The

Reformed Church

in the

United States

Abstract of the Minutes 266th Synod

May 21-24, 2012 Grace Reformed Church Rapid City, SD The Abstract of the 266th Synod is hereby affectionately dedicated to the memory of

the Rev. Chester Ploeger (1925-2011)

a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and now in glory with the Lord and Savior he proclaimed and loved. May his ministry among God's people continue to bear fruit for generations to come!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATIONS	5
DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES	11
Ministers	11
Primarius Elderrs	14
Secundus Elders	16
Licentiates	18
Students under Care	18
SUMMARY INFORMATION	19
Officers of Synod	19
Permanent Synodical Committees	19
Synodical Guidelines	20
ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES	21
Services	21
Organization, Adoption of the Agenda, Order of the Day and Special Orders	
Welcome and Seating of Fraternal Delegates: Welcome of Visitors	21
Announcement of Standing Committees	
Presentation and Referral of Overtures, Permanent Committee Reports	22
Archives Committee	22
Board of Trustees	23
Christian Education Committee (and Sub-Committees)	23
Diaconal Committee	27
Editorial Advice Committee	30
Executive Committee	30
Foreign Ministries Committee	33
Home Missions Committee	40
Interchurch Relations Committee	45
Ministerial Aid Fund Committee	57
Publications and Promotions	58
Web-site	61

Develop eBook	61
Welcome of New Ministers	62
Welcome of New Churches	
Reports of Officers	62
President's Report on the State of the Church	
Stated Clerk's Report (and Necrology	
Treasurer's Report	
Membership and Financial Statistics	71
Reports from RCUS Fraternal Delegates	71
Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches, Institutional Representa	
Reports of Board Members and Liaisons	
Mid-America Reformed Seminary	
Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary	
Dordt College	72
Hope Haven	
Heidelberg Theological Seminary	
Radio Administration Committee	
Reformed Herald - Editor's Report	
Special Committee to Promote Biblical Sexuality	
Standing Committee Reports	
Benevolence Committee	
Ministerial Aid	80
Ecumenical	81
Education and Student Aid Committee	81
Judicial Committee	
Missions Committee	
Minutes of Classes Committee	84
Publications Committee	
Finances Committee	86
Excuses Committee	87
Nominations Committee	87
Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business	88
Expression of Appreciation	88
Adoption of the Stated Clerk's Report, Executive Committee Report	
Adjournment	
Minutes of Synod Report	
Roll Call	
Motion to Adjourn	88
Closing Service	
PENDIX	
Standing Rules	89
Index of Positions and Resoluions	
Membership and Financial Stats	
Con aval Information	

DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATIONS 2012

ARKANSAS

ROGERS, AR (479) 876-6649;

Grace Reformed, Hyatt Place Conference Center, 4610 W. Walnut St., Rogers, AR

Mail: 15 Kensington Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715

Service Times: Worship: 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM; SS 11:30 AM

Pastor: Wesley Brice / Ginger www.gracereformednwa.org

CALIFORNIA

ANDERSON, CA (530) 365-6874

Faith Reformed, 3291 Rupert Rd.

Mail: P.O. Box 902, Anderson, CA 96007

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM; Evening 5:30 PM

Pastor: Hank Bowen / Patty

www.faithrcus.org

BAKERSFIELD, CA (661) 587-3723

Grace Reformed, 420 Columbus St., Bakersfield, CA 93305

Service Times: SS 11:00 AM; Worship 9:30 AM; and third Sunday at 6:30 PM

Pastor: Tracy Gruggett / Michelle; Pastor Emeritus: Lloyd Gross / Claire

www.bakersfieldreformed.org

CHICO, CA (530) 345-2732

Covenant Reformed, Meeting at 1877 Hooker Oak Ave.

Mail: P.O. Box 1612, Chico, CA 95927-1612

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM

Pastor: Gary Mancilas / Gloria

www.reformedchico.org

GRASS VALLEY, CA (530) 273-4673 or 273-6280

Covenant Reformed, 407 W. Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 11:00 AM

Pastor: Dennis E. Roe / Julie; Assoc. Pastor: Jonathan Merica / Marsha

<u>www.crcgv.org</u> Fax: (530) 273-4673

LA HABRA, CA (626) 820-9390

Rehoboth Reformed Chapel, 501 S. Idaho, Suite 120, La Habra

Mail: 17874 Crimson Crest Dr. Rowland Heights, CA 91748

Service Times: SS 11:45 AM; Worship at 10:00 AM, 1:30 PM, and 6:00 PM

Mission Pastor: Michael Voytek / Rebecca

www.rehobothrcus.org

LANCASTER, CA - (Antelope Valley) (661) 940-4669

Grace Reformed, 121 Carriage Lane, Suite 111, Lancaster, CA 93534

Service Times: SS 9:45 AM; Worship at 10:45 AM

Pastor: Scott Henry / Maria; Pastor Emeritus: Neale Riffert / Mary Elizabeth

www.gracereformedchurchlancaster.com

LODI, CA (209) 367-0552

Providence Reformed, 245 E. Vine St., Lodi, CA 95240

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:45 AM; Wed. Bible Study 7:00 PM

Pastor: Doug Schlegel / Cheryl

www.prclodi.com

MODESTO, CA (209) 523-3220

Trinity Reformed, 960 El Terino Ave., Modesto, CA 95350

Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM

Pastor: Thomas Mayville / Carolyn; Pastor Emeritus: Paul Treick / Karen

SACRAMENTO, CA (916) 451-1190

Covenant Reformed, 2020 16th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95822

Service Times: SS 9:45 AM; Worship 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

Pastor: Jim West / Elaine; Assoc. Pastors: Frank Walker /Christine; and Gil Baloy /Maricar

www.covenantreformedchurch.org

SAN DIEGO, CA (619) 460-1321

Covenant Reformed Chapel, 49 3rd Ave., Chula Vista, CA

Mail: 757 Maria Ave., Spring Valley, CA 91977

Service Times: SS 10:00 AM; Worship 11:00 AM; Lunch 12:30 PM; Bible Study and Prayer, Wed. 6:30 PM

Pastor: Gil Baloy / Maricar

www.CovenantReformedChurchSD.org

SHAFTER, CA (661) 746-6907

Ebenezer Reformed, 235 James St., Shafter, CA 93263 Worship Times: Worship 10:00 AM; SS 11:30 AM

Pastor: Paul Henderson / Tina; Pastor Emeritus: Vernon Pollema / Betty

STOCKTON, CA (209) 470-7174

Calvary Reformed Chapel, Clarion Inn, 4219 E. Waterloo Rd., Stockton, CA 96216

Mail: P.O. Box 692426, Stockton, CA 95269 Service Times: SS 10:00 AM; Worship 11:00 AM

Pastor: Jonathan Merica / Marsha www.calvaryreformedchapel.com

WILLOWS, CA (530) 934-2732

Grace Reformed, 148 W. Sycamore St. Mail: P.O. Box 225, Willows, CA 95988

Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:00 AM; Sunday Bible Study 6:00 PM

Pastor: Eric Bristley / Kathleen

www.gracercus.org

YUBA CITY, CA (530) 674-8797

First Reformed Church. 9882 Garden Hwy, Yuba City, CA 95991

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 11:00 AM

Pastor: Sam Powell / Susan; Pastor Emeritus: Gene Sawtelle / Sharon

www.reformedyubacity.org

COLORADO

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (719) 590-1477

Trinity Covenant Reformed, Grace Presbyterian Church, 2511 N. Logan Ave.

Mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Service Times: Worship 11:30 AM; SS 1:00 PM

Pastor: C.W. "Bud" Powell, Jr. / Penny Web page: www.trinity_covenant.com

GREELEY, CO (970) 336-9927

Grace Reformed, 1501 10th Ave.

Mail: 1505 10th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631.

Service Times: SS 10:00 AM; Worship 11:00 AM

Pastor: Jon Blair / Wendy

Web page: www.reformedgreeley.org

LIMON, CO (719) 775-8842

Providence Reformed, 725 Michigan Ave. Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828.

Service Times: Worship 10:00 AM; SS 11:30 AM

Pastor: Matthew Powell / Andrea

IOWA

GARNER, IA (641) 923-3060

Peace Reformed, 1905 200th St., Garner, IA 50438 (3 miles south of Garner)

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship: 10:30 AM

Pastor: Harvey Opp / Carol

Web page: www.peacereformedchurch.com

MINNESOTA

EDEN PRAIRIE, MN (612) 751-2096

Emmaus Road Reformed Chapel, 12000 Anderson Lakes Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN.

Mail: 10600 Yosemite Rd., Bloomington, MN 55437 Service times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM

Mission Pastor: Ryan Kron/ Colleen Web page: www.emmausrcus.org

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (763) 417-9835

Redeemer Reformed, 1300 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley, MN 55422

Mail: 3101 Virginia Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55427

Service Times: Worship: 10:15 AM and 5:00 PM, SS 9:00 AM (Sept. - May) Pastor: James Sawtelle / Thelma; Mission Pastor: Ryan Kron /Colleen

Web page: www.redeemerrcus.org

HAMBURG, MN (952) 467-3878

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 15480 County Road 31, Hamburg, MN 55339

Service Times: SS 8:30 AM, Worship: 9:30 AM

Pastor: Rev. Dan Schnabel / Marie Web page: www.stpaulsrcus.org

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY, MO (816) 420-9700

Northland Reformed, 2901 NW Cookingham, Kansas City, MO 64164 Service Times: SS 11:00 AM, Worship: 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Pastor: Rev. Randall Klynsma / Julie

Web page: www.northlandreformed.org Fax: 816-420-9700 (call first)

NEBRASKA

LINCOLN, NE (402) 476-1827

St. John's Reformed, 1101 South 26th St., Lincoln, NE 68502

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM

Pastor: Lee Johnson /Jenny Jo Web page: <u>www.stjohnsrcus.com</u>

SUTTON, NE (402) 773-4218

Emmanuel Reformed, 110 S. Way Ave Mail: P.O. Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM

Pastor: Joe Vusich /Gioia

SUTTON, NE (402) 773-4330

Hope Reformed, 311 E. Hickory

Mail: P.O. Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979

Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM; Family Study 6:30 PM (2nd & 4th Sun.)

Pastor: Darrell Kingswood / Lori

NORTH DAKOTA

ANAMOOSE, ND (701) 839-9778

Kassel Reformed, meeting at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Anamoose, ND 58710

Mail: P.O. Box 121, Butte, ND 58723

Service Times: Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sun. Sch. 11:45 a.m.

Pastor: vacant.

ASHLEY, ND (701) 288-3265

Salem Reformed, 209 1st Ave. SW, Ashley, ND

Mail: P.O. Box 345, Ashley, ND 58413

Service Times: Worship 9 AM Pastor: James Grossmann / Michelle

DICKINSON, ND (701) 974-4199

First Reformed Chapel (under oversight of Salem Reformed in Ashley)

Meeting at Dickinson Holiday Inn Express Service times: Worship at 2:00 PM

Pastor: L. Dale Clark /Sandra

MINOT, ND (701) 838-0605

Harvest RCUS, Grand International Hotel, 1505 N. Broadway

Mail: 1624 Foothills Rd. Minot, ND 58701

Service Times: Worship 10:30 AM; Sunday Bible Study at parsonage 6:30 PM

Pastor: Phil Poe / Karen

Web page: www.harvestreformedchurch.org

OHIO

Peace Reformed, 638 Huddle Rd., Napoleon, OH, 43545 Service Times: SS 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. Steven Altman / Bianca Web-page: www.peacercus.com

PENNSYLVANIA

WAYMART, PA (570) 785-4012

Heritage Reformed, meeting at Waymart Presbyterian, 200 Belmont St., Waymart, PA 18472

Mail: 136 Grand Ave., Forest City, PA 18421 Service Times: SS 9:30 AM, Worship: 10:30 AM

Pastor: Rev. Ron Potter / Sharon Web page: www.heritagercus.org

SOUTH DAKOTA

ABERDEEN, SD (605) 225-6120

First Reformed, 818 9th Ave. SE

Mail: 1002 Diamond St., Aberdeen, SD 57401

Service Times: Worship 9 AM Pastor: David Dawn / Colleen Web page: www.aberdeenrcus.org

EUREKA, SD (605) 284-2396

Eureka Reformed, 310 F Ave.

Mail: P.O. Box 456, Eureka, SD 57437 Service Times: Worship 9 AM Pastor: Richard Stetler / Heidi.

HERRIED, SD (605) 437-2414

First Reformed, 601 Main St

Mail: P.O. Box 212, Herreid, SD 57632 Service Times: Worship 10 AM; SS 11 15 AM

Pastor: Jimmy Hall / Stefani

HOSMER, SD (701) 288-3265

Hosmer Reformed, 201 West 5th St. Mail: P.O. Box 136, Hosmer, SD 57448 Service Times: Worship 11 AM Pastor: James Grossmann / Michelle

MENNO, SD (605) 760-0167

Zion Reformed, 220 South Pine St. Mail: P.O. Box 387, Menno, SD 57045

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM (9:30 AM summer)

Pastor: Travis Grassmid / Charity

MITCHELL, SD (605) 996-2803

Grace Reformed, 1021 S. Davison Mail: P.O. Box 252, Mitchell, SD 57301

Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:00 AM; evening study 5:00 PM

Pastor: Mike McGee / Jenny Web page: www.gracereformed.com

PIERRE, SD (605) 224-7846

Hope Reformed, 317 S. Garfield; Pierre, SD 57501

Service Times: Worship 9:30 AM Pastor: J.P. Mosley / Francesca

RAPID CITY, SD (605) 399-1711

Grace Reformed, 5626 Haines Ave., Rapid City, SD 57701

Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM; Bible Study 6:00 PM

Pastor: David Fagrey / Bonnie

Web page: www.gracereformedrapidcity.com

SIOUX FALLS, SD (605) 331-0500

Trinity Reformed, 7301 S. Louise Ave; Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Service Times: Worship 10:00 AM

Pastor: Ron Morris / Sheri; Assoc. Pastor: Maynard Koerner / Marcia

Web page: www.trinityrcus.org

VERMILLION, SD (605) 624-4337

Providence Reformed, 830 E. Madison, Vermillion, SD 57069

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM; Wed. Bible Study 7:30 PM

Pastor: Robert Grossmann / Polly Web page: www.providencereformed.com

WATERTOWN, SD (605) 882-9704

Covenant RCUS, 15 12th Ave. NE, Watertown, SD Mail: 1016 Arrow Ave NE, Watertown, SD 57201 Service Times: Worship 10 AM; SS 11:15 AM

Pastor: Vacant

TEXAS

SHERMAN, TX (903) 893-7547

Christ the King Reformed Chapel, Taxoma Room, Hampton Inn

Mail: 122 Willow Ridge Dr., Sherman, TX 75092 Service Times: Worship 10:00 AM; SS 11:00 AM Mission Pastor: Rev. Neal Riffert / Elizabeth

WISCONSIN

MANITOWOC, WI (920) 726-4940

Salem Ebenezer RCUS, 6524 County Trunk C, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Service Times: SS 8:45 AM, Worship 10:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. Kyle Sorensen / Donielle Web page: www.salemebenezer.org

WYOMING

ROCK SPRINGS, WY(307) 362-5107

Providence RCUS, 1007 9th St., Rock Springs, WY 82901.

Service Times: Worship 10 AM; SS 11:30 AM

Pastor George Horner / Mary Jo

DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES

Ministers

Steve Altman (419) 356-2095

J153 County Rd. 15, Napoleon, OH 43545

thealtmans@sbcglobal.net

Gil Baloy (619) 697-0272

757 Maria Ave., Spring Valley, CA 91977 gilbaloy@gmail.com; Church (619) 460-1321

Jon Blair (970) 336-9927

1505 10th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631

jwblair83@msn.com

Henry Bowen (530) 549-5704

22452 Meadow Crest Lane, Palo Cedro, CA 96073

rcushank@sbcglobal.net; Church (530) 365-6874

Wesley Brice (479) 876-1064

15 Kensington Dr. Bella Vista, AR 72715

wesbrice@yahoo.com

Eric Bristley (530) 591-5382

660 N. Murdock Ave., Willows, CA 95988

Eric.rcus@gmail.com; Office: (530) 591-5371

L. Dale Clark (701) 974-4199

P.O. Box 60, Taylor, ND 58656

L.Dale.Clark@gmail.com

David Dawn (605) 229-5953

1002 Diamond St., Aberdeen, SD 57401

aberdeensd@gmail.com

Warren Embree (402) 474-9129

3410 Gregory Court, Lincoln, NE 68521

wembree@neb.rr.com

David Fagrey (605) 399-1711

5626 Haines Ave., Rapid City, SD 57701

dfagrey@juno.com

Jay Fluck Cell: (717) 521-9382; (717) 398-2603

330 Montclair Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325

jefluck@msn.com

Travis Grassmid (605) 760-0167

P.O. Box 386, Menno, SD 57045

travisgrassmid@yahoo.com

Lloyd Gross (480) 854-3701

215 N. Power Rd. #453, Mesa, AZ 85205

rcuslloyd@cox.net

James Grossmann (701) 288-3265

P.O. Box 345, Ashley, ND 58413

jmsgrssm@gmail.com

Robert Grossmann (605) 624-4337

818 Madison, Vermillion, SD 57069

rcusbob@juno.com

Tracy Gruggett (661) 706-4544

7016 Rhone Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93308

tgruggett@bak.rr.com; Church (661) 587-3723

William Haddock (605) 838-4326

162 Skerrols St., Apt. C6, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532

whaddock@pie.midco.net

Jimmy Hall (605) 437-2481

P.O Box 181, Herried, SD 57632

jimmerfrc@valleytel.net

Howard Hart (605) 995-1964

1705 N. Minnesota, Mitchell, SD 57301

bhart40@juno.com

Paul Henderson (661) 746-6998

235 James St., Shafter, CA 93263

hendorcus@yahoo.com; Church (661) 746-6907

Scott Henry (661) 940-4669

43449 Fleetwood Dr., Lancaster, CA 93535

Shenry0328@gmail.com; home phone (661) 524-4240

George Horner (307) 705-3683

1007 9th St., Rock Springs, WY 82901

rcusgeorge@gmail.com

Lee Johnson (402) 477-7281

8930 Mason Dr., Lincoln, NE 68521

rev.lee.j.johnson@gmail.com

Darrell Kingswood (402) 773-4462

P.O. Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979

dlkingswood@windstream.net

Randall Klynsma (816) 532-4256

15420 Rule Lane, Smithville, MO 64089

rjklynsma@yahoo.com

Maynard Koerner (605) 595-5850

4800 S. Shields Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103

maykoerner@gmail.com

Ryan Kron (612) 751-2096

10600 Yosemite Road, Bloomington, MN 55437

ryankron@hotmail.com

Gary Mancilas (530) 345-2732

#2 Woodminster Ct., Chico, CA 95926

gmancilas@sbcglobal.net

Thomas Mayville (209) 502-7390

5513 Savage Ave., Riverbank, CA 95367

thomasreformed@gmail.com; Church (209) 523-3220

Michael McGee (605) 996-7439

505 S. Davison St, Mitchell, SD 57301

mcgeenme@gmail.com

Jonathan Merica (209) 472-7941

9311 Snow Creek Circle, Stockton, CA 95212

jonathanmerica@yahoo.com

Ron Morris (605) 553-7971

415 N. Joseph, Tea, SD 57064

rmorris@sio.midco.net

J.P. Mosley, Jr. (605) 224-1043

105 Lakeview Dr. Pierre, SD 57501

hopereformedPierre@gmail.com

Harvey Opp (641) 923-3060

1905 200th St., Garner, IA 50438

opp@comm1net.net

Phil Poe (701) 340-7666

1624 Foothills Dr., Minot, ND 58701

philpoefi@gmail.com

Vernon Pollema (661) 589-8680

8514 Sun Harbor Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93312 vernpollema@sbcglobal.net

Ron Potter (570) 785-4012

136 Grand Ave., Forest City, PA 18421

reformed@nep.net

C. W. Powell (719) 590-1477

6050 Del Paz Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80918

budpow@ureach.com

Matthew Powell (719) 775-8842

P.O. Box 972, Limon, CO 80828

mattpowell74@gmail.com

Sam Powell (530) 674-8797

9882 Garden Hwy, Yuba City, CA 95991

sampowell365@gmail.com Church: (530) 674-8797

Neale Riffert (661) 886-5503

122 Willow Ridge Circle, Sherman, Texas 75092

nriffert@yahoo.com

Dennis Roe (530) 272-6693

17355 Alexandra Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949

pastor@crcgv.org; Church (530) 273-4673

Gene Sawtelle (530) 790-0929

1402 Stafford Way, Yuba City, CA 95991

elgrande64@juno.com

James Sawtelle (763) 417-9835

3101 Virginia Ave. N, Crystal, MN 55427

redeemerrcus@usfamily.net

Doug Schlegel (916) 690-4555

8135 Pixley Way; Sacramento, CA 95828

Contramundum1517@gmail.com

Dan Schnabel (952) 467-3872

15480 Co. Rd. 31, Hamburg, MN 55339

dm7schnabel@gmail.com

Kyle Sorensen (920) 726-4464

7411 Center Rd., Manitowoc, WI 54220

kydoso@gmail.com

Richard Stetler (605) 284-2396

309 H. Ave., Eureka, SD 57437

hrstetler@valleytel.net

George Syms (402) 773-0274

P.O. Box 642, Sutton, NE 68979

star5177@yahoo.com

Paul Treick (209) 551-2407

4005 Masterpiece Dr., Modesto, CA 95357

triwheeler@aol.com

Herman Van Stedum (605) 213-0405

602 E. Willow, Harrisburg, SD 57032

hermanvs@sio.midco.net

Michael Voytek (626) 820-9390

17874 Crimson Crest Dr. Rowland Heights, CA 91748

pastorvoytek@gmail.com

Joe Vusich (402) 773-4218

106 S. Way Ave, P.O. Box 100, Sutton, NE 68979

jvusich@windstream.net

Frank Walker (916) 320-0548

6121 Pine Vista Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758

drfhwalker@gmail.com

Jim West (916) 488-5569

5216 Locust Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608

jimwest3253@hotmail.com; Church (916) 451-1190

Primarius Elders

Darrell Bentz (605) 437-2317

31848 108th St., Artas, SD 57437

dbtz@valleytel.net

Joshua Berg (719) 494-4987

3854 Smoke Tree Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Joshua.a.berg@gmail.com

Ken Bowen (530) 473-2755

837 I Street, Box 445, Williams, CA 95987

kbowen.construction@gmail.com

Michael Burbach (402) 438-9735

3437 Prairie view Dr. Lincoln, NE 68504

Dick De Groot (605) 362-1752

26783 Country Acre Dr. Sioux Falls, SD 57106

ddegrootsd@gmail.com

Rod DeJong (605) 882-4071

3517 4th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201

rodejong@wat.midco.net

Herman Drost (209) 599-2256

927 Van Court; Ripon, CA 95366

hdrost@sbcglobal.net

David Ehly (402) 773-4768; cell 366-7704

204 South X Road, Sutton, NE 68979

Chris Fellersen (916) 423-1741

8675 Sleepy Hollow Dr., Elk Grove, CA 95624

cfellersen@gmail.com

Matt Fickbohm (605) 280-9330

2012 Tiree Dr., Ft. Pierre, SD 57532

mfickbohm@gmail.com

Mark Fisher (816) 790-3615

19380 Hwy. B, Edgerton, MO 64444

mark@tcdparts.com

Michael Frias (661) 435-0620

510 Oakwood St., Tehachapi, CA 93561

mfrias@bak.rr.com

Roger Gallimore (605) 787-9134

4511 Elk Creek Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769

myonlycomfort@msn.com

Andrew Gilman (507) 645-7716

321 Aster Dr., Northfield, MN 55057

andygilman@earthlink.net

Jim Gochnauer (530) 519-2283

1265 Yosemite Dr., Chico, CA 95928

jim@hignell.com

Spencer Gross (605) 996-1919

723 E. 2nd, Mitchell, SD 57301

thunehdw@mitchelltelecom.net

Doug Haak (605) 225-3817

801 S. Aldrich St. Aberdeen, SD 57401

ddhaak@abe.midco.net

Albert Haller (970) 566-0577

113 Flat Iron St. Windsor, CO 80550

alberth@frii.com

Fred Hofmann (402) 984-2863

2411 Road 1, Sutton, NE 68979

Fhofmann2010@gmail.com

Ron Kroells (952) 467-2214

403 Fifth St. Court SW, NYA, MN 55397

rlkroells@gmail.com

Wayne Lingenfelter (209) 727-5735

18869 Arrowhead Dr., Lockeford, CA 95237

waymar1441@att.net

Clinton Mehlhaf (605) 660-3085

43228 282nd St, Menno, SD 57045

cardlmehlhaf@yahoo.com

Derrick Merkel (530) 524-7501

7625 Deschutes Rd., Palo Cedro, CA 96022

dmerk81@yahoo.com

Leroy Neifer (605) 577-6604

11704 343rd Ave., Hosmer, SD 57448

Vern Ochsner (605) 437-2772

10118 309th Ave., Herried, SD 57632

Thomas Renner (641) 829-3309

2360 244th St. Ventura, IA 50482

tjrenner@netins.net

Tim Rott (701) 288-3767

4865 100th St., Ashley, ND 58413

Tim.r2000@yahoo.com

Jim Rydell (605) 624-2130

309 S. Crawford Rd., Vermillion, SD 57069

jim.rydell@sd.usda.gov

Ted Schieffelin (719) 775-2791

P.O. Box 521, Limon, CO 80828

tschieffelin@covcs.com

Randy Schroeder (419) 393-2622

14547 State Route 66 South, Defiance, OH 43512

Rhs8175@artelco.net

Jim Snyder (701) 240-9402

2300 19th Ave. NW, Minot, ND 58703

thesnyders@srt.com

Ryan Spitzer (661) 871-6388

5300 Muirfield, Bakersfield, CA 93306

ryanryanspitzer@aol.com

Earl Starks (307) 705-3220

112 Mountain Rd., Rock Springs, WY 82901

rcusearl@gmail.com

Greg Stewart (530) 751-2151

2495 S. Walton Ave., Yuba City, CA 95993

rcusstewart.greg@gmail.com

Larry Stock (920) 726-4695

4721 CTH U, Newton, WI 53063

lstock@lakefield.net

Robb Wegis (661) 654-0945

2612 Mountain Oak; Bakersfield, CA 93311

rwegis@grimmway.com

Donald Weilersbacher (619) 384-9043

947 Cemetery Road, Dyer, AR 72935

weilersbacher@windstream.net

Steve Wilbur (530) 346-6811

18388 Dog Bar Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95949

swilbur1@yahoo.com

Secundus Elders

Bob Davis (402) 781-2362

1101 N. 202nd St, Eagle, NE 68547

prcdrcus@windstream.net

Jerry DeYoung (209) 847-4830

10349 Rodden Rd., Oakdale, CA 95361

jerrylynette@msn.com

Jim Drewes (419) 592-0795

13033 Co. Rd. L 2. Napoleon, OH 43545

jimdkhd@bright.net

Bobby Duncan (479) 381-7117

2508 N.W. Linebarger, Bentonville, AR 72712

Bobby.duncan@cox.net

Richard Fay (209) 599-5450

1667 Bailey Dr., Ripon, CA 95366

Rmf704@yahoo.com

Justin Goehring (605) 437-2247

P.O. Box 334, Herried, SD 57632

Lynn Goehring (605) 224-4209

1808 Grandview St., Pierre, SD 57501

ljgoehring@hotmail.com

Curt Griess (402) 410-0059

710 S. Saunders Ave, Sutton, NE 68979

Dan Griess (402) 773-4734; cell 366-7074

2231 Road 323, Sutton, NE 68979

Joe Gross (530) 473-2712

840 J. Street, Box 445, Williams, CA 95987

Jsphgross7@gmail.com

Dale Harms (952) 467-3019

429 Casper Street, NYA, MN 55368

carolynharms@mediacombb.net

David Helseth (530) 893-0277

420 Autumn Gold Dr., Chico, CA 95973

Charles Henson (605) 951-3868

309 3rd Ave, Brandon, SD 57005

chanson@alliancecom.net

Marlin Holzwarth (605) 351-8242

43218 278th St, Freeman, SD 57029

marlinmh@goldenwest.net

Richard Honaker (307) 389-2949

453 Quadrant Dr., Rock Springs, WY 82901

rhonaker@wyoming.com

Raymond Jung (605) 283-2253

12684 347th Ave., Hosmer, SD 57471

Tom Lagomarsino (916) 515-0609

221 Lyman Circle; Sacramento, CA 95835

Tom_lagomarsino2005@yahoo.com

Graydon Lau (641) 923-2963

2035 Nash Ave. Britt, IA 50423

gesilau@ymail.com

Jay Liesveld (816) 876-1172

5105 N. Cleveland, Kansas City, MO64119

wjliesveld@aol.com

Ron Meidinger (701) 288-3374

615 Center Ave. N, Ashley, ND 58413

saminger@drtel.net

Craig Mehlhaff (605) 294-5263

12077 412th Ave, Claremont, SD 57432

Craig.M@trusspros.com

Earl Melhaff (605) 284-2698

P.O. Box 483, Eureka, SD 57437

emelhaff@valleytel.net

Ewald Ochsner (970) 674-9089

807 Scotch Pine Dr. Windsor, CO 80550

elsieoch@gmail.com Don Oliver (605) 341-2984

23657 Wilderness Canyon Rd. Rapid City, SD 57702

oliver@blackhillspediatrics.com

Michael Peery (530) 347-9294

P.O. Box 1973, Cottonwood, CA 96022

michaelpeery@sbcglobal.net

Lowell Pollema (661) 588-4410

10042 Seneca Falls Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93312

Lpollema@att.net

Mark Reyna (661) 916-3129

559 Woodington Dr., Lancaster CA 93535

markreyna@hotmail.com

Steve Sapp (605) 627-5691

46375 206th St. Bruce, SD 57220

John Savage (719) 446-5461

19600 County Rd. E, Ordway, CO 80163

johnsavage@coairnet.com

Kevin Schnabel (605) 449-4591

42842 268th St, Emery, SD 57332

kcschnabel@triotel.net

Jesse Smith (719) 527-4974

1107 Neptune Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80905

iteeech@gmail.com

Steve Stuebbe (920) 898-9048

2313 Hickory Lane, New Holstein, WI 53061

stuebbe14@frontier.com

Greg Van Holland (605) 624-9126

311 N. Crawford; Vermillion, SD 57069

gregvh@teamcssi.com

Joseph Vacchiano (530) 432-8502

13151 County Heights Dr., Penn Valley, CA 95946

proprojectmanager@yahoo.com

Mike Watson (612) 722-7815

3604 46th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406

mjwklw@gmail.com

Bob Williams (661) 823-4071

21531 Old Town Dr., Tehachapi, CA 93561

bob williams@earthlink.net

Daniel Yeager (530) 632-1877

2177 Gold River Dr., Yuba City, CA 95991

Dan.yeager@gmail.com

No Licentiates

Students under Care

Jim Connelly (970) 330-4774 (South Central Classis)

26779 WCR 451/2, Greeley, CO 80631

jimco12@mindspring.com

Derrick Merkel (530) 524-7501 (Western Classis)

7625 Deschutes Rd., Palo Cedro, CA 96022

Dmerk81@yahoo.com

Christopher Campbell (913) 660-8648 (Covenant East Classis)

18 Pine View Road, Platte City, MO 64079

campbellcjc@email.com

Steven Carr (320) 438-4056 or (320) 438-4075 (Covenant East Classis)

3421 Major Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55422

Srutherford77@gmail.com

Tim Marinelli (757) 817-4544 (South Central Classis)

104 E. Heather Way; Yorktown, VA 23693

timrenita@juno.com

Thomas Short (479) 442-3550 (Covenant East Classis)

2918 N. Gregg Ave. Apt. 1, Fayetteville, AR 7203

and thomas answered@zoho.com

Cody Schwichtenberg (641) 529-2926 (Covenant East Classis)

2468 W. Kenwood Manor, Apt. 5; Sioux Falls, SD 57104

switz77@hotmail.com

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Officers of Synod

President

Rev. James Sawtelle (763) 417-9835 3101 Virginia Ave. N, Crystal, MN 55427 redeemerrcus@usfamily.net

Vice President

Frank Walker (916) 320-0548 6121 Pine Vista Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 drfhwalker@gmail.com

Stated Clerk

David Fagrey (605) 399-1711 5626 Haines Ave., Rapid City, SD 57701 dfagrey@juno.com

Treasurer

Mr. Ted Griess (402) 773-4169 PO Box 350, Sutton, NE 68979 tsgriess@mainstaycomm.net

Permanent Synodical Committees

Archives: E. Bristley, P. Treick, G. Van Holland, R. Wegis, H. Van Stedum. J.P. Mosley.

