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**SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA**  
**Reformed Church in America**  
**NEWSLETTER - - - Volume 9, Number 11 - - - June 2, 2008**  
<http://www.midamericasynod.org>

**“Healthy classes and congregations through revitalization and multiplication”**

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**Classis – Church – Minister News**

- The **Classis of Illiana** will install the Rev. Matt Waterstone as the pastor of First Reformed Church, South Holland, Illinois. The service of installation will be Sunday, June 15, 2008 at 9:30 AM. We celebrate with the classis, congregation, and pastor as this new relationship begins.
- The **Classis of Illiana** will install the Rev. Cory Moss as the pastor of Christian Park Reformed Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. The service of installation will be Sunday, June 29, 2008 at 10:00 AM. We celebrate with the classis, congregation, and pastor as this new relationship begins.
- The **Classis of Illiana** will meet in its summer session on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at First Reformed Lansing, Illinois

**Urban Ministry Assistance**

From contributions of the Synod's churches the Synod is able to have limited assistance funding available for Urban Ministries within the Synod of Mid-America. An asking of \$4 per member plus a \$2 per Sunday school member is asked of each church. Those that contribute to the Urban Ministry fund are sharing in the work of those who minister in the urban areas within our synod. This year seven ministries are receiving much appreciated funds through those generous contributions. The Synod thanks those congregations that made this possible, and encourages all congregations to participate by contributing to this fund.

In September the Synod's Executive Council will consider applications for 2009 for Urban Ministry assistance. Those wishing to be considered for assistance or wanting more information should contact Randy Kooy ([rkooy@rca.org](mailto:rkooy@rca.org) or 815-464-9181). Applications along with the required classis recommendation will need to be back to the Synod by September 10, 2008 to be considered.

Along with Urban Ministry assistance, the Synod is able to provide some limited assistance for new church plants. Classes and congregations interested in planting should contact Wayne Van Regenmorter ([wvanregenmorter@rca.org](mailto:wvanregenmorter@rca.org) or 941-302-1281 or 219-365-9649) for more information.

**Florida Classis Search Process for an Apostolic Leader Continues**

As has been reported in several Synod of Mid-America newsletters, the Classis of Florida continues its process to seek out the person God has chosen for it to be its new Apostolic Leader. The position will be advertised and applicants accepted through mid-July. Has God been speaking to you about someone who might have the gifts for this ministry? If so, the Apostolic Leader Task Force invites you to suggest persons who come to mind that might have the gifts, skills, and experience for this position. Your suggestion is one indication of God's leading the classis to who He has called to this ministry. More information can be found at <http://midamericasynod.org/FCAL/FCAL.htm>. Contact Randy Kooy ([rkooy@rca.org](mailto:rkooy@rca.org) – 815-464-9181) with your suggestions.

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**Celebration Stories of Revitalization and Multiplication**

No story in this issue.

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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](mailto:rkooy@rca.org).

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From Wayne Van Regenmorter, Synod Visionary Leader ([wvanregenmorter@rca.org](mailto:wvanregenmorter@rca.org)):

### ***Seven Clues You're On The Right Track...***

Let's face it the work of revitalization in a local congregation is just plain hard work. We cast the vision that through the power of the Holy Spirit, lives will be transformed by the love of Jesus Christ as the lost are found, the hungry are fed, the broken are made whole, hurts are healed and hope overcomes despair. We long for the day when neighborhoods, villages, towns, and cities become more healthy, more just, and more gracious for people as they experience God's expanding realm of grace, mercy, love and peace. But what do we look for that would give pastors and leaders a clue as to whether a congregation is effectively going through a process of transformation? Bill Tenny-Brittian wrote a helpful article entitled, "Seven Clues You're on the Right Track". Below are listed his top seven behaviors to look for as a congregation begins turning the corner.

- They can be seen praying with people one-on-one and in micro-groups in the church before, after, and sometimes even during worship—plus at other church events.
- They can't wait to share the stories of the lives they've touched in Jesus' name during the week. Often the stories are about prayers they've prayed with unchurched or spiritual conversations they've had.
- When the question "What did you read in the Bible that intrigued you this week?" is asked, they not only have an answer, they regularly launch into a conversation about how they referred to the Scriptures or to a Scriptural principle in their decision-making during the week.
- The Bible starts being an important enough book for them, they actually bring one to worship and to small groups—and after a year it's starting to look pretty marked up and even ratty.
- When a guest shows up in worship, small group, etc., before the end of the event, they've managed to get the guest's name, know their family, know what they "do" for a living, have contact information, and have invited them to come with them to another activity, whether church related or not.
- Others in church start going to them for prayer and counsel.
- They're no longer interested in serving on a committee that accomplishes little. Instead, they are involved in hands-on ministry either on or off the church campus.

It's a pretty good list. What clues of revitalization and transformed lives do you see going on in your congregation?

Wayne Van Regenmorter

### **Schedule**

June 2: Transformation Leadership team meeting/Grand Rapids, MI  
3: Office  
4: Meeting/Antioch, IL  
5-10: General Synod/Holland, MI  
11: Meeting/Rodger Price/Vicky Menning/Grand Rapids, MI  
12: Illiana Classis meeting/First Reformed Church/Lansing, IL  
13: Office  
14: Off  
15: Installation service/First Reformed Church/South Holland, IL  
16: Office  
17: Meeting/Arlington Heights, IL  
18: Meeting/Orland Park, IL  
19: Mid-America Synod Council conference call meeting  
20: Office  
21: Off  
22: Sunday worship

### **Wayne's contact information:**

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St. John, IN 46373  
Cell phone: 941-302-1281  
Home office phone: 219-365-9649

E-mail: [wvanregenmorter@rca.org](mailto:wvanregenmorter@rca.org)

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

**Schedule:**

June 2 – DeMotte office  
3-5 – Clerk mtg & other pre-General Synod meetings, Holland  
5-10 – General Synod, Holland, MI  
11 – DeMotte office  
12 – Manitoqua office; Illiana Classis mtg, First-Lansing PM  
13 – DeMotte office  
15 – First, South Holland, Installation  
16 – DeMotte office  
17 – DeMotte office  
18 – Manitoqua office  
19 – Executive Council mtg AM; Florida task force mtg PM  
20 – DeMotte office

Note that I will be at General Synod or pre-synod meetings for several days during this schedule. Call my cell phone (219-730-4873) to reach me then; you will probably need to leave a message but I will check that and get back to you. I plan to regularly check my email during that time as well.

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](mailto:rkooy@rca.org)

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