A. Rev. Paul Freswick reports that the credentials are in good order with two consistories sending single delegates as previously explained. There are six total requests for advice.
- B. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Credentials Committee.

ADOPTED

Article 21 Closing of Session #1

Rev. Joel Worries leads the classis in prayer. The meeting is recessed until 8:30 a.m.

Article 22 Opening of Session #2

Elder Brad Hofman, an elder from Doon URC, replaces Elder Roger Tubergen as a delegate. Upon request, he rises to indicate his agreement with the *Form of Subscription*. Rev. Jody Lucero reads Ephesians 3:14ff and leads the classis in prayer. Classis sings TPH #20B, *The LORD in Your Distress Attend*.

Article 23 Concept Minutes

- A. The concept minutes are read from session #1.
- B. A motion is made and supported to approve the concept minutes.

ADOPTED

Article 24 Request for Advice from Sioux Falls

- A. The chair declares executive session.
- B. The Consistory of Christ Reformed Church – Sioux Falls, SD seeks advice.
- C. The chair indicates that no formal motions of vote will be taken on the matter in relationship to deposition.

- D. The chair is challenged. The chair is sustained.
- E. A motion is made and supported to take up the church visitor's report within the supplemental material (pg. 26).

ADOPTED

- F. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the church visitors as contained within the supplemental material (pg. 26).

ADOPTED

- G. The body deliberates and offers advice for the Consistory of Christ Reformed Church – Sioux Falls, S.D.

- H. The chair declares executive session concluded.

Article 25 Recess

The body recesses at 9:55 reconvening at 10:10. The chair thanks the host church for the provisions of meal time refreshments. Rev. Lubbers offers prayer in regard to a matter previously considered.

Article 26 Fraternal Greetings

- A. Rev. Matthew Dawn brings fraternal greetings on behalf of Classis Covenant – East of the RCUS. Rev. Todd De Rooy gives a response and offers prayer.
- B. The chairman reads a letter of greeting from Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Article 27 Requests for Advice

- A. In line with Church Order Article 55, the Consistory of Community United Reformed Church in Schererville, Indiana seeks advice for the 2nd step of discipline for a professing member. A motion is made and supported to grant advice to proceed.

ADOPTED

- B. In line with Church Order Article 64 and Appendix 8, the Consistory of Cornerstone United Reformed Church in Sanborn, Iowa seeks concurring advice for the erasure for a baptized member. A motion is made and supported to grant concurring advice to proceed with erasure.

ADOPTED

- C. In line with Church Order Article 59, the Consistory of Hills United Reformed Church in Hills, Minnesota seeks advice for the exclusion of a mature, baptized member. A motion is made and supported to grant advice to proceed with exclusion.

ADOPTED

- D. In line with Church Order Article 55, the Consistory of Providence Reformed Church in Des Moines, Iowa seeks advice for the 2nd step of discipline for a professing member. A motion is made and supported to grant advice to proceed.

ADOPTED

- E. In line with Church Order Article 55, the Consistory of Faith United Reformed Church in Beecher, Illinois seeks advice for the 2nd step of discipline for a professing member. A motion is made and supported to grant advice to proceed.

ADOPTED

- F. Rev. Harold Miller offers prayer.

Article 28 Next Meeting

- A. A motion is made and supported to suspend the *Classis Rules of Procedure* I.B, "Two meetings shall be held each year: in the second full week of April...."

ADOPTED

- B. A motion is made and supported to meet Monday, March 2 – Tuesday, March 3, 2026, convening at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting convened and hosted by the Community URC, Schererville, Indiana.

ADOPTED

- C. The agenda deadline is January 5, 2026, eight weeks before classis, as required by the classis regulations.
- D. Agenda materials should be sent in Word format to ClassisCentralUS@gmail.com

Article 29 Closing Matters

- A. The concept minutes are read. A motion is made and supported to approve the concept minutes.

ADOPTED

- B. The chairman thanks the vice-chairman and clerk for their work.

- C. A motion is made and supported to adjourn.

ADOPTED

- D. The chairman closes by reading from 2 Chronicles 16:9 and leads in prayer.

- E. Classis is adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

- F. All rise to sing the *Doxology*.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Greg Lubbers
Stated Clerk

Overture #1: Flexibility for Dates of Classis Meetings

I. Background

Currently, our rules of procedure have very strict meeting times for classis meetings (the second full week of April and the second full week of September). While having predictable meeting times is often beneficial, there are times when a more flexible approach would be helpful. Just to give one example, Resurrection Sunday sometimes falls on the second full week of April. If this overture is adopted, we could still ordinarily continue the practice of meeting in early April and early September.