Board of Trustees: D. Clark, T. Rott, J. Snyder.

Christian Education: D. DeGroot, J. Jones, H. Hart, C.W. Powell (1yr); L. Johnson, J. Fluck, D. Kingswood, D. Weilersbacher (2yr); J. Blair, J. Grossmann, M. Reyna (3 yr).

Sub-Com.-Sun. Sch. Curriculum: K. Sorensen, P. Treick, H. Hart, N. Riffert, M. Reyna, E. Bristley.

Diaconal Ministries: K. Armbruster, S. Altman, S. Henry, J. West (1yr); T. Savage, B. Davis, P. Poe (2yr); M. McGee, J. Berg, D. Benz, K. Bowen, D. Clark (NP), P. Henderson (WC).

Editorial Advice: G. Horner, D. Roe (1yr); J. Merica, J. Connelly (2yr); D. Dawn, G. Van Holland (3yr).

Executive: J. Sawtelle, D. Fagrey, F. Walker, T. Griess, R. Gallimore, K. Bowen.

Foreign Ministries: D. Schnabel, D. Schlegel (1yr); M. Voytek, B. Borgwardt, T. Mayville (2yr); D. Roe, G. Baloy, W. Johnson, A. Haller (3yr).

Sub-Committee-Radio Liaisons: P. Treick, N. Riffert, D. Schnabel, B. Borgwardt

Home Missions: J. Jones (WC), L. Goehring (NP) (1yr); H. Opp (CE), H. Hart (SC), M. Willemsen (CE), H. Bowen (WC) (2yr); R. Stetler (NP), D. Oliver (SC) (3yr).

Interchurch Relations: M. McGee, W. Brice, F. Hofmann, D. Helseth (1yr); R. Potter, J. Heerema, V. Pollema, R. Kron (2yr); M. Koerner, E. VanHoouten (3yr).

Ministerial Relief (MAF): M. Fisher, S. Gross, R. Goehring, R. Schnabel.

Publication and Promotion: R. Klynsma, W. Haddock, T. Grugget (1yr); S. Powell, J. Johnson, B. Tjeerdsma, (2yr); J. Hall, G. Stewart, T. Grassmid, D. Roe, J. Fluck, D. Weilersbacher, P. Henderson, G.

Mancilas, E. Bristley, A. Gillman, R. Mettler (3yr).

Sub-Committee-Website: M. Powell, F. Walker, J. Drewes, R. De Jong.

SYNODICAL GUIDELINES

Synodical Dues	\$17.00
Home Missions	18.00
Foreign Ministries	13.00
Ministerial Relief	90.00
Diaconal Ministries	0.00
General Publications	0.00
Student Aid	12.00
General Benevolence	19.00
Ministerial Aid Capital Fund	15.00
Building Fund	0.00
Deficit Reduction	0.00
Hope Haven	2.00
Greenville Seminary	2.00
Heidelberg Seminary	2.00
Mid-America Seminary	2.00
New Geneva Seminary	2.00
MERF	2.00
Total Per Communicant Member	\$196.00
Reformed Herald (per subscription)	+\$13.00

Abstract of the Minutes of the 266th Synod

I. Services

The 266th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States was hosted by the congregation of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.

The Synod convened on Monday, May 21, 2012, with a 7:00 p.m. worship service conducted by Rev. Jim Sawtelle. Rev. Darrell Kingswood preached the sermon entitled "Preach the Word,

Brothers," from 1 Timothy 4:6-16 and 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

On Wednesday evening a 7:00 p.m. worship service was conducted by Rev. Phil Poe. Rev. Harvey Opp preached the sermon entitled "Predestination and Persuasion" from 2 Corinthians 5 – 6:2.

Morning devotions were held at 10 a.m. The Tuesday morning devotion was conducted by Rev. Hank Bowen who preached on 1 Peter 3:15. On Wednesday, Rev. Jimmy Hall preached on Proverbs 7:1-5. On Thursday, Rev. Ryan Kron preached.

The closing devotion was conducted by Elder Roger Gallimore who read Psalm 1 and led the body in prayer.

The assembly paused for special prayer many times during the meeting for specific matters and needs of individuals during the meeting

II. Organization

Following the opening worship service on May 21, the President of the Executive Committee, Rev. Jim Sawtelle, called the meeting to order. The Stated Clerk, Rev. David Fagrey read the roll which showed 48 ministers and 26 elder delegates present, a total of 74. The roll was called each morning. The closing roll call showed 47 ministers and 28 elders present.

The Bar of the House was set as the first 10 rows on either side of the aisle.

Tellers appointed were: Rev. J.P. Mosley, Rev. Travis Grassmid, Elders Derrick Merkel and Joshua Berg.

The President appointed Rev. Maynard Koerner as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

Elections by ballot were held for men to serve in the following capacities, as follows:

President: Rev. James Sawtelle
Vice President: Rev. Frank Walker
Stated Clerk: Rev. David Fagrey
Treasurer: Elder Ted Griess
Reformed Herald Editor: Rev. Paul Treick

III. Adoption of the Agenda, Order of the Day and Special Orders

The Agenda and the Order of the Day were adopted.

IV. Welcome and Seating of Fraternal Delegates; Welcome of Visitors

The President welcomed fraternal delegates, observers, representatives of institutions, visiting elders, and others as they arrived. Fraternal delegates and visiting elders were seated within the Bar of the House and given the privilege of the floor. Delegate elders who were attending their first meeting were introduced and welcomed. Visiting elders included: Robert Mettler from Rehoboth Chapel, La Habra, CA; and Don Oliver of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.

Fraternal delegates included: Elder Klaas Wezeman and Rev. Kim Batteau from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated); Rev. Chuck Muether from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church; Rev. Joe Poppe and Elder Henry Van Delden from the Canadian Reformed Churches; and Jerry Milroy from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. These delegates addressed the body as a Special Order of the Day on May 22. (See XII)

Institutional representatives were welcomed and later addressed the body. (See XII).

The body welcomed Mr. Shane Barber from Barber Financial, the firm which is managing the Ministerial Aid Fund money. Mr. Barber briefly addressed the body.

V. Announcement of Standing Committees (appointed by the President)

The President announced the appointments to Standing Committees for this Synod.

VI. Presentation and Referral of Overtures, Permanent Committee Reports and Communications

The Permanent Committee Reports were sent out prior to the meeting. They were forwarded to their respective Standing Committees as per the Agenda. Overtures and communications previously sent to the Synod were given to the President and Stated Clerk who referred most of them to the relevant Standing Committees. Some reports (i.e. Archives, Board of Trustees, and Executive) were dealt with by direct presentation from the floor. The Permanent Committee reports are printed below and their recommendations are handled by the Standing Committee they are referred to.

A. Archives Committee [Direct Presentation]

In summer of 2011 the archives of the Eureka Classis and the present Reformed Church in the United States were transferred from a rented location in La Habra, California, to a permanent location in Grace Reformed Church, Willows, CA. Thanks go to Rev. Michael Voytek for facilitating this transfer, which cost \$500. Thanks also to Rev. Jay Fluck for his labors through the years in caring for the archives. He facilitated the transfer of the archives from Grace Reformed Church in Bakersfield.

The present archives consists of two 4-drawer fireproof filing cabinets. They are now located in a generally climate-controlled area of the large facility of Grace Reformed Church on the corner of Sycamore and Butte Streets in downtown Willows. The building was constructed in 1910 and was renovated by the labors of Rev. Hank Bowen, Rev. Tom Mayville, and the efforts of many in the congregation. While the location is not central to the denomination, it is one hour north of the Sacramento airport on I–5.

The directions of the 2011 Synod state: "... that a proper climate-controlled room be constructed on site, as the Consistory determines, to store it, and that Synod authorize up to \$5,500 for this project (moving and construction)." When this information was conveyed to the consistory and congregation, it was decided to include this in an overall renovation of the middle and rear-upper section of the church

building. In this way the archives can be incorporated into an overall plan. Plans are in process, though not completed as of this writing. The plan includes making the archives a part of a library area in which materials can be studied when needed. The specific enclosure of the archives in a fireproof and climate-controlled area is the part that will be covered by Synod funds.

Your chairman carefully inspected the contents of the Archives upon their arrival at Willows and did some preliminary evaluation and organization. Things were found to be in order and good shape, though not identified with a regular system. The file folders need to be updated to archival quality and the items need to be uniformly and clearly marked. However, the electronic files (hard drive) were not included in the transfer. A number of books and various other publications were included among the materials. Many of these have direct or indirect relevance to the history of our denomination, but some items are of little or no value, such as an English set of Jameson, Fausset, and Brown's Bible Commentary. Some seem to be leftovers from a pastor's library. Since the chairman was involved in the electronic collection of the Eureka Classis and Synod Abstracts, it was good to find a number of earlier copies of Eureka Classis Abstracts which augment a previous collection.

Among the existing resources at Grace Reformed Church are numerous copies of Classes and Synod Abstracts. It seems appropriate to add these to the Archive and make them available for those who request printed versions. The chairman had the opportunity many years ago to acquire a number of books and booklets on the history and theology of the RCUS and the German Reformed tradition at Green Bay, Wisconsin (Reliance Printing). Additional items were collected over the years from other sources. In the course of working with the eBooks Committee in digitizing older RCUS materials and confessional resources, many additional publications were acquired. The chairman has had contact with a person near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who may be able to acquire items discarded by Lancaster Theological Seminary. From these resources and others in the denomination, we hope that a more complete archive can be developed over the years. Hence we make the following recommendation:

Recommendation: That the Reformed Church in the United States include in its archives Classis Abstracts, published and unpublished materials which are relevant to its history, worship, education, missions, and theology. Among these materials will be publications on the Reformed tradition in Germany and Switzerland with a special focus on the history and theology of the Heidelberg Catechism. [CARRIED]

In Christ, Eric D. Bristley, Chairman; Paul Treick, G. Van Holland, R. Wegis, H. Van Stedum

B. Board of Trustees

Your committee met by email once this past year. As the Treasurer in his report has notified the Synod of the lapse of our incorporation and his efforts to rectify the situation, your committee has waited to see if there would be any communication from the Secretary of State. There has not been none. Rev. Clark will be the contact person for the State of North Dakota. No business has come before your committee and we make no recommendations.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dale Clark, Elder Tim Rott, Elder Keith Lorentzen

C. Christian Education Committee (and Sub-Committees)

Your committee received no mandates from the 265th synod, however it was reminded *That each seminary approved by the RCUS be visited and evaluated at least once every three years by the Permanent Christian Education Committee.* (RCUS Abstract 2001:65) The 2002 Synod additionally mandated that: *The Permanent Christian Education Committee utilize the Seminary Evaluation Guideline in its mandated investigations of theological seminaries.* (This Guideline can be found in the RCUS Abstract 2002:30ff) A review of historical abstracts shows that this has been neglected: Mid-America Reformed Seminary was last reviewed in 2010; City Seminary of Sacramento, in 2008; Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in 2007; New Geneva Theological Seminary, in 2006; and Heidelberg Theological Seminary, in 2003.

It is your committee's desire to get back on track with seminary evaluations. To that end, it suggests that a listing of the most recent visitation years (as above) be included in future Permanent Christian Education Committee Reports. This would providing a reminder of when visits are due.

Seminary Visit: Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Rev. Howard Hart, Rev. James Grossmann, Elder Ronald Abbink and Elder Spencer Gross volunteered to visit Heidelberg Seminary. At the time of 'mailing', the report and recommendation had not reached your committee's hands. We will send it out when we receive it.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. J. Grossmann, Rev. J. Blair, Elder J. Gochnauer, Elder D. DeGroot, Elder J. Jones, Rev. H. Hart, Rev. J Vusich, Rev. C.W. Powell, Rev. L. Johnson, Elder R. Abbink, Rev. J. Fluck, Rev. D. Kingswood.

Report of the Subcommittee of to visit Heidelberg Theological Seminary

Your subcommittee consisting of the Rev. James Grossmann (Chairman of the Synodical Christian Education Committee and our Subcommittee's recording secretary), Elder Ron Abbink, Elder Spencer Gross and the Rev. Howard E. Hart, (Chairman of the Subcommittee) visited Heidelberg Theological Seminary (HTS) on April 4, 2012.

Your Committee met prior to the visitation at HTS and discussed the schedule and parameters of the visit. The Committee decided to attend a class, to interview a student. To meet with teachers and to have conference calls with the Rev. Henry Bowen, Dr. Robert Grossmann and Dr. Warren Embree. The Committee also decided that the "Seminary Evaluation Guidelines" (SEG)) that Synod had decreed was to be used in the interview with the Rev. Maynard Koerner, the Rev. Ron Morris and Administrator of the seminary Elder Ray Schnabel. We also determined to use an article from the Reformed Herald ("HTS" February 2012 page 10) in our deliberations. The Committee also determined to deliberate after our meetings in order to put our report together and to come up with some recommendations to Synod. Your committee accomplished all of the above plans. We also had two conference calls.

It must be said that the Seminary welcomed us with warmth, openness and extreme helpfulness. They presented us with papers with almost everything you would want to know about the mission and operation of HTS. Rev. Koerner was most gracious in changing his daily teaching schedule for us.

We attended a class taught by Pastor Koerner on "The Divine Decrees in General." The material was on a graduate level, doctrinally sound and well-illustrated. The textbooks that are used in his class are classical Reformed books. This is done in order that the student can be instructed not only from their present Professor but also from the great Reformed thinkers of the past. Our visit with the one

student in class that day was profitable. Our conference calls were also enlightening.

In our meeting with two members of the faculty, Pastor Morris, Pastor Koerner and Administrator Elder Ray Schnabel, we discussed each of the 17 questions in the SEG and the Herald article with the intent to answer the question, "Will a graduate of this seminary be qualified and equipped to serve as a duly ordained Minister of the Word in the RCUS?" (SEG) The Committee had no problems with answering questions 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,15,16,17 in the affirmative. This shows that HTS is reformed and is a qualified seminary worthy of the support of the Synod. This should be emphasized, especially as we consider the following.

We did deal with questions 4, 12 and 14 at length and had some concerns about answers to some portions of those questions.

Let us deal with question #12. "...is it expected that the seminary will undergo any major changes in affiliation, faculty, or mission within the next few years." (SEG)

1/ HTS is undergoing a major change in faculty with the resignation of Dr. Robert Grossmann. The seminary is using Adjunct Professor to fill the gap left by Dr. R. Grossmann's two classes this semester. We had a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons concerning the predominant use of adjunct teachers and the effects on the students.

2/ In an article by Elder Ted Griess in the above mention Herald we discussed the following: "Pastor Robert Grossmann...had expressed that due to some differences of opinion he would prefer to resign at this time." The Committee discussed this with HTS and with Dr. Grossmann. Both sides were open and forthcoming about the issues. Your Committee does not believe that this report should contain all the details. If Synod wants more information they can ask the parties involved. The Committee did believe that since this matter was placed in the open forum we should deal with it under question 12 of the SEG. Your committee also had a conference call which included the four members of the committee along with Chairman of the Board, Elder Ted Griess, the Rev. Lee Johnson and the Rev. Vern Pollema. We have been assured by all that the vision and direction of the seminary is still intact and that the published mission of the seminary has not changed.

3/ Dr. Grossmann is a great loss for HTS. He labored for many years for the establishment of a Seminary for the RCUS that would hold to Reformed and RCUS distinctives. Because of his dedication to the RCUS he worked for a very low salary for a number of years. His teaching ability on a graduate level certainly will be missed. The Committee encouraged HTS to seek out one or two teachers that would be of the caliber of Dr. Grossman for their faculty. The Committee also noted the loss in 2008 of Dr. Embree from the faculty. Dr. Embree was also instrumental in the formation of HTS and worked without salary. His expertise in the original languages has been a loss for HTS.

Dealing with question #4 of the SEG: "Does the Seminary meet acceptable academic standards: b. ...Do all faculty members submit to a theological exam before the board and faculty?" HTS does not have this practice at the present time. Given the initial roster of professors with their recognized capabilities and orthodoxy to the RCUS, the board had not established this practice. The Committee encouraged the Seminary to practice this procedure even if the Administrator or some of the Board Members know an individual well. The Committee believes that faculty are to be completely "vetted" as to orthodoxy, as to the ability to teach on a graduate level, as to being able to set up a proper curriculum and as to being able to relate to students (etc.) Representatives of the Seminary agreed to implement this process especially for faculty that have not been vetted within the RCUS.

Dealing with SEG question 14: "What recommendations and academic achievements are necessary for the student to apply for admission?" It was the belief of some of the committee and some of those spoken to by conference call that the seminary should take care not to make their "Provisional" or "unclassified students" the rule or the norm for the admission of students rather than the exception. For example (We want to be fair and not demeaning nor do we question the call or sincerity of the student we interviewed, in fact we commend him for his desire to serve the Lord in the RCUS.) The student we interviewed did not have a college degree nor did he have any philosophy and had very little history in his college courses. It is noted that this student is working to complete his bachelor's degree requirements prior to finishing his M.Div work. It should also be noted that their "Admission to the Program" policy is traditional and sound (page 8 of Academic Catalog 2012-2013). Of the 6 M.Div. students on the role, one student has a Masters, four have Bachelor degrees and the sixth is working toward his bachelor's degree. The seminary also has about 9 students taking courses on line or auditing courses of the seminary. These students are in different stages of education. For "Provisional" students, the faculty is working with any student requiring enhancement of their proficiency in the areas of philosophy and history.

In all your Committee recommends HTS as an institution worthy of our support.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the guideline for HTS be continued at \$2.00 per communicant member for the 2012-2013 Synodical year.
- 2. That HTS be encouraged to continue to teach the Reformed faith and the RCUS distinctive principles. Take note
- 3. That HTS be encouraged to use the board and faculty in the examination of new faculty members. Take note
- 4. That HTS be encouraged to continue to seek out students that have the necessary academic achievements that are necessary for a student applying for admission to the M.Div. program. Take note
- 5. That HTS be commended for their years of service to the church, especially in their Biblical conferences in the local churches. Take note

Respectfully submitted, Rev. James Grossmann, Elder Ron Abbink, Elder Spencer Gross, Rev. Howard E. Hart, (Chairman of the Subcommittee)

Sunday school Curriculum Sub-Committee

Your Committee was given the following duty by Synod last year, That the Sunday school curriculum sub-committee=s report be recommitted in order to clarify the objectives, method and approach of a new curriculum; to assess feasibility and expected cost versus need and expected use; to re-evaluate materials that RCUS men have produced and are producing; and to develop a policy regarding copyright, royalty and right of revision; and to report to the 266th Synod.

Our report this year is much briefer than usual. The objectives, method, and approach of a new curriculum have been described in detail in the 2010 and 2011 reports of this committee. Our mandate this year was to clarify that further in terms of a more specific >counting the cost= before undertaking a multi-year project such as this would involve. The mandate Synod gave us last year is rather large, and we need more time to fulfill its requirements.

We need more time to review work that has been produced by RCUS authors, or is currently being produced. We also need more time to collect and consider the answers from Consistories on the commitments they are willing to make to undertake a new RCUS curriculum endeavor. A comprehensive survey is being finalized and will be distributed shortly. Please cooperate to the best of your ability so that we can make an accurate assessment of the current and future needs of the RCUS in the area of Christian education of our covenant youth.

Recommendation: That another year be given to the Sunday School Curriculum Subcommittee to complete its work fulfilling the mandate of the 2011 Synod.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, Rev. Eric Bristley, Rev. Howard Hart, Elder Mark Reyna, Rev. Neale Riffert, Rev. Paul Treick

To Confer With Dordt College

On Tuesday, February 7th, 2012, your sub-committee to confer with Dordt met with Dr. Carl Zylstra, President of Dordt College, Mr. Wes Fopma, Director of Alumni and Church Relations, and Mr. John Baas, Vice President for College Advancement. Committee members present were Rev. Ron Morris and Rev. Harvey Opp. Sitting in for Committee member Elder Dan Van Peursem of Vermillion, SD was Elder Greg Van Holland, also from Vermillion. Also, although he is not a member of the committee, we invited Rev. Maynard Koerner to sit in on our meeting, since he has a long history with Dordt.

As has been the case for a number of years, our hosts were very gracious. Your committee has appreciated the fact that these men take significant time out of their schedules for a group from the RCUS to test them on difficult questions. This year was no different.

In addition to visiting Dordt as a committee, your committee also organized monthly Bible studies with RCUS students at Dordt. The studies were organized by the committee, but were conducted by local RCUS pastors who are not necessarily on the committee. These studies have been relatively well attended, and have included some students who are not associated with the RCUS.

Statistically, there are currently nine RCUS students enrolled at Dordt. In addition, there are six students from the RCUS who have made application to attend Dordt. Total giving from the RCUS to Dordt has dropped from \$5,338.62 in 2009-2010 to \$924.50 in 2011-2012. This drop in giving reflects the fact that although some congregations still support Dordt on a local basis, the college is no longer receiving synod funds.

It should be noted that according to the 265th Synod, the executive committee is to "continue to correspond with Dordt College's board of trustees regarding issues that caused the RCUS to suspend Dordt College from the list of approved colleges." The committee to confer with Dordt is a sub-committee of the Christian Education Committee and has not been made privy to any discussions the executive committee has had with Dordt, and therefore could not address those discussions with the representatives with whom we met. However, the "issues" your sub-committee has had in the past were discussed. It is this committee's belief that the main issue boils down to hermeneutics. For example, one professor, Bobbi Sutherland, Assistant Professor of History, was teaching that the entire Old Testament was written post-exile and holds to the Wellhausen theory (JEDP) of Old Testament origins. This was not simply a personally held view, but was previously being taught in the classroom. We had raised this issue with Dordt last year, and your committee was informed this year that Professor Sutherland is leaving the school after this academic year. There was another professor, whom your committee was informed about by some of our RCUS students, who said in class that it did not matter what happened with Jonah, whether it was literal or not; the main message of Jonah can still be understood. Other examples have been cited in the past, such as the fact that professors at Dordt do not have to believe in a literal, six-day creation. Again, it seems that hermeneutics is the underlying "issue" that we continue to have with Dordt.

It should also be noted that this is Dr. Zylstra's last year with Dordt. He has served as President for the past sixteen years and is now stepping down. A committee to replace Dr. Zylstra is in place and has been interviewing candidates. Your committee is unaware of the progress of their search, but we believe it will be of interest to the RCUS and our future relations with Dordt.

It is the belief of your committee that Dordt is far from perfect, but that our students there are getting a good education. However, they need to be closely monitored by their pastors and encouraged to bring anything to their pastor's attention that they hear from Dordt that is contrary to what the RCUS believes. Also, your committee questions the purpose of our continued existence, since Dordt is no longer receiving Synod funding. There are many Christian colleges that don't receive funding from the RCUS with which we do not "confer." If Dordt is re-instated as an institution which receives support, it would be wise to have a committee confer with the school. Even so, we believe that it would be wise to continue the committee for at least one more year to monitor the change of leadership from Dr. Zylstra to whomever the board calls as his replacement. After this next year, it seems to be a legitimate question as to why this committee needs to continue to exist.

Recommendation: That the RCUS executive committee continue to dialogue with Dordt regarding the issues that caused Dordt to be removed from the Synodical Guidelines for Giving and that the subcommittee to confer with Dordt remains at least one more year to monitor the change of Presidents of the college.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Ron Morris, Rev. Harvey Opp, Elder Dan Van Peursem, Elder Emil Broers

D. Diaconal Committee

At the 265th meeting of the Synod of the RCUS, your committee was given the following responsibilities:

- 1. That the Permanent Diaconal Committee communicate directly to the Consistories of Faith RCUS, Anderson, CA and Grace RCUS, Lancaster, CA, noting the encouragements and responsibilities of Recommendation #11 and #12 of this report [of the Standing Benevolence Committee].
- 2. That the Permanent Diaconal Committee research information and make recommendations to the 266th Synod of the RCUS addressing how our congregations, Classes and Synod can best address the growing health care costs of ministers.

Concerning our contact with Faith RCUS in Anderson, CA, Rev. Jim West provided the following report:

On Monday, January 30, 2012 I drove to Anderson, California to speak to the Consistory of Faith Reformed Church. The purpose of the visit was to represent the Diaconal Committee of Synod by enquiring about the work of evangelism there. As two of the members of the Consistory were invited to the meeting but were providentially-hindered from being present, I spent virtually all my time speaking to Rev. Hank Bowen (at the end of the meeting Elder Derrick Merkel appeared). Plus, after the meeting concluded Rev. Bowen told me that he was not aware that I was even a member of the Synodical diaconal committee until after my arrival and report. Obviously, the Anderson Consistory was not prepped for our meeting.

The central purpose of my meeting was to ascertain whether evangelism is diligently practiced by the Anderson congregation. The answer to this question was mixed. Negatively, Rev. Bowen referred to the congregation as a "dying church" and that he was "at a loss as to what to do." The Anderson congregation has seven voting members and all attempts of door-to-door evangelism in the past have proved to be ineffective. I asked Rev. Bowen to grade the church with regard to evangelism; he answered that he would give it a "D." There are few young people in the church and some of the members are old and

sickly. Rev. Bowen stated that he thought that friendship evangelism was the best, even though little of that is taking place. One of the bright spots is the witnessing of his elder, Derrick Merkel, who along with some college students frequents coffee shops and engages people in discussions about the gospel. The church has a website, but none of Rev. Bowen's sermons are available on line. The finances of the church are so thin that the church cannot afford to hire someone even to place his sermons on line. As a representative from Synod, I urged Rev. Bowen to look further into this. This seemed to me to be a critical part of outreach.

There is no question that Rev. Bowen and Derrick Merkel have great zeal for Christ and his cause. But the congregation as a whole has taken several "hits" over the past few years, with many members relocating to other congregations. As things stand right now, Pastor Bowen has to supplement his salary by officiating sports' events

Faith Reformed Church has no formally- organized evangelism. And, Anderson has not been "redoubling" its efforts to evangelize (as Synod discussed but did not decree last year). If the Anderson Church was an official missions' work of Synod, I would entertain the idea that our financial support end or be phased out. But as a work that receives diaconal funds, I would recommend continued aid from the Synodical benevolence Committee, as well as oversight by the permanent Synodical Diaconal Committee.

