

**ABSTRACT  
of the  
MINUTES**

**NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS  
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

**14th Annual Meeting**



**March 29-30, 1999  
First Reformed Church  
Aberdeen, South Dakota**

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*Note: The Primarius Elder from the Hosmer Reformed Church was Mr. Norman Mehlhaff. The Lord called Mr. Mehlhaff home shortly after the Classis Meeting.*

## **OFFICERS OF CLASSIS**

President: Rev. Maynard Koerner; 434 30th St. NW, Watertown, SD 57201; 605/886-8395  
Vice-President: Rev. Herman Van Stedum, 1214 S. McCoy, Aberdeen, SD 57401; 605/229-5953  
Stated Clerk: Rev. William Haddock; 105 Lakeview Dr., Pierre, SD, 57501; 605/945-1070  
Treasurer: Elder Ralph Kusler; 1322 S. 8th St., Aberdeen, SD 57401; 605/225-1242

## **MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

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Rev. William Haddock (Hope RCUS, Pierre)  
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phone: 605/945-1070; e-mail: rherald@earthlink.com

Rev. Darrell Kingswood (Eureka RCUS, Eureka)  
309 H Ave., PO Box 276, Eureka, SD 57437  
phone: 605/284-2396; e-mail: liberty@valleytel.net

Rev. Norman Jones (retired, Hope RCUS, Pierre)  
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Rev. Maynard Koerner (Covenant RCUS, Watertown)  
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Rev. George Syms (Hosmer RCUS, Hosmer; Salem RCUS, Ashley)  
PO Box 345, Ashley, ND 58413  
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Rev. Herman Van Stedum (First RCUS, Aberdeen; Oranien RCUS, Leola)  
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Rev. Michael Voytek (Harvest RCUS, Minot)  
124 22nd St. SW, Minot, ND 58701  
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## **STUDENTS OF THE MINISTRY**

Mr. Tracy Gruggett (First RCUS, Aberdeen)  
2550 E. Valley Pkwy. #46, Escondido, CA 92027  
phone: 760/735-2480

Mr. Jim Snyder (Harvest RCUS, Minot)  
115 Sirocco, Ave. #3, Minot AFB, ND 58704  
phone: 701/727-5783

## **PRIMARIUS ELDERS**

Mr. John W. Bender (First RCUS, Aberdeen)  
1108 10th Ave. NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
phone: 605/226-0799

Mr. Rod DeJong (Covenant RCUS, Watertown)  
3517 4th Ave. SW, Watertown, SD 57201  
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Mr. Allen Dockter (Harvest RCUS, Minot)  
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Mr. Lynn Goehring (Hope RCUS, Pierre)  
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Mr. James Huber (Salem RCUS, Ashley)  
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Mr. Milbert Kappes (Oranien RCUS, Leola)  
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phone: 605/577-6679

Mr. Alwin Rau (Kassel RCUS, Denhoff)  
540 20th St. NE, Kief, ND 58747-9339  
phone: 701/626-7312

Mr. Norman Schick (First RCUS, Herreid)  
HCR 75, Box 12, Herreid, SD 57632  
phone: 605/437-2625

Mr. Willis Schnabel (Eureka RCUS, Eureka)

PO Box 158, Eureka SD 57437  
phone: 605/284-2184

## **SECUNDUS ELDERS**

Mr. Ron Abbink (Covenant RCUS, Watertown)  
1016 Arrow Ave., Watertown, SD 57201  
phone: 605/886-9557; e-mail: rabbink@webtv

Mr. Reinhold Dockter (Salem RCUS, Ashley)  
4531 100 St. SE, Ashley, ND 58413  
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Mr. Alan Fickbohm (Hope RCUS, Pierre)  
304 N. Harrison, Pierre, SD 57501  
phone: 605/224-0358

Dr. Graef Gannon (Kassel RCUS, Denhoff)  
912 Mandan St., Bismarck, ND 58501-3506  
phone: 701/223-5244

Mr. Jere Hieb (Hosmer RCUS, Hosmer)  
PO Box 88, Hosmer, SD 57448  
phone: 605/283-2733

Mr. Larry Kauk (Eureka RCUS, Eureka)  
PO Box 42, Eureka, SD 57437  
phone: 605/284-5130

Mr. Floyd Meidinger  
PO Box 290, Leola, SD 57456  
phone: 605/439-3388 (office); 605/439-3537 (residence)

Mr. Tom Ochsner (First RCUS, Herreid)  
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phone: 605/437-2262

Mr. Ferdinand Opp (First RCUS, Aberdeen)  
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phone: 605/225-6818; e-mail: ferdyopp@dtgnet.com

Mr. Jim Snyder (Harvest RCUS, Minot)  
115 Sirocco, Ave. #3, Minot AFB, ND 58704  
phone: 727-5783

## **CHURCHES**

Aberdeen, SD 57401 605/225-6120  
 First RCUS, 9th Ave. and Dakota S. St. (Mail: 1214 S. McCoy St.)  
 Worship: 9:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:00 AM  
 Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

Ashley, ND 58413 701/288-3682  
 Salem RCUS, 209 1st Ave. SW (Mail: PO Box 345)  
 Worship: 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM (alternating monthly, please call)  
 Pastor: George Syms (wife, Debbie)

Denhoff, ND 58430 701/768-2892  
 Kassel RCUS, 14 miles N. and 3½ miles W. of Denhoff (Mail: 540 20th St. NE, Kief, ND 58747-9339)  
 Worship: 10:00 AM  
 Stated Supply: Dr. Graef Gannon, 912 N. Mandan St., Bismarck, ND 58501-3506

Eureka, SD 57437 605/284-2396  
 Eureka RCUS, 310 F Ave. (Mail: PO Box 276)  
 Worship: 9:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:00 AM  
 Pastor: Darrell Kingswood (wife, Lori)

Herreid, SD 57632 605/437-2739  
 First RCUS, Highway 69/ north end of town (Mail: 201 Dyke St., PO Box 316)  
 Worship 9:00 or 11:00 AM (please call); Sunday School: 10:00 AM  
 Pastor: Robert Davis (wife, Vicki)

Hosmer, SD 57448 605/283-2222  
 Hosmer RCUS, 2 blocks south of the water tower (Mail: PO Box 88)  
 Worship: 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM (alternating monthly, please call)  
 Pastor: George Syms (wife, Debbie)

Leola, SD 57456 605/439-3537  
 Oranien RCUS, Hwy. 10 and Burtis (Mail: 1214 S. McCoy St., Aberdeen, SD 57401)  
 Worship: 11:00 AM  
 Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

Minot, ND 58701 701/838-0605  
 Harvest RCUS, at Parker Senior Center, 1st St. SE & Central Ave (Mail: 124 22nd St. SW)  
 Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:15 AM  
 Pastor: Michael Voytek (wife, Rebecca)

Pierre, SD 57501 605/224-7846  
 Hope RCUS, 317 S. Garfield  
 Worship: 9:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:25 AM  
 (for information, call 605/224-5170 then press 3985)  
 Pastor: William Haddock (wife, Ferne)

Watertown, SD 57201

605/886-8395

Covenant RCUS

Roosevelt Elementary School, Corner of 4th Ave. and 2nd St. SE (Mail: 434 30th St.)

Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School: 11:15 AM

Pastor: Maynard Koerner (wife, Marcia)

**NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS**  
**14th Annual Meeting ❖ March 29-30, 1999**  
**First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota**

## **I. SERVICES**

The 14th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis convened on Monday, March 29, 1998 at the First Reformed Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota at 1:00 P.M. with a devotion. Rev. Maynard Koerner led the Classis in devotion, using Isaiah 40 as the text.

The Classis met for a worship service with the congregation of the First Reformed Church on Monday evening at 7:30 P.M. Rev. Darrell Kingswood conducted the worship service and Rev. Michael Voytek preached a sermon titled, "The Justified Shall Live By Faith," using Habakkuk 2:2-4 as the sermon text.

The Classis opened its session on Tuesday, March 30 with devotions. Rev. Robert Davis led the Classis with a devotion from I Timothy 5:17 and Romans 13:1-7.

