
SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA
Reformed Church in America
NEWSLETTER - - - Volume 8, Number 20 - - - October 22, 2007

“Healthy classes and congregations through revitalization and multiplication”

Classis – Congregation – Pastor News

- Four of the five classes of the Synod of Mid-America have recently met this month and the fifth classis, Florida, will be meeting Friday-Saturday, October 26-27. Remember the work of your classis as it moves forward from these business meetings where decisions were made that will affect your local church community.
- The Rev. Timothy King will be installed as pastor at the Parkview Presbyterian Church of Oak Park, IL on Sunday, October 28. Tim has been the supply pastor there since August of 2006. Because of the Formula of Agreement between the RCA and PCUSA, he will continue as a member of the Classis of Illiana and will also be a member of the Presbytery of Chicago.
- The Classis of Wisconsin will meet on Sunday, November 11 at the First Reformed Church, Sheboygan Falls for the purpose of ordaining Jeremiah Fyffe as minister of Word and sacrament and installing him as associate pastor of First Reformed-Sheboygan Falls. We celebrate this new chapter of an existing relationship.

Regional Synod Directories

This month at the classis meetings the 2007-2008 edition of the Directory of the Synod of Mid-America have been (and will be) distributed to the churches and ministers who were present. Copies of the directories that were not picked up at the classis meetings will be mailed in the next month. This includes mailing copies to ministers within the synod who are retired, in specialized ministry, etc. unless they were picked up at the classis meeting. As is always the case, there is information published in the directory that is already out-of-date. If there are major errors or updates that need to be made know, they can be published in this newsletter. Contact Randy Kooy (rkooy@rca.org) with this information.

Illinois Classis Revitalization Information Event

Congregation leadership in Illinois Classis is invited to attend a revitalization event being led by Ken Eriks, RCA Director of Revitalization and Leadership, along with regional synod staff, Wayne Van Regenmorter and Randy Kooy. The Silver Creek Reformed Church of German Valley initiated this event and is inviting all RCA churches in the area to participate. Topics will include:

- What is a revitalizing congregation?
- What does a revitalizing congregation look like in a rural context?
- Process and tools the RCA is using in revitalizing congregations.

The event will be held on **Tuesday, October 30, 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Silver Creek Reformed Church, 326 South Bunker Hill Rd., German Valley, IL.** All pastors, consistories, and other key influential leaders in the church are invited to attend. For planning purposes, by Wednesday, October 24 let the Silver Creek church know if you are coming and how many you will bring. Call 815-362-2129 or email: scrpcastor@aeroinc.net.

Last Chance to Signup for the Foundational Coach Training Event

Contact Randy Kooy (rkooy@rca.org – 815-464-9181) to indicate your interest and to receive the specific sign-up instructions. **Deadline for sign-up is Wednesday, October 24!**

Coaching is the process of coming alongside a person or team to help them discover God's agenda for them and then cooperating with the Holy Spirit to see that agenda become a reality. Coaching is central and essential to Our Call and the work of revitalization, multiplication, discipleship, leadership and mission. It is a part of every type of network: from revitalizing networks to church planting networks to pastor networks to parenting networks to discipleship networks.

You are invited and encouraged to participate in this Foundational Coach Training whether you are new to coach training or you have had it before in some form and would like to brush up your skills. Persons participate in the two-day Foundational Coach Training where the emphasis is on learning and practicing coaching skills. At the end of the two days, participants make a commitment to continue to practice

coaching over the next months to develop their skills. They also make a commitment to being coached during this time period.

Some of the Foundational Coach Training details:

When: Tuesday-Wednesday, November 6-7, 2007

Hours: Tuesday- 9:00am to 5:00pm; Wednesday- 8:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Camp Manitoqua Adult Retreat Center, Frankfort, Illinois

The cost of the training including materials and meals will be paid for by the RCA. If needed and requested lodging is available at no cost to the participants at the Adult Retreat Center. The only cost to the participant is your travel.

Regional Synod Prayer Movement Beginnings

The next few paragraphs will introduce you to Diane Aardema who will be coordinating a prayer movement within our regional synod:

"My name is Diane Aardema, I have been a member of the RCA my entire life. This past June, I was asked to represent the Synod of Mid-America on the RCA's HOPE TEAM (House of Prayer Equipping Team). The HOPE Team was formed in 2001 by Pastors Steve Brooks, John Chang, and Barb Schutt, well-known prayer leaders. Its goal is "for all churches to become a House of Prayer for all Nations." The team consists of members from across the country each representing their own Synod.

"In my church I co-lead our prayer team with Pam Gibson. We have had the privilege of speaking at several conferences sharing our ministry experiences and have spoken on the topics of "Beginning and Equipping a Prayer Team" and "The Prayer and Healing Ministry".

"I am excited and honored to be part of the HOPE Team representing the Synod of Mid-America. Within this synod there are about 110 churches. Imagine the impact on the Kingdom if every church had an active prayer team? Our goal is to identify a prayer leader in every RCA church, and to encourage them with resources that assist them in building a passionate prayer team in their own congregation. Please prayerfully join us in asking the Lord's help in accomplishing this goal. I would welcome your questions or comments about this ministry." You can contact Diane at daardema@msn.com

Celebration Stories of Revitalization and Multiplication

This section of the newsletter is where we share stories of celebration. No stories this issue – stay tuned for stories to come.

We share stories with one another so that God's name is praised, first of all. These stories, though, have the added value of encouraging those who do God's work. Please send your stories of God's activity in the revitalization of people or of a whole ministry and stories of the multiplication of ministries to Randy Kooy at rkooy@rca.org.

Wayne Van Regenmorter, Synod Visionary Leader (wvanregenmorter@rca.org):

Schedule:

October 22: Off
23: Office
24: Travel to Florida
25: Meetings in Florida
26-27: Florida Classis meeting
28: Sunday worship
29: Travel to Bourbonnais, IL
30: Revitalization meeting/German Valley, IL
31: Office

November 1: Meeting/Tinley Park, IL
2: Office
3: Off
4: Sunday worship

Wayne's contact information:

1550 Newtowne Drive, Apt. #1
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
Cell phone: 941-302-1281
Home office phone: 815-304-5612
E-mail: wvanregenmorter@rca.org

**From Randy Kooy, Synod Coordinator-Administrator-Stated Clerk-Treasurer
(rkooy@rca.org):**

Schedule:

October 22 – DeMotte office
23 – DeMotte office
24 – Manitoqua office
25 – DeMotte office
26-27 – Florida Classis mtg, West Broward Community Church
29 – Ebenezer Reformed Church, Oregon, IL
30 – Revitalization info mtg, Silver Creek Reformed Church, German Valley, IL
31 – SIM mtg, First Reformed Church, South Holland, IL
November 1 – DeMotte office
2 – DeMotte office

The Manitoqua office phone number can more consistently reach me wherever I am as it is usually forwarded to my current location.

Randy's contact information:

Manitoqua office: 815-464-9181
DeMotte office: 219-987-6562
Cell phone: 219-730-4873
Email: rkooy@rca.org
