
Each spring, the general secretary is required to report to the General Synod Council about progress on the various ends policies established by the GSC. The monitoring report on ends policy E-3: Equipping Emerging Leaders follows.

ENDS POLICY E-3: EQUIPPING EMERGING LEADERS

The RCA will identify potential leaders and encourage and equip potential and existing leaders for missional, congregational, and pastoral leadership. These leaders will reflect the full diversity of the RCA with regard to such things as gender, age, race, ability, and cultural backgrounds, with a special emphasis on young leaders.

GENERAL SECRETARY’S INTERPRETATION

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” (Hebrews 13:7).

Women and men are open to being used by God to help guide the church as they actively pursue God’s purpose for congregations and ministries. Leaders willingly and passionately live out their calling and giftedness to accomplish a missional vision that brings a gospel of grace and hope to a lost and broken world.

The RCA’s commitment is to help develop leaders, based on a foundation of discipleship, who:

- Know how to lead themselves (their leadership begins with their inward journey).
- Know how to lead others (they are equipped to lead and influence in a God-ordained direction).
- Know how to reproduce new leaders (they view leadership development as a key component of their call to be a leader).

This commitment to leadership development requires environments and accessible opportunities for growth and learning that will help lead RCA congregations forward in mission.

The RCA vision for leadership sees the leadership potential in all followers of Jesus Christ. It helps to raise up servant leaders who develop a courage and competence to lead in the church and the world, in many different environments, and with an openness to equipping and empowering all people to be influencers for Christ’s kingdom. This leadership vision has a special focus on empowering people who may not have leadership positions, privilege, power, or even access to these things, but who have been called and gifted by God to serve boldly. It is a vision that is especially committed to the next generation and developing leaders for the church of the future.

OVERVIEW

Three initiative teams work within the Equipping Emerging Leaders strategic priority. Emerging Leaders focuses on leadership mobilization and development. Thriving Leaders, Thriving Churches focuses on supporting the spiritual transformation and health of the leadership teams of RCA congregations. Women’s Transformation and Leadership works toward full inclusion of women’s gifts in the life of the RCA.
EMERGING LEADERS

The Emerging Leaders initiative is guided by a coalition of local pastors and lay leaders representing different regions of the RCA. Eddy Alemán has been providing GSC staff leadership for this initiative since 2014. The work of the Emerging Leaders initiative is to increase awareness that God is calling all people to become leaders in the church, and to help local RCA congregations develop and design leadership development processes customized to their vision and needs. We believe that, through this process, RCA congregations will be spiritually renewed and aspiring leaders will be identified, equipped, and sent out to impact their local communities and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Leadership Development Connection Events

A leadership development connection event is a gathering of churches that can last anywhere from a few hours to a full day. Its purpose is to introduce pastors and congregational leaders of a region or classis to ways in which they might get involved in developing leaders in their local congregations. The goal for these gatherings is for pastors and congregational leaders to join a learning community, leadership community, or leadership collaborative.

Leadership Development Leadership Communities

Leadership development leadership communities consist of up to 11 congregations who are already engaged in leadership development but want to make their ministry even stronger. These congregations can come from any geographic region of the RCA. Each congregation commits a team of three to five staff members, pastors, and lay leaders to engage in a two-year process. The newest leadership development leadership community had its first meeting in the spring of 2017 in West Michigan.

Leadership Development Learning Communities

Groups of three to six RCA congregations gather for six one-day meetings over the course of two years to learn from one another about different areas of leadership. Each congregation sends a team of three to five people to these gatherings; congregations are encouraged to include a variety of people with regard to gender, age, and ethnicity on their team. Through this process, each congregation develops its own leadership development pathway uniquely designed for its vision, context, and needs.

Leadership Collaboratives

Clusters of 12 leaders from RCA congregations in relatively close geographical proximity commit to a 12-month, 18-month, 24-month, or 36-month leadership collaborative to deepen their personal leadership skills. This experience provides learning, support, and accountability for each participant’s leadership journey. It is a commitment to grow, to invest, to share, and to change. The focus for leadership collaboratives is on personal leadership development for greater kingdom impact in a participant’s local context. Participants grow in their leadership skills, discern God’s call for their lives, and clarify their next steps in ministry. The leadership collaboratives are varied in focus; focuses could include children and family ministry, youth ministry, young adult ministry, multicultural ministry, and developing a strategic ministry plan.

This process includes in-person gatherings and video conference calls. Each participant commits to personally contributing to the process and to peer coaching.

These collaborative groups focus on three key areas of leadership:
1. Personal leadership: leading from the inside out, developing the capacity to lead oneself before leading others.
2. Organizational leadership: developing the competencies and skills required of effective leaders.
3. Reproducing leadership: helping leaders develop more leaders, not just followers.

Reformed Leadership Initiative

The Reformed Leadership Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), the RCA, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS), and Western Theological Seminary (WTS). Both denominations need leaders at all levels who are grounded in a biblical vision of church and kingdom, personally formed and growing in the image of Christ, and competent to lead thriving congregations in contextualized and mission-focused ministry.

The Reformed Leadership Initiative launched six congregational leadership learning networks (CLLN) in the first six months of 2016. These CLLNs will serve as the first steps in developing diverse networks for leadership training aimed at serving the local church while that local church engages in mission and ministry.

Congregational leadership learning networks that have been launched include a Korean-language network in New Jersey; a Spanish-language network in southern California; and four other networks in New Jersey, Ontario, central Iowa, and central California. Each CLLN has a balance of RCA and CRCNA congregations.

Congregational leadership learning networks are led by a local team of coleaders, one CRCNA and one RCA. These leaders are supported by two codirectors, one from each denomination: Ken Eriks for the RCA and Denise Posie for the CRCNA. An implementation team that includes members of both denominations and both institutions offers additional support to the project and the congregations. The coleaders of the congregational leadership learning networks have an external, paid coach to assist them in their leadership of these networks.

Each network is expected to pursue four outcomes:

- Innovate, create, and engage new leadership development practices that equip leaders, change cultures, and impact the world through local congregations.
- Learn how to prepare leaders of all ages for leadership in diverse environments.
- Evaluate and learn together from what they implement.
- Help all four partners (CRCNA, CTS, RCA, WTS) develop processes that are scalable and sustainable in all regions of our denominations.

Every congregation in a congregational leadership learning network agrees to design and implement leadership development processes that are appropriate to its size, situation, and context. Each congregation will focus on one or more of the following groups: councils or consistories, church staff, emerging leaders, people who lead congregational ministries, people who lead ministries in their local communities, and others.

