

Jim Koopman - Regional Minister Report:

A. Revitalization:

1. C-IA

Vacancies:

- Bethany in Des Moines Call pending ☺
- 1st Sully Call likely, hopefully accepted
- Community in Newton Specialized Interim Minister (John White). Yea God for John and CRC!
- Reformed Church in Plano (RCP) Very difficult transition, has a SIM, narrowed list to 5 candidates

I've been directly and heavily involved in all of these vacancies, with a number of meetings, exit interviews, phone calls, coaching with exiting pastors, Consistories, Search Teams, Candidates, Interims, Moderators.... Helping churches and pastors transition well, is a vital service to all parties and is vital to keep the focus on healthy and missionally focused leaders and congregations.

Other:

- Celebrate in Knoxville Pastor Gary Roozeboom is on Medical Leave, surgery on Apr. 13
Care Team, Ad Team, Interim...
- Westview Renegotiated Loan, Classis hired consultant to assist, leading process and follow-up

These two difficult situations have taken a huge amount of my time, and we are in the midst of working things through. These are two critical Kingdom churches that need to succeed. Cathy has played a significant role with the Westview Church – taking notes and coordinating meetings for a variety of people involved from the Classis, Westview staff and the hired consultant.

2. PP

Vacancies:

- Hope – Parkersburg SIM (Ron Sikkema)
- Pleasant Valley Call accepted by Rick Vollema Yea Yea GOD!
- New Life Completing Appreciative Inquiry process and community surveys
- Trinity – Allison Narrowing field of candidates

I've been directly involved in all of these vacancies, with exit interviews, a number of meetings (with 33 visits alone to Parkersburg in 2008), phone calls, coaching with Consistories, Search Teams, Candidates, Interims, Moderators, The Revitalization Commission....

Other:

- Rapid Response Recovery Team (RRRT) – I led the efforts to raise \$150K and formed this Ad Hoc RRRT that has distributed critical funds (along with many other resources) to 150 RCA victim households from 9 Pleasant Prairie Churches that were affected by the tornado and floods. Yea God!
- I have worked directly with Bethel, CHCC, and Orchard in coaching roles to help them break through the 200, 400 and 1,000 barriers. Yea God!

3. Pastor Networks

- DSM 14 pastors involved
- Pella 11 pastors involved
- Parkersburg 2 more pastors have moved on
7 pastors involved
- I-380 6 ½ pastors involved
- Belmond not meeting

My role in the networks is to coordinate and communicate them – which is what Cathy does, and then I am involved in coaching a number of the facilitators and members. All three of the Pleasant Prairie new church starts were born out of the networks where the pastors and fellow pastors could work together to dream and implement their visions. I probably make 2/3rds of the network meetings, and I still consider this one of the most important roles I play.

4. Coaching/ Consultation

- Congregational Consultation (with pastors, consistories and congregations):
 - Adventure Life
 - Bridgeway
 - Cedar Hills
 - Celebrate
 - Hope
 - New Life
 - RCP
 - Westview

These consultations involve leading the pastors, consistories, and congregations through focused sessions that help the congregations refine or define their mission field, vision, values; and to construct a ministry plan and structure that leads them fro the next three to five years

- Coaching
 - As needed to pastors and consistories in the classes
 - As needed with pastors interested in vacant churches
- Retreats
 - Pastor Spouse
 - Hispanic Pastor Spouse
 - Grundy Center Women's Retreat

Each year, Jan and I have hosted retreats for the Pleasant Prairie pastors and their spouses for a weekend of fun, spiritual development, and leadership direction, these have been well attended; and we have hosted now for two years the Hispanic Pastors and spouses from our Synod along with Brigido and Milagro Cabrera (Director of Hispanic Ministries for the RCA) at our home. This retreat is a highlight of the year for us. A few weeks back, we hosted a woman's retreat for about 20 women at our home.

5. Classis Commissions & Executive Committees

- The Church Revitalization and Support Commissions of both Classes have worked so hard. The phone calls, emails, meetings, direct work with congregations and pastors has severely taxed them – but they have done a great job!!! Thank God for them! Yea God!!
- The Church Planting Commissions (especially in C-IA) have equally worked hard to serve both ministries and Classes! Thank God for them too! Yea God for the gobs of fruit!! Nearly unmatched in the RCA! ☺

Since 2002, both Classes have grown in average attenders (except last year – Pleasant Prairie declined), and both Classes have maintained healthy numbers of adult baptisms.