Regarding positive points, the Anderson congregation owns its own building, thus its financial overhead is not as severe as some of our churches. Another positive note is that the church still has a nucleus of 22 communicant members who have a desire to see people brought to Christ. If we heard of a church in distress of its size and spirituality that wanted to join the RCUS and that owned its own building, most of us would ride in like the Cavalry! The hot embers of Gospel fire very much exist in Anderson, even though the numerical growth of the congregation is receding. Our prayer should be for the embers to break out into blazing Gospel flames. I would also hazard to guess that in terms of per capita evangelism, the Anderson church may be doing more evangelism than some of our established congregations.

After writing this report and submitting it to Rev. Bowen for review and accuracy, Rev. Bowen emailed the whole Consistory's take on its situation and my report. You will see that its own assessment of itself differs somewhat from the report that I gave and what was based entirely upon my interview with Pastor Bowen.

After writing this report and after the recent meeting of the Western Classis in Lancaster, California, the Classis esteemed the Anderson Church worthy to continue to receive diaconal aid from Classis.

Rev. Frank Walker and Jim West also visited the congregation in Lancaster, CA at the recent 2012 Annual Spring Meeting of Western Classis. Rev. West provides the following assessment:

The church was most impressive: loving, hospitable, and outgoing. In addition, the new location of the Church is nestled in a shopping center, visible from a busy highway. The sign on the building can be easily seen at a great distance. The geographical change from the old location is huge, as one doesn't have to be a Marco Polo to find the building. Plus, the advertising value of the new location speaks for itself. Also, with a new Pastor who is from the area, I drove away after Classis with nothing but positive vibes about the future of Grace Reformed Church in Lancaster.

We would also note the following excerpt from Rev. Henry's 2012 parochial report:

"....the congregation also desires to reach out to the people in the Antelope Valley with the Gospel of Christ. Some are engaged in city park evangelism, passing out tracts, and distributing door hangers that explain the Gospel of Christ. We are also in the process of developing a plan that will enable us to reach out to the needy in our community with clothing, and food items. This will be our foot in the door to then minister to the spiritual needs of many who know not Christ, and to encourage those who do trust Christ as their sovereign Lord."

Concerning the mandate to research and make recommendations regarding health care costs, we can report the following:

- 1. Due to the fact that RCUS ministers serve congregations in 14 different states, and also that each minister's family varies in size and health care needs, it is a daunting task, to say the least, to inquire of every insurance provider in each of the 14 states looking for the best provider, especially given the diversity of health care providers in each state. Also given the fact that this whole issue is presently unstable and the constitutionality of the health care bill passed by Congress is before the Supreme Court, your committee took a wait and see approach on this matter and would like another year to research information.
- 2. Your committee did examine an alternative solution to the rising cost of traditional health care insurance. There are three ministries which operate in most states. These ministries are: Samaritan's Ministries: http://www.samaritanministries.org/ MediShare: http://www.chministries.org/participationlevels.aspx

The purpose of the ministry in providing health care benefits to its members is based on Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." This principle, when it comes to health care sharing, can be difficult to understand because we're so used to thinking in terms of traditional healthcare insurance. However, the process seems to be very straightforward and effective in dealing with medical needs.

For example, in Samaritan's Ministries (SM) each member commits to sending a set "Share" amount each month. "Shares" are sent via US Mail from one household to another to members who have "Needs." SM uses a database that randomly matches Shares to Needs, so that the Sharing is coordinated and Shares go to the appropriate members with Needs. SM then publishes a monthly newsletter that reports the total Shares and Needs and includes an individualized Share Notice for each member household. The Share Notice tells each household how to pray for a specific member with a Need and what his address is, so the Share can be sent directly to him. SM statistics show that less than 10 percent of the members have a Need in a given month and are receiving Shares. When a member has a health care "Need" he receives health care treatment from a provider of his choice, collects the bills, and then sends the bills to SM, and SM then verifies that the Need meets the guidelines. Then, in the monthly newsletter mailing, SM directs some members to send their Shares to the member with the Need. The member with the need receives the shares to pay his health care bills.

With more than 18,000 member households participating in SM, there is about \$4 million available each month to meet member's health care needs. The cost for the healthcare benefits from SM is far less than traditional healthcare insurance: \$135 per month for singles; \$270 for couples. A few RCUS ministers are already members of Samaritan's Ministries and can testify to its effectiveness in providing health care benefits to its members. This being said, Samaritan's Ministries, and the other two ministries mentioned, provide an excellent, cost effective alternative to traditional health care.

In addition to the items reported, your committee also worked on behalf of the family of Rev. Dale Clark, The Clark family needed assistance due to their displacement as a consequence of the flooding in

Based on the content of this report, your committee makes the following recommendations:

Minot, ND last summer. Assistance included the request for cards, money and volunteers to help the Clarks in their rebuilding process.

Recommendation #1, That the Permanent Diaconal Committee continue to research information and make recommendations to the 267th Synod of the RCUS addressing how our congregations, Classes and Synod can best address the growing health care costs of ministers.

Recommendation #2, That the Consistories of Faith RCUS in Anderson, CA and Grace RCUS in Lancaster, CA provide a report to the Permanent Diaconal Committee of their labors and efforts to reduce or cease their need for benevolent aid

Respectfully Submitted, Elder Kenneth Armbruster, Rev. Steve Altman, Elder Robert Davis, Elder Andy Gilman, Rev. Scott Henry, Rev. Michael McGee (chairman), Rev. Phil Poe, Deacon Thomas Savage, Rev. Frank Walker, Rev. Jim West

E. Editorial Advice Committee

Your committee was asked to review one article for the Reformed Herald. We recommended that it not be printed.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. David A Dawn, Chairman, Rev George Horner, Rev. Dennis Roe, Rev Jonathan Merica, Elder Greg Van Holland, Elder James Connelly

F. Executive Committee

During the course of this synodical year, your committee conferred by telephone and email and sent out one Executive Circular with a recommendation which was approved without dissent. That action was as follows: "Recommendation 1. That Synod grant to Rev. George Syms upon his retirement from the pastoral ministry \$1,600 per month in ministerial aid and \$400 per month in benevolent aid, to be reviewed annually."

Your committee was given the task of continuing to correspond with Dordt College's board of trustees regarding issues that caused the RCUS to suspend Dordt College from the list of approved colleges. It is our conclusion that Synod needs to step back and consider how and whether it should maintain relationships with institutions of higher education, particularly in regard to institutions that may differ with the RCUS in how they hold to the teaching of Scripture as summarized in our confessions. It is our conviction that Synod needs to determine more precisely the criteria and standards by which we establish and maintain relationships with institutions of higher learning, as well as the boundaries of academic freedom. Therefore, we appeal to the body to refer this matter to a committee of Synod.

In February 2012 the Executive Committee received the following e-mail from Rev. Frank Walker:

Brothers, A few days ago, I received the following documents from attorney Gerry Grubbs in Cincinnati. Gerry was a deacon in the RCUS church that we had in Cincinnati when I was there in the mid-80s. Before we closed the church, Gerry arranged for the sale of the property to a Russian Orthodox congregation. The assets and liabilities were later transferred to the Synod. Maybe Ted can confirm this, but my understanding is that the obligation of the Russian Orthodox Church was satisfied several years ago.

The documents are as follows:

- 1. Satisfaction of Mortgage -- Gerry has my name on this document, saying that I have been authorized by the board of trustees of the RCUS to sign it. I think this is probably because I had to sign papers a long time ago, either when I was pastor of the Cincinnati church or, more likely, when I was serving as Stated Clerk of the Synod. This document needs to be signed and notarized.
- 2. Exhibit "A" -- which identifies the parcel of property in Cincinnati.
- 3. Transfer Certificate of Title -- This document, dated 2002, has to do with the Russian Orthodox Church's purchase of a second piece of property in a different area of greater Cincinnati. I'm not sure why it's included.
- 4. Satisfaction of Mortgage -- Apparently, the Russian Orthodox Church had a second mortgage from a commercial bank on the piece of property that had been owned by the RCUS church in Cincinnati. According to this document, the loan was obtained December 2001 and satisfied in January 2007. This was filed with the Hamilton County Recorder on March 17, 2008.
- 5. A photocopy of the original first mortgage, dated August 15, 1991, citing the property described in Exhibit "A" as security for the loan. I'm somewhat puzzled by the date because the sale actually took place either in 1988 or 1989 before I left Cincinnati, but this may be an updated document reflecting the transfer of assets to the Synod after the church closed.
- 6. Satisfaction of Mortgage -- This document states that the mortgage interest of the RCUS in the Cincinnati property was satisfied as of March 22, 2002. I was still Stated Clerk at the time and apparently signed this document in that capacity, although I must admit that I do not remember doing so. The stamp of the Hamilton County Recorder shows that it was filed with the county on April 9, 2002. This document is exactly like the first one listed above, except that the one above is undated, unsigned and un-notarized.

I apologize for the overload of information, but I'm not sure how much of this might be necessary for you to instruct me about what you want me to do with these papers. Gerry is apparently looking for me to sign and return the first one, but I am no longer the Stated Clerk, and neither the Synod nor the Board of Trustees has authorized me to sign legal paperwork. What do you want me to do? Should I instruct Gerry to send the paperwork to the current clerk? Should it go to the Treasurer?

In the process of determining who is authorized to sign the Satisfaction of Mortgage, we decided to search our denomination's Articles of Incorporation but could not locate them. We discovered from the office of the Secretary of the State of North Dakota that the incorporation of the RCUS in North Dakota was terminated in 2001, and that to get it back in good standing we would need to file new Articles of Incorporation, have a registered agent who is a resident of North Dakota, and pay a \$40 fee.

After conferring by e-mail the Executive Committee decided on the following course of action:

- (1) The Treasurer of the RCUS will be the incorporator and will every year keep us current by filling out the paper work and paying the required fee.
- (2) The Synodical Board of Trustees Committee will name a registered agent, most likely the chairman. The Board of Trustees must have on it every year a resident of the State of ND.
- (3) Article 108 of the Constitution designates the President and Clerk of synod, both being also members of the Executive Committee, to be signers of legal documents. Therefore, Rev. Jim Sawtelle and Rev. David Fagrey, President and Clerk respectively, shall both sign the Satisfaction of Mortgage.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Jim Sawtelle, Pres., Rev. Frank Walker, V. Pres., Elder Roger Gallimore, Ted. Griess, Treas., Rev. David Fagrey, Clerk.

Attached: Letter to Dordt College Board of Trustees

Dordt College Dr. Carl E. Zylstra, President 4984th Ave. NE Sioux Center, IA 51250

Dear Dr. Zylstra,

The last Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States gave its Executive Committee the mandate to continue to correspond with Dordt College's board of trustees regarding issues that caused the RCUS to suspend Dordt College from the list of approved colleges.

First of all, we want to thank you for the letter, dated April 2011, from the Board of Dordt College. This letter was presented to our last Synod. We are grateful for the serious consideration given for our expressed concerns.

We write to inform you and the Board that at present the Synod is wrestling with the question of how and whether the Synod should maintain relationships with institutions of higher education, particularly in regard to institutions that may differ with the RCUS in how they hold to the teaching of Scripture as summarized in our confessions. Our Synod will need to determine more precisely the criteria and standards by which we establish and maintain relationships with institutions of higher learning, as well as the boundaries of academic freedom.

An attempt to answer these larger questions more clearly from our side will have to take place at our next Synod meeting.

Meanwhile we sincerely hope and pray that the college would faithfully reflect the teaching of Scripture in doctrine, life and scholarship according to the tradition of the Reformed creeds and confessions.

In the Lord's service, David P. Fagrey, Stated Clerk, RCUS

DORDT COLLEGE

March 2, 2012 Rev. David Fagrey 5626 Haines Ave Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear David,

Thank you so much for your letter dated 13 December 2011. I have waited until now to respond because I wanted to share it with our board meeting in February. In addition, I thought it wise to wait until our face to face visit with the Committee for Contact with Dordt College which occurred on 7 February 2012.

Now that both of these have occurred I am pleased to let you know how much we (including the board) still appreciate our relationship with the RCUS and your faithful encouragement, correction, and support over the years. In addition, I've enjoyed meeting personally with members of your predecessor Executive Committee and trust that my successor will be able to enjoy a similar relationship with you and the present committee.

Be assured we take seriously your questions and suggestions and that we will indeed look forward to hearing from you what the next steps will be in our relationship for the future.

Be assured, as well, that whatever the nature of your decisions regarding relationships with Christian colleges, Dordt College remains eager to maintain whatever relationship would be for the best interests of both the RCUS and Dordt College. Please keep us informed.

On a personal note, David, I've appreciated getting to know so many members of the Executive Committee of the RCUS over the past years. I'll miss our conversations in the coming years but I'm confident that my successor will find as much delight as I did in sharing these times with a faithful church that seeks to honor our Lord and the Reformed faith that guides our worship and service in his name.

May God bless us all in our respective journeys of faithfulness in the coming years!

Sincerely, Carl Zylstra, President

G. Foreign Ministries Committee

Your committee met in Sacramento on April 2nd to discuss the work of the RCUS in foreign missions, review the previous year as well as plan for the upcoming year. As always your committee continues to thank God for the prayers and support of the congregations and individuals of the RCUS. Your prayers and support enable us as a denomination to obey Christ's command making disciples of all nations for His glory.

Your committee continues to operate through the year with subcommittees for the Congo (United Reformed Churches of the Congo -URCC) headed by Rev. Robert Grossmann, for Kenya ((Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya - RFCK) headed by Rev. Michael Voytek and for the Philippines headed by Rev. Gil Baloy (United Covenant Reformed Church Philippines - UCRCP). Other committees, which report to the FMC, include the Reformed Radio Administration Committee (with Rev. Neil Riffert, Rev. Paul Treick and Rev. Dan Schnabel) and the Congo Economic Development Committee (The officers of the consistory of Providence RCUS, Lodi California).

Congo

The RCUS Foreign Mission in the Congo continues to go quite well, in spite of fairly serious unrest connected with the recent elections there, especially in the Capital of Kinshasa. The other areas seem to be less unstable, which is to be expected since the various factions arrayed against the government of Laurent Kabila do their protesting and organizing in Kinshasa. Notes of unrest do come in occasionally from other areas too. Elder Mande Lenge Kitenge, the leader of the Lubumbashi steering committee does not mention any unrest there. The Province of Shaba, of which Lubumbashi is capitol, is generally more stable than other parts of the Congo, having better province government, and also being 1500 miles distant from Kinshasa. Deacon Bajikila reports from Mbuji-Mayi that Roman Catholics in that area are plannning a protest parade about the national government. One of the things that will probably keep the lid on other elements is that the government of Kabila has the Army and most of the weapons in its hands. Laurent Kabila, by the way, took over as president in about 2003, shortly after his father, who led the overthrow of Mubutu, was assassinated. The complaint is that the elections were rigged and that the other guy actually got more votes, but as Mao Tse Dung remarked, "It doesn't matter who votes, but who counts the votes." On the other side, it needs to be said that there were foreign observers of the elections who did not report massive voter fraud.

In spite of the unrest, the churches in Kinshasa seem to be getting along well. You will remember that there are now a dozen churches we help with \$200 a quarter, up from the ten churches a couple of years ago. Pastors Abel Ntita and Philippe Ngalula travel freely among the churches and do as much teaching as they can, as well as pastoring their home congregations, "Love Reformed," and "Ngaliema." From what they report we can glean the facts that the schools are open and food is available in Kinshasa, though at elevated prices compared to recent years. The churches are unified and we send the funds for their support to a deacon, who with others then distributes them to the congregations.

In Mbuji-Mayi, 750 miles southeast of Kinshasa, the group of churches led by Rev. Kabongo also continues to live and work in a stable unity in doctrine. Kabongo continues to be the President of the Synod but has given up some other powers at our urging. The funds for the support of the pastors there no longer goes through his hands but is sent to a Deacon. Our contact with another group of churches about 300 miles west of MbujiMayi in Kananga is through the MbujiMayi group. A former Responsible Elder (church leader) from there has rejoined the URCC after being disciplined and exiled some years ago. We have also gotten news from the Netherlands, through the Verre Naasten magazine, that the Verre Naasten is supporting a couple of pastors in Kananga who are broadcasting radio programs. At this point we do not have enough information to know what to make of this, since the mission work in the Congo for the GKN Liberated is under the congregation in Spakenburg South, and it would seem to us that following their rules the congregation and not the Verre Naasten (which is not a mission agency) would be overseeing and supporting this radio work. Again, there is little note of the unrest that exists in the Capitol of Kinshasa out there in the mining area. Both Mbuji-Mayi and Lubumbashi areas have larger per capita income than Kinshasa because of mining operations there. Indeed, in the midst of the very Third World city of Lubumbashi, there is a copper mining and smelting operation (fenced in, of course) that would rival such an installation in any first world country.

In the city of Lubumbashi, where the churches led by Kishimba Kasantika exist, is the last bastian of the ERCC. Kishimba pretty well rules these several churches and their pastors, who include some rather capable men educated in South Africa, with some rigor, since he controls the funds that group is able to obtain by renting out the old compound where the GKN folks had their seminary. Nevertheless, according to Mande Lenge Kitenga, a very good friend of mine (and Jon Blair), reports that the ERCC group continues to get smaller and deteriorate. The URCC group, of which Mr. Kitenga (an Elder) is the chairman, continues to grow and fears no interference from the ERCC group. The URCC in Lubumbashi is an active part of the national church, with representatives meeting with the others at Synod and planning meetings. We recently sent \$800 to Lubumbashi, which Mr. Kitenge reports has been used to purchase enough galvanized metal sheets for the roofing of two churches.

At this point we are sending to the Congo mission funds as follows: 1) Congregation support of a dozen churches in Kinshasa \$9600 per year, 2) For the support of two pastors in Kinshasa \$3600 per year, 3) For the support of about ten pastors in Mbuji-Mayi and Kananga \$10200 per year, and 4) for the support of churches in Lubumbashi with distribution by the URCC Steering Committee there, \$800 per year.

Kenva

As you are aware, the RCUS has been working with the Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya (RFCK) for a number of years. There is currently one Classis with 6 churches and 2 ordained ministers (a third man is being examined by their Classis and if he passes will be ordained in the near future). They also have at least 3 men that are either licentiates or are under the care of Classis). We have been assisting them in the preparation of ministers by supporting their studies at Knox Theological College in Mbale, Uganda. Besides the 2 pastors, every church is represented at Classis by an elder delegate. Our overall assessment is that they are growing in their understanding and practice of Reformed and Presbyterian church polity. They are even discussing the possibility of dividing into two Classes to facilitate the work due to geographical/travel considerations.

Concerning church support, we have been sending support to each of the 6 churches on a quarterly basis. They are to be commended for their diligent quarterly reporting of income and expenses. There is a downside to this procedure that we would like to mention. It costs \$50 per church per quarter (i.e. \$300 per quarter) to send funds to the individual church bank accounts. We discussed this as a committee as well as with various members of the RFCK and we have decided to change how we will send monies in the future. The new procedure is as follows; the 6 churches will submit their quarterly income and expense reports to a committee of the RFCK Classis for review and recommendation. The recommendation of Classis will be sent to our committee and after review, we will send the quarterly support to the Classis bank account. Then the 6 church treasurers and the Classis treasurer will meet at the bank to distribute the support as directed by the Classis. This should reduce the funds transfer costs from \$300 to \$50 per quarter, freeing up more funds for the churches. Our committee budgeted \$6,000 last year for church support and we recommend the same amount this year.

One of the greatest challenges that our brothers and sisters in Kenya continually face is drought and the resulting negative economic impact. We have encouraged the RFCK Classis to establish a Diaconal Aid Committee and your committee and individual RCUS churches have contributed monies to enable this committee to meet pressing needs within the RFCK. We received a report that there has been a drought since November and many farmers are not even buying seed until they get rainfall. Prices have gone through the roof. Some are going to bed hungry. Furthermore, two of the churches do not have a building and are meeting in the shade. We have considered setting aside \$500 of the money budgeted for church building in a matching fund account. If the members of the RFCK give \$500 toward building materials then we will provide \$500. Our committee budgeted \$2,000 last year for church building and diaconal aid and we recommend the same amount this year.

Concerning the support for students at Knox Theological College in Mbale, Uganda, the RFCK has been sending 4 students to the college. It is anticipated that Licentiate John Omoke will finish all but 4 classes this spring. In the meantime, he is ready for his ordination exam. It is anticipated that 2 other students will graduate in 2013 and a fourth student should be ready to graduate in 2014. We provide funds for transportation to and from school in Uganda as well as a very small onetime fee for 3 years tuition. The Orthodox Presbyterian Uganda Mission (OPUM) provides any books needed. Furthermore, the college has established an agreement with the students that they can earn their room and board by working 2 hours a day on campus. The funds to provide this help come from OPUM as well. The college has experienced a turnover of professors with the Rev. Barry James of New Zealand having just completed 6 months' work as the only fulltime professor on staff at this time. We recently learned that the OPC is preparing to send a fulltime professor in the near future but we do not have specific details at this time. There is an open request for the RCUS to send qualified men to teach 3 week courses at the college. Our committee discussed this opportunity at length and we will attempt to encourage some of our pastors to serve this vital need. We budgeted \$5,400 last year for student support and we recommend increasing that amount to \$6,700 due to the increased cost in transportation (some prices have doubled).

Finally your committee discussed the request of the RFCK to consider reestablishing micro financing. As you may recall, a few years ago we encouraged the establishment of a micro financing committee in Kenya that provided small loans to individuals that desired to support their families through microenterprises. Due to a number of issues, we lost contact with that committee. Our committee discussed this request and is attempting to ascertain the status of those loans. If we decide to undertake this opportunity, we are considering using \$1,000 from the 2012-2013 church buildings and diaconal budget for this purpose.

Philippines

The 265th RCUS Synod, May 16-19, 2011, passed all of the recommendations of the Standing Foreign Ministries Committee for the United Covenant Reformed Church in the Philippines (UCRCP). They included the following:

- 1. "That the matter of establishing fraternal relations between the RCUS and the UCRCP of the Philippines be refer to the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee for following of the normal procedures for establishing such relations."
- 2. "That the RCUS establish a formal relationship to support and encourage the UCRCP."
- 3. "That the RCUS budget \$2058 for the UCRCP's Classis meeting for 2012."
- 4. "That the RCUS budget \$3000 for a future trip to the Philippines to meet with and hold conferences with the UCRCP." (Total so far = \$6000)

However, one item, which Synod passed, did not make it into the Abstract of the Minutes: "That the RCUS budget \$2000 for outreach expenses covering gas and travel expenses for the pastors of the two poorest churches of Las Pinas and Laguna in the UCRCP." The omission was caught and the amount was sent off in August 2011. (See 265th Synod Abstract, pages 38 and 102) As of the writing of this report, all the recommendations have been, or are being (in the case of Recommendation #1), carried out.

At its second annual 2011 Spring Classis, the UCRCP became acutely aware of its need for further equipping by the more-than-willing RCUS. So, on January 18-31, 2012, the team, composed of Vernon Pollema, Matthew Powell and Gil Baloy, traveled to the Philippines in zealous response to their invitation. On the first week, Gil and Vern went to Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao, for a brief stopover to see firsthand the ravages of Typhoon Sendong and to consult with the leaders of Maranatha Reformed Chapel, the newest UCRCP mission congregation. From there we headed to Davao City where we were invited to conduct a church conference. Matt, accompanied by Rev. Nap Narag, went to San Carlos, Pangasinan, Luzon, for the other church conference. On the second week we all converged on Baguio City, Luzon, for the leadership conference comprised of 21 pastors, elders and young men.

Vern lectured to an audience of 70 people from thirteen churches including Davao City UCRCP on church discipline, God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. He preached at the two services that Lord's Day, which, to our delight, was the celebration of the Lord's faithful sustaining of the congregation for twelve years. The *piece de resistance* was the roasted pig, a typical party celebration favorite. Another roasted pig would cap our visit at the commemoration of the organizing of the Caluan UCRCP Church in Laguna, Luzon, and the installation of its three elders! Vern preached at the morning service on that Lord's Day as well. The San Carlos UCRCP Church assigned Matt virtually the same topics as Vern. Besides that, he preached once on the Lord's Day, and indicated in summary how he "spent a great deal of time in casual fellowship and discussion." As a highlight of Matt's stay in Pangasinan (which translates "Province of Salt"), the brothers took him on an excursion by boat of the "Hundred Islands," on the west coast. Only three islands are developed for tourists. Most are ancient corals with vegetation that appear like a field of enlarged mushrooms cast upon the sea.

In Baguio City, Luzon, we witnessed Matt in peak form as a seminary professor (New Geneva Seminary). First, he laid out the doctrines of Covenant Theology and Creation respectively. Afterwards, one-by-one he pulled down the strongholds of Federal Vision, New Perspectives of Paul, and Framework Hypothesis. He gave broad and yet detailed brush-strokes to the Millennium views, not to mention providing a thoughtful critique of the Historical Redemptive Preaching and the Two-Kingdom Theology. Vern ably discussed Presbyterian government taught in Scripture, the difference between denomination and federation, the <u>RCUS Constitution</u>, and the <u>Three Forms of Unity</u>. The UCRCP Classis meeting also went well as the delegates were mentored by the RCUS ministers on how to properly conduct their meetings.

After returning to the U.S., Vern and Matt reflected on what they learned from the trip. Both are unanimous that the visit was positive and helpful. Oh, to be involved in preaching and planting of churches in a white harvest field of 91 million people in a combined land mass about the size of Arizona! Vern shared a presentation to the Bakersfield congregation and concluded that a high priority for the UCRCP and the RCUS (as the sponsoring/supporting denomination) has to be the training of men for the ministry, with only three ministers and slightly more elders. He adds, "…that should be utmost in the mind of the Foreign Missions Committee!"

There are no Reformed seminaries in the Philippines. To invite young Filipino men to the U.S. to study is both prohibitive and risky as far as their returning to the field. Vic Bernales is a unique

exception. Long-distance learning seems to be the way to go. Is the RCUS willing to take on the responsibility of providing seminary training for the UCRCP? If so, where does one begin? What are our options? Perhaps we need to start by exploring the Reformed seminaries which have long distance learning programs. What about Heidelberg Theological Seminary and City Seminary? If there is not one we can use, are we willing to develop a program of our own? Who has the expertise and time to develop it? Who will head the program? Will the RCUS continue sending pastors to teach in the Philippines? Instead of two or three pastors doing conferences every other year, what about one RCUS pastor lecturing in Manila on a yearly basis?

I would inform you that Elder Boy Cabugao recently wrote that he is interested in enrolling in "Reformed International Theological Seminary" (RITS) for overseas students. It is an option they are considering since RITS President Geoffrey Donnan spoke to them at their previous Classis meeting. "Each lecture comes with a full word-for-word transcript often in an outline form so that there is no normal need for taking lecture notes. This allows a student (especially one who uses English as a second language, or ESL) to be reading while the professor is speaking. This significantly improves ESL comprehension and overcomes the various accents found in professors from different regions of the English speaking world. The audio recording (mp3 which can be downloaded for free and played on a computer or CD player) can be stopped at any point the student wishes in order to allow him to comprehend what is being said. He also can go back over both the audio and the transcript any time. This is totally contrary to any campus setting where a student simply has to keep up with the professor... Consequently, the student's total focus is on understanding the content rather than scrambling to take notes and missing a great deal of what the professor is communicating." (Geoffrey Donnan, RITS, http://reformation.edu) I recommend that we at least take a closer look at this option like the UCRCP has done. Seminary training is an immediate pressing need for them. Thus far, we know of no Reformed long distance learning program that is proven and presently employed in Asia (China and Indonesia), except this one.

We were able to provide valuable counseling for our brothers in the Philippines. It was a time of personal, yea, mutual, mentoring with iron sharpening iron (Proverbs 27:17). Each one of us RCUS pastors took a personal interest in wanting to help one of three different UCRCP congregations with a pressing need. Praise God that our home churches are willing to give financially through a one-time gift or temporary diaconal assistance (six months up to a year, with the possibility to renew upon review of both the ability of the giving church and the future need of the receiving church). See "Direct Contributions" list for more information. It is only proper that we express appreciation to those who have opened their hearts in giving to the needy in Davao City, and especially in Cagayan de Oro, where over 2000 lost their lives and many families were displaced up to the time of our visit. Once again, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to Raul and Carlota Enriquez who provided us with lodging and delicious meals when we were in Manila, and gave us a driver and vehicle to use anywhere on the island of Luzon and even in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao. Finally, the UCRCP brothers reminded us to make sure to extend to the RCUS churches their warm Christian greetings and hearty appreciation for all the gifts and services rendered in the building of God's kingdom in the Philippines.