Each congregation is encouraged to develop and implement equipping processes focused on the same three key dimensions of leadership development mentioned under the leadership collaboratives: personal leadership, organizational leadership, and reproducing leadership.
Four values will undergird the processes in each congregation:

- In-ministry formation: hands-on ministry within the context of the local church as the principal location for leadership development.
- Competency-based equipping: providing tools and skills to be more effective in one’s ministry call and context.
- Missional context: a vision of the church as a covenant community in mission, raising up workers for the harvest.
- Lifelong learning: cultivating and growing one’s leadership takes a commitment that lasts a lifetime.

Year Four Goals (by June 2017)

- Hold five connection events.
- Launch two learning communities in different areas of leadership development.
- Launch three leadership collaborative cohorts.
- Launch one leadership development leadership community.
- Launch the Reformed Leadership Initiative with 27 RCA and CRC congregations.
- Collaborate with World Impact to launch site of the Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) in Los Angeles.
- Collaborate with seven classis leaders to create an elder and deacon leadership training process. These classis leaders will work with Eddy Alemán to develop a process based on the following principles:
  - Grassroots
  - Research based
  - Easy to contextualize
  - Field tested
  - User friendly
  - Flexible

Progress

- 104 RCA congregations have participated in 15 leadership development connection events in different regions.
- Six RCA congregations completed the first leadership development leadership community, done in collaboration with Leadership Network. This leadership community took place in Dallas, Texas, from December 2014 to June 2016.
- The second leadership development leadership community will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from May 2017 to September 2018.
- Five RCA Hispanic congregations completed a leadership development learning community in West Michigan. The meetings took place from July 2015 to November 2016. Participating congregations were:
  - Alas Conexion Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan
  - My Father’s House Church in Holland, Michigan
  - La Casa de Mi Padre in Wyoming, Michigan
  - Iglesia Alas de Aguila in Allendale, Michigan
  - Iglesia Alas de Aguila in Wyoming, Michigan
- Four RCA African American congregations in the New York area are participating in a two-year leadership development learning community that launched in May 2016. These congregations are:
  - Mott Haven Church in Bronx, New York
  - Highbridge Community Church in Bronx, New York
  - Reformed Church of Prince Bay in Prince Bay, New York
  - First Reformed Church of Astoria in Astoria, New York
Six churches in the Detroit Kingdom Enterprise Zone are participating in a two-year leadership development learning community that launched in August 2016. These congregations are:

- First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit in Detroit, Michigan
- Dearborn Christian Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Dearborn, Michigan
- Hesed Community Church in Detroit, Michigan
- Grace Reformed Church in Allen Park, Michigan
- CenterPoint Church in Lewis Center, Ohio
- Word Encounter Church in Detroit, Michigan

Six RCA churches in Iowa completed an 18-month leadership collaborative focused on children and family ministries. Participating churches were:

- Adventure Life Reformed Church in Altoona, Iowa
- Bethel Reformed Church in Aplington, Iowa
- Cedar Hills Community Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Crossroads Church in Norwalk, Iowa
- Orchard Hills Reformed Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Trinity Reformed Church in Allison, Iowa

Six Reformed Leadership Initiative cohorts (congregational leadership learning communities, CLLNs) were launched between September 2016 and January 2017.

- One Spanish-language CLLN with 12 congregations
- One Korean-language CLLN with eight congregations
- Four geographically-based CLLNs (New Jersey, Ontario, Central Iowa, and Central California) with a total of 27 congregations

A Hispanic leadership collaborative in April 2017 in California. Another Hispanic leadership collaborative will launch in May 2017 in New York.

A TUMI site in the fall of 2016 in Los Angeles in collaboration with World Impact. More than 20 emerging leaders are being equipped to minister in urban centers through this site.

One Mandarin-speaking leadership collaborative launched in May 2017 in connection with the pastors’ meeting of the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries.

Seven classis leaders have participated in an effort to develop a process to equip elders and deacons as leaders in the church. RCA pastor April Fiet is reviewing the process to ensure that it is inclusive of women who are called to serve as elders and deacons. The classis leaders are:

- Jeff Ludington, Classis of California
- Eric Moreno, Classis of California
- Chris Godfredsen, Classes of East and West Sioux
- Fred Bates, Classis of Southwest
- Lyle Zumdahl, Classis of Wisconsin
- Dale Assink, Classis of Central Plains
- Mike Gafa, Classis of North Grand Rapids

Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)

- 30 congregations will have participated in a two-year learning community and are now actively engaged in identifying, equipping, and developing leaders for the work of ministry in the local church and in the world. These congregations will have a clear pathway to develop leaders that is unique to their local vision, context, and need.
- Seven RCA congregations will have completed a two-year leadership development leadership community and are engaged in replicating the process.
with other RCA congregations. Ten more congregations will be participating in the second cohort of the leadership development leadership community.

- 17 congregations will be fully participating in an RCA leadership development leadership community, with 17 pastors and 85 church leaders who are fully engaged in creating leadership development processes to help churches identify, develop, and mobilize young, emerging, and current leaders.
- 27 RCA and CRC congregations will be participating in the Reformed Leadership Initiative in six congregational leadership learning networks of ten to twelve congregations each. One of these congregational leadership learning networks will be in Korean and one will be in Spanish.
- 48 pastors and church leaders of diverse gender, age, ethnicity, and contexts will have participated or will be participating in a leadership collaborative.
- 120 congregations from different regions will have participated in a leadership development connection event.
- In collaboration with seven classis leaders, the Emerging Leaders team will have created an elder and deacon leadership training process. This will be a resource for RCA congregations to equip elders and deacons as leaders in the church.

THRIVING LEADERS, THRIVING CHURCHES

Thriving Leaders, Thriving Churches is guided by a coalition of pastors, denominational staff, and regional synod staff. Andy Bossardet leads this team as the coordinator for equipping thriving congregations. The team’s focus is to empower leaders and congregations to take the next faithful step in their ministries, navigating the complexities of leading change. This empowerment happens through high-impact coaching, learning communities focused on personal and corporate transformation, support systems for pastors and congregations in transition, and support in vision discernment.

Ridder Church Renewal

Ridder Church Renewal is a partnership of Western Theological Seminary, the RCA, and the CRCNA that helps leaders develop the tools to confront unhealthy models that hinder personal and congregational growth. Ridder is comprised of two intensive 30-month modules; congregations commit to one module at a time. Every module consists of five retreats (one retreat every six months for the course of the module), coaching, and homework between retreats. Participating congregations choose a leadership team of four to six congregants, plus the pastor. Five regions will engage in modules 1 and 2 of Ridder Church Renewal, and two regions are entering the process by engaging in module 1.