Cathy Davis is my Administrative Assistant. Her responsibilities include:

Communicate and coordinate my activities

Maintain and update my contact list

Communicate and monitor attendance of the Networks

Make the arrangements for all of the TX Steering Teams

Provide hospitality arrangements for local meetings

Provide assistance to pastors, staff, by finding answers to questions, information, etc.

Schedule meetings (as in Westview Reformed Church with the consultant)

Attend CMT, Executive Committee, Advisory Team and Classis meetings for both Central Iowa and Pleasant Prairie

Attend meetings as requested to take notes (Westview Reformed Church)

Attend Special Events (COSE Event in Houston, Crossroads Church Commission, Hispanic Pastor/Spouse Retreat)

B. New Church Development:

1. Central Iowa New Ministries:

	<u>Planter</u>	<u>2007 Average Attenders</u>	<u>2008 Ave</u>	<u># Added</u>	
• Ridge House Church (Ankeny, IA)	Jeff Kennel	0	10	+10	
• Journey House Church (DSM, IA)	Bryan Fatka	0	25	+25	
• Bridge (Ottumwa, IA)	Marty Schmidt	145	225	+80	+55%
• Bridgeway (Ames, IA)	Bob De Boer	158	168	+10	+6.5%
• Crossroads (Norwalk, IA)	Glen Blumer	214	227	+13	+6%
• Higher Ground (Plano, TX)	Erik Buteyn	98	140	+42	+43%
• La Senda (Mt. Pleasant, TX)	Jesus Serrano	103	125	+22	+22%
• Rock Hills (San Antonio, TX)	D. Lantz, S. McNary	30	123	+93	+310%
		858	1,053	+305	+36% overall growth rate

- S. Ankeny, IA Classis just purchased 16 acres, with the hope that this plant will materialize in the next 3 to 5 years.
- Austin, TX We are conducting a site visit in June, the candidate is completing assessments
- Crossroads in Norwalk, IA Organized on April 5
- 3rd Pella in Newton, IA Commissioned pastor will move on site in late summer or early fall
- Granger, Grinnell, Fairfield, NE Madison County, Indianola, IA are potential sites in the future. A Hispanic ministry in Perry is also in our sights for future new church sites.

I maintain a coaching role with 50% of these planters and Cathy and I work hard on behalf of the C-IA CMT to coordinate the meetings of the Steering Teams of the TX plants. These teams are made up of people in Iowa and Texas. This makes it uniquely difficult for oversight and communication. This involves planning and coordinating the Steering Teams when they meet in TX and when they meet in Iowa around the times of the Classis meetings. I'm proud of where we are but it all seems very fragile yet.

2. Pleasant Prairie New Ministries:

		<u>2007 Ave</u>	<u>2008 Ave</u>		
• Bridge of Hope (Waterloo, IA)	Kevin Van Wyk	54	79	+25	+47%
• Be Happy Hispanic (Belmond, IA)	Felix Valdez	0	53	+53	
• Center Community (Grundy Cntr. IA)	Mike Brost	178			
		232	325	+93	

- No new churches are in the hopper for 2009 but you never know what God may be up to ;>)

Pleasant Prairie Classis started one church since Orchard began in 1963. Right now, we are doing three church plants. This continues to be a real stretch for this cash strapped Classis. More money would help a great deal! But it is what it is and we are working within this reality, not letting it stop the great things God is doing.

I am very involved in the oversight of Felix and the Belmond Hispanic Ministry. Felix and Juana have been fighting an uphill battle, encountering racism in the churches and communities. Their ministry experience along with trust that pays off from being around is really showing through. They're doing more than we asked of them, creating the house churches. It's a movement not a church plant. Yea God! The Steering Team meets monthly and is doing a superb job.

Bridge of Hope is doing well, When it comes to reaching unbelievers and doing so much with so few resources, no one in the RCA can shake a stick to Kevin, Armond, and the BOH leaders. I'm so proud of them! I'm excited about the past and ongoing role I get to play – as a coach and leader on the Steering Team.

Jan and I began a house church with another couple about 9 months ago. We are averaging about 13 to 15 in attendance – and it is still very fragile. We are looking forward to some baptisms this summer.