## **II. ORGANIZATION**

The President, Rev. Maynard Koerner, called the assembly to order. The roll was called after the devotion. Roll call showed 8 ministers and 10 elders present, a quorum. The President defined the bar of the house as being the first 7 pews on either side of the church. The President appointed Mr. Ron Abbink and Mr. Allen Dockter as tellers. Rev. William Haddock was appointed the *Reformed Herald* reporter.

### **Election of Officers**

President: Rev. Maynard Koerner

Vice-President: Rev. Herman Van Stedum

Stated Clerk: Rev. William Haddock

Treasurer: Elder Ralph Kusler

## **III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA, SERVICES AND ORDER OF THE DAY**

The Agenda, Services, Order of the Day were adopted by the Classis.

## **IV. WELCOME AND SEATING OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES; WELCOME OF VISITORS**

The President welcomed Rev. Ralph English, pastor of the Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater, South Dakota, who represented the Orthodox Presbyterian Church Presbytery of the Dakotas as a fraternal

delegate. The following visitors were welcomed to the meeting: Mr. Ralph Kusler, an elder of the First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota; Mr. Leroy DeWald, an elder of the First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota; and Mr. Rudy Opp, a former elder of the Oranien Reformed Church, Leola, South Dakota.

## **V. RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS**

Rev. Darrell Kingswood and Rev. Michael Voytek were received as new ministers on the roll of Classis.

## **VI. RECEPTION OF NEW CHURCHES**

There were no new congregations to be received.

## **VII. THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF CLASSIS (Chairmen are underlined)**

**Examination and Licensure:** Van Stedum, Syms, Voytek, A. Dockter.

**Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid:** Voytek, Syms, Abbink, Huber.

**Judicial:** Haddock, Kingswood, Opp, Goehring.

**Nominations:** Syms, Koerner, Schnabel, A. Dockter.

**Overtures:** Davis, A. Dockter, Opp.

**Services and Interchurch Relations:** Van Stedum, Jones, Schick, Mehlhaff.

**Missions:** Kingswood, Van Stedum, Kappes, Abbink.

**Education, Publications, and Student Aid:** Jones, Davis, Rau, Schnabel.

**Excuses:** Jones, Schick, Kappes.

## **VIII. PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS, PRESENTATION AND REFERRAL OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Clerk presented overtures and communications to the Standing Overtures Committee.

The following Permanent Committee Reports were referred to these Standing Committees:

Candidates and Credentials - to Examinations and Licensure

Diaconal - to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid

Home Missions - to Missions

Camp - to Education, Publications, and Student Aid

Christian Education - to Education, Publications, and Student Aid

Interchurch Relations - to Services and Interchurch Relations

Auditing - to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid

## **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS**

Esteemed Brothers:

The Candidates and Credentials Committee dealt with three items this past year, namely the matter of stated supply status of Dr. Graef Gannon, the progress of Mr. Tracy Gruggett as a student under care of Classis, and the progress of Captain Jim Synder as a student under care of Classis.



Concerning Dr. Graef Gannon: the committee (Rev. Voytek, Rev. Van Stedum, Rev. Syms) met with Graef at his home (present also was Elder Alwin Rau) concerning the mandate given at the last Classis meeting, i.e. "to discuss his submission to the Creeds of the Church," p.33 of the 1998 Abstract. Dr. Gannon presented the committee with 6 pages of quotes from the three forms of unity which addressed the areas of concern. He was reminded of the present oath for officebearers which he is now under and that he is obligated to teach and defend and reject all errors in conflict with the creed. In the areas of dispute he stated that "these were not settled convictions" but "hypothetical possibilities". It is his position that no one can receive salvation except through the grace of God in Jesus Christ. He considers his views to be in agreement with the creeds.

The committee recognizes that he is presently an elder in the Kassel Reformed Church. As such it is proper for him to conduct worship services. We are not recommending official status as "stated supply".

Concerning Mr. Tracy Gruggett: Mr. Gruggett is completing his first year of Seminary training at Westminster Theological Seminary in California. It has been a difficult but exciting year for him and his family. He is doing well in Seminary with exception of his first semester in Hebrew (that is now improving) He is attending a United Reformed Church in Escondido. Prior to going to California he conducted worship services in several of our churches and has a real love for the gospel ministry and for the study of Theology. We would encourage each of you to remember to pray for him. He is requesting that Classis consider diaconal aid for him. He submitted an annual progress report and a transcript of his grades. He is requesting aid for tuition of \$7,920. This is for 36 units of study at an approximate cost of \$220. each.

Concerning Captain Jim Snyder: Mr. Snyder continues in the Air Force being stationed at the Minot Air Force base. He has been elected as an elder in the Harvest Reformed Church of Minot. We should have a written report from him at Classis.

Respectfully Submitted: Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Allen Dockter, Rev. Michael Voytek, Rev. George Syms

## DIACONAL

Dear Brothers,

Your Diaconal Committee did not meet this past year, nor did we conduct any business within the Northern Plains Classis. In the future this committee can better serve the Church as various needs are brought to it's attention.

Rev. Darrell Kingswood, Tom Ochsner, Willis Schnabel

## HOME MISSIONS

Fathers and Brethren:

The Home Missions Committee of the Northern Plains Classis has been given the responsibility to consult with and report on the developments in two congregations that are receiving Benevolent Aid from Synod. These are the **Hope Reformed Church**, Pierre, South Dakota, and **Harvest Reformed Church**, Minot, North Dakota.

We also have received a recent report from our only Home Mission congregation, **Covenant Reformed Church**, Watertown, South Dakota. Lastly, we are happy to report that we now have a contact family in **Fargo, North Dakota**, which is very committed to promoting the establishment of a Reformed Church in that city.

#### **I. Hope Reformed Church, Pierre, SD.**

On January 5th, 1999, the NPC Home Missions Committee met with the Consistory of Hope Reformed Church to discuss their progress in the last year. Worship, Bible Studies, and quarterly fellowship gatherings are well attended. The congregation has been through some trying times in 1998, with one death, another member suffered a heart attack, and one of their beloved elders was diagnosed with cancer. We were requested by the Consistory to meet with them, as there were questions about how to proceed to the point where Benevolent Aid would no longer be required. The HMC and the Consistory discussed these matters at length, and noted that the intention of Hope Reformed Church was not to continue receiving assistance indefinitely, but still needed the help of Synod and Classis. One family has moved away, however, the giving in the congregation was 10% higher in 1998 than that of the previous year. The church is using a direct mailing to newcomers as a means of outreach. There have not been many visitors from the Pierre vicinity. The NPC HMC believes that the Hope Reformed Church is doing everything possible to be diligent in the work, and are making efforts to develop outreach into the community. The Consistory is concerned to eliminate the debt on the parsonage as quickly as possible.

#### **II. Harvest Reformed Church, Minot, ND.**

On January 19th, the NPC Home Missions Committee traveled to Minot to meet with the Consistory of Harvest Reformed Church. The worship services of the church are well-attended, with an average of 41 present each Lord's Day. They hold a monthly fellowship dinner which is fairly well attended. The Consistory noted that the practice of inviting others to church functions needs improvement. Over the past year the congregation has seen a net increase of 4 members. One of the greatest concerns presently is the purchase of new property on which to build a church meeting place. Real estate prices are rather high in Minot, with assessments costing as much as the land. The church presently meets in the Parker Center in downtown Minot, and the congregation has adapted well to this temporary location. There was a commendable increase in giving, up 25% from the previous year. The Pastor and Consistory are very committed to this work, and are concerned that the enthusiasm for the work of the church be increased.

#### **III. Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, SD.**

We did not meet with the Consistory of the Watertown church, but have been in regular contact with Pastor Maynard Koerner, who has kept us up-to-date on developments in the congregation. Covenant Reformed has not seen any significant growth numerically in the last year, but desires to stay the course and seek God's blessing on their efforts in the church-gathering work of our Lord. We refer you to the report submitted by the Covenant Reformed Consistory.