Maximizing First-Call Potential

To maximize first-call potential, pastors in their first call engage with a mentor and a peer group in self-directed learning based on challenges and opportunities in the ministry context. Covenants of support and accountability are drawn up between congregations and pastors to empower the first-call pastors in their learning. The first-call process lays the foundation for thriving congregational and pastoral ministry. This work is being done in partnership with the Lilly Endowment’s Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program. A variety of methods for learning communities are being pursued to provide support, training, and accountability.

Pastors and Congregations in Transition

The Thriving Leaders, Thriving Churches team is developing new, more effective ways to serve churches and pastors in the midst of a ministry transition. This will include training
and certification mechanisms for transitional ministers and vocational assessment for pastors between ministries, as well as clarifying the role that each partner in the RCA plays in helping ministers and congregations through transitions. For now, the focus has been on classes and providing training and resources for classis supervision. New work is beginning on empowering search teams through quality consultation and written resources.

**Coaching**

The team is developing a catalytic coaching network that will be made up of all the coaches who are working with the various learning community pilots. We will be putting together a catalog highlighting best practices, coaching models, and training for the coaches.

The team also plans to maximize current content-neutral training through better tracking and assessment of coaches. By tracking relationships, we will be able to more easily assess coaches and provide ongoing training and accountability for desired ministry outcomes across the RCA. Salesforce will provide a great platform for helping coaches succeed.

**Congregational Vitality Pathways**

Congregational Vitality Pathways (CVP) is a tool created by the Evangelical Covenant Church and utilized by the Far West Region to help congregations discern and live into God’s vision for their church. Health and vitality are measured by ten markers. CVP uses assessment tools, events, and an empowered vitality team to help a congregation move toward its goals. RCA congregations engaging CVP are meant to do so in a learning community format.

**The Ezra Project**

The Ezra Project is a learning community designed to empower and encourage African American pastors in the RCA. The learning community involves five to ten pastors who spend time with African American pastors in thriving ministries, learning personal, organizational, and reproducing leadership content over the course of a year. Ezra graduates then become facilitators and teachers for the next cohort of Ezra pastors.

**Year Four Goals (by June 2017)**

- Engage 100 congregations in the Ridder Church Renewal process (module 1 or module 2). See 50 RCA congregations complete both modules and continue to cultivate personal transformation and deepen their missional impact.
- Launch one learning community of first-call pastors.
- Create and deploy a training plan for classis supervisors.
- Ten congregations will have used the Transformational Church Assessment Tool.
- Develop and implement a catalytic coaching system that supports all of the learning and leadership communities in each of the three strategic priorities.
- Engage three churches outside the Far West Region in CVPs.
- Launch phase 2 of the Ezra Project (with six RCA pastors).

**Progress**

- Currently, 112 pastors representing 96 congregations are participating in Ridder Church Renewal; 62 of them are RCA congregations. Those congregations are split across seven regions, representing ten learning communities. Additionally, there is a team of RCA chaplains participating in Ridder in the Great Lakes (a first for Ridder). The Ridder Church Renewal modules will wrap up in the fall of
2017; recruitment for the next round will happen at the same time.

- The first learning community for first-call pastors wrapped up in Albany in May 2017. Recruitment for the second learning community began in late February 2017. Thriving Leaders, Thriving Churches will also supply guidance and potential leadership training to a fellowship program emerging in the Regional Synod of Albany.

- Classis supervisor training has been sent to classis clerks and posted to the RCA website at www.rca.org/ministrieservices. Pilot training included approximately 20 supervisors in the Regional Synods of New York and Mid-America.

- Two churches are engaged with CVPs in the Regional Synod of the Heartland. Thriving Leaders, Thriving Churches is committed to partnering with these congregations through resourcing. Conversations continue in the Regional Synod of New York.

- Catalytic coach training has been completed, and the coaching catalog has been given to every initiative leader for use in their learning and leadership communities. A coach training video was filmed during a live training in the second quarter of 2017.

- Phase 2 of the Ezra Project will launch in Benton Harbor, Michigan, in June 2017. Phase 1 has already shown considerable success, with churches growing in ministry impact and overall health. One of the members will be stepping into a leadership role. Phase 3 of the Ezra Project, which is a new cohort, will be learning from the current Ezra Project churches.

- The Transformational Church learning community ended on March 4, 2017. While staff changes at LifeWay Christian Resources disrupted the flow of this learning community, the churches are strengthening their ministries and have success stories. From this point, the Transformational Church Assessment Tool (TCAT) will be utilized to help congregations connect to an appropriate learning community instead of as a learning community itself. At least three churches (in the Regionals Synods of Great Lakes and Mid-America) have used or will use the TCAT as a discernment tool.

**Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)**

- 150 churches will have engaged Ridder; either they will have completed both modules or they will be actively engaging the process.

- At least three first-call learning communities will have been launched, and the Albany Synod Fellows Program will be supported.

- A partnership of classes, regional synods, and others will have created resources for all stages of pastoral transition. At least 50 congregations will have benefitted from one or more of these resources.

- Two learning communities for CVPs will have been launched, with at least eight churches participating outside of the Regional Synod of the Far West.

- Phase 2 of the Ezra Project will have been completed; the original six pastors will have completed the Ezra Project and ten more pastors will have been recruited.

- 20 congregations will have used the TCAT in a connection event with the goals of ongoing transformation and (potentially) another learning community.

**WOMEN’S TRANSFORMATION AND LEadership**

Women’s Transformation and Leadership has been established as part of Transformed & Transforming to help the Reformed Church in America pursue the full inclusion of women’s gifts and influence in all areas of the church and beyond. Liz Testa leads the Women’s Transformation and Leadership team.
We are committed to ensuring that women of all generations and geographical and cultural contexts are able to experience transformation, be raised up for leadership, and live vibrantly into their God-given potential. As we encourage, equip, and empower women to fully and freely use their gifts and be developed as leaders, we usher in a vision of God’s reign, where brothers and sisters work together to build the body for mission in the world.

Women’s Transformation and Leadership has the following components:

- A ministry initiative to help the RCA pursue the full inclusion of the gifts and influence of women in the life of the church and as an integral part of Transformed & Transforming.
- A hub for opportunities that encourage, equip, and empower all women in their callings and connect them more deeply with God, each other, and the church.
- A place for congregations to begin or continue a journey of recognizing and exploring the gifts that women bring and designing ways to equip women for ministry.
- A catalyst for change, opening the RCA as a whole and women as individuals to the Spirit’s movement in women’s lives and ministries.

