

Return to Your First Love Empowered by the Holy Spirit

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

July 22 - Thursday

South Cluster Meeting
1:00 Check in – Westwood
Sessions continue till 3 on
Friday

July 23 – Friday

5:00 Check in – Westwood
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Welcome/Introductions
Vision/Session
8:15 Worship/Communion

July 24 – Saturday

Breakfast at your hotel
Pastries and Coffee at
Westwood
8:30 Session 1
9:15 Session 2
10:30 Session 3
11:45 Lunch
12:45 RCA - 2020 Vision
Worship/Prayer
2:00 Business Meeting

DEADLINE

Classis Retreat Registration
due July 7, 2021
Send to foremanc70@gmail.com

Classis provides lodging
with registration.

Transportation to and from
airport will be provided if
schedule is sent to the
Stated Clerk.

Central Plains Classis Retreat - July 23-24, 2021 Westwood Church - 13056 Atwood Ave., Omaha NE 68144

Our world has changed because of covid-19. We have gone through monumental changes both in life and ministry.

The Lord is wanting to empower us to new levels of effective kingdom ministry as we are in a position of responding to new opportunities and needs within our communities.

PRAYER; PRAISE; PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS; PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BUILDING will be the four key points of our time together.

- We will **PRAY** for empowerment.
- We will **PRAISE** during times of inspiring worship.
- We will discuss **PRACTICAL** ways to be more creative in how we deliver ministry in a changed world.
- We will build **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS** with all our new leaders and pastors as we celebrate our diversity.

It is an amazing time for growth within our family of churches called Central Plains Classis. Come join us as you will leave encouraged, empowered and equipped to lead your ministries with new purpose and power.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit - Henry Alvarez Session 1 will focus on Acts 2:42-48

Henry Alvarez is our Saturday morning speaker focusing on "The Fellowship of the Believers, Empowered by the Holy Spirit".

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved".

Henry Alvarez, born in Venezuela, came to the states to attend Oral Roberts University where he received his Doctorate of Theology and several Masters Degrees. He is a mentor to pastors and leaders in many countries and is the founder and president of El Shaddai International Christian University in Dallas, Texas. Henry transferred his ordination to the RCA and Central Plains Classis in 2020.





Quinn Tirrel, Associate Pastor, Todd Laird, Director of Worship Arts and Scott Christiansen, Senior Pastor.

Welcome to Westwood!

Here at Westwood, we have been looking forward to the visit by our classis for a long time. We are excited to host you during this important time. Westwood Church began in 1960 as a church plant from the Synod of Iowa, predecessor to the Synod of the Heartland. A planting pastor and his family, the Rev. Bob Otto, relocated to Omaha and began Westwood Heights Community Church, later Westwood Community Church, now just Westwood Church. Since then we've had one relocation (in 1970) and many building additions. We've grown in families and in our outreach in the city but we always have one focus "Building His Kingdom....One Heart at a Time." It is our hope that you experience God's rich blessing during this classis weekend. We really are so glad you are here. If there is anything we can do to make your time more comfortable, please do not hesitate to ask.

Blessings My Friends,
Scott Christiansen - Senior Pastor, Westwood Church



Session 2 - How America Does Church: What is Working and What is Not?

Vic Folkert pastored Reformed churches for 38 years before retiring to Conroe, Texas. He has been involved with commissioned pastor training in the RCA for over 15 years. As a Pastoral Candidate Coordinator for our Classis, he assists classis leaders in receiving pastors into the classis. For commissioned pastor candidates, he develops and manages a training plan, keeps records of progress, and coordinates examinations with cluster leaders.

Session 3 - Church Practices in a Changing Environment

TJ South serves as pastor of Pella Reformed Church in Nebraska. He and his wife Erika moved from Michigan to Nebraska in 2017 to begin his calling as a pastor. TJ is passionate to develop Christian leadership and to encourage the intentional and faithful following of the teachings of Jesus Christ. He serves as a member of the Classis Resource Team, and also provides leadership to the Classis Organic Outreach Plan which began in 2019.



Vision Session – Friday Night

Fabio Sosa, began his ministry as a church planter in the Argentine Republic and South America. In 2003 he moved with his family to New York to develop an evangelistic ministry and training for Hispanic Leaders in the tri-state area. In 2009 he connected with the RCA as a pastor at Riverside Reformed Church in Paterson, New Jersey where he was ordained in the RCA. He moved to Texas to begin Coaching and Mentorship for the Spanish speaking ministry and to plant RCA Churches. Fabio is currently a coach and mentor for Latino ministries in South America and serves as the Hispanic Pastor Network Coach for our Classis.



Dale Assink serves as the Classis Strategic Leader for Central Plains. He has 20 years of pastoral experience and over 20 years of regional church ministry. He has a passion to assist leaders, consistories and churches to discover God's vision and design a practical implementation to live into that vision. Dale and his wife Dawn, team together in ministry providing worship and assessment.