#### **IV. Fargo, North Dakota**

Our interest in pursuing the work of Home Missions within the bounds of the Northern Plains Classis has logically led us to the larger cities of North and South Dakota. We have now made contact in Fargo with a young man and his family who are members of the OPC. Rev. G. Syms had planned to meet with them in January but could not due to an illness in the Pederson family. Rev. G. Syms and Rev. M. Koerner met with the Pedersons at their home on February 19th, 1999. Mr. Larry Pederson, his wife Amy, and their children could very well be instrumental in gathering people together for meetings, Bible Studies, and worship services in the near future. We believe that there is potential here for reaching out to those who are either unchurched, or who have no Reformed background. We also have the encouragement of the OPC as we pursue this field of home mission work. God

willing, we plan to conduct an initial Bible Study in Fargo on the evening of March 21st with four families enlisted by Mr. Pederson.

*In summary*, we believe it is imperative for the congregations of the NPC to put themselves in an aggressive mode for doing mission work. It is also important that we do not do so out of a sense of desperation because of the decline of the older congregations, but out of a sincere desire to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission. Please pray for our prospective work in Fargo, as it must be pursued from great distances, and developed by pastors who are already extremely busy. Your ideas and suggestions in this matter would be most welcome.

**Recommendations :**

1. That the NPC budget \$6,000.00 for Hope Reformed Church, Pierre, SD, for 1999.
2. That the NPC overture Synod for Benevolent Aid in the amount of \$10,800 for Hope Reformed Church for 1999.
3. That the NPC budget \$3,000.00 for Harvest Reformed Church, Minot, ND, for 1999.
4. That the NPC overture Synod for Benevolent Aid in the amount of \$3,000.00 for Harvest Reformed Church for 1999.
5. That the NPC budget \$8,325.00 for Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, SD, for 1999.
6. That the NPC budget \$4,160 for Home Mission work in Fargo, ND, for 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. G. Syms, Rev. H. Van Stedum, Elder J. Huber, Elder N. Mehlhaff

**CAMP COMMITTEE**

Joint South Central Classis & Northern Plains Classis Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee Report

The Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee Meeting met by Conference Call, February 26, 6:00 PM. Members present: Elder Roger Gallimore, Rev. George Horner, Rev. Robert Davis, and Rev. Darrell Kingswood.

1. Highlights of the 1998 finance report showed a net gain of \$688.89. However, from that amount \$250.00 is projected to be drawn for another 2 issues of HYC Fire. There was a memorial gift of \$1,000.00 received for the purpose of equipment purchases. From this gift \$855.99 Was spent for an overhead projector, cart, screen, overheads for contemporary songs, and overheads of hymns from the new Trinity Hymnal.
2. The proposed 1999 budget includes a 5 percent increase in camper fees up to \$98 per camper. The greatest reason for this increase is that Camp Bob Marshall is now required to charge a 6 percent sales tax on outside users of the camp. Hence, facility use projections are up 6 percent.

Other items show a projected increase of an average of 5 percent. Last year HYC Fire was included in the camp budget. For 1999 it has been taken out and a recommendation that HYC Fire be funded in the amount of \$250.00 from South Central Classis and \$250.00 from Northern Plains Classis. Although camp is still a key part of each issue, the scope of the publication is broadening out to young people who are not part of the camp.

3. The theme for the 1999 camp is **Walk the Talk**. HYC has been emerging as a vehicle that focuses on supporting and teaching a Christian Worldview for our covenant youth. It is the opinion of the camp director and the committee that today's covenant youth in day-to-day activities are not all that different from worldly youth. The theme is designed to help our young people develop an arsenal of which to defend and to live the Christian faith. The lesson topics will be:

**Thinking the Walk** - This is the overview lesson given on the first evening for the purpose of holding our minds captive to Biblical thoughts and that all our actions are an outward display of that which is inward. Living a Christian life is not to be compartmentalized. Rather, it is to be expressed in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.

**Walking the Talk With Friends** How we interact with friends, the friends we choose, and the activities surrounding our friendships all express our faith. This lesson will challenge the campers to consider the godliness of these relationships.

**Walking the Talk With Money** - It is noted that few of our covenant youth are taught how to handle money. Yet, this is a very real and practical means of demonstrating faith. Do we really believe this is God's money, that we are stewards of that which God has given us, and that this includes giving back at least 10 percent? This course helps us to put our money where are thoughts ought to be.

**Walking the Talk With Family** ~ The lack of respecting authority is a key issue in our culture today. Humanly speaking, it starts with the family. This lesson deals with what God commands regarding our respect for parents and how that carries forward into society. This lesson will also cover the duties and responsibilities of young men and women as they prepare for marital roles.

**Walking the Talk With Learning** - How do we discern the truth in a world that is openly hostile to the truth? The vast majority of our covenant youth are educated in the public school system. To be sure there are many godly teachers in the public schools, yet, it is still a system based on a secular humanistic worldview. This lesson covers identifying different worldviews that are typically presented in the classroom and in the media and how to discern these presentations with the truth of God's Word.

**Walking the Talk With God's Will** - A common question of young people is, "How do I know what God wants me to do?" This lesson will distinguish between God's sovereign will and God's revealed will and the importance of following God's commands in all life's decisions, big or small.

**Walking the Talk With Time** - I don't have time to . . . (fill in the blank). How often have you heard that said from our covenant youth. Time choices are greater today than at any other point in history. How do we choose to spend our time? What are our priorities? Time, like money, is a gift given by God and of which we are to use wisely. This lesson provides practical tools in discerning wise use of time.

4. The worship service was discussed. There will be 10-15 minutes of praise, hymn, and Psalms sung prior to the worship service. The service itself will follow the order of Worship as suggested in the Directory of Worship and will include the Apostle's Creed in the first service, reading of the Law in the second service, and the Nicene Creed in the final service. Sermon texts will include: 2 Corinthians 10:5; Romans 12:1,2; Ephesians 4:17-23. There will be an offering taken at each worship service. It is intended for each year that the offering go to support a missions project. The recipient of the offering this year will be Watertown.

5. There will be a personal devotional booklet put together for the campers that focus on the theme.

6. There will be a counselor's handbook put together to help counselors prepare for the week of camp. The handbook will walk through each component of camp and will include guidelines for activities such as talent night, devotions, etc. A few skit books will also be purchased to help counselors for talent night.

7. The camp will again meet at Camp Bob Marshall. The dates are July 26-30. Camp Bob Marshall has also been reserved in 2000 for July 24-28.

8. There are only a few minor changes in the camp schedule. The last two years the seniors were given more freedom with no curfew. Late nights proved to be a good time of campfire learning and of tired people in the morning. This year a senior curfew of 1:00 AM will be in effect as a compromise to extended visiting and getting some sleep.

The Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee recommends the following:

1. Classis approve the 1999 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.
2. Classis approve allocating for the publication of two issues of the quarterly HYC Fire.
3. Classis approve the report of the Heidelberg Youth Camp committee.

#### Heidelberg Youth Camp Proposed Budget

Balance Forward      \$1,893.50      (122 Campers - 31 adults)

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Actual 1998</b>	<b>Budget 1999</b>
Camp Fees	\$11,521.00	\$11,960.00
Gifts	\$1,425.00	\$265.00
Interest	\$15.23	\$15.00
T-shirts Sold	\$133.50	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$13,094.73	\$12,240.00
<b>Expense</b>		
Facility Use	\$8,136.00	\$8,650.00
Food	\$1,436.68	\$1,510.00
T-shirts	\$1,351.15	\$1,420.00
Supplies	\$116.92	\$150.00
Promotion	\$250.56	\$260.00
Custer State Park Fees	\$0.00	\$110.00

Postage	\$12.00	\$20.00
Administration	\$110.38	\$120.00
Equipment	\$855.99	\$0.00
HYC Fire	\$136.16	\$0.00
Total Expense	\$12,405.84	\$12,240.00
Revenue - Expense	\$845.80	\$0.00

### Summary

Balance Forward	\$1,893.50	\$2,582.39
Total Revenue	\$13,094.73	\$12,240.00
Total Expense	\$12,405.84	\$12,240.00
Ending Balance	\$2,582.39	\$2,582.39

Proposed 1999 fees @ \$98 per camper (\$93 last year, most camps \$160-190). Adult volunteers continue to be free. \$50 per child not attending as campers. Each non-participating congregation in Northern Plains and South Central Classis to set out a plate for contributions to the camp.