Women’s Transformation and Leadership lives out its vision by:

- Ensuring women have barrier-free access to RCA resources and opportunities.
- Celebrating the rich history of women in the RCA through things like the Women’s Sankofa trips and the “RCA Women: A Legacy of Leadership” booklet.
- Being an innovation incubator for new ideas such as the Lenten devotional video series.
- Offering an annual global experience for women—to Oman, to Israel/Palestine, and to Italy so far. Nicaragua and India are being explored for 2018 and 2019.
- Encouraging and equipping women through transformational connection events.
- Offering congregational learning communities to empower women to lead in ministry.
- Nurturing and developing both established and emerging female leaders through leadership collaboratives, mentoring, and clergy networks.
- Providing tuition assistance to female seminarians through the Beth E. Marcus Scholarship Fund.
- Connecting women virtually through a Facebook group and a quarterly e-newsletter.
- Creating a dynamic web resource featuring blogs by women; historical, biblical, and theological support for women in ministry; and ways for congregations, classes, and synods to intentionally integrate women’s gifts, voices, and leadership.
- Collaborating with the RCA seminaries, the Commission for Women, and other Transformed & Transforming initiatives to empower women in ministry.

Year Four Goals (by June 2017)

- Hold four to five connection events that encourage, equip, and empower female RCA lay leaders and clergy to live into their God-given callings.
- Develop a connection event model focused on equipping congregations to more fully include women’s gifts and influence, particularly in ministry leadership.
- Develop and launch one learning community focused on strengthening and expanding women’s leadership in church and society.
- Pilot three to five women’s leadership collaboratives with participants from a broad range of ministry contexts to develop their personal, organizational, and multiplying leadership.
• Organize and lead a women’s global mission experience to Italy that includes equipping the women on the trip to bring their learnings back to their congregations and effect change around the refugee crisis and human trafficking.

Progress

• Seven women’s connection events were held between March and December 2016, including the second annual Celebration of Women in Church Leadership at Western Theological Seminary; a women’s connection dinner at General Synod in Palos Heights, Illinois; a Women’s Sankofa through upstate New York; and a Hispanic women’s conference in Sacramento, California. More than 550 women from 110 RCA churches were represented at these events.
• Since 2014, more than 1,350 women have been impacted through Women’s Transformation and Leadership events.
• A connection event held in New York City in December 2016 drew 14 churches. Five of those churches committed to participate in the “Doing a New Thing” learning community, which launched on February 11, 2017.
• 2017 connection events are being developed with local partners in Michigan, New York, southern California, Colorado, Minnesota, and New Jersey.
• Six 18-month women’s leadership collaboratives were launched in February 2017. A lead facilitator and four other facilitators (RCA leaders from the Far West, Heartland, and New York regions) have been trained and will lead cohorts in English, Korean, and Spanish. Forty-five women will meet virtually and at an in-person gathering for personal, organizational, and multiplying leadership development over the next year and a half.
• A mini collaborative called Wholehearted Leadership has been developed as a next step to “Honoring our Stories” connection events. The first cohort was piloted in the fall of 2016 and drew nine women from a broad spectrum of ministry roles and ethnic/racial contexts. Two of these women have now joined the 18-month process.
• The women’s global mission experience took a group of 12 to 14 women to Palermo and Rome, Italy, in April 2017 to visit RCA missionaries JJ and Tim TenClay and experience their ministries for and among refugees and trafficked women. The group is bringing their learnings home to engage their home congregations.
• The Women’s Transformation and Leadership guiding coalition convened for a two-day summit at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in November 2016. Great energy and commitment emerged from this event. This group of 25 denominational leaders will all champion Women’s Transformation and Leadership in their regions.
• A delegation of coalition members will attend the Commission for Biblical Equality’s conference, “Mutual by Design,” in July 2017 to inform the development of a learning community model that assists congregations who want to explore and discern women’s leadership in the church.
• We are honored and delighted to partner with Eddy Alemán in the editing of a new elder and deacon training process. RCA pastor April Fiet is reviewing the process to ensure that it is intentionally inclusive of women who are called to be elders and deacons.
Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)

- More than 2,000 women across the denomination will have been positively impacted by connection events.
- Ten to fifteen RCA congregations will have engaged in learning communities to explore and discern women’s leadership and the culture shift necessary to support this process.
- Ten to fifteen RCA congregations will have participated in learning communities to develop intentional leadership training and mentoring processes for women.
- 85 to 100 women will have participated in women’s leadership collaboratives.
- Three to four global mission experiences will have equipped 50 to 60 women and their congregations for deeper missional engagement.
RETIRRED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

During 2016, 54 ministers of Word and sacrament retired from active service. Those who retired are being recognized by General Synod through its endorsement of appreciation for their years of faithful and dedicated ministry in the church.

R 17-36
To adopt the following resolution:

These have loved Christ and fed his sheep. They have devoted themselves to spreading the Word and equipping the saints for the work of ministry.

Their contribution to a needy world is rich beyond measure; their record is on high.

The Reformed Church in America, with admiration, deep affection, and overflowing thanks to God, celebrates their lifelong service.

Lynn Allhusen
Rochester, New York

Robert Anderson
Concord, New Hampshire

Thomas Bartha
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Ned Beadel
Fullerton, California

Roc Bottomly
Edmond, Oklahoma

Kenneth Bradsell
Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Norman Chen
Monroe, New Jersey

Grover Davis
Lockport, Illinois

Perry De Groot
Spencer, Iowa

Donald De Kok
Alton, Iowa

James DeVries
Kendall Park, New Jersey
Roger Peterson
Tulare, California

Richard Plass
Madison, Indiana

Donald Poest
Brunswick, Ohio

Keith Poppen
El Dorado Hills, California

Roger Punt
Woodbury, Minnesota

Allan Ramirez
Hialeah, Florida

Paul Rosa
Bethel, Delaware

Kenneth Ruge
Scarsdale, New York

David Schutt
Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Steven Slater
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Thomas Stewart
Stillwater, Oklahoma

H. Arlan TenClay
Hudsonville, Michigan

Raymond Tilstra
DeKalb, Illinois

Marjorie Vander Wagen
Downers Grove, Illinois

Darwin Vander Wal
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Peter Van Dyke
Canyon Lake, California

Robert VanHofwegen
Modesto, California

Wayne Van Kampen
Denver, Colorado
Katie Van Veldhuizen
New River, Arizona

Paul Walther
Brielle, New Jersey

Donald Waterhouse
Highland Grove, Ontario

Robert Williams
Cleveland, Tennessee

Joseph Wojnarowski
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Joseph Woods
Spotswood, New Jersey