All-in-all, we are optimistic that the leadership and churches are headed the right way. They are "very much committed to building a solid confessional Reformed church there and to govern that church in a Biblical and orderly way." (Matt Powell)

"Direct Contributions to the United Covenant Reformed Church in the Philippines in 2011-2012"

Here is an important reminder to donors: "Because direct contributions to foreign missions works may have unintended consequences, the churches and the members are encouraged to make contribution through the Foreign Ministries Committee and keep the committee informed of any direct contributions." (Standing Missions Committee Recommendation #13, 2009 Synod Abstract, page 68)

- 1. A gift of \$200 from Covenant Reformed Chapel, San Diego, CA, remitted by Gil Baloy to the UCRCP Classis Treasurer to provide diaconal assistance for the health needs of Rev. Nap Narag of the Caluan UCRCP Church in Laguna; dated July 2011.
 - 2. A gift of \$350 from Providence OPC in Temecula, CA, to provide diaconal assistance for the flood victims of Davao City UCRCP Church; reported to Gil Baloy and dated July 2011.
- 3. A gift of \$529 from Covenant RCUS in Sacramento, CA, through the RCUS Treasurer remitted by Gil Baloy to the UCRCP Classis Treasurer to provide diaconal assistance for the Davao City UCRCP Church flood victims; dated August 2011.
- 4. A gift of \$820 from Providence RCUS in Limon, CO, through the RCUS Treasurer remitted by Gil Baloy to the UCRCP Classis Treasurer to provide diaconal assistance for the Davao City UCRCP Church flood victims; dated August 2011.
- 5. A gift of \$1000 from Covenant RCUS in Sacramento, CA, through the RCUS Treasurer remitted by Gil Baloy to the Davao City UCRCP Consistory via the UCRCP Classis Treasurer, to provide diaconal assistance for the Typhoon Sendong disaster victims of Maranatha Reformed Chapel, its mission congregation in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao; dated January 2012.
- 6. A gift of \$200 from Covenant Reformed Chapel, San Diego, CA, hand-delivered by Gil Baloy to Jireh Reformed Church in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao, (not a UCRCP Church) to provide diaconal assistance for Typhoon Sendong disaster victims whom the church is helping in its community; dated January 2012.
- 7. A gift of \$600 from an anonymous donor of Covenant RCUS in Sacramento, CA, hand-delivered by Gil Baloy to the Davao City UCRCP Consistory, to provide diaconal assistance for Typhoon Sendong disaster victims of Maranatha Reformed Chapel, its mission congregation in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao; dated January 2012.
- 8. A gift of \$1000 from Redeemer RCUS, Golden Valley, MN, through the RCUS Treasurer sent by Gil Baloy via Western Union to Jireh Reformed Church in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao, to provide diaconal assistance for Typhoon Sendong disaster victims whom the church is helping in its community; dated February 2012. That local church continues to this date to house, feed and teach the Bible to at least nine families living in simple newly constructed corrugated-roof huts located on the church's property.
- 9. A gift of \$200 from Redeemer RCUS, Golden Valley, MN, (via the RCUS Treasurer) combined with another gift of \$200 from an anonymous donor of Providence OPC, Temecula, CA, remitted by Gil Baloy to the Davao City UCRCP Consistory via the UCRCP Classis Treasurer, to provide diaconal assistance for the Typhoon Sendong disaster victims of Maranatha Reformed Chapel, its mission congregation in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao; dated February 2012.
- 10. A gift of approximately \$1000 from Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO, for the sponsorship of *scholars* at the Christian School operated by the Puzons in Las Pinas, Rizal; reported to Gil Baloy and dated February 2012.
- 11. A gift of Kindles for each of the three UCRCP pastors Edwin Puzon, Nap Narag and Vic Bernales, from Providence RCUS, Limon, CO, including gift certificates for books for the Kindles, for a total of \$450; reported to Gil Baloy and dated February 2012.
- 12. A one-time love gift of \$600 from Providence RCUS, Limon, CO, for pastoral support for Rev. Nap Narag of the Calauan UCRCP Church in Laguna; reported to Gil Baloy and dated February 2012.

- 13. A monthly love gift of \$100 for the next six months from Covenant Reformed Chapel, San Diego, CA, augmented by a monthly Lord's Supper deacon's offering (\$50 this month for a total of \$150), remitted by Gil Baloy to the UCRCP Treasurer to provide diaconal assistance for Pastor Anselmo Laid, associate pastor of Davao City UCRCP over its mission congregation Maranatha Reformed Chapel in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao; dated April 2012.
- 14. A monthly gift of \$100 for the next year from Grace RCUS, Bakersfield, CA, to assist Elder Ojie Bicaldo in his pursuit of his seminary instruction; remitted by Gil Baloy to the UCRCP Treasurer in half-year increments of \$600 for a total of \$1200; dated April 2012.
- 15. Grace RCUS, Bakersfield, CA, took a special offering of \$1766 to assist Elder Bicaldo in his pursuit of a seminary education, sent to the RCUS Treasurer; to be later remitted by Gil Baloy to the UCRCP Treasurer; dated April 2012.

Recommendation #1. That the budget be adopted as follows:

URCC - Congo:

Elder/pastor/church support \$12,600 (reduced by \$1,800) Kinshasa aid to churches \$13,200 (same as last year) Lubumbashi church aid \$1,000 (new) Building and Diaconal aid \$1200 (raised \$800)

RFCK - Kenya:

Church Support \$6,000 (same as last year) Building & diaconal aid \$2,000 (same as last year) Student/ministry expenses & travel 6,700 (increase \$1,300)

UCRCP - Philippines:

Classis meeting expenses \$2,058 (same as last year) Outreach expenses \$2,000 (same as last year)

Reformed Faith and Life (French): \$20,000 (increase 3,000)

Committee Expenses:

Travel to Africa \$3,000 (same) Travel to Europe \$1,000 (same) Travel in USA \$ 3,000 (same) Travel to Philippines \$3,000 (same)

Take Note: The Foreign Ministries Committee has been receiving budgets as well as accounting for the money the RCUS has given from Kenya, Philippines and Congo.

Recommendation #2: That the Foreign Ministries Committee draw 50% of the 2012-2013 budget from Foreign Ministries accrued funds.

Recommendation #3: That the Foreign Ministries Committee be allowed to investigate options for seminary training for ministerial students in foreign fields, including Heidelberg Theological Seminary, City Seminary, and Reformed International Theological Seminary. We need to be ready with a clear strategy with goals and objectives for seminary training to offer the UCRCP(Philippines) and URCC(Congo) in particular.

Recommendation #4: Any additional expenditures of the Foreign Ministries Committee, out of accrued funds, exceeding \$5,000 must be approved by Synod or the executive committee. (We are possibly having some churches added and we have diaconal needs that randomly come up)

Recommendation # 5: That the Foreign ministries committee, receive a compendium of different classis exams questions from the classis, after exams are held. This is in order to share with the brothers in foreign fields.

Recommendation #6: That the pastors of the RCUS prayerfully consider serving as a long term missionary in Uganda.

Recommendation #7: That the pastors of the RCUS prayerfully consider teaching a three week class in Uganda at Knox Theological College in Mbale.

Note: For the short term missionary we would provide for the travel and living expenses for this from the committee's budgeted funds.

Recommendation #8: That the RCUS send 2 men to Congo, this year, for the URCC Synod in July.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Schnabel (Chairman), Gil Baloy (Philippines subcommittee chairman), Bill Borgwardt, Robert Grossman (Congo subcommittee chairman), Albert Haller, Wayne Johnson, Doug Schlegel, and Michael Voytek (Kenya subcommittee chairman).

H. Home Missions Committee

The Synod Home Missions Committee met at Redeemer RCUS, Golden Valley, MN on April 12-13, 2012. Committee members present were: Revs. Harvey Opp, Howard Hart, and Hank Bowen; Elders Loren Huber, Jeff Jones, and Lynn Goehring. There was no minister from Northern Plains Classis, since Richard Stetler was kept from attending, due to a death in the Eureka congregation. Nor was there an elder from Covenant East Classis, due to a work issue for Mike Altman. Home Missionaries present were Revs. Wesley Brice, Gary Mancilas, Mike Voytek, Ryan Kron, and Dale Clark.

Mission Reports:

Grace Reformed Church, Northwest AR

Rev. Wesley Brice reported with great thankfulness that the work in Arkansas was organized as a congregation of the RCUS in December of 2011. He has been involved since the first contacts were made, with those interested in starting a reformed church there, about 12 years ago. He was called to the work and installed as a co-pastor of Peace RCUS, Garner, IA nine years ago. The Lord's blessings over the past year enabled the congregation to proceed to organization. These included new membership of a retired RPCNA minister and his wife, and 3 other men. From these, another elder and two deacons were obtained enabling the work to be organized according to its constitution.

In recent months, another retired couple joined as members as did a younger family. Again, the internet or personal contacts were means by which the new people learned of the work. The ministry of the word is greatly appreciated, and they also grow spiritually through fellowship and prayer time. They have lunch after each service and then a time to sing psalms and pray as a congregation. The meeting space at the La Quinta Inn, Bentonville, was adequate for their needs on Sundays. However, the management wanted to use the space for other renters with a substantially higher rate. Therefore, they now meet nearby at the Hyatt Place in Rogers, AR. A building fund is growing, as they desire to obtain their own property where they could meet at all times.

Rev. Brice was in good health during the year, and reported that he has been cancer free for 2 years! He continues to meet with any new visitors or contacts, and to conduct any membership class that is desired. Also a new study on doctrine, using a book by Louis Berkhof, has been appreciated by all those involved. Current membership includes 23 communicants and 5 baptized children.

The Lord's blessing is evident in that offerings exceeded their 2011 budget by \$14,000, although this includes some special gifts, two from outside the congregation. Also, there have been some new diaconal needs, and they intend to pay all of their guidelines on their own, in 2012. They have again made good efforts to become self-supporting as soon as possible. The offerings and the outside gifts totaled over \$62,000. In light of this, a larger reduction in Classis support was approved for fiscal year 2013. The same decrease as last year is sought from Synod, of \$60 per month. Synod will still provide the lesser amount overall at \$4,320. Together, the reductions will be 10% of all original support, which was received at the end of 2002. We are also recommending that the Day of Prayer offering help with the support of Grace RCUS.

Emmaus Road Reformed Chapel, Eden Prairie, MN

Redeemer RCUS has been very active in starting this new mission work, which had been planned for a number of years. The desire was to have 10 church families to be a core group, and this did occur. Therefore, 20 communicants from Redeemer have been part of the work. So, the supply though the mother church in terms of people and their giving has been substantial. Rev. Ryan Kron has served the work, as an associate pastor of Redeemer, since November 2010. After three moves, in the metro area over the past year, the Lord provided a rental home for Rev. Kron, his wife Colleen, and their son Isaiah. It has been very beneficial, with space for a study and for membership classes, etc., to be held there.

Eden Prairie, in the SW metro area, was chosen as the location to plant the mission work, and the house found is relatively close to the public school that is being rented. Services at the Eden Lake Elementary School were first held on October 23, 2011. It is in a good location, near major roads, at 12000 Anderson Lakes Parkway. That building has also been a great provision, with very adequate space, using the cafeteria area for services and classrooms for five levels of Sunday school. They also have church meals there twice monthly. And the fellowship at Emmaus is described as 'rich'.

A separate web site, emmausrcus.org, was developed for the work. Some newspaper ads and one on Facebook have been used. Neighborhood flyers were distributed. It is encouraging that word of mouth has brought most of the visitors. In fact, there is now an average of 55 people in attendance on the Lord's Day! Ten new communicants are to join on Redeemer's roll before Synod meets. Rev. Kron teaches catechism classes for the youth, membership classes, and another class for more recent visitors. One elder and one deacon of Redeemer are part of Emmaus. There is also a separate steering committee for the work. The SHMC met with consistory members to ask questions on their oversight of Emmaus, decision-making between them and the steering committee, etc. Overall, they stated they were pleased with the interaction and cooperation with those attending the work. There is some tension with the burden of the officers and the members gone to Emmaus, as with the emotions involved in separation of long-held fellowship at Redeemer. New officer training is also planned for the mission work.

As for finances, Rev. Kron said that provision for his housing and support through Redeemer, Synod, and Classis was "very generous". Support from Classis and Synod began at the end of October 2010, at \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year respectively, from monies set aside for new works. The offerings from the work were over \$22,000 for the 2 months of 2011. Therefore, with such giving continuing, the consistory asked that support from Classis and Synod be reduced to \$15,000 each, beginning in July 2012. They asked the Classis committee if this seemed too aggressive, but with the offerings being received and the savings already accrued they thought it was reasonable. After discussion, the SHMC agreed to this reduction. Along with that, a prayer request for Redeemer is that the Lord will soon restore to them a similar number of members and offerings that have gone to Emmaus. Considering all these things, we join with our brothers and sisters in the metro area in giving thanks to our gracious Lord for all the ways He has provided thus far!

Rehoboth Reformed Chapel, La Habra, CA

Rev. Michael Voytek reported that the Lord has provided tremendously for the chapel in the past year. It was a challenge when the long-time mission pastor, Rev. Jay Fluck, took a call to serve a reformed church in PA. However, pulpit supply was provided and very soon a new pastor at La Habra, as Rev. Voytek arrived in July. During the interim, "not only the officers but the rest of the congregation rallied together and shouldered various aspects of the ministry that could not be left undone." Upon arrival, the Voytek family received love and acceptance from the congregation. This has become more evident since. Also, he reports that it "has been very encouraging to observe the hunger to learn as well as the teachable spirit exhibited by both members and visitors alike."

One of the signs of growth is evident in the steering committee that has been established. From its members, two elders and one deacon have been obtained. There are now 3 active elders. As they proceed toward particularization of the chapel, much thankfulness is expressed to the Western Classis and particularly to the officers and members of Ebenezer RCUS who have ministered to the flock at La Habra in so many ways through the past years. They plan on organization within several months.

Rev. Voytek has addressed basic questions as to why we attend church, worship as we do, and what is the mission of the church, in adult Sunday School. Also, topics such as: "What is Biblical Church membership?" – have been considered in the afternoon/evening study. There are currently 3 separate membership classes. From these, 12 communicants and 8 children should be joining before long. These will be added to the current 29 communicants and 8 baptized children. Six of the youth are in the confirmation class. Two outreach home Bible studies were conducted in homes of members in nearby cities. They look for other ways to proclaim the Gospel, such as a possible outdoor service in a park.

With attendance in the 50's, they reoriented their seating, so that 100 could now be seated. Their lease is up late in 2014. So, another meeting place is being sought. With the budget being tight, \$10,116 in Synod support is requested for the next year. This is the same as currently received, while Western Classis provides twice that amount. A reminder of the need of missions there - is that only 10% of the 25 million people in the LA metro area attend church, even once per month.

Covenant RCUS, Chico, CA

Rev. Gary Mancilas stated that the consistory and the congregation remain committed to the work. However, it was a year of decreased finances especially with the loss of several families. As reported by the Western Classis Missions Committee, "the income is far less than the expenses." They discussed this with the congregation, particularly since Rev. Mancilas' salary had been reduced for the beginning of 2012. Last year, Synod had asked the committee to confer with Chico on alternative funding for his support. This was done, with proposals that would save on expenses. An analysis of that committee as reported to Western Classis was that Chico expends "far too much on advertisement which has yielded no visible results". Moving out of the present (church) facility was also suggested to the congregation, "which would save \$9,000." Yet, if these costs were eliminated, there would still be a deficit.

Therefore, the Classis committee stated their opinion that "a mission work must have a reasonable expectation of growth or self-support." Western Classis concurred, voting to remove Chico from mission status and such funding at the end of 2012. With that decision, the SHMC agrees. Rev. Mancilas did so, as well. After all, communicant membership decreased from 22 in 2010 to 19 in 2011.

Western Classis has asked for the current Synod missions support, \$930 monthly, to continue through the end of 2012 to again match their support, to which the SHMC agrees. They also approved benevolent aid for Chico, for calendar year 2013, in the amount of \$11,160. We were informed that Classis is requesting this same amount in benevolence from Synod for calendar year 2013, which is the amount of our current missions support. We also note that under a benevolence status it makes more sense that a home could be the location for services, than for a mission work.

First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND

In 2011, Synod approved \$4,000 per month for a first year to support a missionary to Dickinson, ND, "contingent upon approval of this work by the Home Missions Committee of Northern Plains Classis and the Synodical Permanent Home Missions Committee." Thereafter, further assessment work was done, and by the end of June both committees approved beginning the work. Determining specifics of a support package was the next task. The search for affordable housing was a major challenge. The three men of the original three families were active in this search. They have since been made a local steering committee.

In the fall months, the Salem RCUS (Ashley, ND) consistory was approved as the overseeing consistory. Several RCUS ministers, with interest in becoming the missionary, were considered. The feedback of the people at Dickinson was given much consideration. By December, after the Classis committee conducted interviews of the candidates, Rev. Dale Clark was recommended to the Ashley consistory after agreement from the SHMC. The Ashley congregation voted to call him, which he accepted.

The availability of a home, to be used as a parsonage, was learned of late in the fall. Although it is in Taylor, ND, 20 miles to the east, this was the best possibility found, with the shortage and cost of housing in Dickinson. It was then purchased as a contract for deed from one of the families of the mission work with some personal loan money for a down payment. It is a double wide mobile home, with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, and many updates. Rev. Clark moved in early in March. There have been some areas of mold that are being dealt with. Northern Plains Classis has determined to overture Synod for a building loan for the parsonage. Your committee is also recommending the loan for \$68,500 be granted, pending approval by a professional inspection.

With the recent arrival of Rev. Clark, there have been regular worship services each Lord's Day, at 2 PM. That time is necessary, since the meeting area at the Holiday Inn Express is booked in the morning. A contract for the space is up in July, and other buildings are being considered. A web site is being developed for the work, as well as brochures for wide-spread distribution. A mid-week study is being conducted for a membership class. In recent months, a young man from our Limon, CO congregation has moved to Dickinson for work, and another family of three has become part of the group. All of these are attending regularly, and those new to the RCUS are to have completed the membership classes and be examined by the Ashley Spiritual Council on May 6th. A confirmation class with 3 or 4 youth is to begin after Synod meets.

With all of the above developments much care and preparation have been shown to begin this work. This has taken more time than originally foreseen. As a result, financial support from Synod was not begun until March, when Rev. Clark was on site full-time. Rev. Clark states: "I look at what Christ has brought together, five solid families, and with expectation and anticipation look forward to what could be a solid thriving reformed congregation." Your committee recommends Synod support for the next fiscal year, which will be reduced from \$48,000 to \$38,400, as their budget has requested, after housing costs have been somewhat less than expected at this point. Again, we propose that this support come from current set aside funds, leaving approximately \$70,000 for future works.

Committee Work:

- 1. The Classes Missions Committee Reports were reviewed and questions about such were then raised, and in meeting with the missionaries. The committee also had good discussion time with the missionaries present, and offered prayer for each work. All the mission works greatly appreciate the prayers and financial support of the denomination, which enable their labors to continue! The 3-5 year plan for the mission endeavors of each classis was reviewed. New possibilities are often considered, which we want to encourage. We note that Northern Plains will again have a day of prayer (June 24th this year) for Home Missions within its Classis, with a special offering for Dickinson. Western Classis also intends to "set aside an Annual Day of Prayer for Western Classis Home Missions in the coming year." Its churches are encouraged to take an offering for La Habra on that day for their facility needs. Covenant East continues to maintain a guideline for future works, out of which the Emmaus Road mission has been supported to this time.
- 2. South Central Classis renewed efforts in Omaha, since last fall, with weekly Bible studies, as conducted by Rev. Lee Johnson of our Lincoln, NE congregation. Sunday services have most recently been held, replacing the Bible studies. An assessment of the work was just carried out, on April 24th. There was an issue with an individual displaying 'an overbearing personality', as described in the assessment report accompanying this SHMC report. (The assessment report is sent as information for the delegates, and is not meant to be published.)

After a face-to-face meeting of the group and the individual, he severed his relationship with the group. Therefore, a positive assessment has been given by the SCC Missions Committee, and the Classis has approved \$30,000 for the first year's budget of this work. In the remaining three committed families, there are 24 baptized people, and two pregnancies. (These figures are a correction of the numbers in the assessment report.) One family already has membership at our Lincoln congregation, St. John's RCUS. The others are now in membership classes. The SHMC has had several discussions regarding this proposed work. We concur with the assessment, and recommend that \$2,500 monthly, be made available, when a missionary starts full-time work there.

3. We also met with some of the consistory members of Redeemer as noted in the report on Emmaus. The impact on the Redeemer congregation to have 10 families become part of the mission work was discussed in terms of the drain on their finances. The change in relationships was also considered whereas those families had been at Redeemer for years. Again, we want to commend Redeemer for acting on their vision to establish other congregations in the metro area. And we hope to give good oversight through the Classis and Synod missions committees as well.

Annual Day of Prayer and Missions Offering:

As a reminder, the Annual Day of Prayer for Missions is the second Sunday of September. The 2011 debt reduction offering, was designated to help with rental costs of the La Habra, CA and Chico, CA congregations. We believe the 2012 offering should be designated to help support Grace RCUS, Northwest AR.

Recommendations:

- 1. That Covenant RCUS, Chico, CA continue to receive \$930 monthly from July through December 2012, for a total of \$5580, at which time its Synod mission status shall cease. [There will be an overture from Western Classis for Synod benevolence in the 2013 calendar year.]
- 2. That Rehoboth Reformed Chapel, La Habra, CA continue to receive \$843 monthly, for a total of \$10,116 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012.
- 3. That Grace RCUS, of NW Arkansas receive \$360 monthly, for a total of \$4,320 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012. [A reduction of \$60 monthly, 5% of the original Synod support]
- 4. That Emmaus Road Reformed Chapel receive \$1,250 monthly, for a total of \$15,000 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012. [A reduction of \$2,083 monthly, 63% of the original Synod support]
- 5. That First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND receive \$3,200 monthly, for a total of \$38,400 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012. This money is to come from current set aside funds. [A reduction of \$800 monthly, 20% of the original Synod support. This will leave approximately \$70,000 for future works.]
- 6. That Salem RCUS, Ashley, ND be granted \$68,500 for a building loan, for a parsonage for the Dickinson work, pending approval in a professional inspection of the home.
- 7. That the 2012 Day of Prayer offering be designated to help with support of Grace RCUS, NW Arkansas.
- 8. That \$7,000 be budgeted for committee expenses.
- 9. That the Omaha, NE mission plant receive \$2,500 monthly, for a total of \$30,000 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012, to be given when a missionary starts full-time work there. This money is to come from current set aside funds. [Along with the Dickinson funding, this will leave approximately \$40,000 for future works.]
- 10. The 2013 fiscal year Home Missions budget if approved as recommended would be \$110,416. [\$42,016 will come from guidelines, while \$38,400 for Dickinson and \$30,000 for Omaha will come from current set aside funds, leaving approximately \$40,000 for future works. This will require a 2013 Home Missions guideline of approximately \$14, reduced from \$19.] Take Note.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Harvey Opp (Chairman), Rev. Richard Stetler, Rev. Howard Hart, Rev. Hank Bowen, Elder Lynn Goehring, Elder Jeff Jones, Elder Loren Huber, Elder Mike Altman

I. Interchurch Relations Committee

Your Committee conducted its business this past synodical year by e-mail, telephone and a sub-committee meeting in conjunction with NAPARC. Please note that some reports and correspondence germane to the work of your committee appear in an appendix to this report rather than in the body of it.

Several items from the 2011 Synod Meeting were handed off to your committee though both the Standing Ecumenical and Standing Missions Committees of the 2011 Synod. These included invitations to three churches, in the Congo, Kenya and the Philippines, to enter into fraternal relations, the formulation of a letter of concern to the Reformed Church in the Netherlands (Liberated) (hereafter GKNv) and a draft letter to the GKNv to be approved by the Synod of the RCUS. Your Committee's actions with regard to these items will be taken up in the body of the report below.

Relations with Churches in North America

Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC):

It is the practice of your committee to meet annually as a sub-committee with a sub-committee of the CanRC in conjunction with the annual meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC). The following men gathered at 7:00 AM on November 15th, 2011 in Lawrenceville, GA: from the CanRC: Rev. Eric Kampen; Rev. Peter Holtvluwer; Elder Henry VanDelden; from the RCUS: Rev. Ron Potter; Rev. Mike McGee; Rev. Wes Brice; Rev. Maynard Koerner.

Discussion centered around increasing our respective awareness of each other's churches as well as developing means to develop a better relationship inclusive of pulpit exchanges. The CanRC delegates advised your committee that they had reached an agreement with the editors of the *Clarion*, a magazine of the CanRC, regarding an exchange of articles with the *Reformed Herald*. They also advised that a few organizations in the CanRC have been approached to consider inviting RCUS men to speak on a topic. The CanRC seminary in Hamilton, ON, as well as a church in Winnipeg, MB, has expressed specific interest. The CanRC delegation also informed your committee of two youth camps, one in Ontario and the other in British Columbia which RCUS youth are invited to attend.

The RCUS delegates advised the CanRC committee of the participation of some CanRC youth and a counsellor at the Heidelberg Youth Camp in the Black Hills in 2011 and also advised them of the presence of Heidelberg Camp west as well as the annual camp held for youth in Wisconsin each year under the oversight of Covenant East Classis.

A discussion took place relative to pulpit exchanges. The most likely scenario for pulpit exchanges would be between the Northern Plains Classis and the CanRC churches in the Carman / Winnipeg area. The name and address of the Stated Clerk in the NPC was provided to the CanRC delegates so contact could be made by the CanRC and the NPC.

The RCUS delegation also requested a status update on the issue of women voting in the congregation. It was stated by the CanRC delegation that the decision of the General Synod 2010 left it up to the local congregations to determine whether or not to proceed with changing their local rules. To date, although a number of churches may have accepted the decision of the synod, only a few churches were known to have decided to proceed to permit women voting.

The topic of federal vision was also discussed. It was reported that federal vision was not living in the CanRC churches nor in the RCUS. A question was asked to the RCUS delegates if they considered the CanRC churches holding to a federal vision position. The RCUS delegation responded by saying that initially there was a concern by a small minority in the RCUS that this was the case but that this concern had been satisfactorily answered.

A question was asked by the CanRC delegates about a discussion held at the RCUS Synod 2011 of making a change in the Belgic Confession in the articles on the doctrine of the Trinity. The RCUS responded that the suggested change had been more of a translation / editorial change.

The mutual concern to both churches is the direction being taken by the GKNv in the Netherlands. Both churches had in 2011 expressed to the General Synod of the GKNv their concerns. It was suggested that communication updates be shared between the RCUS, OPC and CanRC churches. The sub-committee of the RCUS IRC has undertaken to do just that. Another subcommittee meeting is planned in conjunction with NAPARC 2012.

Recommendation #1: That the Editor of the *Reformed Herald* be authorized to discuss and implement, with the editors of the *Clarion*, a periodic exchange of articles between the RCUS and the CanRC.

Recommendation #2: That churches in the RCUS consider means to invite CanRC youth to our denominational summer camps.

Recommendation #3: That churches in the RCUS consider pulpit exchanges with the CanRC and/or the use of CanRC speakers for conferences.

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

Your Committee has periodic contact with members of the Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations (CEIR) of the OPC on matters of mutual concern or to acquire information. Formally the Rev. Robert Grossmann attended a portion of the 75th Anniversary General Assembly of the OPC in June of 2011. Both his report of the GA as well as his remarks to the GA will be found in **appendix #1** to this report.

The OPC GA is scheduled to meet in Wheaton, Ill, June 6-12th, 2012. The Rev. Maynard Koerner will be the RCUS delegate to this GA.

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA)

The Rev. Ryan Kron was delegated to the RPCNA Synod which met June 27th to July 1st, in Marion, Indiana. His report of that Synod will be found in **appendix #2** to this report. The RPCNA is scheduled to meet June 27th to June 29th, 2012 at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA. This will be a shortened Synod and your committee has been advised that no time will be allocated for fraternal delegates to speak. In light of this rather than sending a delegate from the RCUS the IRC will send a letter of greeting.

United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA)

The Synod of the URCNA did not meet in 2011. In a change from a triennial meeting the URCNA will be meeting biennially with the next meeting to be held in Nyack, NY, June 27-29, 2012. Your committee is making plans to have a delegate present.

Relations with other Churches

North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC).

The 37th annual meeting of NAPARC took place November 15-16, 2011 in Lawrenceville, GA, at the administrative office complex of the host church, the Presbyterian Church in America, Attending as delegates from the RCUS were the Rev. Wes Brice, Rev. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Mike McGee and Rev. Ron Potter.

The 12 member churches were all represented by their delegations. Observer churches invited and present were the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin); the Bible Presbyterian Church and the Protestant Reformed Church. Total attendance was 37 delegates from member churches and 7 delegates from observer churches.

Elections for officers returned Rev. Maynard Koerner to the office of Treasurer and Rev. Ron Potter to the office of Secretary. Rev. John Bouwers of the URCNA was elected as Chairman and Rev. Robert Patrick III ARPC was elected Vice-Chairman. Rev. Potter also serves as advisory member of the NAPARC Web Site Committee.

The reports of the various churches were read and interacted with. These are available from the Chairman of your committee upon request. Minutes may be downloaded from the NAPARC web site at www.naparc.org. Other information such as the committee chairman of various denominational committees and links to member churches are also available on the web site.

In 2009 a Committee of Review (COR) consisting of representatives of 6 member churches was established by NAPARC and given the mandate of reviewing the Constitution, goals, activities and meetings of NAPARC. The COR was charged with reviewing the purpose and function of NAPARC and to bring recommendations. The Committee was not able to complete its work by either the 2010 or the 2011 meeting and was therefore once more continued to report in 2012. It did however bring a draft report that drew together into one document the actions of NAPARC over the years.

In 2010 NAPARC voted to invite Dr. Robert Godfrey to address the 2011 meeting on the theme of a paper he wrote entitled *A Reformed Dream*. Dr. Godfrey addressed the 2011 meeting on this topic and a discussion followed. Dr. Roy Taylor of the PCA brought a lecture on organic union the evening before Dr. Godfrey's speech. This was also followed by a discussion. The substance of both these speeches will be considered by the COR when it brings in its final report in 2012.