### Heidelberg Youth Camp 1999 Proposed Schedule

#### Daily Schedule

7:30	Staff Meeting
8:00	Breakfast
9:00	Lesson
10:15	Free Time
10:45	Lesson
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Cabin Time
1:30	Soap Box
2:30	Recreation
4:00	Free Time
6:00	Supper
7:15	Worship Service
8:30	Evening Programs
10:00	Campfire
11:00	Cabin Devotions

(Lights out immediately following devotions)

#### Closing Day Schedule

7:30	Staff Meeting
8:00	Breakfast
8:45	Camp Pictures
9:15	Camp Clean-up
10:00	Begin Checking Out (Must complete evaluation and view lost & found)
10:30	Camp Ends

#### Camp Store Hours

#### Opening Day Schedule

3:00	Registration Begins
4:30	Camp Leadership Orientation
6:00	Supper
7:00	Ice Breakers
8:00	Camper Orientation
8:30	Opening Night Session
9:45	Cabin Icebreakers
11:00	Lights Out

Monday	3:00 - 5:45 PM	Wednesday	4:00 - 5:00 PM
Tuesday	4:00 - 5:00 PM		8:15 - 8:30 PM
	8:15 - 8:30 PM	Thursday	8:15 - 8:30 PM
		Friday	10:00 AM - everyone is gone.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dear Brethren,

Your Committee on Christian Education has three matters on which to report and make recommendations.

1. The Northern Plains Chronicles was published by Rev. Jones every two months this past year. His news items are based on the news he finds in the weekly bulletins which are sent to him from the Classis churches. Some of the churches have more "newsy" bulletins than others. We hope that the members find the newsletter of interest. Rev. Jones is willing to continue as editor for another year.

2. We have discovered the whereabouts of the Classis video library. It has been in the care and keeping of Rev. M. Koerner. The Hope Reformed Church in Pierre has the space to house the few videos which are the property of the Classis, and Rev. Jones has offered to be the librarian and handle any requests that members may have to borrow its videos. A listing of the videos will be made available via the NP Chronicles. We hope to add more videos to the library. Anyone who wishes to donate a video to the library may contact the librarian about the offer. Of course, we want only videos of general Christian interest for the library.

3. It has come to our attention that the annual Family Retreat at the Cross Roads Range, which is an unofficial activity of members of our Classis should perhaps be under the oversight of a Classis Committee, probably the Christian Education Committee. We deeply appreciate the labors of Darrell and Julie Bentz of Artas who were the main organizers of this family retreat. The retreat has been held the past several years in northern North Dakota. We are suggesting that in the interests of proper order and oversight the retreat probably should not be an independent entity separated from Classis authority. The Bentzes are in agreement with this proposal.

Recommendations:

1. That the Northern Plains Chronicles continue to be edited and printed by Rev. Northern Jones on a bi-monthly basis.
2. That the Classis Video Library be transferred to the Hope Reformed Church in Pierre, and that a listing of the available videos be printed in the NP Chronicles; and that our pastors and members be encouraged to use them.
3. That the Standing Committee on Education discuss the advisability of having the Classis assume oversight of the Family Retreat at Cross Roads Range.
4. That Darrell and Julie Bentz and all who have helped with the Family Retreat be commended for their efforts.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. William Haddock, Rev. Norman Jones, Elder Ron Abbink

## **INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The activities of the committee included sending a delegate to the 1998 Spring and Fall meetings of the OPC Dakota Presbytery meetings, as well as to the 1999 Spring meeting.

Rev. Maynard Koerner attended the meeting of the Dakota Presbytery held at Volga, SD on March 24-25, 1998.

Rev. Maynard Koerner attended the meeting of the Dakota Presbytery held at Bancroft, SD on September 22-23, 1998.

Rev. Michael Voytek will plan to attend the meeting of the Dakota Presbytery to be held at Carson, ND on March 23-24, 1999.

Reports by the delegates to these meetings will be given at the meeting of the Northern Plains Classis meeting in Aberdeen, SD on March 29 -30, 1999.

An invitation has been sent to the Dakota Presbytery to have a delegate at the meeting of the Northern Plains Classis meeting in Aberdeen, SD on March 29-30, 1999.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Norman Jones, Elder Alwin Rau

## **AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Esteemed Brothers

The auditing committee audited the financial books of the Northern Plains Classis as they were kept by the treasurer, Mr. Ralph Kusler. The committee met with Mr. Ralph Kusler. Present were John Bender, Milbert Kappes, Mr. Kusler and Rev. Herman Van Stedum. The committee went over the treasurer's report. They verified the interest statement of the Now Account and Savings Certificates. They went through all the bank statements. They verified committee expenses and delegate expenses. Note was taken that two years expenses for abstracts were paid last year. They went through all the payment vouchers. The committee found the books to be in order and a were impressed with the thorough and accurate job done by the treasurer. The committee makes the following recommendation:

1. That the Northern Plains Classis commend Mr. Ralph Kusler for his work as Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Mr. John Bender, Mr. Milbert Kappes.

## **IX. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CLASSIS.**



Esteemed Brethren:

This has been a fairly quiet year for the Northern Plains Classis. With the ordination and installation services of pastors Michael Voytek and Darrell Kingswood all of the pulpits are filled. All of the pastors report that the word of God has been regularly preached and taught in their congregations. For all of this we are grateful and praise our sovereign God. The Executive Committee, especially the Clerk, are also happy to have had such a quiet year.

The report from Minot, ND is quite encouraging. There seems to be some growth and renewed excitement among the congregation. We trust that they will soon find a piece of property to build a place of worship on. We also trust that they will be able to sell the current church property. The congregation in Pierre, SD is also very busy seeking ways to reach the community with the Gospel. We trust that the strong efforts of preaching and teaching will be used by the Lord to bring a large harvest. Both of these congregations are receiving Synodical and Classical aid. They are desirous of becoming self-supporting as soon as possible. We trust that the efforts of the Home Missions Committee in providing oversight to these congregations will be beneficial. May God be pleased to bless these congregations.

Last year we noted that the congregation of Upham, ND was in the process of dissolving. This process has been completed, with the exception of some legalities that are still in process. We are glad to report that a number of the members were transferred to the Minot congregation. While it is sad to see a congregation closing, it is important to keep in mind that what we seek is the building of God's Kingdom wherever His people are at. As we see small country churches having to close their doors we need to be even more diligent in seeking to do mission works in the cities.

The Northern Plains Classis is continuing to provide 1/4 for the support for the mission congregation in Watertown, SD. While the congregation in Watertown has not experienced any numerical growth this past year, it remains a very strategic location for a reformed church in the Northern Plains Classis.

The Missions Committee has also been pursuing the possibility of beginning a mission work in Fargo, ND. At this Classis meeting we will be discussing the possibility of beginning a bible study on a regular basis. May the Lord bless these efforts.

Mr. Graef Gannon, an elder of the Kassel Reformed Church of Denhoff, ND continues to fill the pulpit there. Student Tracy Gruggett has completed his first year of seminary at Westminster Seminary in California. Student Jim Snyder has not yet begun seminary training. Retired pastor Norman Jones reports continued struggles with his health. However, he is able to continue with some ministerial labors. He is faithfully editing the Northern Plains Chronicles. We pray that God will continue to provide for his health.

We are thankful to God for all of His faithful servants in the Northern Plains Classis. We are very much in the process of going from being a "country church" to being a "city church". This may be a difficult and at times a painful process, but we know that our sovereign Lord will provide for all that we stand in need of. One of the real challenges will be to pursue the opportunity to begin mission works with reduced resources. We know that the farm economy has not been good. Yet in many ways we are rich, both spiritually and materially. If we are faithful to the Lord of the Church we know that He will be faithful to us.

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Maynard Koerner

## **B. STATED CLERK'S REPORT.**

### **A. Duties Performed:**

1. 3/20/98: prepared Official Minutes (including Table of Contents) and supporting documents of the Northern Plains Classis in post-binder.
2. 4/21/98: delivered *Abstract of the Minutes* of the spring meeting to JC Printing in Pierre, SD.