Kenneth Zorgdrager
Gulf Shores, Alabama
(ADOPTED)
NECROLOGY

Donald Anno Lam January 1, 2015 94
Byron E. “Bud” White January 12, 2016 92
Virgil E. Dykstra January 23, 2016 81
Chester John Droog February 5, 2016 94
Anna Mae Dekker February 6, 2016 91
Armand Robert Renskers April 4, 2016 87
Kenneth Harrison Lobb April 6, 2016 62
Philip A. Rauwerdink April 14, 2016 71
Ernest Doyle May 5, 2016 94
John Hollebrands Meyer May 9, 2016 78
Richard James Bates May 11, 2016 79
David William Waanders May 23, 2016 75
Paul Leslie Lupkes May 31, 2016 89
Jonathan James Hinkamp June 21, 2016 81
Marilyn Tanis Franken July 2016 85
Richard J. Vander Borgh July 16, 2016 74
Robert Lawrence Grupe August 5, 2016 85
James Lewis Johnson August 5, 2016 71
Bernard Dean Ekema September 1, 2016 86
Thomas James Harris September 5, 2016 83
Wilbur Ervin Ivins September 23, 2016 95
Wilbur Thornton Washington October 3, 2016 92
Eloise Hannah (Boynton) Bosch October 7, 2016 97
James E. Ribbens October 17, 2016 65
Elinor Heusinkveld Faber November 17, 2016 94
Stanley Bernard Vander Aarde November 19, 2016 85
Barnabas Roczey November 23, 2016 80
John Richard Boender December 3, 2016 86
Donald Robert Baird December 7, 2016 82
Lee Llewelly Kester December 10, 2016 90
Willis Arthur Jones December 17, 2016 78
Norman Charles Hamm December 18, 2016 64
Wayne E. Kiel December 19, 2016 87
Louis Otto Springsteen December 22, 2016 90
Bernard Daniel Hakken December 24, 2016 89
William Howard Jewett December 26, 2016 86

Byron E. “Bud” White

Byron E. White was born on July 3, 1923, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He studied at the University of Denver, from which he graduated in 1955. He received his LL.B. at the same school in 1956 and his J.D. in 1970. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1962. He also received an M.A. from Wayne State University in 1968 and a Ph.D. from The Fielding Institute (now Fielding Graduate University) in 1983.

Mr. White was licensed by the Classis of West Central in 1962 and ordained by the Classis of Muskegon the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Coopersville, Michigan, from 1962 to 1966; Faith Community, Detroit, Michigan, from 1966 to 1968; Resurrection, Flint, Michigan, from 1974 to 1984; Sunnyside, Long Island City, New York, from 1988 to 1989; Hope Community, Aurora, Colorado, from 1989 to 1990; Rolling Hills
Community, Orlando, Florida, from 1990 to 1991; Second Union, Puerto Rico, from 1991 to 1992; and a church in Malaysia from 1993 to 1994. He also served as the executive director of West Side Ecumenical Ministries in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1968 to 1974 and in private practice in psychology in Traverse City, Michigan, from 1984 to 1987. He also had a career as a corporate lawyer and a business executive.

Mr. White died on January 12, 2016, in Penney Farms, Florida. He was 92 years old.

Virgil E. Dykstra

Virgil E. Dykstra was born on September 4, 1934, in Leighton, Iowa. He studied at Central College, from which he graduated in 1967. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1970.

Mr. Dykstra was licensed and ordained by the Classis of Pella in 1970. He pastored the following congregations: Zion, Sheffield, Iowa, from 1970 to 1980; Carmel, Iowa, from 1981 to 1991; and Trinity, Allison, Iowa, from 1991 to 1998.

Mr. Dykstra died on January 23, 2016, in Des Moines, Iowa. He was 81 years old.

Chester John Droog

Chester John Droog was born on December 16, 1921, in Hull, Iowa. He began his undergraduate studies at Northwestern Junior College and completed them at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1947. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1950. He received a Ph.D. from the California Graduate Seminary in 1976.

Mr. Droog was licensed by the Classis of West Sioux in 1950 and ordained by the Classis of East Sioux the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Hope, Spencer, Iowa, from 1950 to 1953; Fifth, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1953 to 1965; and Bethel, Bellflower, California, from 1965 to 1973. He served as the field secretary for the Particular Synod of the West from 1973 to 1988.

Mr. Droog died on February 5, 2016, in Artesia, California. He was 94 years old.

Anna Mae Dekker

Anne Mae Hager Dekker was born on April 27, 1924, in Chicago, Illinois.

She and her husband served as missionaries in Bahrain from 1951 to 1969.

Mrs. Dekker died on February 6, 2016. She was 91 years old.

Armand Robert Renskers

Armand Robert Renskers was born on August 10, 1928, in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. He studied at Central College, from which he graduated in 1950. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1953.

Mr. Renskers was licensed by the Classis of Wisconsin in 1953 and ordained by the Classis of Raritan the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Peapack, Gladstone, New Jersey, from 1953 to 1955; Harrington Park, New Jersey, from 1955 to 1960; Bethany, Kalamazoo, Michigan, from 1960 to 1965; Pompton, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, from
1965 to 1968; Second, Pella, Iowa, from 1968 to 1975; First, Grand Haven, Michigan, from 1975 to 1978; and Three Bridges, New Jersey, from 1978 to 1993. He also served as president of the Particular Synod of the West in 1972 and of the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics from 1989 to 1990. He was also the president of the board of trustees of Central College and of the board of directors of The Reserve, where he lived in retirement.

Mr. Renskers died on April 4, 2016, in Urbandale, Iowa. He was 87 years old.

Kenneth Harrison Lobb

Kenneth Harrison Lobb studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1977. He received an Ed.M. from Adelphia University and an associate degree in telecommunications from the New York Institute of Technology. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 2007.

Mr. Lobb was ordained by the Classis of Delaware-Raritan in 2010. He pastored nine Presbyterian and Reformed congregations in New Jersey as a student, interim, or supply pastor, including Belvidere, Bradley Gardens, Forks Township, High Bridge, Lebanon, Millstone, Newtown, Phillipsburg, and Stanton. He then pastored Annandale Reformed in Annandale, New Jersey, from 2008 until his death. Mr. Lobb also served as the president of Delaware-Raritan Classis.

Mr. Lobb died on April 6, 2016, in Hanover Township, Pennsylvania. He was 62 years old.

Philip A. Rauwerdink

Philip A. Rauwerdink was born on December 31, 1944, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1968. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1988.

Mr. Rauwerdink was ordained by the Classis of Wisconsin in 1989. He pastored at Glendale, Queens, New York City, from 1990 to 1999 and Trinity in Munster, Indiana, from 1999 to 2000. He served a number of Reformed churches in an interim capacity during his retirement.

Mr. Rauwerdink died on April 14, 2016, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He was 71 years old.