II. Overture

The Consistory of Grace United Reformed Church of Waupun, Wisconsin overtures Classis Central U.S. to change the Rules of Procedure I.B. to read as follows [strike through indicates what is to be removed. Italics indicates what is to be added]:

I.B. "Classis shall convene at a time and place determined by the previous classis; *or, in unusual circumstances, at a time and place determined by the convening consistory.* Two meetings shall be held each year: *one* in the *spring* ~~second full week of April~~ and *one* in the *fall* ~~second full week of September~~. Each classis shall designate a convening church for the next meeting, ordinarily following an alphabetical rotation of the churches."

III. Grounds

1. To allow the classis and/or the convening consistory some flexibility in scheduling the dates of classis meetings.
2. With long travel times in our classis requiring many miles of travel for each meeting, this flexibility would make additional classis meetings less likely.

Done in the Grace URC Consistory: July 10, 2025

Overture #2: For Financial Support of Minister Emeritus

I. Background

Reverend Allen Vander Pol (Emeritus) is a member of Covenant Reformed Church in Kansas City, MO. In 2022, the Consistory of Covenant Reformed Church, Kansas City, requested the concurring advice of Classis for Rev Vander Pol's Emeritation, and for financial support. This support was requested partly due to the fact that the majority of Rev Vander Pol's career was not under the supervision of Kansas City, yet the consistory seeks to honor the spirit and letter of the URCNA Church Article 10 to honorably support this minister in his emeritus status.

II. Overture

The Consistory of Covenant Reformed, United Reformed Church of Kansas City overtures Classis Central US for up to \$24,000 (\$2,000 per month) in financial assistance from the Church Assistance Fund for the year of 2026 if and as needed.

III. Grounds

1. The Church Order of the URCNA, Article 10 states (in part): "A minister who has emeritated due to age or who is unable to perform the duties of his office due to age, sickness, or other personal disabilities, shall retain the honor and title of Minister of the Word, and his ministerial credentials shall remain with the church he last served, which shall provide honorably for his support, with the assistance of the churches of classis if necessary."
2. Reverend Allen Vander Pol has served honorably in his career, and was emeritated with the concurrence of Classis Central US at the Sep 12-13, 2022 Classis meeting in Lynwood, IL:
"1: Covenant URC Kansas City requests concurring advice for the emeritation of Rev. Allen Vander Pol beginning December 31, 2022. Rev. Vander Pol (not present) has served as a minister of the Gospel for 42 years. A motion is made and supported to grant concurring advice for emeritation beginning December 31, 2022. ADOPTED"
3. We feel we will not meet the obligation of honorably providing for Rev. Vander Pol's support in accordance with URCNA Church Order Article 10 without classical assistance, as evidenced by the attached documents of support previously received/dispensed and our annual approved budget.
4. A previous motion adopted at the Sep 9-10 Classis meeting in Rock Valley, IA allows for annual review of this support as needed:
"2: Covenant URC Kansas City requests financial assistance from the Classis Church Assistance Fund for \$2,000 per month for the support of an emeritus minister. A motion is made and supported to grant \$2,000 per month to be paid at the beginning of each month from the Church Assistance Fund for 2023 and to be reviewed annually at the September classis meeting. ADOPTED"

Done in the Covenant Reformed URC Consistory:

President: Peter Hondred

Clerk: Yoshi Sato

Funds		Beg Bal	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD Total
General Fund	In		12,091.04	11,178.31	16,696.54	14,423.12	14,177.31	14,261.80	19,876.31	8,836.19	15,336.59	12,057.34	12,135.12	14,396.33	165,364.00
	Out		15,057.43	14,568.41	22,955.96	17,254.34	11,660.22	9,795.74	10,967.60	9,133.94	7,288.71	6,370.17	6,673.16	9,330.72	141,054.40
	Bal	87,851.53	84,885.14	81,497.04	75,136.62	72,305.40	74,822.49	79,288.55	88,197.26	87,898.51	95,946.39	101,633.56	107,095.52	112,161.13	
Special Offerings Fund	In		353.65	284.25	307.15	483.75	70.00	426.55	314.77	563.62	0.00	616.72	323.27	489.00	4,222.73
	Out		419.45	101.25	135.40	207.15	866.50	128.50	50.00	274.05	723.85	410.51	405.37	454.87	4,176.90
	Bal	512.45	456.65	619.65	791.40	1,068.00	271.50	569.55	834.32	1,123.89	400.04	606.25	524.15	558.28	
Benevolence Fund	In		190.35	128.73	140.00	135.00	125.00	160.00	225.00	140.00	858.72	20.00	356.35	1,527.00	4,006.15
	Out		0.00	87.73	250.00			98.00		100.00	550.00	627.77	334.15	911.88	2,959.53
	Bal	8,703.75	8,894.10	8,935.10	8,825.10	8,960.10	9,085.10	9,147.10	9,372.10	9,412.10	9,720.82	9,113.05	9,135.25	9,750.37	
Building Fund	In		5,471.53	1,130.00	208.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	336.51	120.00	237.38	20.00	0.00	184.57	7,068.60
	Out		763.34	1,104.85	108.75	556.91	765.90	10.65	2,145.76	89.43	291.94	460.49	20,585.94		26,883.96
	Bal	42,904.36	47,612.55	46,637.70	46,737.95	46,301.04	45,655.14	45,764.49	43,954.24	43,984.81	43,930.86	43,490.37	22,904.43	23,089.00	
Mower Replacement/Parking lot Fund	In							250.00					250.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
	Out														0.00
	Bal	14,100.00	14,100.00	14,100.00	14,100.00	14,100.00	14,100.00	14,350.00	14,350.00	14,350.00	14,350.00	14,350.00	14,600.00	15,600.00	
Moving Fund	In														0.00
	Out														0.00
	Bal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Church Plant Support Fund	In			0.00	0.00	0.00	103.70	50.00	0.00	141.00	91.00	0.00	0.00	159.00	544.70
	Out														0.00
	Bal	7,576.60	7,576.60	7,576.60	7,576.60	7,576.60	7,680.30	7,730.30	7,730.30	7,871.30	7,962.30	7,962.30	7,962.30	8,121.30	
Seminarian Support Fund	In			38.25	46.25	100.00	841.00	89.50	208.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	133.27	217.00	1,673.29
	Out			1,000.00			1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
	Bal	5,038.38	5,038.38	4,076.63	4,122.88	4,222.88	5,063.88	4,153.38	4,361.40	3,361.40	3,361.40	3,361.40	3,494.67	3,711.67	
Mints Account-Rev. VanderPol	In						257.73								0.00
	Out						1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	257.73
	Bal	1,291.77	1,291.77	1,291.77	1,291.77	1,291.77	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	1,034.04	
Tuition Assistance Fund	In			97.25	0.00	0.00	156.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.00	0.00	146.00	440.50
	Out														0.00
	Bal	9,836.86	9,836.86	9,934.11	9,934.11	9,934.11	10,090.36	10,090.36	10,090.36	10,090.36	10,090.36	10,131.36	10,131.36	10,277.36	
Organ Maintenance Fund	In														0.00
	Out														0.00
	Bal	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	4,298.84	
Prisoner Ministry Fund	In			108.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	268.00
	Out														0.00
	Bal	1,258.99	1,258.99	1,366.99	1,366.99	1,366.99	1,366.99	1,366.99	1,366.99	1,366.99	1,366.99	1,526.99	1,526.99	1,526.99	
I.T.E.M. Mission Trip Fund	In			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Out														0.00
	Bal	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	1,329.05	
Total Funds (Register Balance)		189,702.58	191,578.93	186,663.48	180,511.31	177,754.78	179,797.69	184,122.65	191,918.90	191,121.29	198,951.09	203,837.21	189,036.60	196,458.03	
CRC Outstanding Checks			558.35	0.00											
CRC Outstanding Deposits			4,626.46	0.00											
Bank Accounts (Cleared Balance)		185,634.47	191,578.93	186,663.48	180,511.31	177,754.78	179,797.69	184,122.65	191,918.90	191,121.29	198,951.09	203,837.21	189,036.60	196,458.03	
Accounts		December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
UMB General Checking	In		12,000.00	12,000.00	12,250.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,094.62	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,561.76	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,019.85	
	Out		4,645.42	5,230.49	15,786.38	8,273.26	3,837.59	3,447.35	6,306.40	4,180.59	5,341.54	2,280.79	4,542.73	8,116.19	
	Bal	13,837.31	21,191.89	26,961.40	24,425.02	28,151.76	36,314.17	44,961.44	50,655.04	58,474.45	65,694.67	75,413.88	82,871.15	86,774.81	
UMB Special Checking	In		19,371.50	13,944.79	19,047.94	17,261.87	17,593.26	17,107.85	23,639.61	11,799.81	18,684.30	14,755.06	14,948.01	19,118.90	
	Out		20,781.62	25,629.75	21,663.73	23,745.14	23,712.76	21,430.16	21,536.96	20,416.83	18,074.72	19,588.15	37,205.89	15,601.13	
	Bal	171,797.16	170,387.04	158,702.08	156,086.29	149,603.02	143,483.52	139,161.21	141,263.86	132,646.84	133,256.42	128,423.33	106,165.45	109,683.22	
Bank Accounts Balance		185,634.47	191,578.93	186,663.48	180,511.31	177,754.78	179,797.69	184,122.65	191,918.90	191,121.29	198,951.09	203,837.21	189,036.60	196,458.03	
Difference		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Covenant Reformed Church - December 2024 Financial Statement