NAPARC also set aside time to provide feedback to the COR on the following two propositions: 1. That we should hold out before one another the desirability and need for organic union. 2. That this remains a basic objective of NAPARC.

In other NAPARC business correspondence from the CanRC was taken up and discussed. This was relative to the present use of current bible translations by member churches and their sufficiency for use in public worship for the coming decade as well as an inquiry to determine whether there is interest in collaboration among NAPARC churches to produce an ecclesiastically produced and owned bible translation if present translations are deem not sufficient. Feedback was given to the CanRC but no action was taken by the Council.

A request for membership in NAPARC by a long standing Korean speaking observer church was brought before the Council by the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin). Documents germane to this request came too late for consideration by the Interchurch Relations Committee of the member churches so action on the application was postponed until 2012. The KPCA observer however was invited by NAPARC to make a presentation to the 2011 meeting which he did.

Your Committee observed to the Council that though the KPCA spoke of its adherence to the Westminster Standards in its application and in its historical review of the church in Korea, nowhere could a formal statement concerning this be found in the documents they submitted including their Constitution. Moreover though the KPCA provided a detailed history of its beginning in Korea in 1884 under the influence of Protestant missionaries and a history of the deep division in the Korean Church occasioned by the introduction of Shinto shrine worship by the Japanese during WW II and subsequent formation of the Korean Presbyterian Church Kosin in 1952, the KPCA did not provide a history of its beginnings in America which was formally instituted in 1985 with their first General Assembly held in the Poconos in Pennsylvania. It is expected that the above omissions will be available by the next meeting of NAPARC. In the interim your committee will be reviewing the materials in hand germane to the KPCA in order to question their delegation more fully this fall. When the application is received by NAPARC more complete information will be provided to the delegates to the RCUS Synod in 2013 so a vote can be taken re: their admission.

Relations With Churches Abroad

Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated). (RCN / GKNv)

The 265th Synod of the RCUS in the Standing Ecumenicity Committee report (2011 Abstract p. 100) direct your committee to do two things. First to communicate our concerns to the BBK of the RCN and second to draft a letter to be approved by next year's Synod to be sent to the GKNv. This mandate was assigned to a subcommittee of the IRC which is focused on developments in the RCN. Their report to the IRC follows:

While there is very little new to report concerning the RCN we will give a brief update. Synod Harderwijk on which Rev. Jim Sawtelle and Rev. Maynard reported last year, has continued to remain open to conduct business. They will meet again at the end of May, 2012.

The Synod of the RCUS last year instructed the Interchurch Relations Committee to communicate our concerns with the BBK. A letter was recently sent. The letter identified 3 main concerns:

- 1. The view of Scripture at the Theological University in Kampen (TUK), i.e., the interpretation of Scripture (hermeneutics) as set forth in the writings and/or views of Dr. Paas, Dr. Van Bekkum, Dr. A.L.Th. de Bruijne, Dr. J., Dr. G. Harinck.
- 2. The Work of the Deputies Men/Women in the Church (Why the role of women in the church is being re-visited and what effect present day culture plays in the conclusions.)
- 3. Contacts and unity discussions taking place between the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) and the Netherlands Reformed Churches (NRC) and who is influencing whom.

The purpose for the continued meeting of Synod Harderwijk is to consider a draft for proposed changes to the church order and issues concerning the University of Kampen. They do not appear to be ready to adopt the draft proposal concerning church order.

Two delegates from the BBK plan to be in attendance at our Synod. We will be able to continue to communicate our concerns to these delegates. The communication which was sent to the BBK is attached to this report as **appendix #3.**

United Reformed Churches in the Congo (URCC)

The 265th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, at its stated meeting in Mitchell, South Dakota, USA, May 16-19, 2011, took the following action: *That the matter of formalizing* fraternal relations with the United Reformed Churches of the Congo (URCC) be referred to the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee for following of the normal procedures for the implementation of the usual procedures for such relationship. (Abstract of the Minutes 2011, page. 102).

In accordance with the above mandate and in consultation with the Synodical Foreign Missions Committee, your committee invited the United Reformed Churches of the Congo (URCC) into an ecclesiastical fraternal relationship under our adopted rules.

This fraternal relationship, if entered into by the URCC, will be under the oversight of the Synodical Foreign Missions Committee not the Interchurch Relations Committee. Thus far no response has been received from the URCC.

Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya (RFCK).

The 265th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, at its stated meeting in Mitchell, South Dakota, USA, May 16-19, 2011, took the following action: *That the matter of establishment of fraternal relations with the Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya (RFCK) be referred to the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee for following of the usual procedures for establishing such relationship.* (Abstract of the Minutes 2011, page. 101).

In accordance with the above mandate and in consultation with the Synodical Foreign Missions Committee, your committee invited the Reformed fellowship Church of Kenya (RFCK) into an ecclesiastical fraternal relationship under our adopted rules.

The following e-mail accepting our invitation was received from the RFCK on Thursday March 29th, 2012:

Dear brethren, Greetings. May Jesus Christ the son of God who seated at the father's right hand who gives gifts to men sanctify you in the truth and bring the truth to those who err shut the mouths of those of calumniators of sound doctrine and endue faithful servants of his word with spirit of wisdom and discretion that all our discourses may tend to the glory of God and the edification of those hear us. The 10th Classis of the RFCK at its stated meeting in Kenyenya, Kisii Kenya March 20th 2012 agreed to respond to your fraternal invitation letter dated 12/3/2012. Fraternal relations with the interchurch relations committee is accepted by the reformed fellowship church of Kenya RFCK under minute 02/03/2012 in the minute book of the classis meetings. The Classis mandated that the invitation of fraternal relations with interchurch relations committee is accepted in an ecclesiastical fraternal relationship that both denomination should 1,2,3,4,5 as your stipulations and 6 RFCK will both dwell in the reformed and Presbyterian circles. The RFCK takes the three forms of unity as their doctrinal standards from the grass roots. Though our constitution is not the same as the RCUS but we are progressing in adapting it in due time. Therefore we expect that great day of fraternal with a most ardent body to the end that we may fully both enjoy the promises of God in Christ. This message directed to the RCUS foreign mission committee through Rev Dan, copies to Rev Ron Potter. Much blessings as we share to proclaim the good news of our Lord thanks. Fellow servant, Rev, Englosh Osoro Barton.

This fraternal relationship will be under the oversight of the Synodical Foreign Missions Committee not the Interchurch Relations Committee.

United Covenant Reformed Church in the Philippines (UCRCP)

The 265th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, at its stated meeting in Mitchell, South Dakota, USA, May 16-19, 2011, took the following action: *That the matter of establishment of fraternal relations with the United Covenant Reformed Church of the Philippines (UCRCP) be referred to the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee for following of the normal procedures for establishing such relation.* (Abstract of the Minutes 2011, page. 102).

In accordance with the above mandate and in consultation with the Synodical Foreign Missions Committee, your committee invited the United Covenant Reformed Church of the Philippines into an ecclesiastical fraternal relationship under our adopted rules.

The following e-mail response was received from the UCRCP:

March 13, 2012

Dear pastor Ron, Greetings to you through Him who is our only comfort and joy in life and in death. Thank you so much for the invitation to UCRCP to enter into an ecclesiastical fraternal relationship with the RCUS. In as much as the stipulations regarding our relationship with RCUS is concern and the other pertinent matters regarding doctrinal standards, confessions and Church Councils membership, It is with great honor and joy to affirm that we are in like minded with you concerning a common objective - to be faithful to the Reformed faith and practice. The RCUS was not only been very much part of the birth and the life of our denomination but also very instrumental in our development and well-being. Thus, your invitation added more encouragement for us to persevere. knowing that we have brothers in that part of the world who not only one with us but also praying for us. Soli Deo Gloria for his faithfulness. Sincerely, PASTOR NAP NARAG

This fraternal relationship, if entered into, will be under the oversight of the Synodical Foreign Missions Committee not the Interchurch Relations Committee.

International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC)

The next meeting of the ICRC is scheduled for Wales in 2013 to be hosted by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales. Your Committee plans to have two delegates present.

Proposed Budget

Your Committee proposes the following budget for Synodical year 2012-13. Please note that this budget includes a set aside amount for travel to the ICRC in 2013. It also includes a provisional amount for a committee meeting which has not been needed for the past several years.

1. Delegation to NAPARC Nov. 2012, Dyer, IN (includes sub-committee med	eetings w. fraternal churches).	2,000
2. Delegate to the OPC GA June, 2012, Wheaton. Ill	600	
3. Delegate to the URCNA Synod June 2012	600	
4. Delegation to the ICRC 2013 (Set aside)	1,000	
5. Interchurch Relations Committee Meeting (if needed)	3,000	
6. Interchurch Relations Committee misc. expenses	<u>200</u>	
	Total \$7, 400	

Recommendation #4: That the proposed budget be adopted.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Ron Potter, Chairman. Rev. Vern Pollema, Elder John Heerema, Rev. Ryan Kron, Rev. Tracy Gruggett, Rev. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Mike McGee, Rev. Wes Brice, Elders Fred Hofmann, David Helseth, and Earl Van Houten.

Appendix #1 Interchurch relations Committee Report 2012

REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL DELEGATE TO THE 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Esteemed Brothers,

It was my privilege and pleasure to serve as the Fraternal Delegate of the Synod of the RCUS to the 75th Anniversary General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Having begun my own attendance at Orthodox Presbyterian Worship services in Berkeley and San Francisco, CA, during and following my college years, and having continued that practice regularly during my seminary years in Glenside, PA, I long ago developed a strong affinity for and appreciation of this denomination, with which the RCUS has had close fraternal relations since 1954. In 1960 Rev. John Galbraith, Executive Director for the OPC Foreign Missions Committee, presented a proposal for the Eureka Classis to underwrite the cost of sending Rev. Harvie Conn as a missionary to Korea. Rev. Conn sustained a satisfactory examination by Classis and thus began a twenty-six year partnership between the OPC and RCUS in foreign missions. Rev. Tom Mayville, of course, recently returned from serving with the OPC mission in Mbale, Uganda, under a similar arrangement.

The Orthodox Presbyterian Church held its first official General Assembly in 1936 under the leadership of Dr. J. Gresham Machen, a former professor at Princeton Seminary, who along with a few other professors and about half the student body, had left that institution in 1928 to found Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Because of his leadership in creating an "Independent Board of Foreign Missions" within the United Presbyterian Church, and his refusal to support the denominational Board, Dr. Machen was deposed from the United Presbyterian ministry and left that denomination to form the OPC. Thus the celebration of the 75th anniversary OPC General Assembly has behind it the same struggle to maintain biblical Reformed Doctrine and Presbyterian church government that motivated the Eureka Classis to separate from the Evangelical and Reformed church merger of 1934. In the providence of God the leadership of the Eureka Classis during much of this struggle was in the hands of the Rev. William J. Krieger, like Machen, a Princeton Seminary graduate. Rev. Krieger was the President of the Eureka Classis from 1936 to 1943. In 1953, the Rev. Walter Grossmann, who had been Stated Clerk of the Eureka Classis since 1935, and Rev. William Korn decided that RCUS students for the ministry should attend Westminster Seminary, a practice that began in 1955. This cemented our relationship with the OPC, since Westminster had been the semi-official seminary of the OPC since its foundation.

Your delegate arrived at the retreat center of Sandy Cove, MD, during the forenoon of June 8, and after lunch off campus, was able to spend some time during the afternoon visiting with a number of the OPC delegates. These included former contemporaries from Seminary like Rev. Donald Duff the former Stated Clerk of the OPC General Assembly and his successor Rev. George Cottenden, as well as men like Rev. Lendall Smith who served as an OPC-RCUS missionary on Taiwan, and Rev. John Hilbelink who served a summer internship in an RCUS congregation. This allowed me to become familiar with issues and reports that would arise at the Assembly as did a fully printed-out binder of reports supplied by Rev. Cottenden.

The 75th Anniversary General Assembly opened its meeting with a worship service at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 8. It then immediately began its business by working through the first twelve items on the Agenda, including the election of a new Moderator, the Rev. Danny E. Olinger, a minister with whom the undersigned has been acquainted for some years. The OPC General Assembly elects a different Moderator every year.

Thursday morning was given over to "Advisory Committee" (equivalent to our Standing Committee) meetings, which are designed to give advice to the General Assembly concerning the reports of their more permanent continuing Committees that carry on the work of the Church during the time between Assembly sessions. I was able to observe at several of these preparatory meetings, and was invited to speak to the Advisory Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations. There I also heard a rather scathing report by a member of the (permanent) Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch relations concerning his visit to the recently opened General Synod of the GKN (Liberated), whose meetings usually stretch over several months. He mentioned that the GKN had invited fraternal delegates to visit their seminary in Kampen during spring graduation exercises and then flaunted their liberalism by having a woman speaker for those exercises. I began to wonder if our delegates to the GKN (Liberated) General Synod had been to the same synod as this fellow had.

It needs to be remembered that at last year's General Assembly the OPC turned down the invitation to join in "Sister-church" relations with the GKN (Liberated) because of the liberal direction in which the GKN is moving. The GKN has since withdrawn that invitation.

One of the matters before the General Assembly that I was not able to be present to see handled was an overture from the Presbytery of Northern California and Nevada for a Special Committee of the General Assembly to help it deal with on-going friction among its members about the application of the Westminster Confession's statement that God created the heavens and earth "in the space of six days."

Since the General Assembly of 2004 adopted a rather wide-open stance about views of the days of creation, this statement of the Confession of the Church has been ignored by some, reinterpreted by others, and a cause of great distress for those who wish to apply it to their fellow church officers. I mentioned our dealing with the words of Article 9 of the Belgic Confession concerning the Holy Spirit, "descending in the shape of a dove," as a similar problem of confessional wording but, of course, of a far less fundamental issue.

Also of interest in speaking about the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, is the fact that it has an official church historian and a very active Archives Committee that gathers and organizes historical information about the Church. This is quite interesting in view of the seeming disinterest in RCUS Church history evidenced in our own denomination (how many reading this report have ever even heard of Rev. William J. Krieger?). Several enlightening lectures on OPC History were presented during the Anniversary General Assembly. Indeed, seeing the dispatch with which business was being handled, one could conclude that celebration and historical study of the OPC were the most important things on the agenda, perhaps not the worst thing that ever happened during a denominational assembly.

When the General Assembly met in regular session at 1:15 P.M. on Thursday, June 9th, the work moved forward with some speed. During the first two hours, two of the major reports, those on Home and Foreign Missions were presented and handled, in what to this observer seemed a rather perfunctory way. First of all, both Advisory Committees had voted to report "silence" on the permanent Committees' reports. There was no sifting through of the permanent Committee information or recommendations by the Advisory Committees. The permanent Committee Executive Directors each gave a strong and well meant exhortation for the Assembly to continue to support and pray for the work, and especially to help search out candidates to be home and foreign missionaries. The reports were then adopted without modification or dissenting vote. After each report was adopted, replacements for the three-year classes of permanent Committee members were elected. In each case all but those members who had requested to retire or were needed elsewhere in the church's administration were re-elected with no competing nominations. As I reflected on this picture later, I have come to the conclusion that one of Dr. J. Gresham Machen's greatest fears has come true. The permanent Committees are now acting as virtually professional boards, doing the work of the church with very little real oversight from the Church and virtually no change in membership. It seems to me that we also need to be aware of this tendency to "let George do it." It is not that there are not men who develop skills and contacts that are needed by each permanent Committee, but we do need to be sure that there are rotating memberships on our Committees and need to be sure to oversee them diligently.

Following the break on Thursday afternoon, I was given opportunity to address the Assembly. I had been formally received by the Assembly on Wednesday evening, and was cordially received as well as by its officers and Ecumenical Committee. I presented the remarks that are enclosed herewith in printed form, expressing our fond fellowship with the OPC and our very best wishes to them on this occasion of their 75th Anniversary Assembly and for the future. I also expressed concerns that have been on my heart since my seminary studies under church historian Professor Paul Woolley, both for our own Church and for our brothers and sisters in the OPC. I was quite unprepared for the lengthy applause that followed my speech, or for the number of individuals that afterwards came up to offer their appreciation. It has always been difficult to maintain the Church with a biblical Reformed/Presbyterian perspective, as church history since the Reformation indicates, and as the experience of the RCUS and that of the OPC demonstrate. Response to what I said makes it clear that many in the OPC share this same concern with us.

Following my presentation the Assembly continued its work, handling the report of the Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations before finishing its afternoon session on Thursday. The evening was to be taken up by a special presentation of the Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension. Because of our need to be back in Vermillion for Sunday, and the morning departure of our flight from Reagan National Airport in Washington, DC, we ended our attendance following this afternoon session. While we would certainly have wished to stay longer, we had two very good days and one evening of observation and participation in this year's General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. We are thankful for this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Robert Grossmann

Appendix #1 (Con't)
OPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

While not many of you are left who would qualify as spiritual fathers to the RCUS, most certainly one does, to me personally and to the RCUS. The Rev. John Galbraith, was executive Director of OPC foreign missions during the 26 years the RCUS and OPC did foreign missions in cooperation in Korea and Taiwan, and I was chairman of our Foreign Missions Committee for twenty-two of those 26 years. During those years my attendance at semi-annual OPC Foreign Missions Committee meetings and conversations with Mr. Galbraith, along with books he recommended from the OPC Missions Library, amounted to a comprehensive course in missions. Already in 1960, while I was doing cancer research in San Francisco, Rev. Galbraith talked the RCUS Eureka Classis, a group with perhaps questionable commitments to foreign missions, into supporting the Rev. Harvey Conn during his career in Korea. This was the beginning of a long and powerful biblical missions influence of the OPC on the RCUS, for which this fraternal delegate will be forever deeply thankful. Of course Lendal Smith during his work in Taiwan under our support merited the name change to, "Leinhardt Schmidt." Others of you have been dear friends and brothers for many years, including a few like Jack Peterson, who would probably better fit the description "partner in crime," from those wonderful years of joint OPC and RCUS fall retreats sponsored by the old Dakota Presbytery. I would have to doubt if there were ever sweeter times of cross-denominational fellowship enjoyed by more members of two fraternal denominations. Of course we were drawn together closely by virtually all of us being Old Westminster seminary graduates.

It is then my immense and happy privilege to bring you the warmest fraternal greetings and affectionate respect from your brothers of the recent 265th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States on the occasion of your Seventy-Fifth anniversary General Assembly. We rejoice in our mutual commitment to the infallibility and inerrancy of the Holy Bible, and to the historic Reformed and Presbyterian creeds handed down to us by our Fathers. You will be interested to know that my adult Sunday School class is presently studying through the Westminster Confession in some detail, and that we rejoice that our old OPC friend, G.I. Williamson, has written a study book on the Heidelberg Catechism. You will also perhaps know that a few years ago I edited an RCUS version of the New Trinity Hymnal that includes the Three Forms of Unity and all 150 Psalms in responsive reading form, in the New King James Version. This hymnal was then published by Great Commissions Publications and two thousand of them are in use in our churches.

I should report to you that the RCUS continues its foreign mission works in Kenya, the Congo and the Philippines, and that each of our four classes sponsors at least one of our several Home Mission works. I am pastor of Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion, SD, which along with our congregation in Greeley, CO, became self-supporting this year. Our four classes (presbyteries) are spread across the United States with the strongest representations in California, Eastern Colorado and the Dakotas. AND we are a Presbyterian church. Our pastors belong to and are primarily amenable to Classis, with local elders having emergency powers with respect to pastoral activities. This was re-affirmed by our recent Synod turning down a proposed amendment to our Constitution that would have introduced a shared

subjection of ministers to the local Spiritual Council.

As I address you on this occasion I am most concerned about the future of our two denominations. The RCUS received a reinvigoration and virtual regeneration from Westminster Seminary and our associations with the OPC and the CRC of forty to fifty years ago. Today we struggle with our own vision for the future. We ask God for ministers who will not only be comfortable in our ultra-orthodox Reformed denomination, but for those who will be united in a vision for the future that sees the continuation of our commitment to Scripture, to the Reformed Confessions and to Presbyterian Church government as absolute necessities. You should know that commitment to Presbyterian Church government was one of the necessities the old Eureka Classis held forth as an important reason for not joining the Evangelical and Reformed merger of 1934. Furthermore, our next generation men need to have an understanding of how to preserve and indeed reform a denomination on the basis of Scripture. We had a generation of such men trained at Westminster in the 50's, 60's & early 70's, who were truly competent theologians and fully committed to the above-mentioned necessities. We learned from Westminster Professor Paul Woolley that Reformed Doctrine cannot endure without Presbyterian Church government to oversee the vagaries of human nature. I further hope that you will never remove the word "orthodox" from the title of your denomination. Both of our denominations need to see to the training of such men for today. Today I teach at Heidelberg Theological Seminary where we are striving to train such men. You are free to investigate us, but I must say that one seminary with such a vision is not enough.

Finally, I want to mention the struggle that we both have to remain truly creedal churches. I note the overture from the Northern California Presbytery for help in trying to reconcile several takes on Genesis 1 with the Confession's statement, "in the space of six days." We faced a similar problem of confessional wording this year at our Synod, though certainly not as urgent. The Belgic Confession states that at Christ's baptism all three members of the Trinity were present, including these words, "the Holy Spirit descending in the shape of a dove." Dr. Frank Walker, of Sacramento Seminary, Rev. James Sawtelle, the new president of our Synod replacing Rev. Vernon Pollema, and myself were appointed to a committee to try to deal with the question, "does Scripture teach this so clearly that we ought to demand that our ministers, elders and deacons agree to the present form of the statement." Our Committee unanimously agreed that the Confession states one possibility, but not a certainty, and that we would be better off to quote the Scripture sources rather than present an interpretation. This was rejected by Synod, leaving us with a statement in our creed that a number of us would rather not be forced to sign. The rejection, I fear, was not based mainly on biblical evidence, but on other factors, leading the members of the Committee to think that perhaps we were naive to think that answering the question of what the Bible teaches or does not teach would decide the way the creed would be worded. It is clear to me that questions like these will not go away, and both of our highest judicatories need to work at means of dealing with what it means to subscribe to our creeds with integrity and in a biblical fashion.

Again, fond greetings from the Synod and members of the Reformed Church in the United States. May our Covenant God bless your body with uncommon wisdom and understanding of His Holy Word as you seek to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in building His Church. He gave such biblical wisdom to the fathers of our Churches. May He be pleased to do it again today.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Robert Grossmann

Appendix #2 Interchurch relations Committee Report 2012

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA)

The Rev. Ryan Kron was delegated to the RPCNA Synod. His report follows:

The 180th Synod of the RPCNA was held June 27-July 1, 2011 on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. Your delegate, his wife, and his infant son were very warmly received by our brethren in the RPCNA. Your delegate was grateful for the hospitality and kindness of the brothers. On the evening of the 29th your delegate was given the opportunity to address the body on behalf of the RCUS. No official privilege of the floor was given.

What follows is a report of the work of Synod:

- 1) The morning devotions followed the theme: "Colossians—Complete in Christ." Your delegate appreciated the faithful preaching of the Word of God throughout the week through the book of Colossians.
- 2) The Psalm-singing was rich and encouraging as the delegates sang out of their new *Book of Psalms for Worship*. The body of Synod also had a time of prayer in small groups for about 15 minutes each morning and afternoon.
- 3) On the afternoon of the 28th the Synod took a recess from 3:00 until 7:00 PM to allow Presbyteries to meet.
- 4) This was to be the first year for electronic delegate voting. Each certified delegate was assigned a handheld electronic device which was to be used for voting on the work of Synod. However, after a period of discussion the body voted to not use the electronic clickers for this meeting of Synod because the clickers did not allow the delegates to see how individuals of the body voted.
- 5) The Synod used PowerPoint to allow the delegates to see the content of the discussions on a large screen.
- 6) The Psalter Revision Committee removed some of the selections from *The Book of Psalms for Worship*. They also added the entirety of the text of Psalm 136. The committee also corrected remaining errata, and addressed areas where musical clarity and improvement were found to be needed or beneficial. The recommendations of the report were adopted unanimously. The committee was thanked with a standing ovation and dismissed.
- 7) The Committee to Analyze Perspectives on Sexual Orientation presented a paper entitled *Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis*. The Synod discussed the paper and advised the committee to make a few minor revisions. Upon making the suggested changes, the Synod unanimously approved the paper and gave the committee a standing ovation. The Clerk of Synod will forward copies of this paper to NAPARC member denominations for their information. The Synod will also direct the Education and Publications Board to consider publication of this document for the edification of the broader church. Your delegate believes this paper will be very informative for the RCUS committee which is studying "promoting a biblical sexual morality."
- 8) The report of the stated clerk indicated that there are 88 congregations and 4 mission congregations in the RPCNA. There has been a 9% increase in members and a 5% gain in congregations and mission works over past 10 years in the RPCNA.

- 9) The RPCNA Global Mission Board has three centers of work on the mission field: Cyprus, Sudan and Japan.
- 10) A committee reported on the results of a Ruling Elder Survey on preferences of the ruling elders on location of Synod, days of the week for Synod, distances from the airport, lodging, food, vacation time, etc. The majority of Ruling Elders voted for Synod to be 3 days, Thursday through Saturday, in June, July, or August
- 11) The Synod of 2005 adopted the 2020 Vision: that God would build the Reformed Presbyterian Church from 83 churches and mission works in 2005 to 100 by the year 2020. As of June 2011, God has caused them to grow to 88 works (just under one-third of the way). Home Missions is looking for an increased giving to support more mission works. Please pray for the young church plants: Laramie WY, Providence RI, Gibsonia PA, Northminster GA, Enid OK, Christian Heritage NY, Terre Haute IN, Marion IN, Tucson AZ, Monument CO, Manhattan KS, Berkshire, MA and others. Prayer requests are posted on the Home Missions Board Facebook page.
- 12) In late April 2012 an RPCNA church planting course will be offered at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) in Pittsburgh.
- 13) The East Asia Committee reported that they are working with a group in China. The Synod approved that the East Asia Committee be made a Commission for the purpose of organizing a "sister group" and ordaining the necessary leaders in China. The RPCNA standards have already been translated into Chinese. The Synod is very thankful for the report of how God is working to build his church in China.
- 14) The report from the Committee on Understanding the Times was approved. This report deals with different issues in culture and the church in the 21st century.
- 15) In addition to the report from your delegate, Fraternal Delegates brought reports from the following denominations: Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, a sister denomination of the RPCNA made up of 3 congregations; the RPCNA mission work in Cyprus; the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland; the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church; the United Reformed Churches of North America; the Free Church of Scotland; and the Heritage Reformed Congregations. The delegates from the URCNA and Heritage Reformed Congregations expressed their concern over the practice of the RPCNA to ordain women deacons.
- A report was given from a member of the board at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) in Pittsburgh. On May 20, 2011 the seminary presented Master of Divinity degrees to thirteen students and three Master of Theological Studies degrees. In addition, the first ever Doctor of Ministry degrees were conferred to two men. At the Synod meeting, the board of RPTS proposed a change to their constitution. In the past, the president of the seminary has been a minister, but the proposed change would allow a ruling or teaching elder in the Reformed Presbyterian Church to serve as president. The president is elected by the Synod from a name or names nominated by the Seminary Board. Some of the men at Synod were concerned about the possibility of a non-teaching elder serving as president of the seminary. In light of this concern, RPTS President Jerry O'Neill moved to take this motion off the table. President O'Neill said that the board will plan to bring a new motion back to Synod next year.
- 17) The delegates were delighted to find out that Oram's Doughnuts were brought in from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania for consumption at their morning break on the 30th.
- 18) Drew and Lyn Gordon of Crown and Covenant Publications presented a report. They reported on their work involving the denominational magazine (*Reformed Presbyterian Witness*), a series of websites, and Crown and Covenant Publications. They plan to put all of the content of the denominational magazine online starting in January 2012. They will continue to have a printed magazine, as well. They plan to ship out the newly edited *Book of Psalms for Worship* in August 2012.
- 19) A motion was made to cancel Synod in 2012 because of the International Synod in Marion, IN beginning on July 24, 2012. However, the motion failed. So, the next scheduled Synod for the RPCNA is June 25-27, 2012 (Monday through Wednesday) at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Your committee expects to have a delegate present for this Synod.

It was an honor to serve as your delegate to the RPCNA Synod. The Synod did their work in a clear, concise, and cogent manner. Your delegate is greatly encouraged by how God has blessed many of the RPCNA church plants locally and abroad.

Let us praise our Triune God for the work He is doing in the RPCNA: "Worthy are you to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation...worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing" (Rev 5:9, 12).

Appendix #3 Interchurch relations Committee Report 2012

Betrekkingenj Buitenlandse Kerken (BBK) Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN)

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

After hearing the reports of the Rev. James Sawtelle and the Rev Maynard Koerner, representatives of the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS) and visitors to "buitenland-week" and to General Synod Harderwijk of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN), March 28—April 2, 2011, the 265th Synod of the RCUS, May 16-19, 2011, directed its Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to communicate our concerns to the BBK.

Briefly stated, those concerns are:

- 1. The view of Scripture at the Theological University in Kampen (TUK), i.e., the interpretation of Scripture (hermeneutics) as set forth in the writings and/or views of Dr. Paas, Dr. Van Bekkum, Dr. A.L.Th. de Bruijne, Dr. J., Dr. G. Harinck.
- 2. The Work of the Deputies Men/Women in the Church (Why the role of women in the church is being re-visited and what effect present day culture plays in the conclusions.)
- 3. Contacts and unity discussions taking place between the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) and the Netherlands Reformed Churches (NRC) and who is influencing whom.

