

Peace Christian Reformed Church ~ Cedar Rapids, Iowa
House of Prayer and Peace CRC meeting ~ May 30, 2026

Present:

Peace Church: Pastor Gary Brouwers, Russ Marcus, Floyd Wesselink, John Van Rheenen

House of Prayer: Pastor Bill Saye, Pastor Amos Mbemba, Abraham Gardea, Larry, Luke Wonteen.

Article I. Pastor Gary Brouwers opened the meeting with prayer.

Article II. Theological Conversation

A. Gary had provided to House of Prayer leadership a document of summaries of some of the doctrines of the Christian Reformed Church, put together with input from the Peace Church Council.

B. Gary opened the floor for any topics that House of Prayer has questions about.

1. Women in leadership

- Discussed history and policy of the CRC.
- Peace CRC allows women to serve as Deacons, but not Pastor or Elder.
- House of Prayer doesn't necessarily need to follow Peace CRC position, but will need to align with Classis and the denomination.
- Good discussion on scriptural teaching about the roles of women in the church. House of Prayer is aligned with Peace CRC's understanding, and agree that there are many valuable roles and ways for women to serve in the church, just not in positions where they have "authority over" men.

2. Biblical authority

- Discussed examples of Biblical guidance and the distinguishing between following the letter of the law (universal truths) and the spirit of the law (applicable to biblical times), with examples such as teachings where women are to cover their heads. Even though we may not follow the letter of some biblical rules, we do need to follow the spiritual intent behind those rules.

3. Baptism

- House of Prayer performs baptism by immersion, and on adults (or those who are old enough to understand the meaning). Peace baptizes by sprinkling and performs infant baptism.
- Noted the method of baptism doesn't matter (immersion vs. sprinkling), the bigger difference is baptism of infants.
- Gary explained why the CRC performs infant baptism, how it is a sign of God's covenant and something we don't need to be old

Peace Christian Reformed Church ~ Cedar Rapids, Iowa
House of Prayer and Peace CRC meeting ~ May 30, 2026

enough to understand. Baptism isn't a sign of what **I** have done, but what **God** will do.

- House of Prayer came away with a much better understanding of the CRC position on baptism and will discuss more with their leadership.
- Noted that infant baptism isn't *required*. Certainly many people are baptized when older as they come to accept Christ, but House of Prayer leadership should encourage infant baptism as an option for parents wanting to participate in that sacrament.

4. Same sex marriage

- House of Prayer asked about Peace CRC position on same sex marriage. Gary provided the history of synod discussions and some of the more recent deliberations and conflict. He reiterated that we don't believe same sex attraction in itself is a sin, but acting on it is clearly against God's word. House of Prayer holds the same beliefs. Discussion extended to views on marriage vs remaining single and divorce, and House of Prayer and Peace CRC are aligned on our views.

5. Speaking in Tongues

- House of Prayer believes in speaking in tongues and asked about the CRC position.
- The CRC recognizes the spiritual gift of tongues, but believe it also requires an interpreter. Speaking in tongues is less emphasized – we believe it is important to use language that everyone understands.
- Emphasized that we do **not** agree that tongues are required for salvation

Article III. Church Order Conversation

A. What does it mean for Peace Church to be a “parent” church with House of Prayer as a church plant

- a. We recognize that as in life, different levels of parenting are required as a child matures.
- b. House of Prayer has a strong leadership structure and programs in place. Not a totally “new” congregation, but a little more mature.
- c. At this stage, Peace CRC will serve as more of a resource to support House of Prayer, not driving their ministry and providing leadership. Peace will provide assistance until House of Prayer can be completely independent (facilities, finances, etc.)

B. Ordination of Pastor Bill and Pastor Amos

- a. Noted that Pastor Bill and Pastor Amos are both already ordained.
- b. However, the purpose of additional training and ordination activities are to ensure they can demonstrate an understanding of Reformed theology and history

C. What benefit does House of Prayer receive by joining the CRC?

Peace Christian Reformed Church ~ Cedar Rapids, Iowa
House of Prayer and Peace CRC meeting ~ May 30, 2026

- a. Allow us to do ministry together as part of a larger family.
Discussed all the ministries that the CRC is a part of, and being able to participate in that larger mission. Receive from and give support to other congregations.
- D. Gary noted that the church order is a living document, and described the process of updating it through acts of Synod.
- E. Discussed church membership, what it means, the criteria for membership, and the value of church membership.
- F. Discussed the role of the Council as the leadership authority in the church
 - a. House of Prayer has a solid leadership structure, although roles are labelled different than what the CRC uses (elders, deacons).
 - b. House of Prayer reiterated that in their leadership, the pastor is not in ultimate control either – they are held accountable by other leaders.
- G. Discussed church discipline. Distributed a copy of the Covenant of Leaders that Peace CRC requires all leaders to sign, and discussed steps of discipline if they break that covenant.

Article IV. Roadmap and recommended next steps

- A. Gary provided a copy of the Church Planting Roadmap from Resonate along with a summary of status and progress toward the steps in each phase.
- B. Next step will be for House of Prayer to review the Peace CRC Covenant of Leaders, and to sign it if they agree
- C. Following House of Prayer agreement on the Covenant of Leaders, a group will be formed with representatives for House of Prayer leadership, Peace CRC leadership, Resonate, and Classis for ongoing discussions.

Article V. Abraham closed in prayer

Respectfully submitted,

John Van Rheenen
Council Clerk