

Classis Report

Classis Central US of the URCNA

April 10-11, AD 2023

Delegates to the 55th meeting of Classis Central US gathered at the First United Reformed Church in Oak Lawn, Illinois beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 10 and did not adjourn until late into the afternoon of the next day. After the opening preliminaries on Monday evening, classis put their shoulder to the wheel and began the first of two exams on the agenda.

The first exam was a *colloquium doctum* for Rev. Eric Kayayan, the French language minister of Reformed Faith and Life ([RFL](#)), a ministry supported by several of our churches. He comes to us from the Reformed Churches of South Africa and the Rietvallei Reformed Church of Pretoria. The consistory of the church in Pretoria has been in communication with the consistory of the Oak Glen URC in Lansing for about 18 months regarding the best way to go forward regarding the supervision and extension of RFL which led to the decision of Oak Glen to consider extending a call to Rev. Kayayan. Rev. Kayayan sustained his *colloquium* and was declared eligible for a call by the Oak Glen congregation.

The second exam was a candidacy exam for Mr. Caleb Castro, also at the request of the Oak Glen consistory. Caleb attended one year at Westminster Seminary in California and then transferred to Mid-America Reformed Seminary from which he graduated in May of last year. Recently, he has been serving as stated supply at the Rock Valley, Iowa URC which has been vacant since last Fall. Mr. Castro sustained his exam, and the Oak Glen Consistory may now declare his candidacy for ministry in our churches.

Beginning around 2 p.m. on Tuesday, classis took up the rest of its agenda which included numerous reports from classical functionaries, classical committees, and synodical committee representatives.

Classis received brief fraternal greetings from Mr. Ron Vanderzwaag of Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed churches, a letter of greeting from the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas, and a note of greeting from Classis East of the RCUS.

The Church Planting and Advisory committee distributed a newsletter describing a proposal being considered by the Sanborn URC to do ministry among the Latino population in Northwest Iowa.

Four overtures were passed, two that will be forwarded to synod and two to amend the *Rules of Procedure* for classis. We will ask the next synod to form a study committee to develop guidelines for the process of calling candidates and ministers. The second seeks to amend *Church Order* Article 31 and its Appendix 7 to conform with the rulings of the last synod that an appeal must go first to the assembly whose decision is being appealed.

A third overture amended the *Rules of Procedure* for our classis by renaming and reorganizing the Church Planting Advisory Committee (CPAC). It will now be called the Classis Home Missions Committee (CHMC). The new mandate of the CHMC follows that suggested by Synod Niagara 2022 for classical home mission committees. The new committee will be made up of the current CPAC members and work with the CPAC budget. The fourth overture establishes a Classical Home Missions Fund to provide financial assistance, on a declining scale, for five years, for church plants that meet criteria spelled out in a new appendix to the classis' *Rules of Procedure*.

Classis gave advice on a few discipline cases. Classis elected several classical functionaries. Classis adjourned around 5:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11-12, 2023, at Redeemer United Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa.



Caleb and Robin Castro with son Teddy, receiving a classical diploma from Rev. Donovan