While we understand that Synod Harderwijk 2011 has not yet come to any final decisions on the above concerns, the reports, discussions, and perceived developments are, for us, alarming and a red flag, knowing from our own history how a once comparatively large and faithful Reformed denomination became decimated and apostate by the infection of liberalism and modernism. It can begin subtly in the

seminary, often under the guise of academic freedom or at the Synod level, where views and teachings are allowed to go unchallenged and exempt from discipline, until it has filtered down to the churches and the damage is irreversible.

We humbly counsel you to be careful and to be watchmen upon the walls and at the gates of Zion (cf. Isa. 62:6-7; Ez. 3:17; 33:7; Ps. 87:2), always alert to the apostle Paul's warning to the Ephesian elders, that "from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:30). We would also humbly and respectfully remind you that these concerns and counsel come not only from us, but from a considerable number of fraternal denominations. As one endowed with wisdom from on High tells us, "In an abundance of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14; cf. 15:22; 24:6).

Respectfully we remain your brothers in the faith, Interchurch Relations Committee RCUS.

J. Ministerial Aid Fund Committee

On behalf of the Ministerial Aid Fund (MA Fund) Subcommittee, we want to take this opportunity to provide an update of the activities and decisions rendered by the subcommittee in the investment and management of the Ministerial Aid Funds of the denomination.

The MA Fund subcommittee consists of Mr. Spencer Gross, Mr. Ralph Goehring, and Mr. Ray Schnabel. This committee was chartered to provide guidance in the investment and management of the fund. To that end, a policy statement was developed to establish investment and spending guidelines for the fund. This policy was circularized via Executive Circular 264:1, by the Executive Committee, to members of the synod for approval.

Upon receiving notice indicating policy statement approval, the committee proceeded to identify financial management firms to allow for consolidation and management of the funds.

Three financial organizations were identified as possible financial managers for the fund. They included: Stifel Nixolaus & Company (They manage St. Paul's Ev. Reformed Church Trust Fund) - Rochester MN; Fabian Wealth Strategies - Costa Mesa, CA; and Barber Financial Services — Lenexa, KS. Two additional firms expressed interest in submitting a proposal but later declined.

The policy statements were forwarded to the three financial institutions along with a "Request For Proposal (RFP)". Upon receipt of the three proposals a discussion and a decision matrix was developed to review the proposals.

The three proposers were reduced to two for an in-depth teleconference evaluation of their proposal. After summarization of the discussion input, a decision was rendered to utilize the services of Barber Financial Services located in Lenexa, KS. This firm's approach to management of funds included lower management fees, solid returns in their investment experience while being guarded in their investment approach to assure enhanced security of the funds they manage.

The \$1.185 million of funds are in the process of being consolidated at Barber Financial. While the subcommittee will continue to provide guidance, management and monitor fund performance via online access to the fund, the actual movement of funds into and from the account will be limited to the Treasurer of the RCUS. Secondary signature approvals for funds movement is also being established for the President and Stated Clerk positions of the RCUS. This step firms-up funds handling guidelines via the executive committee of the RCUS and represents an additional benefit in securing funds handling within the denomination.

It appears guidelines for funds handling within the denomination is not clearly confirmed by the synod or noted in the RCUS constitution, particularly the handling of the MA Fund. The subcommittee, forwards a motion for denominational funds handling be limited to the Executive Committee of the Synod principally the Treasurer of the Synod. This motion should emphasize that funds handling would be identified and limited by position versus specific individuals. As a new individual assumes one of these executive committee positions, their name would be applied to the signature approval list replacing the previous individual's name. Additionally, the subcommittee recommends these positions be bonded for protection of these funds.

Respectfully Submitted, MA Fund Subcommittee, Mark Fisher (chairman), Ralph Goehring, Spencer Gross, Ray Schnabel

K. Publications and Promotions

Your committee was successful in publishing three works this year and distributing them through the online retailer, Amazon.com. These three works are *The Three Forms of Unity, 2011 edition, The Constitution of the RCUS with Rules of Order and Model Congregational Constitution*, and the *Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism* by the late Rev. Norm Jones. We report the following sales through February 29, 2012:

- Three Forms of Unity: 452 sold, royalties: \$343.52
- The Constitution: 81 sold, royalties: \$68.04
- Study Helps: 25 sold, royalties: \$38.00
- Total: 558 books sold, royalties: \$449.56

These titles will remain for sale indefinitely with no further cost to the RCUS.

Your committee is in the process of publishing the *Heidelberg Catechism*, 2011 edition, which will be available soon.

There has been some confusion regarding the use of the term "digital publishing". The term refers to the method of printing and not to the end result. Our publications ordered through Amazon are indistinguishable from the books that we have published for years. They are not kindle, nook, PDF, Word, or other types of digital files, but are books made from paper and glue. The committee has not yet published any works for electronic readers, although it feels that this would be a worthwhile endeavor.

When we began publishing with CreateSpace, the royalties were sent to the Synod treasurer by check. CreateSpace, however, charges 8.00 per month to send a check, as opposed to a direct deposit. In March of 2012, this system was changed. Royalties are now sent directly to the RCUS account.

Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism, by the late Rev. Norm Jones, has been used by the RCUS for years. Rev. Jones considered this work to be the property of the RCUS, and from what we can determine, no royalties have ever been paid. The committee believes that this is an oversight that should be rectified. Although the RCUS will retain the copyright, this committee believes that royalties should be forwarded to his widow, Mrs. Lena Jones.

Recommendation 1: That all royalties from the sale of Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism be forwarded to Mrs. Lena Jones

Our present Book Depository manager, David McPherson, has retired, and something will eventually need to be done with the depository. It is the goal of this committee to clear out as much as possible and to move any remaining publications to a different location, where they can be marketed and distributed through Amazon. Most future publications can be done through CreateSpace, which has proved successful. However, since CreateSpace does not publish hardbound books, certain items, such as the Directory of Worship, will still need to be printed, stored, and distributed through a depository.

A few publications are manageable, but at this time we have cases upon cases of books that have not moved in years. These books are the two history books (You Shall Be My People, and History of the Eureka Classis), and the Three Forms of Unity (Traditional Language, Green Cover). These titles have already been paid for through guidelines, and the committee believes that the best use of these books is in the hands of our congregants. We have instructed the Book Depository Manager to distribute the history books to each of the churches of the RCUS to be made available at no cost to anyone who wants them. The Book Depository Manager will simply ship the cases to each of the churches. This will involve a shipping cost, but the funds are available in the publications account. As for the Three Forms (traditional language), there are currently seven congregations that use them in catechizing AND worship. We have instructed the manager to ship the remaining cases to these seven congregations. Although the shipping to the churches will cost some money, this money is available and the committee believes that this is a better option than the expense to move them all to another location to take up space for another 20 years or so.

For the past few years, the Reformed Herald has been several months late. For example, the 2011 Christmas edition was received by most churches in February. In speaking with the editor, the committee has determined that there is a two-fold problem: First, articles that are promised to the editor are not received on time. Second, the printing and distribution of the Herald is a long a complex procedure:

- When the articles are received, the editor edits and compiles them, and sends them to the layout artist.
- The layout artist completes the layout and returns the copy to the editor.
- The editor then finalizes the Herald, and sends it to Premier Printing in Canada to be printed.
- After printing, a proof copy is sent to the editor for approval.
- After approval, they are put on a truck and shipped to North Dakota to be labeled and mailed (to avoid international mailing charges). Since the RCUS uses the cheapest rates available, it often takes 2 or more weeks to receive the Herald after it is mailed.

The committee believes that we can publish the Herald far more efficiently. We have been in contact with PIP Printing in Yuba City, CA. PIP can print and distribute. Their work is professional and excellent. Moving to a bimonthly edition instead of monthly will give the writers and editor more breathing room and save significantly on mailing costs. The Herald can be changed from 12 to 20 pages to make up for the loss of an issue. With these changes, we should be able to deliver a timely and professional publication at a significant cost reduction for subscribers.

The estimate for these changes is as follows:

- Printing (2 color) \$1700.00 per issue
- Preparation for mailing: \$340.00 per issue
- Postage (pending approval for non-profit rate): \$350.98
- Olive Tree: \$700.00 (this is an estimate based upon previous rates)

The total cost for the year is \$18545.00. This compares favorably to the 2011 cost of \$30,620 (abstract page 81). These costs are based upon 6 issues, 20 pages each issue. With approximately 1500 subscriptions, the subscription rate should be set at \$13.00. Churches and individuals who order multiple copies will pay the subscription rate for each copy that they receive.

Recommendation 2: That the following changes be approved:

- 1. That the PPPC use PIP printing in Yuba City to print and mail the Reformed Herald beginning in September, 2012. This will give the committee some time to apply for the non-profit postage rate in Yuba City.
- 2. That the Reformed Herald be published bi-monthly, with 20 pages, and a 2 color format (we currently use 2 color)
- 3. That the following schedule and deadlines be approved:

For the Sept/Oct. 2012 issue:

- Articles received no later than August 1st
- Articles edited and sent to Olive Tree for publication: no later than August 15th
- Articles submitted to PIP for printing and distribution: No later than September 1st.
- PIP has given us a 7 business day turnaround to get these copies in the mail. This means that they will be mailed to subscribers by the second week of September.

For the Nov/Dec. issue:

Articles received – no later than October 1st

- Articles edited and sent to Olive Tree for publication: no later than October 15th
- Articles submitted to PIP for printing and distribution: No later than November 1st.

For the Jan/Feb. issue

- Articles received no later than December 1st
- Articles edited and sent to Olive Tree for publication: no later than December 15th
- Articles submitted to PIP for printing and distribution: No later than January 1st.

...and likewise for the March/April issue, the May/June issue, and the July/August issue

- 4. That the subscription rate be set at \$13.00
- 5. That the Reformed Herald be suspended for the months of July and August, 2012, to prepare for these changes.

Recommendation 3: That Paul Treick be nominated as Editor of the Reformed Herald

Recommendation 4: That 500.00 be budgeted for expenses incurred by the editor

Recommendation 5: That Olive Tree Publications be compensated at 35.00 per hour for layout work on the Reformed Herald.

The committee would like all of the ministers who commit to submitting an article by a certain date to note the instructions of our Lord in Matt. 5:37: "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No', 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

As to recommendation # 6 of the standing publications report (2011 abstract, page 103) the chairman was providentially hindered from completing this task and begs the indulgence of the Synod. He has several works in his possession, but the task remains incomplete.

Your chairman has completed his first three years on the committee, and his first as chairman. He believes he is just beginning to get a handle on things and would like to continue as chairman should the Synod be agreeable.

Respectfully Submitted, Sam Powell, Chairman, Jimmy Hall, Paul Henderson, George Syms (retired), Randy Klynsma, William Haddock, Greg Stewart, Jess Johnson, Brent Tjeerdsma

Web-Site Sub-Committee

In 2011 we implemented the Synod's mandate to transition the website to a new host. This process was a difficult one, but eventually we got everything moved over to a Colorado Springs company, Springs Hosting. I do not believe that website performance suffered at all during the transition except for one brief outage. So far the new host has done an outstanding job. The performance of the website seems not to have suffered from the transition, and the new host is very responsive to outages and technical support questions. We are hosting both the rcus.org website and the reformedherald.org site under the new host. The hosting and updates cost under \$2000 for the year, and domain registration is handled by GoDaddy. Additional web design would cost extra; so far this has not been necessary.

The chair of the website committee handled website informational updates, passwords and other simple administration last year. The current hosting company is very helpful for explaining anything about the site that needs to be explained, so that a lack of technical expertise is not an obstacle.

One area that needs to be updated is the picture slideshow that is on the front of the website. Currently the pictures are from the 2010 Synod. It is our feeling that rather than pictures just of our governmental meetings, it would be good to have pictures of a broader representation of our church life- worship services, fellowship meals, baptisms, and the like.

Recommendation #1: That the website budget be set at \$4000.

Recommendation #2: That churches take note of the website's need for photos for the front page.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Matthew Powell, Rev. Frank Walker, Elder Jim Drewes

L. Develop eBooks

The Committee was not commissioned to undertake any new projects during the past Synodical year. However, the committee reports that it communicated by phone and e-mail in consideration of the previous commission of the 262nd Synod, "That the annual publication of the Reformed Herald and printed RCUS Abstracts of the Minutes of Synod be electronically upgraded annually and be developed with the built-in features and functionalities of searching globally across all the indexed issues" (Abstract of the 262nd Synod, page 80).

It is the committee's opinion that the development of the annual updates of the RCUS Resources DVD be discontinued for the following reasons: (1) The committee has fulfilled the directive to develop a complete inventory of the Reformed Heralds from 1956-2010, the Eureka Classis Abstracts from 1953-1986, and the Synodical Abstracts from 1987-2010; (2) The RCUS Website Committee is electronically providing the current Reformed Heralds and the RCUS Abstracts of the Minutes of Synod.

Recommendation: that the development of the annual updates of the RCUS Resources DVD be discontinued.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Gary Mancilas, Rev. Eric Bristley, Rev. Jay Fluck, Elder Jeff Jones

VII. Welcome of New Ministers

The President welcomed two new ministers: Rev. J.P. Mosley, pastor of Hope Reformed Church, Pierre, SD; and Rev. Travis Grassmid, pastor of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD. The body extended the right hand of fellowship to these men and prayer was offered for God's blessing upon their ministry.

VIII. Welcome of New Churches

The President welcomed one new church: Grace Reformed Church in Northwest Arkansas. The body was led in a prayer of thanksgiving.

IX. Reports of Officers

A. President's Report on the State of the Church

"Although the Reformed Church in the United States is a church of history, we recognize that she has re-entered a form of organization only a year ago. Now again, as a Synod, with four Classes, she is a year old." These are the words of the late Rev. Robert Stuebbe whose task it was to write the president's report summarizing the state of the church after that first year of reorganization. The year was 1987.

As I re-read that report it was interesting to note the inevitable struggles he enumerated that come with doing something none of its living members at the time had ever done: coordinate the work of the synod under four classes rather than one, the Eureka Classis. So, I wondered, how are we doing at twenty five? I was especially hopeful for our condition as I had recently read a report from a prestigious study demonstrating that the age of twenty five is when a person truly begins to think and act like a mature adult.

However, before I could even finish reading the reports from the classis presidents and synod committees, the executive committee received an urgent note from our synod treasurer informing us that according the State of North Dakota, the RCUS has not even existed since at least the year 2000! Thankfully, it seems the report of the RCUS' dissolution has been greatly exaggerated.

Well, how are we doing at the age of twenty five? We begin the summary of the state of the church by offering the following excerpts from the various Classis President's Reports.

From the Western Classis: "Like last year, the financial posture of some of our congregations is not improving. Some churches are operating on a shoe-string budget and barely able to pay their bills; others remain strong and solvent, even though there has been a substantial decline in giving and in their treasury funds. Two churches continue to receive diaconal aid from Synod."

"There are two theological issues that some of the churches are grappling with. The first concerns the use of different musical instruments in worship, including instruments like the electric guitar and drums. Is the day of the organ or even the piano on the way out? How does Psalm 150 impact our choice of musical instruments? Grading the worship of a church on the basis of its music is not always a symptom of wanting "to go Hollywood." While this matter is perhaps settled in the minds of those who have been raised on the organ and piano, it is by no means settled for the coming generation of young adults, who passionately desire to praise God with other musical instruments. The second concern is what is called Escondido Theology or the Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms, which is streaming out of Westminster Seminary in California... upon reflecting upon it and also reflecting upon the faithfulness of the Reformed men in Escondido who are in the vanguard of the fight to preserve the doctrine of Justification by Faith alone, I think we owe it to them to study their views coolly and wisely."

From Northern Plains Classis: "Of course, the biggest news out of the committee reports concerns our new mission work in Dickinson, ND. The present situation can be summarised briefly as follows. Dickinson is a booming oil town in North Dakota. God has raised up three families who are committed to the establishment of a Reformed Church there. Others have expressed some interest as well." "Several decisions were taken by the Missions committee this past autumn. First, Rev. Dale Clark was chosen to be our missionary to this city. Second, the decision was taken to purchase a parsonage in the nearby town of Taylor..." "These developments have caused great excitement amongst the believers in Dickinson. Added to this, Rev. Clark plans to move to the field during March. It appears that this mission work is well and truly underway."

From South Central Classis: "I first want to acknowledge the challenges some of the brothers (and their wives) have faced with respect to their physical health. Rev. Howard Hart reports having a difficult year in this regard, dealing with the effects of prostate cancer, diverticulosis, arthritis, as well recovering from recent surgeries. Rev. C.W. Powell also reports having been "tested this year" with respect to his continued treatment of prostate cancer. Also, we were saddened by the physical infirmities of Rev. George Syms, leading to resignation from his charge in Mitchell and honorable retirement from the pastoral ministry. We continue to pray for the Lord's sustaining grace in body and soul for our brothers and sisters, thankful for their many years of faithful service in the body of Christ." "As the Missions Committee Report indicates, positive activity continues on the home mission front. As to the work in Sherman, TX "the desire among the people there is to continue to grow and reach out to the area of nearly 40,000 people with the gospel." The work in Limon, CO "seems to be thriving" to the point of needing less financial support from the Classis. Also, there may be some potential for a work in the Scottsbluff, NE area, and great potential in the metro area of Omaha, NE... Accordingly, this Classis will decide on the Missions Committee recommendation to send an assessment committee to Omaha, with a view to formally beginning a mission work there, Lord willing."

Covenant East Classis: "Perhaps the most noteworthy events in the Classis were the planting of a new congregation in the greater Minneapolis Area and the steps taken by two of our mission works toward particularizing (becoming self-governing congregations)." "Another growing aspect of our joint ministry is the relationships that are developing between our ministers and those preparing themselves for the Gospel ministry. Interestingly, we held a classical discussion a couple years ago on things we might do as pastors and congregations to encourage men to consider studying for the Gospel Ministry. Remarkably, I believe there are five of our ministers presently in mentoring relationships with those studying or beginning to study for the Gospel ministry. Perhaps this is a wake-up call for all of us to begin considering how we might utilize these prospective pastors in the future... perhaps as church planters, or maybe co-laborers in fields where much work remains."

A number of summarizing points are in order as they relate to the state of the church. These are based upon reports from the classes as well as Permanent Committee reports. It is painfully clear that the churches of the Western Classis are hardest hit by the economic struggles our nation is facing. We need to be in prayer for these churches. At the same time, it is with much thanksgiving that we can note the general financial stability and even thriving of the churches among the other classes. In fact, our Treasurer reports that giving to synod overall is also very encouraging. We praise God for His provision of the

Church's needs through the grace of cheerful giving.

The classes seem diligent in encouraging the congregations to do all things "decently and in order." Each classis reports the faithfulness of the churches in upholding the marks of the church. Of particular interest to synod will be the concerns raised in the Western Classis report regarding worship matters among some of the congregations. We trust the classis will keep the synod informed as to how this issue is to be addressed on a scriptural basis. A number of new ministers have been raised up by our Lord for the pastoral ministry among us. In addition to that, we are seeing a significant increase in the number of men received as students under care of the classes preparing for the gospel ministry. This is a most heartening answer to the prayers of the church. Only a couple years ago synod called for special days of fasting and prayer to God to raise up men for the ministry. Our ascended Lord is now in his rich mercy giving these gifts to the church. Hallelujah! As we see opportunities for new mission works opening up as well as the prospect of some elderly ministers retiring, we must continue to pray for God's provision in this area.

The blessing of God on the missionary efforts of the denomination is an occasion for rejoicing. The faith-filled and diligent efforts to cultivate the spread of the gospel abroad is bearing fruit in the French broadcast from South Africa by Rev. Eric Kayayan, in the nations of Kenya, Congo and the Philippines. The reports of the men engaged in the short term trips to the Philippines this year were both edifying and challenging. It was wonderful to see how these trips energized the men in both gospel zeal and in challenging their own local congregations to help meet specific needs among the churches of UCRCP. May their example be contagious among our ministers and congregations to support future short term assignments wherever there is a need among the foreign mission fields.

Our Lord has seen fit to open up a number of new home mission fields as well. After a few years of relative stagnation in this area, this is a most encouraging development. It seems the Lord is giving us both a missionary zeal and a missionary obedience. May God bless these missionary efforts to the glory of His Name and the advance of His Kingdom.

Another area that speaks to the state of the church concerns the report to this synod of the special committee to study God's revelation regarding biblical sexual morality. Our nation and culture is increasingly undiscerning about God's revelation in creation with respect to marriage between one man and one woman in general; and the expression of sexual desire towards one's own gender specifically. It is vital that the Church of Jesus Christ affirm, and prophetically proclaim faithfully, boldly and graciously the unchanging testimony of God's infallible Word on the subject of sexual morality.

While our attention is focused on the state of the church, I think it is appropriate to make a couple observations about good order in the work of synod. Again this year a number of reports were not out in a timely fashion. As leaders in the church, we are to be examples in self-discipline. There were exceptions and excuses sought and granted for weighty reasons. A number were simply late. Given that committees have an entire year to fulfill their task's, given that the Executive Committee sent out a reminder last August to everyone to be diligent in committee work, late incoming reports are not acceptable. Gentlemen, we must do better.

There seems to be a lack of clarity among us regarding the confirmation by synod of new ministers from other denominations and the timing of the installation of those ministers in the congregations to which they have been called. Ironically, this problem was mentioned by then President Stuebbe in his report in 1987. That synod made a judicial ruling on this question (see 1987 Synod Abstract: p 68 70). Twenty five years later, it appears necessary not only to clarify the process again, but also better codify it for our collective memory and practice.

Before concluding, I'd like to review what I found to be some interesting historical notes of comparison from twenty five years ago to the synod of 2012. In 1987, the RCUS was struggling to develop our foreign missions efforts in Zaire. Today, we are blessed to be co-laborers with our sister reformed church in the Congo, the URCC, as well as a sister church in Kenya and the Philippines, and the French broadcast from South Africa. In 1987, the RCUS closed three of our home mission works. This year, we are starting at least three new mission works, with others on the horizon, the Lord willing (it bears mentioning that our host congregation did not even exist in in 1987). In 1987 there were thirty six congregations comprising four classes. Today our directory lists forty six congregations. However, a number of the congregations that existed in 1987 have been closed, due largely to changing populations in the rural areas. Fourteen of our thirty six congregations in 1987 were in rural areas, today there are only ten of our forty six congregations in rural locations. In 1987 we maintained fraternal relations with three denominations in North America. Today we maintain fraternal relations with eight denominations on our continent and others, as well as affiliation with NAPARC and the ICRC. In 1987 we listed three seminaries as worthy of support, since then two of those have been de-listed, while others were added, for a total of five seminaries listed to whom we may send men for ministerial studies. Since 1987 the RCUS has built a growing Ministerial Aid Fund to assist retired ministers and widows of ministers with benevolent needs. We also officially adopted the Belgic Confession and Canons of Dort as subordinate standards of doctrine.

Twenty five years ago a high percentage of our ministers and elders had a long association with the RCUS, while today that number is much smaller. There were 37 ministers among us in 1987, four of whom were retired. In 2012, there are over 50 ministers, nine of whom are retired. And we ought not to forget our recently departed brother Reverend Chester Ploeger, who was promoted to the church triumphant in 2011.

We are grateful for the ongoing faithful work of many of our retired ministers. We also gratefully acknowledge the faithful, active ministry of a number of pastors well past traditional retirement age. Brothers, you are appreciated! You are a wholesome example to us all. Your presence among us provides a certain "institutional memory" that is much desired and, we trust, respected.

And speaking of Old Companions, the 450th anniversary of the publication of the Heidelberg Catechism will be marked in January, 2013. May it ever have an honored place among us in the catechization of God's people, young and old. This brief review of our recent history made me wonder if synod should be more active in keeping up an ongoing summary of our history?

The review of the last twenty five years to our present synod leads me to some observations regarding the state of the church. We have reason to rejoice in a cornucopia of God's blessings over the past quarter century. We see the addition of ministers, churches, missionary activity, financial stability, seminaries, students for the ministry, fraternal relationships, confessional breadth. Synod has done a fairly good job of updating procedures and handling its business as that relates to operating in the synod/classis structure. We are better utilizing modern technology for the work of the church. The blessings and changes are truly remarkable. We wholeheartedly praise God for His guidance.

In many ways, the progress of the last twenty five years is the fruit of a generation or two of leaders who have carefully labored to glorify God in submission to His Word. In 2012, our synod is made up of a less homogeneous group of leaders and churches who must be wise stewards of a growing number of ecclesiastical endeavors, while shepherding a generation obsessed with updating their status on Facebook every few minutes. Will the work of the church progress with the same unity of purpose, the same vigilance for faithfulness, the same commitment to biblical fidelity? Will our leaders stand firm on the unchanging foundation of God's Word, or will we get disoriented by a Facebook-like mentality of dubious status changes? We can say with certainty changes will come. Let us pray and labor that they will not be of a "deformed" variety, but that our ministry will be conformed to God's Word.

I will close with the words of Rev. Stuebbe, still appropriate twenty five years later: "We can rejoice in the knowledge that the Reformed Church is moment by moment in the hands of our Sovereign God. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass (Psalm 37:5)."

Respectfully submitted, Rev. James Sawtelle

B. Stated Clerk's Report (and Necrology)

Esteemed Brothers in Christ.

In accordance with the requirements of this office, your clerk has preserved the minutes of the 265th Synod with all supporting documents. An Abstract of the actions of Synod, including reports was prepared and published in accord with Standing Rule 9. Copies of this Abstract and a Directory of Congregations were distributed to all ministers and congregations of Synod, as well as to all churches with which we maintain fraternal relations. The Index of Positions and Resolutions included in the Abstract was updated.

I would encourage all churches to look again at the number of Abstracts and Directories that are **actually needed** for their congregations and inform the clerk. It becomes costly to print and mail, if they are not all needed. For example, two of our churches received 50 Abstracts but stated afterwards they only needed 15. Perhaps it would be best to send each church 10 Abstracts unless I am notified otherwise.

The minutes and all supporting documents of the 2011 Synod were preserved in a post-hole binder. My assumption is that these minutes should be forwarded to the place of storage.

I sent a letter, dated Dec. 5, 2011, to the ERCC informing them of synod's action of discontinuing fraternal relations with them. Here is the substance of the letter: "Dear Rev. Kishimba, It is my duty as the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Reformed Church of the United States to inform you that at our 265th Synod meeting (May 16-19, 2011) we voted to discontinue fraternal relations with the ERCC. This decision was based on un-reconciled differences within the ERCC, which caused the emergence of a new denomination, the United Reformed Church of the Congo. We decided to maintain a relationship with this new denomination. Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the RCUS, Rev. David Fagrey." I also sent letters to our fraternal churches, and the ICRC, informing them of this action.

I sent invitations to all churches with which we have fraternal relations and to institutions that we support, to attend this year's Synod meeting. This year we invited New Geneva Seminary and Hope Haven. I have heard back from both of these institutions that they plan to have a representative attend our Synod meeting. I also invited all the supported institutions to come with displays to be set up at the Synod if they desire.

All Necrologies that I have received accompany this report. Thank you all for your cooperation during the past year. Sincerely in Christ, David Fagrey, *Stated Clerk of the RCUS*

NECROLOGY Rev. Chester Raymond Ploeger (1925-2011)

Rev. Chester Raymond Ploeger, one of seven children of Fred and Amelia (Luelf) Ploeger, was born September 1, 1925 at Schaller, Iowa. He was baptized in Immanuel Reformed Church in Schaller on September 13, 1925 by Rev. Herman Greimann. Chester grew to manhood on his father's farm located seven miles northeast of Schaller. On May 28, 1939, he received the Rite of Confirmation by Rev. Willard Sherman. He received his elementary education in the rural schools of Eden Township and graduated from Hayes Consolidated High School at Storm Lake in 1942. In 1946, he graduated from Mission House College in Plymouth, WI with a bachelor of arts degree and from the Mission House Theological Seminary with a bachelor of theology degree in 1949.

He was examined and licensed by the Germania Classis, Reformed Church in America at Lennox, SD on July 8, 1949 and ordained into the Holy Ministry by the Same Classis on July 27, 1949. On June 18, 1950, he married Miss Grace Grether in the Salem-Ebenezer Reformed Church in Manitowoc, WI by the Rev. K.J. Stuebbe.

Chester served the following pastorates: Logan Reformed Church in Dell Rapids, SD from 1949 to 1952, Peace Reformed Church in Garner from 1952 to 1965, Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD from 1965 to 1970, Peace Reformed Church in Napoleon, OH from 1970 to 1973, Salem-Ebenezer Reformed Church in Manitowoc, WI from 1973 to 1976, Grace Reformed Church in Bakersfield, CA from 1976 to 1983, Peace Reformed Church in Loveland, CO from 1983 to 1985 and Eureka Reformed Church in Eureka, SD from 1985 to 1990. In 1990, Chester retired from the ministry and moved with Grace back to Garner. Chester was elected to Pastor Emeritus by the Peace Reformed Church in Garner on July 15, 1990. From 1990 to 2000 he did substitute preaching in various Reformed churches in the area.

Rev. Chester R. Ploeger, at the age of 85, died on the Lord's Day, August 21, 2011, at the Concord Care Center in Garner, Iowa.