General Fund Activity																
Inflows	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD Total	Budget \$	YTD %	
Offerings	12,091.04	11,178.31	16,595.54	14,423.12	14,177.31	14,261.80	19,876.31	8,835.19	15,336.59	12,057.34	12,135.12	14,396.33	165,364.00	164,960.00	100.2%	
Other Inflows																
Total Inflows	12,091.04	11,178.31	16,595.54	14,423.12	14,177.31	14,261.80	19,876.31	8,835.19	15,336.59	12,057.34	12,135.12	14,396.33	165,364.00	164,960.00	100.2%	
	13,746.67	27,493.33	41,240.00	54,986.67	68,733.33	82,480.00	96,226.67	109,973.33	123,720.00	137,466.67	151,213.33	164,960.00	164,960.00	164,960.00	100.2%	
YTD Actual / Target:	88.0%	84.6%	96.7%	98.7%	99.6%	100.3%	106.6%	101.3%	102.5%	101.0%	99.8%	100.2%	100.2%		Target YTD%:	
Outflows	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD Total	Budget \$	YTD %	
Council Expenses	Pastor's Compensation	6,883.33	6,883.33	6,883.33	6,883.33	6,883.33	5,506.66	4,130.00	2,753.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	46,806.64	82,600.00	56.7%	
	Pastor's Continuing Education	136.20	30.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	167.18	1,000.00	16.7%	
	Pastoral Visits	41.30	36.83	7.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	128.64	0.00	214.61	500.00	42.9%	
	Pulpit Supply	375.00	794.80	919.80	3,319.23	2,110.20	2,086.53	2,556.22	2,114.45	2,430.88	1,352.49	1,632.94	2,598.22	22,290.76	2,500.00	891.6%
	Pastor Emeritus Support	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	100.0%	
	Classis Emeritus Reimbursement	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	100.0%	
	Seminarian Support	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	100.0%
	Bookkeeping	0.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	2,640.00	3,100.00	85.2%
	Copying & Printing Expenses	62.12	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99	134.69	9.99	9.99	86.91	56.02	9.99	0.00	419.67	750.00	56.0%
	Church Cleaning	350.00	130.00	520.00	520.00	390.00	260.00	1,040.00	910.00	0.00	130.00	1,430.00	390.00	6,070.00	6,760.00	89.8%
	Church Mowing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	80.00	0.00	80.00	0.00	0.00	1,120.00	0.00	1,360.00	2,400.00	56.7%
	Federation Expenses	0.00	0.00	267.83	2,878.95	0.00	193.18	0.00	0.00	415.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,755.88	5,000.00	75.1%
	Classical and Federation Asksings	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,333.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,633.00	1,400.00	116.6%
	Classis Assistance Fund	0.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	100.0%
	Gas & Electric	912.82	1,188.59	809.56	621.93	533.72	533.87	930.70	992.18	749.94	660.08	589.52	545.91	9,068.82	9,300.00	97.5%
	Insurance	0.00	0.00	12,241.00	0.00	0.00	357.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,598.00	11,800.00	106.8%
	Miscellaneous	28.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.50	0.00	171.87	50.00	0.00	99.80	412.67	600.00	68.8%
	Telephone / Internet	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	171.70	152.08	2,040.78	2,350.00	86.8%
	Water & Sewer	152.22	153.63	112.53	101.88	108.00	95.00	108.42	125.92	107.02	113.51	105.25	103.07	1,386.45	2,000.00	69.3%
	Distant Member Support	125.00	225.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	240.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	1,715.00	1,440.00	119.1%
	Distant Member Visits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	274.97	274.97	800.00	34.4%
	Building - Church	139.00	118.90	47.33	90.35	101.84	22.96	27.12	120.17	83.19	26.34	553.03	2,377.94	3,708.17	4,740.00	78.2%
	Building - Parsonage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.94	1,300.00	3.2%
	Grounds	0.00	883.50	177.60	208.96	89.49	286.20	37.60	41.40	336.00	32.70	438.38	1,948.01	4,479.84	5,750.00	77.9%
	Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	159.74	278.59	17.7%
Fellowship	175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	305.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	146.03	415.77	500.00	83.2%	
Library	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%	
Missions & Outreach	59.95	59.95	59.95	59.95	59.95	59.95	59.95	407.95	59.95	59.95	59.95	59.95	1,067.40	2,270.00	47.0%	
Services	73.76	206.71	0.00	12.28	0.00	0.00	131.40	21.36	79.18	0.00	197.40	0.00	722.09	1,225.00	58.9%	
Worship & Music	0.00	32.50	62.50	10.79	0.00	0.00	33.47	20.49	221.15	23.74	0.00	110.00	514.64	1,200.00	42.9%	
Youth Ministries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,200.00	0.00	0.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	100.0%	
Outflow Totals	9,685.90	14,566.41	22,955.96	17,254.34	11,660.22	9,795.74	10,967.60	9,133.94	7,288.71	6,370.17	6,673.16	9,330.72	135,682.87	164,960.00	82.3%	
	13,746.67	27,493.33	41,240.00	54,986.67	68,733.33	82,480.00	96,226.67	109,973.33	123,720.00	137,466.67	151,213.33	164,960.00	164,960.00	164,960.00	100.2%	
	70.5%	88.2%	114.5%	117.2%	110.8%	104.2%	100.7%	96.4%	91.6%	87.1%	83.6%	82.3%	82.3%		Target YTD%:	
Committee Exp.																

