

**Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery
Interchurch-Relations Liaison Report**

February 15, 2024

Fathers and brothers,

Dick Knodel served as our liaison until his resignation in spring of 2023. I stepped in, by request of the AIC. I have not done well this past year keeping correspondence with those from other NAPARC denominations who invited us to their Presbytery or Classis meetings.

I would prefer someone step up to be the Interchurch-Relations Liaison for the next year, but if not, I am willing to serve.

June 28, 2023

Invitation from John Wiers of the Midwest Presbytery of the OPC (boundaries include Illinois, Iowa, eastern Kansas, and eastern Nebraska) to their meeting in Chicago.

Date: September 8-9, 2023

Time: Friday from 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM Saturday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Location: Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church 1510 Greenbrook Blvd, Hanover Park, IL 60133

There is a greater overlap with our Midwest Presbytery so I assumed that their fraternal delegate would attend.

August 10, 2023

Invitation from Ralph Pontier of the Classis Central US of the URCNA (boundaries include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota and Wisconsin)

Date: September 11-12, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m. on Monday and continuing on Tuesday, supper at 5:30 p.m. on Monday prior to the meeting

Location: Orange City, Iowa at Redeemer United Reformed Church

I failed to share this with the GLG Presbytery or communicate with the RPC Midwest Presbytery Interchurch-Relations Liaison. The Classis Central (URCNA) did share a report with us (See attached).

Nov 9, 2023

Tom Reid graciously served as fraternal delegate to the PCA's Presbytery of North Florida meeting at Faith PCA in Gainesville, FL. (see attached report)

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Anderson

Classis Report
Classis Central US of the URCNA
September 11-12, AD 2023

Delegates to the 56th meeting of Classis Central US gathered at the Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 11 and did not adjourn until early in the evening of the next day. After the opening preliminaries, classis began the candidacy exam of Mr. Kirk Gibbons, a member of Christ Reformed Church in Sioux Falls. Mr. Gibbons is a recent graduate of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and was, prior to entering seminary, a teacher and school principal for about twenty years. Mr. Gibbons sustained his exam, and the Sioux Falls URC consistory may now declare him a candidate for the ministry.



Mr. Kirk Gibbons and his wife Melissa receive his classical diploma from Rev. Klompien.

Classis received greetings from eight sister churches. Seven fraternal delegates were present. They were Rev. Joseph Steenholdt for Classis Minnkota of the CRC, Rev. Greg Hoadley for the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC, Rev. Andrew W. Smyth for the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC, Rev. Patrick Morgan for the Presbytery of

Wisconsin and Minnesota of the OPC, Rev. Jonathan Haney for the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA, Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner for the South-Central Classis of the RCUS, and Rev. Richard Stetler for Covenant East Classis, RCUS. A letter of fraternal greeting was also read from Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches. The chairman appointed eight different members of classis to pray, one for each body after their greeting was received.

The Church Planting and Advisory committee distributed a newsletter describing a proposal being considered by the Cornerstone URC in Sanborn, Iowa, also described at length in the agenda. The proposal concerns doing ministry among the Latino population in Northwest Iowa. Approval was given to the proposal from the Cornerstone church – which includes extending a call to a Spanish speaking minister and a financial commitment from classis to assist.

Five overtures were considered. The first asked classis to ask synod to adopt pastoral advice regarding the relationship of church, state, and family. The second asked classis to ask synod to require that all reports to synod from synodical committees begin with a verbatim copy of the committee's mandate. The third asked classis to dissolve the appointment of the consistory that has been appointed to supervise the classis website. The fourth asked classis to ask synod to dissolve the appointment of the consistory that has been appointed to supervise the federation website. The fifth asked classis to renew its benevolent support of an emeritus minister. All the overtures were approved.

Report of the Fraternal Delegate
of the Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery (GLG)
of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)
to the Presbytery of North Florida (PNF)
of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

The PNF of the PCA met at Faith PCA in Gainesville, Florida, on Nov. 9, 2023, for its 100th stated meeting. The undersigned lives only four miles away and was accredited by the GLG as official fraternal delegate to this meeting.

The PNF consists of about twenty churches, mostly centered in the Jacksonville metropolitan area, and has 53 ministerial members.

The PNF began its meeting with what it termed a worship service, but was more like a loud concert with a pep talk. The PNF conducted its business in a less structured way than we do in the GLG, but was blessed with unanimity in its decisions. The PNF spent an hour in executive session, to hear the report of an investigative committee. A ministerial transfer into the Presbytery was approved, after written and oral examinations. A ministerial candidate was approved for ordination, after written and oral examinations. Both took the same two exceptions to the Westminster Standards, against the observance of the Christian Sabbath (WCF 21,8 and WLC 117) and in favor of images of Jesus (WSC 51 and WLC 109). They otherwise acquitted themselves well in the oral exams. Both men are graduates of Reformed Theological Seminary, one from Jackson and one from Orlando. (The wife of the RTS Jackson grad was my secretary when I served as Librarian there.)

I was invited to address the court for five minutes. I provided an “explanation” about the RPCNA, our history, recent difficulties and strengths, and global mission work. I then gave an “exhortation”, in light of the Book of Church Order 51 of the PCA, which states: “It is recommended that Psalms be sung along with the hymns of the church.” While the BCO does not state the reason for this recommendation, I suggested that it is because of the Christ-centeredness of the Psalms. Specifically, they were: 1) written by Jesus (2 Tim. 3:16); 2) centered on Jesus (Luke 24:44); 3) sung by Jesus, in the synagogue, expressing our union with Christ; and 4) treasured by Jesus, quoted and alluded to during His public ministry.

After I concluded my report, the moderator (who had until recently been the pastor of Hilary Gamble) asked me if I had a favorite Psalm. When I replied Psalm 40, he asked me to sing it to the court! So, I sang the first stanza of Psalm 40A in *The Book of Psalms for Worship*.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Reid