### **B. Correspondence Mailed**

1. 3/19/98, mailed copy of official minutes to President of Executive Committee
2. 4/23/98: mailed the following correspondence to the Stated Clerk of Synod:
  - a. The 1997 Statistical and Membership Reports for the NPC (three pages);
  - b. Writ of Certification for Delegates to the 252nd Synod
  - c. Addresses of the delegates and churches of the NPC (two pages);
  - d. Report of Changes;
  - e. Report of voting on the *Directory of Worship*;
  - f. Six separate overtures from the Northern Plains Classis to Synod (six pages).
3. 9/15/98: forwarded invitation from OPC POD to chairman of NPC Inter-church Relations Committee.
4. 10/7/98: Mailed NPC Executive Circular, Vol. 13. No. 1 to Classis delegates.
5. 1/7/98: Mailed NPC Executive Circular, Vol. 13. No. 2 to Classis delegates.
6. 2/17/99: mailed Classis forms and Proposed Agenda of the Spring Meeting.

### **C. Correspondence Received:**

- 4/11/98: Minutes of the 1998 OPC Pres. of the Dakota's Meeting.  
4/23/98: report of the ordination committee for D. Kingswood's ordination.  
9/14/98: invitation from OPC POD to send a delegate to their meeting.  
9/16/98: Notification from South Central Classis concerning actions with regard to S. Schlei.  
10/2/98: report of the ordination committee for M. Voytek's ordination.  
10/19/98: minutes of the OPC POD Special Meeting, 10/14/98.  
11/4/98: minutes of the OPC POD Special Meeting, 10/27/98.  
1/5/99: letter from the First RCUS of Herreid, inviting to host the Annual Meeting of Classis in 1999.  
1/15/99: letter from the First RCUS of Herreid, inviting to host the Annual Meeting of Classis in 2000.  
2/99: invitation from OPC POD to send a delegate to their meeting.

### **Notes:**

1. Your Clerk made several errors while performing the duties of this office. I mention them here.
  - a. The Classis received Mr. Jim Synder as a Student Under Care at our last meeting, however, I did not list him on the roll of Classis. Consequently, Mr. Synder's name did not appear in the Classis or Synod Abstracts last year. I apologize for this oversight, and have taken the necessary steps to place his name on the roll of Classis this year.
  - b. I did not present the Official Minutes of our Classis to Synod last year. Our minutes are supposed to be presented to the Standing Minutes of Classis Committee at the Synod Meeting. The Standing Minutes of Classis Committee will have two years of minutes to look at when our Synod meets.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That Classis purchase a four-drawer filing cabinet for the storage of the permanent records of the Classis.

In Christ,  
William W. Haddock

### **C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SYNOD**

There was no report from the Executive Committee of Synod.

### **D. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THEIR MINUTES.**

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Executive Committee met primarily via telephone and e-mail to handle its business. Two Circulars were issued during this classical year.

#### **Executive Circular, Vol. 13, No. 1, October 5, 1998**

Recommendations:

1. That in every instance in which a question arises concerning the validity of reimbursement for expenses on behalf of Classis, the Executive Committee shall advise the Treasurer of Classis concerning payment of such requests.
2. That one of the congregations of the Northern Plains Classis submit an invitation to host the 1999 Annual Spring Meeting of Classis.

#### **Executive Circular, Vol. 13, No. 2, January 7, 1999**

Recommendations:

1. That the Classis accept the invitation of the First Reformed Church of Aberdeen, SD, to host the 13th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis.
2. That dates of the Classis meeting be set for March 29-30, 1999, with the Classis convening at 1:00 PM on March 29.

#### **The Spring Meeting of Classis**

The Executive Committee mailed the Proposed Agenda for the Spring Meeting of Classis, as well as the Order of Business to all Classis churches.

#### **Upham**

Rev. Koerner has been in contact with people from the church in Upham. He reports that they are in the process of changing their status with the State of North Dakota from a church to a cemetery. The Classis is advised that the church is no longer meeting for worship or other meetings, and should be removed from the roll of Classis Churches.

Respectfully submitted, Maynard Koerner, William Haddock, Marvin Olivier

**E. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

FUND BALANCES  
Jan. 1, 1998 through Dec. 31, 1998

FUND	Balance 1-1-98	INCOME	EXPENSES	Balance 12-31-98	Savings Certificates
Classical Dues	1,266.72	6,076.07	3,016.28	4,326.51	1,000.00
Home Missions	8,831.63	18,778.73	18,499.05	9,111.31	2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,098.35</b>	<b>24,854.80</b>	<b>21,515.33</b>	<b>13,437.82</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>

**BANK RECONCILIATION**

Balance Per Bank Statement	13,508.45
Less Checks Outstanding	70.63
Balance Per Check Book	13,437.82

**STATEMENT OF INCOME**

<b>From Source Received</b>	<b>Classical Dues</b>	<b>Home Missions</b>
Interest on Now Account	33.68	172.55
Interest on Savings Certificate	53.09	106.18
Oranien Reformed Church, Leola	85.50	514.50
First Reformed Church, Aberdeen	576.00	3,456.00
Eureka Reformed Church, Eureka	1,116.00	6,696.00
Kassel Reformed Church, Denhoff	130.50	783.00
Hope Reformed Church, Pierre	121.50	729.00
Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown	99.00	594.00
Harvest Reformed Church, Minot: 1997		246.50
Harvest Reformed Church, Minot: 1998	121.50	729.00
Artas Reformed Church, Artas	2,947.30	
First Reformed Church, Herreid	315.00	1,890.00
Hosmer Reformed Church, Hosmer	220.50	1,323.00
Salem Reformed Church, Ashley	256.50	1,539.00
Total Income	<b>6,076.07</b>	<b>18,778.73</b>

Northern Plains Classis Treasurer prepared this financial statement on a cash basis. Fund accounting, which consists of a self-balancing group of accounts and in which is recorded cash received and expenditures paid, is used by the Classis. In addition, revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when

earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

#### STATEMENT OF EXPENSE

SPRING CLASSIS MEETING		OFFICERS HONORARIUM	
Ronald Abbink	72.00	Rev. Koerner - Pres.	100.00
John Bender	32.00	Rev. Haddock - Clerk	250.00
Rev. William Haddock	64.00	Ralph Kusler - Treasurer	100.00
Rev. Norman Jones	12.80	Total	450.00
Marvin Olivier	12.80	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
Rev. Michael Voytek	99.60	Rev. Syms	185.13
Allen Dockter	19.92	Rev. Koerner	291.40
Milbert Kappes	10.80	Rev. Haddock	70.63
Norman Mehlhaff	14.40	Total	547.16
Alwin Rau	66.00	TOTAL CLASSICAL EXPENSES	3,016.28
Total	404.32		
CLASSICAL EXPENSES		HOME MISSIONS	
Rev. Syms-postage, mileage	124.10	Minot	3,000.00
Quality Quick Print	688.95	Pierre	6,000.00
1997 Abstracts		Watertown	8,325.00
Rev. Jones - Chronicles	41.68	Alwin Rau-mileage	28.00
Rev. Haddock-phone, mileage	158.13	Rev. Syms-mileage	202.25
U.S. Postmaster	19.00	Rev. Van Stedum-mileage	20.00
J.C. Printing	528.94	Salem Reformed Church	924.00
1998 Abstracts		Radio Broadcast	
Rev. Davis-mileage	54.00	Total Home Missions	18,499.05
Total	1,614.80	TOTAL EXPENSES	21,515.33

Ralph Kusler, Treasurer

#### **X. PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS**

Each minister read his parochial report. The action on all the reports was, "Take Note".

#### **XI. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE ELDERS**

The President asked the elder delegates the Constitutional Questions from Article 81 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States. Question #1 - all answered "yes"; Question #2 - all answered "yes"; Question #3a - all answered "yes"; Question #3b - all answered "yes"; Question #4 - all answered "yes"; Question #5a - all answered "yes"; Question #5b - all answered "yes"; Question #5c - all answered "yes", except: Ferdinand Opp ("no"), Norman Mehlhaff ("no"), Norman Schick ("no"), and Willis Schnabel ("partially"); Question #5d - all answered "yes"; Question #6 - all answered 'yes'; Question #7a - all answered 'yes'; Question #7b - all answered 'yes'.

## **XII. REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS**

This report can be found in the Appendix of this Abstract.

## **XIII. READING OF THE STANDING RULES.**

The Standing Rules of the Northern Plains Classis can be found in the Appendix of this Abstract.