This calculation is only valid when completing the January statement
If there is a positive amount to transfer, it will show up in 'Funds & Accounts' D6

Keep this as a source from from 'Funds & Accounts'IC7	87,851.53	2023 Ending General Fund Balance		Enter this amount only on the January statement for the January calendar year budget	Projection in Dec Council Meeting	
		164,960.00	2024 Budget Amount		107,095.52	Nov ending General Fund Balance
		50.00%	Reserve %			
	82,480.00	Reserve Amount to start 2024			161,870.00	2025 Budget Amount
					50.00%	Reserve %
This cell is in a calculation on the Funds & Accounts sheet - cell D6 If negative, set C59 to 0.00	5,371.53	TOTAL Transfer to Building Fund			80,935.00	Reserve Amount to start Dec
					26,160.52	TOTAL Transfer to Building Fund

Covenant Reformed Church - December 2024 Financial Statement
Special Offerings Summary

Special Offerings		2023 Balance	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD Total
Supported Ministries	American Heritage Girls		0.00			108.50	20.00								128.50
	Covenant Reformed Cadets		0.00			137.00									137.00
	City Union Mission		0.00			82.25								489.00	571.25
	Costa Rica Mission (Bethany) Rev. Bill Green		0.00		164.15			174.05		165.02					503.22
	Crossroads Prison Ministry		0.00												0.00
	Divine Hope Reformed Bible Seminary		135.40	264.25	100.00				269.77	50.00		281.35			1,080.77
	Ligonier Ministries		0.00									280.60			280.60
	Messiah's Ref. Fellowship, Rev. Paul Murphy		0.00					100.00	45.00				117.50		262.50
	Middle East Reformed Fellowship (M.E.R.F.)		0.00					136.50					205.77		342.27
	Mid-America Reformed Seminary		0.00		43.00	156.00	50.00			272.58					521.58
	CERF - Milan, Italy Church Plant		0.00												0.00
	MLINT S - Rev. Allen Vander Pol		0.00												0.00
	Reformed Youth Services		101.25												101.25
	Toronto Mission Project, Rev. Tony Zekveld		127.00							76.02					203.02
	Young People's Society Convention-CRC		0.00					16.00				74.77			90.77
	Ukraine MTW		0.00												0.00
	Earthquake Relief - Turkey		0.00												0.00
			0.00												0.00
	Subtotal - Special Offering Fund	0.00	363.65	264.25	307.15	483.75	70.00	426.55	314.77	563.62	0.00	616.72	323.27	489.00	4,222.73
CRC Fund Inflows	Benevolence Fund		190.35	128.73	140.00	135.00	125.00	160.00	225.00	140.00	858.72	20.00	356.35	1,527.00	4,006.15
	Building Fund		100.00	130.00	209.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	335.51	120.00	237.99	20.00		184.57	1,697.07
	Church Plant Support Fund		0.00				103.70	50.00		141.00	91.00			159.00	544.70
	Mower Replacement Fund		0.00												0.00
	I.T.E.M. Mission Trip Fund		0.00												0.00
	Prisoner Ministry Fund		0.00	108.00							160.00				268.00
	Seminarian Support Fund		0.00	38.25	46.25	100.00	841.00	89.50	208.02				133.27	217.00	1,673.29
	Tuition Assistance Fund		0.00	97.25			156.25					41.00		146.00	440.50
Total Special Offerings Collected		0.00	654.00	766.48	702.40	838.75	1,415.95	846.05	1,083.30	954.62	1,347.71	697.72	812.89	2,722.57	12,852.44