He is survived by his wife, Grace Ploeger (nee Grether) of Garner; a sister, Evelyn Currie of Storm Lake; a sister-in-law, Mardelle Ploeger of Sioux Center; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Ivan (Genevieve) Ploeger and Everett (Verna) Ploeger; fraternal twin brother, Lester Ploeger; two sisters, Opal (Lyle) Langner and Mildred (Bill) Demers; and a brother-in-law, Wilbur Currie.

As we remember our dear brother, we have comfort in the words of Revelation 14:13, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follows them."

C. Treasurer's Report

Enclosed you should find treasurer's reports for the time period from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. This report begins on April 1, 2011, so that it starts where the treasurer's report delivered to the last Synod ended. I prepared a report that started with July 1, 2011, the beginning date of Synod's fiscal year, but discovered that my fund balances were all off. If Synod desires to see that partial fiscal year report I can prepare it and distribute it prior to the end of this meeting. The cash balance includes \$273,721.43 that is temporarily in the account and is part of the Ministerial Aid Fund. The MAF committee is in the process of transferring all of its funds to Barber Financial Group in Kansas City, Missouri for management, and until an account can be established there these funds are awaiting distribution. Realistically

the account increased from March 31, 2011 to March 31, 2012 by \$29,867.78 to \$517,974.64.

The various church loans are shown on the reports entitled either "Notes" or "Accounts Receivable". Since last year the building loan made to the church in Grass Valley, California has been paid off, though through some minor accounting issue I still show \$.54 due on the loan, and the other churches with loans continue to make regular payments.

This year the special day of prayer offering was to be divided between La Habra, California and Chico, California. The offerings which went through Synod amounted to \$16,716.79.

I have attached to my report the updated numbers from the Ministerial Aid Fund. Last year's report indicated that there was \$1,106,451.35 held in that fund. This year that amount has increased to \$1,185,141.20. I have attached the printouts from Wells Fargo, American Funds, and Vanguard verifying the numbers attributed to those entities. The certificates of Deposit at Dakotah Bank all came due prior to this report. Those funds have been deposited into the general account awaiting their transfer by the MAF committee.

As was true last year, these reports have not been audited. After June 30, 2011, I had my reports for the prior fiscal year audited and forwarded the audit to the various churches. If that procedure is acceptable to Synod I would propose to do the same again after this fiscal year ends on June 30, 2012.

Hopefully, most of the confusion regarding the change in fiscal year is behind us. There lingers a question about which year's communicant member number to use when calculating guideline. Is it to be the one reported on January 1, 2012, or is it to be adjusted when the new number is reported on January 1, 2013?

Pursuant to the direction of the Home Missions Committee in April I began sending \$4,000/month to the mission work in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Finally, as I am writing this I am attempting to get the RCUS incorporated in the state of North Dakota. While attempts were being made to establish the MAF brokerage account it was discovered that in the year 2000 the state of North Dakota dissolved the RCUS as a corporation for failure to file reports and pay the annual fee. The state had established reporting requirements and required fees in the late 90s. They attempted to contact the RCUS, but without some kind of address their efforts failed. At some point they advertised in North Dakota newspapers that all corporations that had failed to pay the fee and file the documents required would be dissolved. When there was no response they did so. For a variety of reasons it was decided to simply file new Articles of Incorporation in North Dakota. I want to thank Reverend Jim Sawtelle and Clayton Greiman for reviewing my monthly records and you for your patience with me during the last year.

Recommendations:

- 1. That Synod provide to the treasurer direction as to what, if any, additional reports it would like to see.
- 2. That Synod decide what, if any, changes it wants to make to the Manual of Procedures for the Office of Treasurer of the Reformed Church in the United States.
- 3. That the treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
- 4. That Synod give some direction to the churches as to which year's communicant member number to use when calculating guideline payments.

In Christ's service, Ted S. Griess, Synod Treasurer

\$0.00	\$0.00	Cash
\$791,696.07 *	\$488,109.86	Checking
		Other Assets
\$47,698.13	\$85,992.70	Notes
\$839,394.20 **	\$574,102.56	Total Assets
	\$0.00	Liabilities
\$839,394.20 **	\$574,102.56	Fund Balances
\$839,394.20 **	\$574,102.56	Total Liab. & Fund Balances
\$839,394.20 ** \$839,394.20 **	\$574,102.56 \$0.00 \$574,102.56	Notes Total Assets Liabilities Fund Balances

^{*}Includes \$273,721.43 that is in these accounts temporarily until it can be returned to the Ministerial Aid Fund. More accurate balance would be \$517,974.64.

^{**}Includes \$273,721.43 that is in these accounts temporarily until it can be returned to the Ministerial Aid Fund. More accurate balance would be \$565,672.77.

	Beginning Bal.	Income	Expenses	Ending Bal.
Building Fund	\$86,064.62	38,294.57	0	\$124,359.19
Deficit Reduction	\$426.92	0	0	\$426.92
Diaconal	\$9,247.87	6,992.59	5,329	\$10,911.46
Foreign Ministries	\$116,899.12	92,114.00	73,603.96	\$135,409.16
Benevolence	\$2,710.61	42,702.00	44,996.00	\$416.61
Reformed Herald	(\$25,993.83)	25,681	34,358.66	(\$34,671.37)
Publications	\$106,980.69	13,822.90	4,736.10	\$116,067.49
Home Missions	\$143,421.82	65,846.90	89,306.05	\$119,962.67
Hope Haven	\$23.17	5,626.11		\$5,649.28
MERF	\$23.17	4,616.89		\$4,640.06
Ministerial Aid	\$15,722.01	252,050.42		\$267,772.43
Ministerial Relief	(\$51,510.00)	237,532.53	236,300.00	(\$50,277.47)
Seminaries	\$115.64	16,272.56		\$16,388.20
Student Aid	\$5,440.75	4,339.17	2,540.15	\$7,239.77
Dues	\$67,350.80	43,989.31	45,124.94	\$66,215.17
Other Assets	\$85,992.70		38,294.57	\$47,698.13
Unallocated Income	\$11,186.50		10,000.00	\$1,186.50
	\$574,102.56			\$839,394.20

The income and expense figures on this report are from 4-1-11 to 3-31-12. The last report given to Synod ended 3-31-11.

LOANS RECEIVABLE

	Beginning Bal	Principle	Interest	Ending Bal
Grass Valley	\$2,575.37	2,574.83	32.29	\$0.54
Rock Springs	\$10,703.29	3,000.34	276.34	\$7,702.95
Modesto	\$26,286.04	14,859.40	639.61	\$11,426.64
Aberdeen	\$46,428	17,860.00	1392.84	\$28,568.00

\$47,698.13

MINISTERIAL AID FUND

CASH ON HAND

Synod Checking Account

Synod Checking Account

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Wells Fargo

104,967.41

MUTUAL FUND ACCOUNTS

American Funds

Vanguard

TOTAL MAF FUNDS

\$1,185,141.20

PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARIES (April 2011 through March 2012)

INCOME

Benevolence \$42,702.00 **Building Fund** 38,294.57 6,992.59 Diaconal 43,989.31 Dues Foreign Ministries 92,114.00 Home Missions 65,846.90 Hope Haven 5,626.11 MERF 4,616.89 Ministerial Aid 252,050.42 Publications 39,504.02 Seminaries 16,272.56 4,339.17 Student Aid

TOTAL

EXPENSES 44,996.00 Benevolence 5,329.00 Diaconal Dues 45,124.94 Foreign Ministries 73,603.96 Home Missions 89,306.05 Ministerial Relief 236,300.00 Publications 39,094.76 Student Aid 2,540.15 TOTAL 536,294.86 303,586.21 Net Income

X. Membership and Financial Statistics

839,881.07

The report of the Membership and Financial Statistics was adopted and is printed in the appendix of this Abstract.

XI. Reports from RCUS Fraternal Delegates

All reports are included in the Interchurch Relations Committee report in this Abstract.

XII. Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches, Institutional Representatives

The following fraternal delegates brought fraternal greetings: Rev. Joe Poppe, from the Canadian Reformed Churches; Rev. Kim Batteau, from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated); Rev. Chuck Muether, from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church; Rev. Jerry Milroy, from the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

Dr. Dominic Aquila, President of New Geneva Seminary, addressed the body on behalf of the seminary.

Mr. Marlin Van Ginkel addressed the body on behalf of Hope Haven.

XIII. Reports of Board Members and Liaisons

Mid-America Reformed Seminary

I consider it a privilege to serve as the RCUS representative on the board of Mid-America Reformed Seminary, and liaison to the Synod, having completed the first year of my second term.

The semi-annual meetings of the board are in October and May—the May meeting being held in conjunction with graduation ceremonies. The recent meeting was on May 10-11th, and I was able to attend the 27th commencement, where the seminary graduated four men this year. I was personally energized with the commencement address by Dr. Craig Troxel, pastor of the Bethel Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, Illinois, who spoke from 2 Timothy 4:5 on "Fulfill Your Ministry." Also, seminary professor Rev. Alan Strange gave a rousing charge to the graduates from Nehemiah 4 on persevering in the ministry midst opposition, which God uses for our sanctification.

With 8-10 new students expected for this fall, the total student body will number about thirty men this next year, enrolled in Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies degree programs. The seminary continues its accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). The financial condition of the Seminary remains stable as well.

Last year, I reported that Rev. Marcus Mininger was appointed to the position of Instructor in New Testament Studies. After a favorable review by the faculty and board, this year he was reappointed at the level of Assistant Professor for a period of two years. From all indications, Rev. Mininger is fitting in well with the faculty, appreciated by the students, and faithful theologically and pastorally. He is proving to be a valuable addition to the seminary, and hopefully for years to come, Lord willing.

The new Alumni Council continues to develop. Presently it is working on creating an online alumni portal for communicating with all alumni, creating an alumni scholarship, and developing a continuing education program for alumni. Once again, I heartily encourage my fellow Mid-America alumni in the RCUS to participate in this organization as it develops further.

I am enthused about the present condition and future of the seminary. The instructors are competent and faithful men, morale is generally high among the faculty and board, and the overall health of the seminary is good. In my judgment, the seminary continues to faithfully train men for the gospel ministry in service to the church, and I am especially encouraged as it remains faithful to Scripture and to the Reformed Confessions. I recommend Mid-America Reformed Seminary without reservation as worthy of our whole-hearted continued support.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Jon Blair

Dordt College

Last month the Board appointed Dr. Erik Hoekstra as the fourth President of Dordt College, succeeding Dr. Carl Zylstra, who is stepping down after 16 years of service as the president. The Presidential Search Committee enlisted by the Board conducted an extensive search, communicating with approximately 80 individuals about the position. Of the 14 candidates who expressed interest by submitting written materials, five were interviewed.

Dr. Hoekstra taught in the Business Department at Dordt from 1997 – 2000, then returned to work in leadership positions in private industry until 2008, when he became the Provost of Dordt College. Dr. Hoekstra holds a Bachelor's Degree in history and philosophy from Trinity Christian College, a Master's Degree in international management from Erasmus University in the Netherlands, and a Ph. D. in organizational learning and human resource development from Iowa State. Dr. Hoekstra is married to Dr. Barb Hoekstra, an education professor at Dordt. They have four children between the ages of 12 and 16.

In his role the past four years as Provost Dr. Hoeksta had direct responsibility for academic affairs, student life, faculty hiring and development, athletics and institutional planning. The first three Presidents of the College were ministers, so Dr. Hoekstra will be the first non-ministerial President of Dordt. He has served as an elder in the Christian Reformed Church where he is a member.

I believe Dr. Hoekstra is well gifted to lead Dordt as an effective leader and is committed to the mission of Dordt to be a reformed institution of higher learning. He will work diligently and be transparent. He is not a minister or trained theologian – and will not pretend to be one. I believe he will welcome and sincerely engage constituents (both supporters and detractors), and gladly work with them, loving the fact that a detractor cares enough about the College to voice their concern. The institution will be undergoing some natural transitions with change in leadership, but it will not be a sea change or change in mission.

The college is experiencing a rather significant turnover in faculty due to retirements, which has kept the Board's Interview Committee busy. Although I have not yet met him myself one new faculty member in the English Department this fall is presently a member of our Grace Reformed Church in Greeley. Student enrollment and finances are relatively stable.

I don't know if the Synod will take up the issue of the RCUS's support of or relationship with Dordt College, but I will just briefly comment on that. Dordt College is closely connected, from a governance standpoint and by many in its constituency, to the Christian Reformed Church. To the extent we have theological differences with the CRC, which we do, that will be the case at Dordt as well. From

the RCUS's standpoint, perhaps we need to consider what we mean and intend by any connection we have with an institution like Dordt. I am thankful for the work that the Sub-Committee to Confer with Dordt College has done recently and over the years in maintaining a dialogue with the college, and the counsel, input and accountability it provides Dordt. The Board and administration appreciate this relationship and input, and frankly would like to see more churches take a more active approach as the RCUS has done.

At the April meeting of the Board I was elected to a second three year term on the Board.

Respectfully submitted, Jay Kroese.

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

It was my pleasure to represent you at both the Fall Board Meeting and this year I was able to attend the recent Spring Board Meeting. Usually the Spring Meeting is at the same time as our Synod, but this year it was this last Thursday and Friday, enabling me to attend.

What made this special for me was that I was therefore able to attend their Twenty-second Commencement Service. They graduated 4 Master of Arts, 2 Bachelor of Divinity, 4 Master of Divinity and gave to honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees. The recipients of the honorary degrees were the Reverend Ian Hamilton and the Reverend Richard Davis Phillips, both with long and outstanding service in God's Kingdom. The speaker this year was Dr. Derek Thomas, who spoke with great power on, "Servants Hearts and Servant Ministry". I found myself greatly moved and blessed along with the graduates as he gave his challenge to the graduates.

They are expecting a good increase of students this year, but the number was not yet finalized during the President's report at the Board Meeting.

Along with the regular business of board meetings, this year there was one disciplinary matter that took up much of our time with a professor being placed on leave and given opportunity to correct certain issues affecting him, which will be reviews at the fall meeting. Also it was reported that a house that had been left to the Seminary in California was sold and the monies will enable the Seminary to apply it to the debt of their facilities.

The School remains faithful to the careful teaching of the great doctrines of Holy Scripture. The board met with the graduating students and I was impressed with the testimony they gave of their professors careful oversight and the quality of the information gained in the classes that will enable them in their various ministries.

It was indeed my privilege to be your representative to Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Yours in His Service, Wesley Brice

Hope Haven

It has been my pleasure to serve on the board of Hope Haven for seven years now. Hope Haven is a ministry of mercy for individuals with special needs.

Hope Haven provides remanufactured wheelchairs at no charge for those who would otherwise not be able to afford them. The remanufacturing largely takes place by volunteers, as well as by inmates of the South Dakota State Penitentiary. The ministry has expanded to include remanufacturing facilities around the world, most recently in Guatemala and Vietnam. With this extended reach, Hope Haven is able to serve people in over 100 countries.

In addition to wheelchairs, Hope Haven also provides group homes and employment opportunities for those with special needs. The ministry does this through making contact with local employers, as well as employing their own clients in producing things which they are able to sell, such as floor mats and trailer hitches.

The ministry has recently done a major renovation of its facilities in Rock Valley, IA. This renovation makes the facility a better work environment for the clients who work there, as well as being very aesthetically pleasing.

I would like to stress the Christ-centered nature of this ministry. The ministry shows Christ's love for those with special needs and is very forthright in its commitment to Christ. The Hope Haven Gospel Choir is a wonderful choir of Hope Haven clients who sing in various churches for the glory of God. In addition, the Valley Male Chorus is a twenty-six member male singing group who volunteer their time to sing gospel music in churches around the country. They collect a free-will offering and donate all proceeds to Hope Haven. Many clients at Hope Haven credit Hope Haven as the instrument through which they came to Christ.

It is my sincere opinion that by supporting Hope Haven the RCUS can support a Christ-centered ministry of mercy to those in need around the world. I strongly urge Synod's continued support of this worthy ministry.

Sincerely, Rev. Ron Morris

Heidelberg Theological Seminary

In response to the PCEC's seminary evaluation team's recent visit, their report and concerns, I offer the following on behalf of the HTS Board.

To begin with, the Board is grateful for the Committee's endorsement that "HTS is Reformed and is a qualified seminary worthy of the support of Synod." With regard to the concerns raised in the Committee's report, we would state the following:

- 1. Re. "the major change in faculty with the resignation of Dr. Robert Grossmann and the seminary's 'predominant' use of adjunct teachers:" While the Board truly regrets Dr. Grossmann's decision to resign from the faculty of HTS, we are thankful to the Lord for raising up additional teachers from our midst to assure the continuation of course offerings. We believe that we have been blessed with competent men to teach and that by providing intensive courses in the 3rd and 4th years, a full and complete curriculum is in place. We would remind the Committee as well as Synod, that one of the founding principles for HTS training was, and continues to be, experienced and proven pastors teaching future pastors (cf. Eph. 4:11-13; II Tim. 2:1,2).
- 2. Re. "Does the seminary meet acceptable academic standard: b. ...Do all faculty members submit to a theological exam before the board and faculty?" Although HTS does not have this practice at the present time, it is not opposed to doing so and has already taken steps to implement this practice.
- 3. Re. "What recommendations and academic achievements are necessary for the student to apply for admission?" The Board is certainly aware and desirous of prospective students having the necessary educational preparation for seminary studies, and we remain committed to an educated ministry. To that end it should be noted that "of the 6 M.Div. students on the role, one student has a Masters,

four have Bachelor degrees and one is working toward his bachelor's degree." While there may be some part-time students who do not have such achievements at the present time, they are encouraged and required to pursue such before receiving the M.Div. degree. At the same time, there can be the exception to the rule. in the final analysis, it is the Classis, not the seminary, that determines who is eligible for the Gospel ministry.

Upon reviewing the progress of the seminary in its mission to "Train Men for the Pastorate," we would bring to your attention the following accomplishments since the prior evaluation of 2003:

- 1. Two adjunct professors were employed in 2003 compared to a full time professor and 10 adjunct professors at the present time.
- 2. A student body of 2 in 2003 compared to 6 students in 2012 with an additional 9 students auditing selected courses.
- 3. Beginning in 2005, sixteen seminary sponsored conferences have been held in RCUS churches through March, 2012.
- 4. In 2011, course instruction was expanded to include Internet Distance Learning.
- 5. The Seminary was relocated to a new facility at the Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD.
- 6. The Seminary Library was expanded, computerized and housed in its own room.
- 7. A Web presence was initiated in 2005.
- 8. Board membership and oversight increased from 8 in 2005 to 13 in 2012 with representation from the four Classes of the RCUS and one member from the OPC.
- 9. In 2006, the Board, as part of their strategic planning process, proposed a second full time professor when three class years of students and twelve courses would be taught. The plan included the use of adjunct professors, believing that students would benefit from the exposure to a wider array of instructors, teaching styles and-varied pastoral backgrounds in their preparation for the Gospel ministry. In conclusion, the Board is thankful for the Committee's visit, their interest, concerns and constructive criticism. We look forward to next year's visit.

Respectfully, on behalf of the Board, Vern Pollema

Radio Administrative Committee

The work of the Reformed Faith and Life continues to spread the Reformed Gospel message to many nations. The annual meeting of 2011 was held at an early date (July 19) that did not allow all committee members to take part. Rev. Dan Schnabel was the only RCUS member present. The date was changed due to Rev. Eric Kayayan's travel schedule. This year's meeting will be held a week earlier also (September 25) so Rev. Kayayan can travel to churches in Washington State and Canada.

Over the past year, the work has seen good support, but it is hand-to-mouth each month. The Canadian donations have fallen off slightly over the past year, but they have taken an active interest in the work. The RRAC slate of officers was re-elected.

The radio programs continue to be produced and broadcast to a wide audience in French-speaking Africa, France, and Quebec, Canada. Rev Kayayan reports: "By the end of June 2011 we should have about 530 programs ready, with our regular series growing in numbers: the Bible for children now comprises 162 programs, after completion of the Gospel according to Luke. The last Bible book to be dealt will be "The Acts of the Apostles". Our series "Your Questions Our Answers" has also grown (23 programs in total) while smaller series of 3 or 6 programs are under way. The shorter programs for France (3 to 4 minutes) number almost 60, which is enough to present them to radio stations in France or Quebec interested in airing them.

Follow-up literature and correspondence is vital in this work, as follow-up to the radio broadcasts. There is always a need for funds to purchase books and Bibles. Some of our congregations as well as Canadian congregations have participated in this, more can be done. For example, Rev. Kayayan states: "Our main project, reprinting 2000 copies of the volume on Reformed Confessions of Faith produced by Rev. A.R. Kayayan during the years of his French ministry, has not progressed much due to delay in feedback from partners interested in this project. Hopefully we can still have it done before the end of 2011. Our annual budget for buying bibles in French (about R15000 which is a bit more than US\$2000) is extremely limited and does not allow us to purchase more than 200 bibles from the Bible Society of SA." Here is where individual congregations can be helpful. Incidentally, Rev. Kayayan reports that a far less expensive French Bible is available, but from Belarus, which carries with it some shipping problems.

Here is where individual congregations can be helpful. Incidentally, Rev. Kayayan reports that a far less expensive French Bible is available, but from Belarus, which carries with it some shipping problems.

There is one new addition to the work — a video production of "Light for the Nations." This is an 18 minute video with a message of God's plan of redemption intended for Muslim inhabitants of the islands in the Indian ocean.

Follow-up travel in the past year included a visit by Rev. Kayayan to Mali and Ivory Coast. Both of these regions are troubled by internal unrest, but vital in reaching areas affected by not only native heathen religions, but Islamic forces as well.

An over-view of income for RFL is as follows:

RCUS Denominational giving	\$18,857.56
URC (US) Churches	19,095.97
Church Contributions (RCUS	1,505.50
RFL - Canada	21,539.50
RFL - Canada (Book Translation)	30,747.26
Corporate Contributions	1,500.00
Individual Contributions	1,580.00
Interest Income	4.15
Total	94 829 74

Expenses paid by RFL (not including Rietvallei in SA):

Rev. Eric Kayayan - Support	\$39,000.00
Book Translation	30,747.26
RFL Expenses	1,590.00

Trans World Radio - Broadcast Fees 6,180.16
Post Office Box 44.00

Total: 77,561.42

The actual annual salaries paid (including the contribution from the Rietvallei congregation in South Africa amounted to: \$110,426.00 for Rev. Kayayan and \$11,147 for the secretary Carlien Visser, whose office is in the Rietvallei church. Rev. Kayayan serves as one of the pastors of the Rietvallei congregation (Reformed Church in South Africa).

The Radio Administration committee approved a budget of \$94,500 for 2011-2012.

The RCUS Foreign Ministries Committee is proposing a \$20,000 contribution in their budget. In addition, contributions from special offerings and groups in the RCUS are again encouraged. We are grateful that many of our congregations have done this in the past year.

Sincerely, Rev. Paul Treick, Rev. Dan Schnabel, Rev. Neale Riffert

Reformed Herald Editor's Report

With the passing of another year as Editor of the Reformed Herald, I am grateful to the pastors and elders who have submitted articles for publication.

The reports from our congregations on new members, baptisms, confirmations, etc. from our local congregations has been very sporadic in the past year. Perhaps each congregation can appoint one person to forward this information. Since this is a denominational magazine, it is my intention to try to tie our congregations together more closely with this information.

The timeliness of the Herald seems to be a persistent problem, for which I apologize. We got over a month behind waiting on an article last June when we printed the Synod issue, and did not recover from it for some time. Actually, we are caught up at this time with the May and June issues at the printers. I have tried to get it out on time, but it goes through a lot of hands before it is in the mailboxes of members. The Publications Committee is addressing this problem with two changes that may help. It would be printed in the United States, and thus mailed from here instead of present system. The committee also is proposing that the Herald be 20 pages, published bi-monthly beginning in August. So, my plans for the next issue are somewhat on hold pending the Synod's decision on this matter. According to this, there will not be a July issue.

In the coming year, my intention is to add two things to the usual format: A brief bio of ministers serving in the RCUS; and a featuring of books authored and available from our RCUS pastors. How this will be laid out depends largely on whether this will be bi-monthly.

If Synod changes the publication to bi-monthly, I will send out a request for articles after Synod.

I used the Editorial Advice committee once during the year. I had asked for some thought by the committee on running a brief pastor's biography, so they might want to consider that for the coming year. From time to time I have some rather strange articles sent to me from folks outside the RCUS – the last one from a prisoner in Solidad. I have not found these to be of value or theological correctness.

In terms of submitting articles please note the following: When you submit material, please take out all unnecessary formatting. It is a very time-consuming task to change these to a format that can be published. We never use underlining, sometimes italics and rarely ALL-CAPITALS. To see the format for Bible quotations, please refer to a previous issue. If you send in sermons, please look them over to put them into a sentence format, rather than an outline form. Please do submit pictures, but they will need to be of good pixel quality or they cannot be used. We have had requests for having captions on the pictures to identify the individuals. We have tried to do this on a regular basis.

Once again I am thankful for the work of Rev. Eric Bristley who has done a great job with design and is a big help to the editor. Rev. Frank Walker also faithfully updates the address list and sends it to the company in Canada that places the addresses on each issue. Any updates on subscriptions should be sent directly to him, not the editor.

I have indicated to the Publications Committee that I would be willing to serve as Editor for another year, if that is the will of the Synod.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Paul H. Treick

XIV. Special Committee Reports

A. To Study "Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality"

The following recommendations were adopted:

- 1. That the report of the special committee to promote Biblical Sexual Morality be received in fulfillment of Synod's mandate.
- 2. That the report be further edited by the Permanent Publications Committee and be presented to the 267th Synod.
- 3. That the delegates of Synod communicate their suggestions for improvement to the report in a timely manner to the Permanent Publications Committee.
- 4. That the report be recommended to our congregations as a pastoral guide and a starting point for a more biblical understanding of sexual issues.
- 5. That the 266th Annual Synod of the RCUS make the following declarations:
 - a. God created man and woman good and joined them together in a holy state of matrimony. Sexuality was given to the married couple to enjoy in its fullness as creatures under God's authority.
 - b. God created only two sexes, male and female. This was taught clearly in Genesis 1 and 2, and repeated by Christ in Matt. 19:4.
 - c. God himself ordained marriage between one man and one woman. Jesus Christ Himself sanctioned marriage (John 2), and repeated the ordinance of marriage in creation as binding and final upon all men and women (Matthew 19:4-6), including the definition of marriage between a man and a woman.
 - d. Authority has not been given to people to change God's ordinance of marriage. To presume to do so is to usurp the place of God. The political state, therefore, exceeds its bounds when it declares to itself the power to redefine marriage as other than one man and one woman.

- e. The Church of Jesus Christ, therefore, must respectfully and graciously decline any demands or requests made by anyone to sanction or perform a "marriage" or civil union that is contrary to the ordinance of God.
- f. The seventh commandment forbids all sexual uncleanness that violates the created ordinance of marriage. Scripture teaches that corrupt actions spring from corrupt hearts, and this by no means excuses sin. Forbidden as contrary to God's law are homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, transgender-ism, bisexuality, pornography and any other sexual sins that take the place of or corrupt the union of man and woman in the holy state of matrimony. Not only are the acts themselves forbidden by God, but even the very thoughts themselves are condemned (Matt. 5:27-30).
- g. The same God that brings judgment upon sexual sins and calls men to repentance also brings judgment upon those who use private violence against anyone (1 Pet. 3:9-10; Matt. 5:39), and who use railing and contemptuous speech against anyone (Matt. 5:22). The reality of God's judgment means that we must speak the truth of scripture in love, but not go beyond the scripture itself with abusive speech or violence.
- h. Since these sexual sins, including all manner of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, transgender-ism, lesbianism, bestiality, pornography, and other violations of the seventh commandment, are condemned by the Word of God, and since the Church of Jesus Christ is bound to the Word of God in all matters, one who is guilty of such sins is liable to the judicatories of the church. Living unrepentantly in these sins, as in other gross sins, will result in refusal of membership in the churches of the RCUS, termination from employment in the Church, including volunteer work, deposition from office, excommunication from the Table of the Lord and other consequences as determined by the judicatories of the church.
- i. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, including those who have committed the sins listed above. There is cleansing and healing from all of the bondage of sin and misery in the blood of Christ, if only we accept such benefit with a believing heart. (See Heidelberg Catechism, Q 60).
- 6. The correct doctrine having been explained, the Synod of the RCUS rejects the following errors:
 - a. Error 1: That the word of God is not an inspired book, but an inspired person. This error denies the clear teaching of God's word (2 Tim. 3:16) and Belgic Confession, articles 2-7.
 - b. Error 2: That the Bible knows nothing about homosexuality and therefore could not condemn it. This error is based upon the denial of the clear testimony of Scripture (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:24-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11) and the doctrine of the total depravity of man, as confessed in the Canons of Dordt, Third and Fourth Heads of Doctrine. Scripture throughout teaches the bondage of sin, innate corruption and the impossibility of man to free himself from his sins.
 - c. Error 3: that God only punishes those sins which mankind has the power to avoid committing. The Heidelberg Catechism teaches and the Church confesses that mankind is incapable of keeping God's law, and yet God is still holy and just in the condemnation of sinners (Questions 5-10).
 - d. Error 4: That humanity is not only created male and female, but also homosexual, bisexual, transgender, lesbian, etc. This error denies the teaching of Genesis 1:27; 5:2, and the teaching of Jesus in Matt. 19:4 and Mark 10:6.
 - e. Error 5: That one can be a non-practicing or recovering homosexual. This error presupposes the error stated in 6.d. above. God created male and female. Men and women can be wise or foolish; covenant breakers or covenant keepers; but they are still male and female. It is recognized in Scripture that all men, even after they have come to Christ, struggle with their particular sins but they are no longer defined by those sins (1 Cor. 6:9-11). There are, therefore, Christians who struggle with same-sex attraction and fantasy, as well as other sins in the thought-life; they are called by God to fight the good fight, confess and forsake their sins, and flee sexual immorality.
 - f. Error 6: That marriage is merely a social and legal contract, to be defined by the will of the people. This error denies the authority of God. God himself has defined marriage and His word stands forever.
- 7. The 266th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States pleads with all who are caught and ensnared in the bondage of sexual sin to confess their sins and come to Jesus Christ for forgiveness and healing, as Scripture says, "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:20-21, NKJV).
- 8. That the report not be published in the Abstract or on the Internet or quoted by fraternal churches on the internet until further editing is completed and approved by Synod.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Sam Powell, Chairman, Rev. Darrell Kingswood, Rev. Paul Henderson, Rev. Phil Poe, Steve Wilbur, Roger Gallimore.