Ernest Doyle

Ernest Doyle was received from the Anglican Church by the Classis of Cascades in 1977. He pastored Monarch Reformed in Alberta, Canada, from 1977 until his retirement in 1988. He retired to Lethbridge, Alberta, where he continued to conduct worship services into his 90s.

Mr. Doyle died on May 5, 2016, in Lethbridge, Alberta. He was 94 years old.

John Hollebrands Meyer

John Hollebrands Meyer was born on September 27, 1937, in Hudson, New York. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1959. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1962.

Mr. Meyer was licensed by the Classis of Schenectady in 1961 and ordained by the Classis of Schoharie the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Berne and
Mr. Meyer died on May 9, 2016, in Laceyville, Pennsylvania. He was 78 years old.

Richard James Bates

Richard James Bates was born on October 15, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan. He studied at Grand Valley State College (now called Grand Valley State University), from which he graduated in 1966. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1969. He received an M.Th. from Calvin Theological Seminary in 1978 and a D.Min. from Austin Presbyterian Seminary in 1982.

Mr. Bates was licensed and ordained by the Classis of North Grand Rapids in 1969. He pastored the following congregations: Trinity, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1969 to 1976; Third, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1979 to 1983; Christ, Oakbrook, Illinois, from 1983 to 1990; Fairview, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1990 to 1994; and Orchard Hill, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1994 to 2000. He also served as a chaplain in the United States Army from 1976 to 1979.

Mr. Bates died on May 11, 2016, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was 79 years old.

David William Waanders

David William Waanders was born on January 23, 1941, in Sioux City, Iowa. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1962. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1965. He received a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1973.

Mr. Waanders was licensed by the Classis of South Grand Rapids in 1965 and ordained by the Classis of New Brunswick in 1970. Mr. Waanders’s ministry was spent teaching pastoral care and counseling at New Brunswick Theological Seminary from 1969 until his retirement in 2007. He also served as a pastoral counselor at Trinity Counseling Service in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Waanders died on May 23, 2016, in Piscataway, New Jersey. He was 75 years old.

Paul Leslie Lupkes

Paul Leslie Lupkes was born on January 21, 1927, in Austinville, Iowa. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1950. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1953. He also received an S.T.M. from Christian Theological Seminary in 1953 and a D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1989.

Mr. Lupkes was licensed by the Classis of Pleasant Prairie in 1953 and ordained by the Classis of Germania the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Immanuel, Willow Lake, South Dakota, from 1953 to 1955; Grace, Waterloo, Iowa, from 1955 to 1961; Keystone, Indianapolis, Indiana, from 1961 to 1968; Church of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado, from 1969 to 1974; and the Church of New Hope (independent), Thornton, Colorado, from 1975 to 1976. He also ministered in the following capacities: hospital
chaplain, Denver, Colorado, from 1976 to 1977; minister of evangelism, Particular Synod of the West, from 1968 to 1969; campus ministry, Rapid City, South Dakota, from 1977 to 1992; associate professor, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, from 1979 to 2000; and chaplain, VA Medical Center, Fort Meade, Sturgis, South Dakota, from 1990 to 2000.

Mr. Lupkes died on May 31, 2016, in Rapid City, South Dakota. He was 89 years old.

Jonathan James Hinkamp

Jonathan James Hinkamp was born on January 22, 1935, in Schenectady, New York. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1955. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1958.

Mr. Hinkamp was licensed by the Classis of Poughkeepsie in 1958 and ordained by the Classis of Metropolitan Jersey the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Fifth Street, Bayonne, New Jersey, from 1958 to 1962 and Flatlands, Brooklyn, New York, from 1962 to 2002.

Mr. Hinkamp died on June 21, 2016, in Ticonderoga, New York. He was 81 years old.

Marilyn Tanis Franken

Marilyn Tanis Franken died in July 2016. Marilyn and her husband Darrell served as RCA missionaries in Bahrain for eight years from 1963 to 1968. Marilyn was a nurse at the American Mission Hospital and Darrell was pastor of the National Evangelical Church in Bahrain. The daughter of Edward Tanis, Marilyn graduated from Central College with a BS in 1954, having become a registered nurse at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines in 1953. She worked as a nurse and nursing instructor in Iowa before moving to Bahrain in 1955 to serve as a volunteer nurse at the American Mission Hospital. She returned to the United States in 1958, but her experience inspired a lifelong passion for mission service. During the first Gulf War in 1991, Marilyn served again as a Red Cross volunteer, this time in Kuwait. The Kuwait City Hospital had a staff of 300 before the war began, but only 24 staff members were left to treat the people of Kuwait during the war. Marilyn received a medal from the Department of Defense for her sacrificial service during that war.

Richard J. Vander Borgh

Richard J. Vander Borgh was born on May 12, 1942, in Bay Shore, Long Island, New York. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1964. His theological education began at the Oberlin School of Theology in 1964 and was completed at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1967.

Mr. Vander Borgh was licensed by the Classis of Nassau-Suffolk in 1967 and ordained by the Classis of Columbia-Greene the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Linlithgo, Livingston, New York, from 1967 to 1972; Mohawk, New York, from 1973 to 1983; and Old North, Dumont, New Jersey, from 1983 to 2013.

Mr. Vander Borgh died on July 16, 2016, in Westwood, New Jersey. He was 74 years old.

Robert Lawrence Grupe

Robert Lawrence Grupe was born on January 24, 1931, in Schenectady, New York. He studied at Siena College, from which he graduated in 1953. He received his theological
education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1956.

Mr. Grupe was licensed by the Classis of Schenectady in 1956 and ordained by the Classis of Montgomery the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Sprakers and Currytown, New York, from 1956 to 1959 and Rosendale, New York, from 1959 to 1961. He served as the stated pulpit supply pastor at Highwoods, Saugerties, New York, from 1961 to 1965 and was engaged in specialized ministry as a teacher at Stone Ridge, New York, beginning in 1966 until his retirement. He also served as an interim pastor in various churches, including Ellenville, New York, from 1998 to 1999; Federated, Kerhonkson, New York; Rochester, Accord, New York; Marbletown, Stone Ridge, New York; North Marbletown, Kingston, New York; Woodstock, New York; Community, High Falls, New York; and Gardiner, New York.

Mr. Grupe died on August 5, 2016, in Belgrade, Montana. He was 85 years old.

James Lewis Johnson

James Lewis Johnson was born on December 13, 1944, in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. He studied at Bloomsburg College. He received his theological education at Bangor Theological Seminary, from which he graduated, with additional graduate study at Drew University.

Mr. Johnson was ordained in the United Methodist Church and served several congregations there. He was received by the Classis of Rockland-Westchester in 1981 and pastored Tappan Reformed in New York from 1981 to 2004. He also served as president of the Particular Synod of New York and as chaplain for the Tappan, New York, fire department.