## **XIV. REPORTS FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES.**

### **Report Of Fraternal Delegate To The Dakota Presbytery, Orthodox Presbyterian Church**

Brethren,

Your servant was the fraternal delegate to both the Spring and Fall meeting of the Dakota Presbytery of the OPC. The Spring meeting was held at Volga, SD on March 24,25. I was only able to attend the first day. The Fall meeting was held at Bancroft, SD on Sept. 22,23.

I was able to address the Presbytery at both meetings. I brought them up to date on some of the things that we are doing. I emphasized the importance of the exchange of fraternal delegates. In recent years there has been some difficulty with our meetings being held on the same dates. I encouraged them to send a delegate to our next meeting.

One of the main items of business for both meetings was the matter of beginning a mission work in Salt Lake City, Utah. The candidate for that work was given a preliminary exam in committee in the Spring meeting. In fact I had the privilege of helping with that exam He was given a more thorough exam and was received at the Fall meeting.

I informed them that we were pursuing the possibility of a mission work in Fargo, ND.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet and visit with the men of the Presbytery. I was warmly received and extended every courtesy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maynard Koerner

## **Report of the Delegate to the 1999 Spring Meeting, Presbytery of the Dakotas, OPC**

Esteemed Brethren and Fathers,

Your servant attended the spring meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas (POD) which was held in Carson, North Dakota on March 23-24, 1999. The warmth, acceptance, and fellowship of the brethren was of great encouragement.

The POD is facing the same challenges that we are facing, that of declining rural churches due to declining rural populations. They are addressing this situation in the same way as we are, that is by focusing on planting churches in larger urban areas within their bounds. They are in the process of planting churches in Colorado and Salt Lake City, Utah. we can learn much from the work in Ft. Collins. After 5 years of struggle in attempting to plant a church, they are experiencing very healthy growth. This past year they have grown from 20 to 40 people in attendance.

Your servant was invited to address the Presbytery and he focused on their commitment to faithfulness to the truth He also exhorted them from Psalm 133 to strive for the unity of the church, both within their own churches as well as with their relationship with sister churches such as the RCUS.

Your servant was invited to participate in the ordination exam of a young man who is now the pastor of the church in Hamill, SD. I was impressed by the thoroughness of the exam and the quality of the answers given by the examinee. There were also a number of judicial matters addressed by the Presbytery including a complaint from a church in Colorado and charges against a minister.

Your servant wishes to thank the North Plains Classis for sending him to this meeting and for allowing him to represent the Classis.

Your fellow bondservant in Christ,  
Michael Voytek

### **XV. ADDRESSES AND/OR REPORTS OF VISITORS.**

Rev. Ralph English, Fraternal Delegate from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church Presbytery of the Dakotas, addressed the assembly. G. Syms gave the response on behalf of the Northern Plains Classis.

### **XVI. REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.**

There were no special committee reports.

### **XVII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES.**

*Note: All recommendations in the Standing Committee reports appear in their final, amended form, and were adopted unless otherwise noted.*

## **A. EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE**

Esteemed brethren:

A. Tracy Gruggett is a student under of Classis and is attending Westminster Theological Seminary in California.

Recommendation:

1. That the request of Tracy Gruggett for \$7920.00 for student aid be referred to the Education, Student Aid, and Publications committee.

2. That Tracy Gruggett's request for Diaconal Aid be referred to the Committee on Finances, Benevolence, and Ministerial Aid.

B. Dr. Graef Gannon is an elder of the Kassel Reformed Church. According to the Constitution of the RCUS, the committee understands the responsibility of the elder as follows:

a. Article 27 states that it is the Minister of the Word that administers or dispenses the sacraments;

b. Article 43 states that the elder is "to assist and support the pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church."

c. Article 34 distinguishes the duties of the minister of the Word as "ministerial acts

d. Article 44 states that elders "shall provide for the elements of the Lords Supper and aid in their distribution when requested by the pastor or by the spiritual council."

Therefore we recommend:

3. In that Graef B. Gannon is an elder of the Kassel Reformed Church, it is not necessary to appoint him as Stated Supply.

4. By the arrangement of the Kassel Spiritual Council, the sacraments and rites of the Church shall be administered by an ordained Minister of the Word per the discretion of Northern Plains Classis. (Article 69)

—H. Van Stedum, M. Voytek, G. Syms, A. Dockter

## **B. EXCUSES**

One Excuse has been submitted. Elder Norman Schick of Herreid requests to be excused for the March 30th session "due to livestock care." We recommend that the excuse be granted.

—N. Jones, M. Kappes

## **C. FINANCES, BENEVOLENCE, AND MINISTERIAL AID**

Esteemed brethren:



## A. Mileage Requests

The Finances Committee received the following requests for mileage reimbursement:

Alwin Rau	490 miles at .20 =	\$98.00
Willis Schnabel	50 miles at .20 =	\$30.00
George Syms	160 miles at .20 =	\$32.00
Norman Mehlhaff	124 miles at .20 =	\$24.80
Allen Dockter	512 miles at .20 =	\$102.40
Michael Voytek	540 miles at .04 =	\$21.40
Maynard Koerner	200 miles at .20 =	\$40.00
Robert Davis	218 miles at .20 =	\$43.60
Norman Jones	330 miles at .20 =	\$66.00
Lynn Goehring	330 miles at .20 =	\$66.00
Total		\$524.20

Note: There were no requests for reimbursement from James Huber, Milbert Kappes, Darrell Kingswood, Bill Haddock Ron Abbink, Herman Van Stedum, Ferdinand Opp, and Norman Schick.

## B. Ministerial Aid

Your committee has received a request from Rev. N. Jones or Ministerial Aid. Rev. Jones and his wife have been receiving aid in the amount of \$1,200 per month.

## C. Diaconal Aid

Your committee has received a request from Rev. N. Jones and Student Tracy Gruggett for Diaconal Aid Your committee believes that the responsibility for support be divided between the church where they have their membership, the Classis, and the Synod.

Recommendations:

1. That mileage be paid to the delegates in the amounts requested.
2. That the Classis overture the Synod on behalf of Rev. & Mrs. Norman Jones for ministerial aid in the amount of \$1200.00 per month.
- 3.a That the diaconate of the churches where Rev. Jones and Student Gruggett have their membership give consideration of their needs; b. That the Classis grant diaconal aid in the amount of \$500.00 to student Tracy Gruggett; c. that the Classis overture the Synod for diaconal aid in the amount of \$500.00 for student Tracy Gruggett.
4. That the Classis Guideline for 1999-2000 be as follows: Missions - \$27.25; Radio Ministry - \$1.50; Dues - \$4.25; Diaconal - \$1.50; Total - \$34.50

*From the Floor:* that \$3,000.00 given to the Classis from the Artas Reformed Church be transferred from the Classical Dues Account to the Classical Home Missions Account, and that notification be made in the *Northern Plains Chronicles*.

—M. Voytek, G. Syms, J. Huber, R. Abbink

## **D. JUDICIAL**

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Committee received the following items and makes the following recommendations:

1. A referral of the Executive Committee report concerning the matter of the Upham congregation.
2. A referral of the wording of Standing Rule #4.

Recommendations:

1. That the Executive Committee of Classis pursue the matter of the dissolution of the Upham congregation until official notice of such dissolution is received.
2. That no statistical or address information concerning the Upham congregation be printed in the Abstract.
3. Regarding Standing #4, we recommend that the word "second" be deleted.

W. Haddock, D. Kingswood, L. Goehring, F. Opp

## **E. NOMINATIONS**

*The first name listed is the committee chairman.*

Executive: Koerner, Haddock, Goehring

Christian Education: Jones, Haddock, Goehring

Candidates and Credentials: Voytek, Syms, A. Dockter, Van Stedum

Home Missions: Voytek, Syms, Huber, Schnabel

Camp: Davis, Schick, Kingswood

Interchurch Relations: Koerner, Jones, Abbink, Rau

Diaconal: Kingswood, Mehlhaff, Rau

Auditing: Kappes, Van Stedum, F. Opp

—G. Syms, W. Schnabel, M. Koerner, A. Dockter

## **F. OVERTURES**

1. Home Missions Committee of Northern Plains Classis. Referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial aid.