Below are the monthly Classical funds received from Classis and distributed to Rev. Vanderpol between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Check Received from Classis		Dispersed to Rev. Vanderpol	
07/08/24	\$2,000.00	07/24/24	-\$2,000.00
08/26/24	\$2,000.00	08/23/24	-\$2,000.00
09/03/24	\$2,000.00	09/24/24	-\$2,000.00
10/02/24	\$2,000.00	10/24/24	-\$2,000.00
11/04/24	\$2,000.00	11/25/24	-\$2,000.00
12/02/24	\$2,000.00	12/24/24	-\$2,000.00
01/02/25	\$2,000.00	01/27/25	-\$2,000.00
02/03/25	\$2,000.00	02/25/25	-\$2,000.00
03/03/25	\$2,000.00	03/25/25	-\$2,000.00
04/02/25	\$2,000.00	04/25/25	-\$2,000.00
05/02/25	\$2,000.00	05/27/25	-\$2,000.00
06/02/25	\$2,000.00	06/24/25	-\$2,000.00

The deacons discussed with Rev. Vanderpol to see how his incomes, outgoings, and shortfalls have changed since last year. While there were some changes, Rev. Vanderpol requested the same amount as last year (\$2,000.00 monthly). He says that this amount will cover the shortfall that he is expecting for this upcoming year and is appreciative for the help from classis. The deacons agree with this assessment and think that the CRC delegates should request \$2,000.00 monthly.

Overture #3: Calling a Special Meeting of Classis

I. Background

Discussions leading up to the regularly scheduled Spring 2025 meeting of Classis Central U.S. included the idea that the churches of classis would need to call a special meeting in June for an examination. The premise of that discussion was, assumedly, that our Rules of Procedure for Classis Central U.S., (I.C. see below for full text) stipulate a special meeting “...may be held at the discretion of the next convening consistory and must be held at the request of *two or more* consistories.” That discussion revealed an inconsistency with our URCNA Church Order Article 26, the relevant contents of which state, “If *three consistories in the classis* deem it necessary that a classis convene earlier than the regular time determined, the Consistory charged with convening the meeting shall determine when and where the meeting if to occur.” This overture aims to correct this inconsistency.

II. Overture

The Consistory of First Oak Lawn United Reformed Church overtures classis Central U.S. to amend the Rules of Procedure I.C. to now read: C. Additional meetings of classis may be held at the discretion of the next convening consistory and must be held at the request of three consistories.

III. Grounds

1. This amendment will preclude future confusion and potential conflict by bringing into agreement our Rules of Procedure with the URCNA Church Order on this matter.

Rules of Procedure of Classis Central U.S.

I. CONVENING AND CONSTITUTING OF CLASSIS

A. Classis shall be convened and constituted as prescribed by the Church Order and these Rules of Procedure.

B. Classis shall convene at a time and place determined by the previous classis. Two meetings shall be held each year: in the second full week of April and in the second full week of September. Each classis shall designate a convening church for the next meeting, ordinarily following an alphabetical rotation of the churches.

C. Additional meetings of classis may be held at the discretion of the next convening consistory and must be held at the request of two or more consistories.

Church Order of the URCNA

Article 26 – Classis A classis shall consist of neighboring churches whose Consistories delegate two of their members with proper credentials to convene at a time and place determined at the previous classis meeting, within the next twelve months. **If three Consistories in the classis deem it necessary that a classis convene earlier than the regular time determined, the Consistory charged with convening the meeting shall determine when and where the meeting is to occur.** The consistories shall take turns providing a chairman and acting as the convening consistory. Furthermore, the classis shall inquire of each Consistory whether

Consistory and deacons' meetings are held, the Word of God is faithfully preached, the sacraments are faithfully administered, church discipline is exercised, the poor are cared for, and God-centered schooling is promoted; and whether the Consistory needs the advice and help of the classis for the proper government of the church. Each classis shall inform the other classes regarding matters of mutual concern by forwarding its complete minutes to them in a timely manner.

Overture #4: Editorial Changes for the Church Order

I. Background

Our current *Church Order, Regulations for Synodical Procedure*, and their appendices lack consistent capitalization, particularly for the words “consistory,” “classis,” and “synod.”

"Consistory" appears 78 times in the *Church Order* and is incorrectly capitalized 77 times. In the appendices, it appears 64 times and is incorrectly capitalized only 20 times. (We're getting better.) "Classis" appears 25 times in the appendices and is incorrectly capitalized 3 times.

"Synod" is used 230 times in the *Regulations for Synodical Procedure*, with about 28 incorrect capitalizations. (There appears no need to correct any instance of the word

“council.”) Regardless of what guidelines we use, these inconsistencies reflect badly on us.

