

North Grand Rapids Classis Covenant of Responsibility

We follow Christ as a covenanted community cultivating and strengthening leaders, congregations and ministries of North Grand Rapids Community.

To accomplish this vision, the classis and the ministers and churches within it enter into a covenant of mutual responsibility.

Each Minister covenants to:

- Pray regularly for and about the mission and work of North Grand Rapids Classis
- Make the mission and work of North Grand Rapids Classis a priority in his or her overall ministry.
- Attend all regular meetings of Classis unless there are serious extenuation circumstances.
- Come to classis meetings prepared by reading through the pre-Classis packet and familiarizing oneself with the matters to be discussed
- Serve as a member of at least one Classis Team or committee, fully participating in team/committee meetings and work.
- Initiate contact with the Classis Pastoral Care Team at the first sign of tension in the church/pastor relationship, allow the Pastoral Care Team to work with the pastor and church pro-actively rather than re-actively.

Each Church covenants to:

- Pray regularly for and about the work and mission of North Grand Rapids, Classis.
- Make the mission and work of North Grand Rapids Classis a priority in her overall ministry.
- Provide the full number of delegates designated in the Book of Church Order to attend all regular meetings of classes unless there are serious extenuating circumstances.
- Send delegates to meetings prepared by reading through the pre-Classis packet and familiarizing oneself with the matters to be discussed.
- Provide at least as many participants for Classis Teams or Committees as there are elder delegates from the congregation to Classis.
- Initiate contact with appropriate Classis Teams or Committees at the first sign of tension or difficulty (i.e. – pastor/church relations, financial difficulties, etc.), allowing the teams to work pro-actively rather than reactively.
- Pay assessments in full and on time in accordance with the established payment schedule.

The Classis Covenants to:

- Pray regularly for the ministries and ministers within the classis.
- Provide all necessary materials and notices in a timely manner, allowing members to be fully prepared for meetings.

- Work proactively to assist congregations when tensions arise, either personal or financial.
- Communicate thoroughly the goings-on of the classis to the congregations, ministries and ministers.
- Provide opportunities for support, encouragement and collaboration between ministers, elders, and ministries of North Grand Rapids Classis.