Mr. Johnson died on August 5, 2016, in Portland, Maine. He was 71 years old.

Bernard Dean Ekema

Bernard Dean Ekema was born on June 23, 1930, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1963. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1966.

Mr. Ekema was licensed by the Classis of Kalamazoo in 1966 and ordained by the Classis of Dakota the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Harrison, South Dakota, from 1966 to 1969; First, Three Oaks, Michigan, from 1969 to 1979; and Community, Williamsville, New York, from 1979 to 1980. Mr. Ekema was engaged in specialized ministry with NuWay, Inc. in Kalamazoo, Michigan, from 1981 to 1996.

Mr. Ekema died on September 1, 2016, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was 86 years old.

Thomas James Harris, Jr.

Thomas James Harris, Jr. was born on September 23, 1932, in Blakely, Pennsylvania. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1958. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1961. He also studied at the International Christian University in Japan from 1963 to 1965.

Mr. Harris was licensed and ordained by the Classis of New York in 1961. He pastored the following congregations: Hillsborough, Millstone, New Jersey, from 1968 to 1978; United, Somerville, New Jersey, from 1978 to 1980; and Stoney Brook, New York, from 1980 to 1998. He was also an administrative assistant for the RCA Board of World Missions from 1961 to 1962 and an RCA missionary in Japan from 1963 to 1968. In his retirement, he was
a contract pastor at First Reformed Church in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Harris died on September 5, 2016. He was 83 years old.

**Wilbur Ervin Ivins**

Wilbur Ervin Ivins was born on July 27, 1921, in Feasterville, Pennsylvania. He studied at Central College, from which he graduated in 1942. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1945.

Mr. Ivins was licensed by the Classis of Philadelphia in 1945 and ordained by the Classis of Schoharie the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Lawyersville and Sharon, Lawyersville, New York, from 1945 to 1949; Pascack, Park Ridge, New Jersey, from 1949 to 1963; First, Catskill, New York, from 1963 to 1968; and Harlingen, Belle Mead, New Jersey, from 1968 to 1988. He served on the staff at First Church in Albany, New York, from 1989 to 2000. Mr. Ivins as served as a chaplain at Boys Training School in Skillman, New Jersey; as a board member of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, the RCA Board of World Missions, and the RCA General Synod Council; and as president of the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics.

Mr. Ivins died on September 23, 2016, in Cobleskill, New York. He was 95 years old.

**Wilbur Thornton Washington**

Wilbur Thornton Washington was born on January 19, 1924, in Palmyra, New Jersey. He began his undergraduate work at Tuskegee Institute in 1942, then studied at West Virginia State College, and graduated from Rutgers University in 1949. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1952. He did additional graduate work at Chicago University and the Pacific School of Religion. He received a D.D. from Central College and New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Mr. Washington was licensed by the Presbytery of Cleveland in 1953 and ordained by the same presbytery in 1954. He was received by the Classis of Iliana that same year. He pastored the following congregations: Pembroke, St. Anne, Illinois, from 1954 to 1959; Community, Oakland, California, from 1959 to 1969; and First, Jamaica, New York, from 1985 to 1993. He served interim pastorates at Fort Washington Collegiate, New York City, New York, from 1994 to 1997 and Community, Glen Rock, New Jersey, from 1998 to 1999. Mr. Washington also served as a professor at Central College from 1969 to 1980 and at New Brunswick Theological Seminary from 1980 to 1985. He was president of the Particular Synod of the West from 1969 to 1970 and the first African American president of the General Synod from 1988 to 1989. He also served on the World Alliance of Reformed Churches board for the Caribbean/North America area from 1991 to 1992.

Mr. Washington died on October 3, 2016, in Cinnaminson, New Jersey. He was 92 years old.

**Eloise Hannah (Boynton) Bosch**

Eloise Hannah Bosch was born on August 4, 1919, in Mohawk, New York. She studied at Hope College, from which she graduated in 1941. She also studied at the Biblical Seminary in New York.

Mrs. Bosch was married to Dr. Donald Bosch, a medical missionary in the Arabian Gulf. Together they served on the mission field from 1955 until their retirement in 1983. She
served her working life in Oman as a teacher at the American Mission School in Muscat (the Al Amana School), teaching in both Arabic and English.

Mrs. Bosch died on October 7, 2016, in Oman. She was 97 years old.

James E. Ribbans

James E. Ribbans was born in 1951 in Somerville, New Jersey. He studied at the University of Southern California, from which he graduated in 1975. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1984.

Mr. Ribbans was ordained by the Classis of Raritan in 1984. He began his ministry as associate pastor in Syracuse, New York, from 1984 to 1988. He then served as the coordinator of programs in the Regional Synod of Albany from 1988 to 1990. He also served as pastor at First, Chatham, New York, from 1990 to 2000 and at Spotswood, New Jersey, from 2001 until his death.

Mr. Ribbans died on October 17, 2016, in Spotswood, New Jersey. He was 65 years old.

Elinor Heusinkveld Faber

Elinor Heusinkveld Faber (Ellie) died on November 17, 2016. Ellie was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on November 2, 1922, to Christian and Hilda Gran. After graduation from the University of Minnesota as a registered nurse in 1943, she married Dr. Maurice Heusinkveld. Maurice and Ellie were RCA missionaries to the Arabian Mission from 1946 to 1967, with assignments in Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, and Oman. After Maurice died in 1967, Ellie returned to America and settled in Holland, Michigan.

Stanley Bernard Vander Aarde

Stanley Bernard Vander Aarde was born on September 26, 1931, in Orange City, Iowa. He began his studies at Northwestern Junior College in Orange City in 1949 and completed them at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1953. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University in 1957 and became a fellow of the American Board of Otolaryngology in 1970.

Dr. Vander Aarde served as a medical missionary for the RCA in India from 1961 to 1987. He was in general practice at the Mary Lott Lyles Hospital in Madanapalle, India. After his otolaryngology residence in 1970, he served as director of the Union Mission Tuberculosis Sanatorium and as medical superintendent in the same hospital.

Dr. Vander Aarde died on November 19, 2016, in Orange City, Iowa. He was 85 years old.

Barnabas Roczey

Barnabas Roczey was born on November 24, 1935, in Szendrőlád, Borsod County, Hungary. He studied at the Földes Ferenc Gimnázium in Miskolc, Hungary, and graduated in 1956. He received his theological education at Faith Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1961. He received his S.T.M. from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

Mr. Roczey was ordained in 1965 in the Hungarian Reformed Church of Roebling, New Jersey. He served many congregations in the Hungarian Reformed and Presbyterian churches. He was received by the Classis of New Brunswick in 1981 and served as pastor.
of the Magyar Reformed Church, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, from 1981 to 2008.