These inconsistencies are puzzling. The 1934 edition of the *Church Order of Dort*, upon which we first federated, did not capitalize any church assembly names. However, the edition of that church order in the 1926 CRC Psalter has all assembly names capitalized along with all the church offices and several other common nouns as well. This may reflect our 19th-century history when English was a second language for many of our church leaders.

At our last synod, an overture for consistent capitalization was rejected due to its unique rules that did not align with common American English usage. It would have taken us back to the style of the 1926 edition. No alternative overture was available, so no action was taken, and the inconsistencies remain. This overture aims to provide a solution by proposing common modern usage guidelines.

The AP Style Guide (easily discoverable by an internet search) states:

Plural, Nonspecific References

All words that are capitalized when part of a proper names should be lowercase when they are used in the plural or do not refer to a specific, existing body.

Consistent with that is a noted grammar textbook which states:

The names of government bodies are capitalized when they are exact names. Do not capitalize such general terms as the following: *the state legislature, the latest department meeting.*” (*English Grammar and Composition* (Revised Edition) by John E Warriner and Francis Griffith, published by Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc, 1965, page 614.)

According to these guidelines, the words “consistory,” “council,” and “synod” should not be capitalized unless they are part of the name of a particular assembly such as “Synod Escondido 2024.” When the words are nonspecific, merely referring to such assemblies in general, whether in the singular or the plural, they should not be capitalized.

II. Overture

Covenant Reformed Church of Pella, Iowa overtures Classis Central US to overture Synod Calgary 2026 to instruct the stated clerk to use the Associated Press Style Guide for capitalization to update, as needed, the *Church Order*, the *Regulations for Synodical Procedures* and their appendices, and that synod declare that such capitalization changes to the *Church Order* do not need to be ratified by the consistories since the changes are editorial in nature and do not change the meaning of the document.

III. Grounds

1. Consistently following the Associated Press Style Guide regarding capitalization will bring our documents into conformity with standard practice among editors and publishers.
2. This standard has already been followed in some additions made to the *Regulations for Synodical Procedure* over the past several synods, which is why, of the three documents, it needs least editing.
3. There is an established precedent for not requiring consistorial ratification for editorial modifications. For instance, the synod declared that the titles of the articles were considered editorial and therefore exempt from ratification.
4. Consistency in capitalization will enhance the readability and clarity of our documents and reflect our commitment to precision and excellence.
5. If we present ourselves to the world as having a language or grammar of our own, we appear isolated and disconnected from broader society. We should speak and write well the language of the people we hope to reach.

Overture #5: Deadline for Consistorial Adjudication of Appeals

I. Background

Appendix B to the Regulations for Synodical Procedure and Appendix 7 to the Church Order provide the Guidelines for Appeals, including deadlines for submitting a Notice of Appeal and the Appeal itself. However, the Guidelines provide no corresponding deadline for the adjudication of an appeal by a consistory. Without such a deadline, consistories can delay or choose not to adjudicate an appeal indefinitely. An unadjudicated appeal leaves an appellant in ecclesiastical limbo, without recourse to advance the appeal. Such cases have been reported in our federation. This situation can be rectified by amending the Guidelines to impose a deadline for consistories to adjudicate and render a judgment on an appeal.

II. Overture

The consistory of Immanuel United Reformed Church, DeMotte, Indiana overtures Classis Central U.S. to overture Synod 2025 that Appendix B to the Regulations for Synodical Procedure and Appendix 7 to the Church Order be amended to **add the following provision** to the Guidelines for Appeals:

7 (f): For appeals made to a consistory, the consistory shall adjudicate and render a judgment on the appeal within 60 days of receipt of the appeal. If the consistory fails to adjudicate and render judgment on the appeal within 60 days, the appellant may advance the appeal to the next broader assembly for adjudication and judgment.

III. Grounds

- a) A deadline imposed on the appellant to bring an appeal ensures fairness to a consistory to receive prompt notice of appealable issues. Fairness to the appellant dictates that a deadline should likewise be imposed on the consistory to adjudicate the appeal.
- b) A consistory's failure to adjudicate an appeal in a timely manner can result in justice being delayed or denied under our current Guidelines.
- c) A consistory's failure to adjudicate an appeal should allow the appellant to advance his appeal to an assembly that will adjudicate the appeal.
- d) This 60-day deadline would not apply to the adjudication of appeals by a classis or synod, given that appeals considered at such broader assemblies are necessarily adjudicated during the fixed time such assemblies are in session.