2. Overture from Hope Reformed of Pierre for financial aid. Referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial aid.
3. Invitation Overture from First Reformed Church of Herreid to host the Annual Spring Classis year 2000. Referred to Services and Interchurch Relations.
4. Overture from Kassel Reformed Church to approve the continued stated Supply of Dr. Gannon. Referred to Examination and Licensure
5. Overture from Harvest Reformed of Minot for benevolent aid from Classis and Synod. Referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid.
6. Overture from Pastor Norman Jones for Ministerial aid and possible Diaconal aid for medical bills. Referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid.
7. Item seven is almost same. Referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid.
8. Overture from Salem and Hosmer Reformed Churches for financial aid on the radio broadcast "Start the Week." Referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial aid.

—R. Davis, A. Dockter, F. Opp

## **G. SERVICES AND INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**

The committee has received two documents; (a) report of Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee and (b) an invitation from the Herreid Reformed Church to host the spring Classis meeting 2000.

1. We express our joy in having Rev. Ralph English as Fraternal Delegate of the OPC Presbytery of the Dakota with this session.
2. That the Northern Plains Classis accept the invitation of the Herried Reformed Church to host the spring 2000 meeting of the NPC with the time to be determined by mutual consent of the Executive Committee and the host congregation.
3. The pastors and elders of the 14th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis express our warmest thanks and appreciation to the First Reformed Church of Aberdeen for hosting the year's Classis meeting. Your Christian hospitality in giving us lodging and splendid meals will not soon be forgotten.

Our prayer is that God may continue to bless your congregation with all that you stand in need of to serve the Lord and to fight the good fight of faith in the Aberdeen Community and that this be printed in the bulletin the coming Lord's Day.

—H. Van Stedum, N. Jones, N. Schick, N. Mehlhaff

## **H. MISSIONS**

Esteemed Brethren:

Recommendations:

- (1) That the NPC budget \$6,000 for Hope Reformed Church, Pierre, SD,, for 1999.
- (2) That the NPC overture Synod for Benevolent Aid in the amount of \$10,800 for Hope Reformed Church for 1999.
- (3) That the NPC budget \$3,000 for Harvest Reformed Church, Minot, ND, for 1999.
- (4) That the NPC overture Synod for Benevolent Aid in the amount of \$3,000 for Harvest Reformed Church for 1999.
- (5) That the Harvest Reformed be encouraged to vigorously and responsibly move forward in seeking a permanent place of worship.
- (6) That the NPC budget \$8,325 for Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown,, SD, for 2000.
- (7) That the NPC pay mileage for those pastors conducting Bible Studies/Worship Services with the group in Fargo, ND, for 1999.
- (8) That the NPC budget \$4,000 for Home Mission work in Fargo, ND for 1999.
- (9) That churches which receive benevolent aid present a 3 year-budget to the Classis.
- (10) That Home Mission Churches present a 3 year-budget to the Classis.
- (11) That the Permanent Home Mission Committee meet annually with each Home Mission Church.

—D. Kingswood, H. Van Stedum, M. Kappes, R. Abbink.

## **I. EDUCATION, PUBLICATION, AND STUDENT AID**

Recommendations:

1. That the Northern Plains Chronicles continue to be edited and printed by Rev. Norman Jones on a bi-monthly basis.
2. That the Classis Video Library be transferred to the Hope Reformed Church in Pierre, and that a listing of the available videos be printed in the Northern Plains Chronicles; and that our pastors and members be encouraged to use them.
3. That the Classis Committee on Christian Education take oversight of the Family Retreat at Cross Roads Range by:
  - a. Appointing a Director and Staff as is deemed necessary; and
  - b. Assuming the financial responsibilities of the camp; and
  - c. Promote the Retreat through appropriate advertising.

4. That Darrell and Julie Bentz and all who have helped with the Family Retreat be commended for their efforts.  
TAKE NOTE.

5. That the Synod grant the request of seminarian Tracy Gruggett for tuition aid for the school year 1999-2000 for the amount of \$7,920.00 and \$250.00 for books.

6. That the report and recommendations of the Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee be adopted with the following qualifications:

a. That the Northern Plains Classis receive more information before allocating \$250.00 for the proposed two issues of the youth newsletter *HYC Fire*.

b. That we urge that the curfew hour of 11:00 PM apply to all the campers.

—N. Jones, A. Rau, W. Schnabel, R. Davis

### **XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.**

There was no miscellaneous business.

### **XIX. READING OF THE MINUTES**

The Clerk read the minutes. The President declared the Minutes approved as corrected.

### **XX. ADJOURNMENT**

The Classis adjourned to the 2000 Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis at the First Reformed Church of Herreid, South Dakota at a time to be determined by the Executive Committee and the host congregation.

#### **A. Roll Call**

The final roll call showed 8 ministers and 9 elders present.

#### **B. Devotions**

Elder Allen Dockter led the Classis in devotions from Psalm 103.

#### **C. The Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction**

The assembly stood to unite in the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer. The President pronounced the Benediction.

## **APPENDICES**

### **THE STANDING RULES OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS**

1. The Classical dues shall be due on the first of September and are to be paid not later than the 30th of September of the current year.

2. The parochial reports and statistics shall be forwarded two weeks before the spring session; the parochial reports to the President of the Classis and the statistics to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the session of Classis.

3. The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the session of Classis.

4. The Standing Rules shall be read during the session of Classis.

5. If pastors, elders, and members of congregations request information from the Executive of Classis concerning constitutional matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented in written form and relevant only to the item in question.

6.a. If a pastor and his elder drive to classis separately, they shall be paid 12 cents both ways; 6.b. If a pastor and his elder come in the same car, the one driving is to get 20 cents per mile and the rider is to get 4 cents per mile;

6.c. If there is but one delegate driving he is to get 20 cents per mile, and if a man travels in behalf of classis business he is to get 20 cents per mile;

6.d. When distance and time require travel on public transportation to classis, or for classis business, they shall be granted full fare.

7 Travel reimbursement shall be paid only to those delegates whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions or have been properly excused by Classis.

8. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form to "Northern Plains Classis," and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.

9 The President of Classis shall receive one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), and the Treasurer one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the Classical year.

10. Nominations for all officers of Classis shall be made by secret ballot. All names appearing on the nominating ballot shall be candidates, and if there is not an election on the first ballot, only the names with the two highest totals of votes shall be candidates until there is an election.

11. The worship services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circulated before Classis.

12. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of Classis shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at any time.

13. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the yearly Spring meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the Constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge, and sent to the Stated Clerk.

14. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to the Consistories of all the Churches two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis. Parochial reports from all Ministers and Licentiates are to be sent to the President at least two weeks before the Spring meeting of Classis. Excuses for these requirements are to be made by written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis.

15. It shall be the practice of the Classis before ordaining candidates for the ministry and before installing ordained ministers from other denominations, to require no less than a six month internship for them under the supervision of a pastor of the Classis who has served in the Reformed Church in the United States for at least five years. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed upon learning the peculiarities and practices of the RCUS. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed.

16. All documents submitted to Classis be written on sheets of paper 8.5 inches wide and 11 inches long.

**Necrology**  
**Elder Ted Orth**

Theodore James Orth (1942-1998) was born in Eureka, SD on June 10, 1942 to Henry H. and Amanda (Trautmann) Orth of Artas, SD. He was baptized on April 4, 1954 in the Reformed Church and he was confirmed on July 1, 1956. He grew up in Artas and attended school at the Orth District #40 School until the 8th grade. On June 26, 1964 he married Nola Thorsen in Pollock, SD. He then made their home on a farm west of Herreid, SD. The Lord blessed this family with both a son and daughter. In 1967 they moved to a farm 6 miles East of Herreid, SD where he has since resided. He served the Lord as a member of First Reformed Church of Herreid, as a Deacon from 1981 until 1987 and as an elder from 1989 to 1996. His family is comforted that Ted believed in his only Savior Jesus Christ and belonged to Him.