Mr. Roczey died on November 23, 2016, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He was 80 years old.

**John Richard Boender**

John Richard Boender was born on October 30, 1930, in Hospers, Iowa. He studied at Central College, from which he graduated in 1951. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1954.

Mr. Boender was licensed and ordained by the Classis of East Sioux in 1954. He began his ministry as a chaplain in the United States Army, where he served from 1954 to 1956. He then pastored the following congregations: First, Allendale, Michigan, from 1956 to 1961; Harrison, South Dakota, from 1961 to 1966; Salem, Little Rock, Iowa, from 1966 to 1974; Hingham, Wisconsin, from 1974 to 1990; American, Woodstock, Minnesota, from 1990 to 1999; First, Allendale, Michigan, from 1999 to 2000; and Covenant Community, Hudsonville, Michigan, from 2001 to 2003.

Mr. Boender died on December 3, 2016, in Sheldon, Iowa. He was 86 years old.

**Donald Robert Baird**

Donald Robert Baird was born on December 11, 1933, in Jersey City, New Jersey. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1955. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1958.

Mr. Baird was licensed by the Classis of Paramus in 1958 and ordained by the Classis of Columbia the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Philmont, New York, from 1958 to 1962; Massapequa, New York, from 1963 to 1972; Feasterville, Pennsylvania, from 1972 to 1977; Pompton Plains, New Jersey, from 1977 to 1982; and Canajoharie, New York, from 1982 to 1990. He served on the staff of the Particular Synod of Albany, and was associate for congregational evangelism for the General Synod Council from 1990 to 1999.

Mr. Baird died on December 7, 2016, in Laurinburg, North Carolina. He was 82 years old.

**Lee Llewelly Kester**

Lee Llewellyn Kester was born on August 20, 1926, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He studied at Central College, from which he graduated in 1947. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1951.

Mr. Kester was licensed by the Classis of Philadelphia in 1951 and ordained by the Classis of Westchester the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Reformed Church of Cortlandtown, Montrose, New York, from 1951 to 1954; Bronxville, New York, from 1954 to 1964; Oradell, New Jersey, from 1964 to 1977; and St John’s, Jersey City, New Jersey, from 1977 to 1987. He also worked as a financial planner for American Express from 1978 to 1995 and served as the president of the Particular Synod of New York from 1959 to 1960.

Mr. Kester died on December 10, 2016, in Brunswick, Maine. He was 90 years old.
Willis Arthur Jones

Willis Arthur Jones was born on May 28, 1938, in El Dorado, Arkansas. He studied at Arkansas College, from which he graduated in 1960. He received his theological education at Austin Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1964. He did additional graduate study at Trinity College, Glasgow University, in 1966.


Mr. Jones died on December 17, 2016, in Inverness, Scotland. He was 78 years old.

Norman Charles Hamm

Norman Charles Hamm was born on March 12, 1952, in Troy, New York. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1974. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1978.

Mr. Hamm was licensed and ordained by the Classis of Schenectady in 1978. He pastored the following congregations: Glen, New York, from 1978 to 1983; Germantown, New York, from 1984 to 1992; Faith, Hazlet, New Jersey, from 1992 to 2000; contract pastor, Keyport, New Jersey, from 1999 to 2000; First Glenville, Amsterdam, New York, from 2001 to 2007; First, Athens, New York, from 2010 to 2015; and Jerusalem, Feura Bush, New York, from 2015 until his death.

Mr. Hamm died on December 18, 2016, in Scotia, New York. He was 64 years old.

Wayne Kiel

Wayne Kiel was born on April 21, 1929, in Jenison, Michigan. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1963. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1966.

Mr. Kiel was licensed and ordained by the Classis of South Grand Rapids in 1966. He served as pastor at Peace, Middleville, Michigan, from 1966 to 1989 and as minister for congregational care at First, South Holland, Illinois, from 1989 to 1995. He served on staff at Gun Lake Community Church for 15 years during his retirement.

Mr. Kiel died on December 19, 2016, in Zeeland, Michigan. He was 87 years old.

Louis Otto Springsteen

Louis Otto Springsteen was born on September 12, 1926, in Jamaica, New York. He studied at Dartmouth College, from which he graduated in 1948. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1953.

Mr. Springsteen was licensed by the Classis of North Long Island in 1953 and ordained by the Classis of Orange the same year. He served as pastor at New Prospect, Pine Bush, New York, from 1953 to 1958 and at Trinity, Old Tappan, New Jersey, from 1958 to 1991.
Mr. Springsteen also served as a senior pastor in the pastor-to-pastor program of the Board of Pensions from 1991 to 1994 and as a pastor of calling at Old Paramus, Ridgewood, New Jersey, in 1996. He also served interim pastorates at Old Paramus, Ridgewood, New Jersey, in 1999 and at Saddle River, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, from 1998 to 2000. Mr. Springsteen also served as the stated clerk of the Classis of Greater Palisades.

Mr. Springsteen died on December 22, 2016. He was 90 years old.

**Bernard Daniel Hakken**

Bernard Daniel Hakken was born on December 26, 1926, in Bahrain. He studied at Hope College, from which he graduated in 1950. He received his theological education at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1953.

Mr. Hakken was licensed by the Classis of Holland in 1953 and ordained by the Classis of Zeeland the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Dunningville, Allegan, Michigan, from 1953 to 1954; Forest Home, Muskegon, Michigan, from 1963 to 1969; Everglade, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1969 to 1974; New Life, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1974 to 1978; and First, Sully, Iowa, from 1978 to 1992. Mr. Hakken also served the RCA as a missionary in Manila, Philippines, from 1956 to 1963.

Mr. Hakken died on December 24, 2016, in Wayland, Michigan. He was 89 years old.

**William Howard Jewett**

William Howard Jewett was born on June 7, 1930, at Schenectady, New York. He studied at Central College, from which he graduated in 1951. He received his theological education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1955. Mr. Jewett also received an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, in 1953.

Mr. Jewett was licensed by the Classis of Schenectady in 1955 and ordained by the Classis of Ulster the same year. He pastored the following congregations: Fair Street, Kingston, New York, from 1955 to 1956; West New Hempstead, Spring Valley, New York, from 1956 to 1969; and Brielle, New Jersey, from 1969 to 1995. Mr. Jewett also served as the president of the Particular Synod of New Jersey from 1977 to 1978 and as the chaplain of the New Jersey Senate for four years under the Byrne administration.

Mr. Jewett died on December 26, 2016, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was 86 years old.