Done in consistory this _____, 2025

Clerk, Consistory of Immanuel United Reformed Church, DeMotte, Indiana

Overture #6: Amend Church Order Article 27 to Clarify Church Visitors' Reports to Classis

I. Background

There is uniform agreement in our federation that church visitors must give a report to classis on the biennial church visits required by Church Order Article 27. However, a practice has developed in some classes that church visitors are using their *own judgment* as to whether to report on special visits to churches seeking advice on particularly difficult situations. This practice may have developed since Church Order Article 27 only references the biennial visits and makes no mention of “special visits” made by church visitors.

It has been suggested that because such “special visits” may contain sensitive information, this material should be kept “confidential” because consistories may be reluctant to call on church visitors if they know such visits will be reported. It has also been questioned whether informal calls for advice to an individual pastor/elder who is also a church visitor would be covered by the reporting requirement. However, we do not believe these concerns are sufficient to exempt a certain category of visits from reporting to classis.

For historical comparison, the 1967 version of the CRCNA Church Order Article 42 recognized both the regular and special visits made by church visitors and made no exemption from reporting on special visits:

- a. The classis shall appoint at least one committee composed of two of the more experienced and competent ministers to visit all its churches once a year.*
- b. The church visitors shall ascertain whether the office-bearers faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and properly promote the edification of the congregation and the extension of God's Kingdom. They shall fraternally admonish those who have been negligent, and help all with advice and assistance.*
- c. The churches are free to call on the church visitors whenever serious problems arise.*
- d. The church visitors shall render to classis a written report of their work.*
(emphasis added)

The current version of CRCNA Church Order Article 42 retained recognition of both regular and special visits by church visitors and does not exempt special visits from the reporting requirement:

- a. The classis shall be responsible for appointing persons to provide counsel to churches and to pastors. The classis shall appoint church visitors to visit each church in classis on a yearly basis. The classis shall appoint classical counselors to provide advice to any church in the process of calling a minister of the Word. The classis shall appoint regional pastors to support ministers of the Word and commissioned pastors.*
- b. The church visitors shall consist of one or more teams of officebearers chosen for their experience and counsel. Team composition shall include a minister of the Word and at*

*least one other officebearer. Their task shall be to ascertain whether the officebearers of the church faithfully perform their duties, adhere to sound doctrine, observe the provisions of the Church Order, and promote the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of God's kingdom. **Churches are free to call on the church visitors whenever serious challenges arise that would benefit from their advice. The church visitors shall provide classis a written report of their work.***
(emphasis added)

The *Van Dellen & Monsma Commentary on the Church Order* provides an added rationale for church visitors reporting on all their work: accountability for the visitors:

*“Of course, the visitors must give an account of **all their work** to classis. Consistories or consistory members who feel that the visitors have neglected their duty, or have gone beyond their authorization, or have misdirected matters, may appeal to classis.”*
(Commentary, p. 174).
(emphasis added).

This overture seeks to bring proper accountability regarding the work of the church visitors as classically appointed representatives.

II. Overture

The Consistory of Immanuel United Reformed Church, DeMotte, Indiana overtures Classis Central U.S. to overture Synod 2025 to amend Church Order Article 27 to read as follows:

Article 27 – Church Visitors. 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. Upon the request of a Consistory, they may also be called upon to assist in cases of special difficulty. The church visitors shall give a written account of all their visits to the next classis.

III. Grounds

- a) Visitors are *classical* church visitors, so by the very nature of the appointment and function they should give an account to classis on their church visits. Such accountability guards against potential hierarchicalism of classical visitors acting as independent counselors in special cases accountable to no one.
- b) Where the Church Order speaks of church visitors, the aim is to involve the full wisdom and mutual accountability of classis. (cf. Articles 11 and 27)

- c) The advice of church visitors is necessarily weightier since their advice has in view the broader wisdom of the many churches from the classis who appointed them.
- d) The employment of the church visitors—appointed and paid for by classis—typically involves a weightier matter that often finds its way to classis (*e.g.*, pastoral care of a member or conflict among office bearers). By requiring reporting on these visits, classis would be informed of an issue at an early stage, giving classis an opportunity to offer advice and prayer for the consistory and the church visitors in their labors. Furthermore, it would prevent classis from being blindsided at a later stage if an appeal is lodged by a member who was the subject of such special visit.
- e) Concerns over sensitive case information can be addressed by way of handling the report in executive session at classis. Furthermore, if a consistory does not want their matter to be reported to classis, a consistory need not involve *classical* church visitors.
- f) Informal calls for advice to an **individual** pastor/elder, who also happens to be a church visitor, would not be covered by this reporting requirement. Church visitors, in their role as church visitors, operate in tandem in response to a consistory request for assistance. Only when a **consistory** officially calls upon **both** church visitors in their capacity as church visitors would the reporting requirement be applicable.

Done in consistory this _____, 2025

Clerk, Immanuel United Reformed Church, DeMotte, Indiana.