**Northern Plains Classis: 1998 Statistical Report**

1998	1	2	3	4
Numerical and Financial Statistics Northern Plains Classis	First Aberdeen	Salem Ashley	Kassel Denhoff	Eureka Eureka
1. Number of Elders	3	3	2	3
2. Number of Deacons	3	3	2	3
3. Communicant Members Last Year	128	57	29	252
4. Received by Confirmation	0	1	0	0
5. Received by Letter	4	3	0	2
6. Received by Profession	2	0	0	0
7. Total Received	6	4	0	2
8. Total Old and New Communicant Members	134	61	29	254
9. Lost by Dismissal	4	1	0	1
10. Lost by Erasure and/or Discipline	2	0	0	2
11. Lost by Death	0	1	0	4
12. Total Lost	6	2	0	7

13. Total Communicant Members this Year	128	59	29	245
14. Number of Unconfirmed Members	33	4	5	29
15. Total Baptized Members	161	63	34	279
16. Number of Families now in Congregation	72	32	18	130
17. Number of Children in Sunday School	16	4	4	29
18. Number of Adults Baptized last year	0	0	0	0
19. Number of Infants Baptized last year	5	0	0	0
20. Total Baptisms last year	5	0	0	0
21. Members Receiving Lord's Supper	111	58	27	209
22. Times Lord's Supper Served	4	4	4	3
23. Receipts from Regular Sunday Offerings	\$50,570.00	\$20,380.00	\$11,933.00	\$28,173.00
24. Receipts from Special Offerings	\$5,354.00	\$9,838.00	\$248.00	\$9,062.00
25. Receipts from Assessments/Other Source	\$6,555.00	\$4,437.00	0	\$52,611.00
26. Total Receipts	\$62,479.00	\$34,655.00	\$12,181.00	\$89,846.00
27. Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$16,307.00	\$9,261.00	\$4,642.00	\$29,785.00
28. Budgeted Classical Funds	\$4,032.00	\$1,795.00	\$911.00	\$7,812.00
29. RCUS Non-budgeted Funds	0	\$865.00	\$205.00	0
30. Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	0	\$111.00	0
31. Other General Expenses	\$43,476.00	\$18,786.00	\$1,553.00	\$51,071.00
32. Total Disbursements	\$63,815.00	\$30,707.00	\$7,422.00	\$86,668.00
33. Value of the Church Building	\$100,000.00	\$24,900.00	\$40,000.00	\$250,000.00
34. Value of the Parsonage	\$75,000.00	\$17,100.00	0	\$50,000.00
35. Improvements on Church Properties	0	\$497.00	\$121.00	0
36. Present Property Debts	\$19,727.00	0	0	0
37. Debt Payments in the Past Year	\$4,408.00	0	0	0
38. Synod Giving per Communicant	\$127.00	\$162.00	\$160.00	\$120.00
39. Classis Giving per Communicant	\$32.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$32.00
40. Total Giving to RCUS per Communicant	\$159.00	\$209.00	\$198.00	\$152.00

**Northern Plains Classis: 1998 Statistical Report**

<b>1998</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Numerical and Financial Statistics Northern Plains Classis</b>	<b>First Herreid</b>	<b>Hosmer Hosmer</b>	<b>Oranien Leola</b>	<b>Harvest Minot</b>
1. Number of Elders	2	3	2	2
2. Number of Deacons	2	3	2	3
3. Communicant Members Last Year	71	49	19	27
4. Received by Confirmation	3	0	0	0
5. Received by Letter	2	3	0	8
6. Received by Profession	0	0	0	1
7. Total Received	5	3	0	9
8. Total Old and New Communicant Members	76	52	19	36
9. Lost by Dismissal	0	0	0	2
10. Lost by Erasure and/or Discipline	1	0	2	3
11. Lost by Death	3	5	1	0
12. Total Lost	4	5	3	5



13. Total Communicant Members this Year	72	47	16	31
14. Number of Unconfirmed Members	13	8	0	16
15. Total Baptized Members	85	55	16	47
16. Number of Families now in Congregation	45	31	9	20
17. Number of Children in Sunday School	15	0	0	14
18. Number of Adults Baptized last year	0	0	0	0
19. Number of Infants Baptized last year	0	0	0	1
20. Total Baptisms last year	0	0	0	1
21. Members Receiving Lord's Supper	60	38	15	27
22. Times Lord's Supper Served	4	4	4	8
23. Receipts from Regular Sunday Offerings	\$30,934.00	\$6,201.00	\$6,746.00	\$31,751.00
24. Receipts from Special Offerings	\$14,440.00	\$1,306.00	\$803.00	\$5,330.00
25. Receipts from Assessments/Other Source	\$12,061.00	\$16,601.00	\$4,300.00	\$9,138.00
26. Total Receipts	\$54,435.00	\$24,108.00	\$11,849.00	\$46,219.00
27. Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$3,740.00	\$4,297.00	\$3,130.00	\$4,266.00
28. Budgeted Classical Funds	\$2,205.00	\$1,543.00	\$600.00	\$1,097.00
29. RCUS Non-budgeted Funds	0	\$500.00	\$1,244.00	0
30. Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	\$227.00	0	\$60.00	0
31. Other General Expenses	\$47,098.00	\$19,323.00	\$7,731.00	\$34,704.00
32. Total Disbursements	\$53,270.00	\$25,663.00	\$12,765.00	\$40,067.00
33. Value of the Church Building	\$40,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$39,000.00
34. Value of the Parsonage	\$25,000.00	0	0	\$78,000.00
35. Improvements on Church Properties	\$16,344.00	0	\$81.00	0
36. Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0
37. Debt Payments in the Past Year	\$2,695.00	0	0	0
38. Synod Giving per Communicant	\$53.00	\$88.00	\$165.00	\$158.00
39. Classis Giving per Communicant	\$31.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$41.00
40. Total Giving to RCUS per Communicant	\$84.00	\$129.00	\$262.00	\$199.00

**Northern Plains Classis: 1998 Statistical Report**

1998	9	10	TOTALS
<b>Numerical and Financial Statistics Northern Plains Classis</b>	<b>Hope Pierre</b>	<b>Covenant Watertown</b>	
<i>Note: Hope RCUS reported the death of 1 non-communicant.</i>			
1. Number of Elders	2	2	24
2. Number of Deacons	0	0	21
3. Communicant Members Last Year	27	22	681
4. Received by Confirmation	0	0	4
5. Received by Letter	0	0	22
6. Received by Profession	0	0	3
7. Total Received	0	0	29
8. Total Old and New Communicant Members	27	22	710
9. Lost by Dismissal	0	3	11
10. Lost by Erasure and/or Discipline	0	0	10
11. Lost by Death	0	0	14
12. Total Lost	0	0	32

13. Total Communicant Members this Year	27	19		673
14. Number of Unconfirmed Members	10	5		121
15. Total Baptized Members	37	24		801
16. Number of Families now in Congregation	12	9		376
17. Number of Children in Sunday School	8	5		95
18. Number of Adults Baptized last year	0	0		0
19. Number of Infants Baptized last year	0	0		6
20. Total Baptisms last year	0	0		6
21. Members Receiving Lord's Supper	27	18		590
22. Times Lord's Supper Served	6	6		47
23. Receipts from Regular Sunday Offerings	\$31,300.00	\$16,028.00		\$234,016.00
24. Receipts from Special Offerings	\$550.00	\$14,704.00		\$61,635.00
25. Receipts from Assessments/Other Source	\$16,800.00	\$35,905.00		\$158,408.00
26. Total Receipts	\$48,650.00	\$66,637.00		\$451,059.00
27. Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$4,366.00	\$3,476.00		\$83,270.00
28. Budgeted Classical Funds	\$852.00	\$693.00		\$21,540.00
29. RCUS Non-budgeted Funds	0	0		\$2,814.00
30. Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	0		\$398.00
31. Other General Expenses	\$45,731.00	\$62,572.00		\$332,045.00
32. Total Disbursements	\$50,949.00	\$66,741.00		\$438,067.00
33. Value of the Church Building	\$100,000.00	0		\$648,900.00
34. Value of the Parsonage	\$90,000.00	\$145,000.00		\$480,100.00
35. Improvements on Church Properties	0	0		\$17,043.00
36. Present Property Debts	\$69,730.00	\$66,231.00		\$155,688.00
37. Debt Payments in the Past Year	\$3,340.00	\$17,646.00		\$28,089.00
38. Synod Giving per Communicant	\$162.00	\$158.00		\$122.00
39. Classis Giving per Communicant	\$32.00	\$32.00		\$32.00
40. Total Giving to RCUS per Communicant	\$193.00	\$190.00		\$158.00