XV. Standing Committee Reports

[The committee recommendations appear below in their final form, whether amended or not. The recommendations were adopted unless otherwise noted]

A. Benevolence Committee

- 1. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$450 per month for the next Synodical year to Rev. Ron Potter to assist with life insurance, medical insurance, and medical costs.
- 2. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$658 per month for the next Synodical year to Rev. Jay Fluck to assist with medical insurance costs.

- 3. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$275 per month for the next Synodical year for Grace RCUS, Lancaster, CA (This amount is a reduction of \$50 per month from the previous year).
- 4. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$500 per month for the next Synodical year for Faith RCUS, Anderson, CA (This amount is same as last year).
- 5. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$930 per month for one year beginning on January 1, 2013, for Covenant RCUS, Chico, CA.
- 6. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$1,375 per month for the next Synodical year to Mrs. Amy Stevens (an increase of \$75 from the previous year).
- 7. That Mrs. Amy Stevens receive the remaining amount approved (\$1,200) by the 265th Synod of the RCUS (see page 98 of Abstract of the Minuets of the 265th Synod). [TAKE NOTE]
- 8. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$400 per month for the next Synodical year to Rev. George Syms (retired).
- 9. The Executive Committee of the South Central Classis, in response to a mandate from the 2665th Synod (Synod Abstract, page 99) to investigate the Synodical benevolent aid to Trinity Covenant Reformed Church in Colorado Springs, CO, did determine that the aid in the question did <u>not</u> meet the guidelines as adopted by Synod in 2008. Classis (SCC), at its 2012 spring meeting, passed motions to give classical aid to meet the determined need. [TAKE NOTE]
- 10. That the Permanent Diaconal Committee continue to research information and make recommendations to the 267th Synod of the RCUS addressing how our congregations, Classes and Synod can best address the growing health care costs of ministers. [TAKE NOTE]
- 11. That the Consistories of any congregation receiving Synodical Benevolent Aid provide annual reports to the Synodical Permanent Diaconal Committee of their labors and efforts to reduce or cease their need for benevolent aid.
- 12. That Synod adopt the continuing practice of placing a member from each Classical Permanent Diaconal Committee on the Synodical Permanent Diaconal Committee and that this be referred to Standing Nominations.
- 13. Take Note of the President's concerns in paragraph five, page one of the 'President's Report of the State of the Church.' [TAKE NOTE]

B. Ministerial Aid Committee

Recommendation #1 – That the following requests for Ministerial Aid be approved:

Mrs. Chester Ploeger	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Joan Vance	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Marie Stuebbe	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Marjorie Duckett	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Betty Sander	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Gene Sawtelle	\$1,800 per month	\$21,600 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Neale Riffert	\$1,800 per month	\$21,600 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Vern Pollema	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Paul Treick	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Kay Savage	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Howard Hart	\$1,700 per month	\$20,400 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Herman Van Stedum	\$1,500 per month	\$18,000 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger	\$1,400 per month	\$16,800 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Lena Jones	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. George Syms	\$1,600 per month	\$19,200 for next Synodical year

Recommendation #2 – That if the previous motion is passed, the monthly amount distributed for Ministerial Relief is \$20,800 per month, for a yearly total of \$249,600, making the cost per communicant member \$84.90. [TAKE NOTE].

Recommendation #3 – That there be a minimum of two signers for the Ministerial Aid Fund, one being the Treasurer and the other being the President of Synod, and that these two men be bonded in order to protect the monies in the Ministerial Aid Fund.

Recommendation #4 – That the guideline for the Ministerial Aid Fund for the next Synodical year be set at \$15.00 per communicant member.

Recommendation #5 – That due to the activity of the past two years of gathering funds from various accounts and the challenges that have occurred through this process, we recommend that the original intention for the Ministerial Aid Fund (utilizing 80% of the interest for funding Ministerial Relief and reinvesting the remaining 20% of the interest) be not implemented at the 266th Synod of the RCUS.

Recommendation #6 – That the Permanent Ministerial Relief (MAF) Committee circularize the following questionnaire pertaining to the following questions and report the answers given to the Ministerial Aid Relief Fund Sub-Committee and the 267th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States:

- 1. When is the minister(s) of your charge planning to retire? a. 1-5 years; b. 6-10 years; c. 11-15 years; d. 16-20 years; e. 20+ years.
- 2. What provisions, if any, are being made toward the minister's retirement, whether by the minister or the local church?
- 3. What type of mechanism is in place to ensure that retirement funds which are given are being set aside for the minister?
- 4. Are you working with a financial advisor?
- 5. Do you have any insights; suggestions or issues that your Consistory has faced that would be helpful for other congregations as they address matters relating to this matter?

C. Ecumenical Committee

- 1. That the editor of the Reformed Herald be authorized to discuss and implement with the editors of the Clarion a periodic exchange of articles between the RCUS and the Canadian Reformed Churches.
- 2. That churches in the RCUS consider means to invite Canadian Reformed youth to our denominational summer camps. [TAKE NOTE]
- 3. That churches in the RCUS consider pulpit exchanges with the Canadian Reformed churches and/or the use of Canadian Reformed speakers for conferences. [TAKE NOTE]
- 4. That the proposed budget from the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee Report be adopted.
- 5. That Synod adopt the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee Report.
- 6. That the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee continue to monitor developments in the RCN and report to the 267th Synod of the RCUS together with specific recommendations.

D. Education and Student Aid

- . That in light of the report of the Permanent Christian Education Committee's Subcommittee to Reexamine Heidelberg Theological Seminary, that HTS be visited again next year.
- 2. That the guideline for HTS be continued at \$2.00 per communicant member for the 2012-2013.
- 3. That HTS be encouraged to continue to teach the Reformed faith and the RCUS distinctive principles. [TAKE NOTE]
- 4. That HTS be encouraged to use the board and faculty in the examination of new faculty members. [TAKE NOTE]
- 5. That HTS be encouraged to continue to seek out students that have the necessary academic achievements that are necessary for a student applying for admission to the M.Div. program. [TAKE NOTE]
- 6. That HTS be commended for their years of service to the church, especially in their Biblical conferences in the local churches. [TAKE NOTE]
- 7. That the RCUS discontinue the sub-committee to confer with Dordt College.
- 8. That another year be given to the Sunday School Curriculum Subcommittee to complete its work fulfilling the mandate of the 2011 Synod.
- 9. That Synod provide student aid to Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg [student at HTS] in the amount of \$4,800 for tuition and \$400 for books for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- 10. That Synod provide student aid to Mr. Chris Campbell [student at Greenville] in the amount of \$2,000 for tuition and \$400 for books for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- 11. That Synod provide student aid to Mr. Steve Carr [student at MARS] in the amount of \$9,100 for tuition and fees and \$400 for books for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- 12. That Synod provide student aid to Mr. Tom Short [student at HTS] in the amount of \$4,800 tuition and \$400 for books for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- 13. That Synod provide student aid to Mr. Tim Marinelli [student at Greenville] in the amount of \$3600 (tuition) and \$400 for books for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- 14. That Synod provide student aid to Mr. Derrick Merkel [student at HTS] in the amount of \$3,000 for tuition for the current academic year.
- 15. That Synod provide student aid to Mr. Derrick Merkel in the amount of \$5,200 (\$4,800 for tuition and \$400 for books) for the forthcoming academic year.

E. Judicial Committee

- 1. From the Northern Plains overture, That Synod meet as a delegated Synod. [TAKE NOTE]
- 2. That Article 119 of the Constitution of the RCUS be amended as follows: after the word "dismission," insert the words, "or shall renounce his membership." NOTE: The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the fact that renouncing one's membership does not bring church discipline to a halt. [REFERRED TO A SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT]
- 3. Referral from the Executive Committee Report on page 1, paragraph 2, asking "Synod how and whether it should maintain relationships with institutes of higher education." That the Executive Committee has fulfilled its mandate with regard to communicating with Dordt College. [TAKE NOTE]
- 4. That the RCUS Constitution be amended by deleting articles 40-42. [REFERRED TO A SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT]
- 5. That Synod declare that Council Bluffs, Iowa is in the South Central Classis.
- 6. That Article 84 of the RCUS Constitution be amended by addition as follows: a. Between the words *minister* and *from* in the first sentence, add the words, *or licentiate*; b. At the end of the Article, add the following sentences: *nor shall a minister or licentiate be installed until confirmed by Synod. Classes shall forward to Synod its actions concerning ministers and licentiates from other <i>denominations*; and also provide a resume regarding the new minister or licentiate. NOTE: 1987 Abstract pages 68 and 70. [REFERRED TO A SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT]
- 7. From Northern Plains Classis overture requesting Synod to amend Standing Rule #9 requiring Clerks to send Classis Abstracts to each minister, elder delegate and congregation. [TAKE NOTE]

F. Missions Committee

- 1. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 1, That Covenant RCUS, Chico, CA continue to receive \$930 monthly from July through December 2012, for a total of \$5580, at which time its Synod mission status shall cease. [There will be an overture from Western Classis for Synod benevolence in the 2013 calendar year.]
- 2. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 2, That Rehoboth Reformed Chapel, LaHabra, CA receive \$1699 monthly, for a total of \$20,388 fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012. [This

- will match the Classical Support]
- 3. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 3, That Grace RCUS, of NW Arkansas receive \$360 monthly, for a total of \$4,320 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012. [A reduction of \$60 monthly, 5% of the original Synod support.]
- 4. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 4, That Emmaus Road Reformed Chapel receive \$1,250 monthly, for a total of \$15,000 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012. [A reduction of \$2,083 monthly, 63% of the original Synod support.]
- 5. We commend Redeemer Reformed Church for sacrificially acting on their vision to establish other congregations in the metro Area. [TAKE NOTE].
- 6. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 5, That First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND receive \$3,200 monthly, for a total of \$38,400 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012. This money is to come from current set aside funds. [A reduction of \$800 monthly, 20% of the original Synod support. This will leave approximately \$70,000 for future works.]
- 7. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 6: That Salem RCUS, Ashley, ND be granted \$68,500 for a building loan, for a parsonage for the Dickinson work.
- 8. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 7, That the 2012 Day of Prayer for Missions offering be designated to help with support of Grace RCUS, NW Arkansas.
- 9. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 8, That \$7,000 be budgeted for committee expenses.
- 10. From Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 9, That the Omaha, NE mission plant receive \$2,500 monthly, for a total of \$30,000 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012, to be given when a missionary starts full-time work there. This money is to come from current set aside funds. [Along with the Dickinson funding, this will leave approximately \$40,000 for future works.]
- 11. From the Permanent Home Missions Recommendation 10: This will require a 2013 Home Missions budget if approved as recommended would be \$120,691. [\$52,291 will come from guidelines, while \$38,400 for Dickinson and \$30,000 for Omaha will come from current set aside funds, leaving approximately \$40,000 for future works. This will require a 2013 Home Missions guideline of approximately \$18, reduced from \$19. [TAKE NOTE].
- 12. From the Permanent Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 1, That the budget be adopted as follows:

URCC - Congo

Elder/pastor/church support \$12,600 (reduced by \$1,800)

Kinshasa aid to churches \$13,200 (same as last year)

Lubumbashi church aid \$1,000 (new)

Building and Diaconal aid \$1,200 (raised \$800)

RFCK - Kenya

Church Support \$6,000 (same as last year)

Building & diaconal aid \$2,000 (same as last year)

Student/ministry expenses & travel \$6,700 (increase \$1,300)

UCRCP – Philippines

Classis meeting expenses \$2,058 (same as last year)

Outreach expenses \$2,000 (same as last year)

Reformed Faith and Life (French): \$20,000 (increase \$3,000)

Committee Expenses

Travel to Africa \$3,000 (same)

Travel to Europe \$1.000 (same)

Travel to USA \$3,000 (same)

Travel to Philippines \$3,000 (same)

Total: \$76,758 (\$4,300 increase over last year)

- 13. From the Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 2, That the Foreign Ministries Committee draw 50% of the 2012-2013 budget from Foreign Ministries accrued funds. (Budgeted guidelines will be based on \$38,379).
- 14. From the Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 3, That the Foreign Ministries Committee be allowed to investigate options for long-distance seminary training for ministerial students in foreign fields, including Heidelberg Theological Seminary, City Seminary, and Reformed International Theological Seminary.
- 15. From the Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 4, Any additional expenditures of the Foreign Ministries committee above budgeted amounts may be paid out of accrued funds. This amount is not to exceed \$5,000 without approval by Synod.
- 16. From the Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 5, That the Foreign ministries committee be directed to compile a compendium of different classis exam questions from the classes.
- 17. From the Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 6, That the pastors of the RCUS prayerfully consider serving as a long-term missionary in Uganda. [TAKE NOTE]
- 18. From the Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 7, That the pastors of the RCUS prayerfully consider teaching a three week class in Uganda at Knox Theological College in Mbale. [TAKE NOTE]
- 19. From the Foreign Ministries Committee Report Recommendation 8, That the RCUS send 2 men to Congo, this year, for the URCC Synod in July.

G. Minutes of Classis Committee

- 1. That the Stated Clerks of the Classes be commended for their diligence in keeping the records of their particular classis.
- 2. That the minutes of the Western Classis be approved with the following exceptions:
 - a. The Table of Contents and Agenda incorrectly numbered.
 - b. Licentiate missing in the Table of Contents.
 - c. Directory of Churches lower case for "East" in directions for Covenant Reformed Church.
 - d. Inconsistent use of AM and PM on pp. xi-xiii.
 - e. p. xiii, Grace Reformed Church, put period after "Sun."
 - f. Roll Call of Elders was inaccurate. p. xiv, 3/6, 3/7 and 3/8 incorrect totals.
 - g. Page 2, Line 18, the number of NO votes not recorded.
 - h. Page 7, Line 40, no "Take Note."
 - i. Page 7, Line 46, no "Take Note."
 - j. Page 10, Line 6, 24, 25, 26, 32; Page 11, Line 50 needs periods.
 - k. Page 12, 13 check incorrect number of elders and insert periods where needed.
 - 1. Page 10, add appendix page number for Special Committees.
- 3. That the minutes of the South Central Classis be approved with the following exceptions:
 - a. Spring Meeting: page 2 "Re. Haney"
 - b. Spring Meeting: page 2 period after "Rev. Neale Riffert."
 - c. Spring Meeting: page 4 "Their Minutes" should not be capitalized.
 - d. Spring Meeting: page 4 regarding Rev. Matt Powell, "His" should not be capitalized.
 - e. Spring Meeting: page 5 "Take note" should be followed by a period.
 - f. Spring Meeting: page 8 No mention in adjournment of the time and place of the next meeting or that it would be circularized.
 - g. Spring Meeting: In the Documents, No table of contents in either the Spring or Special meetings.
 - h. Spring Meeting: Many committee reports are unsigned.
 - i. Spring Meeting: There is no Executive Committee report, only the circulars appear.
 - j. In the bound copy, the Special Meeting is bound before the Spring Meeting, which occurred first.
 - k. Special Meeting: page 2, missing some periods at the end of sentences.
 - 1. Special Meeting: page 2, the chairman called a recess without a motion.
 - m. Spring Meeting: Standing Missions report have pages out of order (Document 51)
 - n. Spring Meeting: correct "form Christ" to "from Christ."
 - o. Spring Meeting: Standing committee reports need to be on 8 ½ by 11 white paper.
 - p. Spring Meeting: The Documents need to be consecutively numbered, instead of only their item numbers.
- 4. That the minutes of the Covenant East Classis be approved with the following exceptions:
 - a. Page 3, Referrals, not a sentence, but has a period.
 - b. On Parochial Reports, no action such as "Take Note" is taken.
 - c. Page 8, no date, time, or location for the next meeting or indication that it would be circularized.
 - d. Page 158 "Stuebbe" is misspelled.
- 5. That the minutes of the Northern Plains Classis be approved with the following exceptions:
 - a. Spring Meeting: page 2, no time is mentioned for when the president vacated and assumed the chair.
 - b. Within the minutes proper, there is no reference to the supporting documents.
 - c. The word "Saints" is capitalized regularly.
 - d. Page 6, the Classis "adjourned" for committee work instead of "recessed."
 - e. Page 25, Overture from Ashley consistory does not have a majority of signatures.
 - f. Page 42, The same copy of the report needs to be signed by a majority of its members.
 - g. Page 79, some of the Standing Committee reports are difficult to read.

- h. The Statistics report is not signed by the clerk.
- i. Page 7, it should state that the chair was upheld.
- j. Motions that die for lack of a second should not be recorded.
- k. No Table of Contents for the minutes only for the supporting documents. This is true for both Special Meeting and the Spring Meeting.
- 1. Special meeting is not signed by the President and the Treasurer of Classis.
- m. Spring meeting minutes are not signed by the Stated Clerk, President, or Treasurer, nor are the addresses listed.
- n. Special Meeting: The supporting documents have two page 6's and no page 7.
- o. Special Meeting: page 3, the President called for a recess, but no motion was made to recess.
- p. Special Meeting: page 4, does not state that the chair called the body back to order.
- q. Special Meeting: The motion to receive the Home Missions Report was not seconded or carried.
- r. Special Meeting: The minutes do not state that the ministerial candidate was excused while the classis discussed his examination and licensure.
- s. Special Meeting: A licentiate is called on the roll of classis.
- t. Special Meeting: An excuse submitted is not signed.
- 6. We would remind the Synod Stated Clerk to update the Guidelines for the Minutes of Classis Committee to reflect the decision of the 2011 Synod (Abstract p. 103). [TAKE NOTE]

H. Publications Committee

- 1. That the churches be strongly encouraged to submit events to the website committee for publication on the denominational website, and take note of the website's need for photos for the front page.

 [TAKE NOTE]
- 2. That the reformedherald.org website be placed under the jurisdiction of the website committee.
- 3. That the budget for the website be set at \$4000.
- 4. That classis clerks be reminded to send the website committee annual abstracts and directories each year. [TAKE NOTE]
- 5. Regarding the Editorial Advice Committee report: TAKE NOTE.
- 6. That the Committee to Develop eBooks be commended for all their hard work on behalf of the Synod, and that the committee be discontinued.
- 7. That all royalties from the sale of Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism through amazon.com be forwarded to Mrs. Lena Jones.
- 8. That the changes to the process, fees and schedule for the Reformed Herald proposed by the permanent Publications and Promotions Committee in recommendation #2 of their report be adopted as presented.
- 9. That Paul Treick be nominated as Editor of the Reformed Herald.
- 10. That \$500 be budgeted for expenses incurred by the editor.
- 11. That Olive Tree Publications be compensated at \$35.00 per hour for layout work on the Reformed Herald.
- 12. That ministers who commit to submitting an article by a certain date to note the instructions of our Lord in Matt. 5:37: "But let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no', 'no.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one." [TAKE NOTE]

I. Finances Committee

- . With regard to Treasurer's Report Recommendation 1, TAKE NOTE.
- 2. With regard to Treasurer's Report Recommendation 2, TAKE NOTE.
- 3. With regard to Treasurer's Report Recommendation 3, TAKE NOTE.
- 4. With regard to Treasurer's Report Recommendation 4, That Guideline payments for the upcoming fiscal year be based on the number of communicant members reported at the end of the calendar year prior to the beginning of the Synodical fiscal year.
- 5. That the Treasurer's Report for March 31, 2012 be adopted.
- 6. That the request for reimbursement of non-refundable airfare from Elder Richard Fay \$603.20 be paid (check to be paid to Rev. Paul Treick).
- 7. That the Executive Committee engage in a Public Accountant to conduct an independent audit/review at the conclusion of the fiscal year and receive such report by October 15th following the end of the fiscal year.
- 8. That the Committee reviewed the Synod financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. [TAKE NOTE]
- 9. That reimbursement for travel to the 2012 Synod be paid in the total amount of \$32, 876.95.
- 10. That Guidelines for the 2012-2013 fiscal year be follows:...[see page
- 11. [motion from the floor] That the Treasurer be instructed that the \$1,500 designated for the Reformed Herald editor be understood to be an honorarium.

J. Excuses Committee

1. That the requests for excuse from all sessions of Synod be granted to Rev. Steve Altman; and to the following elder delegates: Richard Fay, Ron Kroells, Dale Harms, Jim Snyder, Ron J. Meidinger, LeRoy Neifer, Raymond Jung, Tim Rott, Charles Henson, John Savage, and Ted Schieffelin.

- 2. That the requests for excuse for part of the sessions of Synod be granted to the following delegates: Elder Fred Hoffmann and Rev Travis Grassmid.
- 3. That the excuses of Elder Dick DeGroot and Elder Steven Wilbur be granted.
- 4. [DEFEATED] That the Clerk of Synod send letters to the consistories of churches that had no elder representation at Synod encouraging them to be diligent in sending a delegate to the next Synod meeting.

K. Nominations Committee

- 1. That the names of the members of the E-book committee be added to Publications.
- 2. That the Permanent Synodical committees be as follows:

Archives: Pastor of Willows (E. Bristley), G. VanHolland, R. Wegis, H. Van Stedum, J.P. Mosely.

Board of Trustees: D. Clark, T. Rott, J. Snyder.

Christian Education: D. DeGroot, J. Jones, H. Hart, C.W. Powel (1yr); L. Johnson, J. Fluck, D. Weilersbacher, D. Kingswood (2yr); J. Blair, J. Grossmann, M. Reyna (3yr); Sub-Committee Sunday School Curriculum: K. Sorensen, P. Treick, H. Hart, N. Riffert, M. Reyna, E. Bristley.

Diaconal Ministries: K. Armbruster, S. Altman, S. Henry, J. West (1yr); T. Savage, B. Davis, P. Poe (2yr); M. McGee, J. Berg, D. Benz, K. Bowen, D. Clark (NP) P. Henderson (WC) (3yr); Editorial Advice: G. Horner, D. Roe (1yr); J. Merica, J. Connelly (2yr); D. Dawn, G. Van Holland (3yr);

Executive: J. Sawtelle, D. Fagrey, F. Walker, T. Griess, R. Gallimore, K. Bowen;

Foreign Ministries: D. Schnabel, R. Grossmann, D. Schlegel (1yr); M. Voytek, B. Borgwardt, T. Mayville (2yr); D. Roe, G. Baloy, W. Johnson, A. Haller (3yr). Sub Committee- Radio Liaisons: P. Treick, N. Riffert, D. Schnabel, B. Borgwardt:

Home Missions: J. Jones (WC), L. Goehring (NP) (1yr); H. Opp (CE), H. Hart (SC), M. Altman (CE), H. Bowen (WC) (2yr); R. Stetler (NP), D. Oliver (SC) (3yr);

Interchurch Relations: M. McGee, W. Brice, F. Hofmann, D. Helseth (1yr); R. Potter, J. Heerema, V. Pollema, R. Kron, (2yr) M. Koerner, E. VanHouten (3yr);

Ministerial Relief (MAF): M. Fisher, S. Gross, R. Goehring, R. Schnabel;

Publication And Promotion: R. Klynsma, W. Haddock, T. Grugget (1yr); J. Johnson, B Tjeerdma, S. Powell (2yr) J. Hall, G. Stewart, T. Grassmid, D. Roe, J. Fluck, D. Willersbacher; P. Henderson, G. Mancilas, E. Bristley, A. Gillman, R. Mettler (3yr); Subcommittee – Website: M. Powell, F. Walker, J. Drewes, R. DeJong.

L. Minutes of Synod Committee

The committee received the draft minutes from the stated clerk, made revisions and returned them to the clerk, who distributed the revised minutes to the body, and were approved.

XVI. Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

A motion from the floor carried that the Executive Committee consider changing the annual date of Synod and report back at next year's Synod.

A. Expression of Appreciation

"The delegates of the 266th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States wholeheartedly express our gratitude to God for Grace Reformed Church for its hosting this year's Synod meeting. We praise our covenant-making and covenant-keeping God for your labor of love, work of faith, and patience of hope, as you ministered to us pilgrims as we did the Lord's work removed from our own bivouac [a temporary encampment or shelter]. While Scripture commands us "to entertain strangers for some have entertained angels unawares," the corollary is that the hosts themselves may also be angelic. May our God richly bless your angelic hospitality and Christian love that you lavishly expressed to us!"

B. Adoption of the Stated Clerk's Report, and Executive Committee Report

Both these reports were adopted.

XVII. Adjournment

A. Minutes of Synod Report

The President declared the minutes approved as corrected.

B. Roll Call

The closing roll showed 47 ministers and 28 elders.

C. Motion to Adjourn

The 266th Synod of the RCUS adjourn was adjourned to the 267th Synod to begin on May 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, Mantitowoc, WI.

D. Closing Service

1. Devotions

Elder Roger Gallimore from Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD led in the closing devotion.

2. Apostles Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Doxology. The President led the assembly in the recitation of the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. He pronounced the Benediction and led in the singing of the Doxology.

The meeting of Synod was concluded at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 24 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. David P. Fagrey, Stated Clerk

APPENDIX

Standing Rules of Synod Index of positions and Resolutions Membership and Financial Statistics General Information

Standing Rules

[The Standing Rules of Synod were adopted in 1986 and amended in the bracketed years.]

- 1. The fiscal year of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. The synodical dues shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid not later than the thirtieth of June of the current fiscal year. [1991, 2010, 2011]
- 2. The statistics of the Classes for the calendar year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod two weeks before the session of Synod. [2011]
- 3. The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the session of Synod.
- 4. Any member may move to have the Standing Rules read at the second session of Synod. Passage of the motion shall require a second and a simple majority vote.
- 5. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel on behalf of Synod at forty-five cents (\$0.45) per mile per vehicle. Public transportation costs and rental car fees for the delegate shall be reimbursed at full cost. (Delegates are exhorted to exercise good stewardship in the use of Synod's funds and to not abuse this provision). [2005, 2008, 2011]
- 6. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Synod whose congregations have paid the synodical dues in full to the Synod Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Synod or have been properly excused by Synod. [2008, 2011]
- 7. The President of Synod shall receive four hundred fifty dollars (\$450), the Stated Clerk shall receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and the Treasurer one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the synodical year. An amount equal to 10 percent of the Stated Clerk's honorarium will be available for the Stated Clerk to use for secretarial help. The Editor of the Reformed Herald shall receive one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), the Book Depository Manager shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300), and the Subscription Manager shall receive five hundred dollars (\$500) for the fiscal year of Synod. [1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2007]
- 8. The monies sent to the Synod Treasurer shall be made out in check form to the REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.
- 9. The Stated Clerk of Synod shall prepare an abstract of the synodical minutes, including a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Synod, and shall publish the same. Each Stated Clerk of Classic shall prepare an abstract of classical minutes and shall send one copy to each minister, elder delegate and congregation of Synod. [1987, 1989, 1990]
- 10. The Synod shall have Permanent Committees as follows [and the Standing Nomination Committee each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees. [1989, 1992, 1996, 1999, 2007]

A. Archives
B. Board of Trustees
C. Christian Education
D. Home Missions
E. Diaconal Ministries
F. Interchurch Relations
G. Editorial Advice
H. Ministerial Relief
J. Publications & Promotions

- K. Foreign Ministries
- 11. The complete Synod statistics shall be duplicated by the Stated Clerk each year at the Synod's expense.
- 12. Nominations for all officers of Synod and the editor of the Reformed Herald 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. [1997]
- 13. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Synod shall be completed and submitted to the Consistories of all the churches and the Treasurer of Synod no later than April I". Reports may be emailed to consistories with known email addresses; otherwise, they must be mailed by regular mail. The only committee exempt from this requirement is Home Missions, which shall submit its report at least three weeks in advance of Synod. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Synod by the chairman of the committee involved by April 1'. All reports, overtures and correspondence must be submitted on 81/2" x 11" white paper, and all reports must be signed by a majority of the committee members. [1992, 2000, 2004]
- 14. The services of Synod shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circularized before Synod.
- 15. Students for the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States shall be urged by Synod to attend only such seminaries which are listed as institutions worthy of receiving benevolent monies from the Reformed Church in the United States. Only students who attend institutions so listed shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian ministry. Each student receiving student aid must affirm his commitment to pursuing ordination in the RCVS each year before receiving student aid. His affirmation must be signed, dated, witnessed and sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod, who will forward a copy of the same to the chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee of the student's Classis. [2001]
- 16. It shall be the practice of the Reformed Church in the United States to require each candidate for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. This internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least five years in the Reformed Church in the United States. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidate and Credentials Committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the Reformed Church in the United States. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed. [1995]
- 17. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod four weeks in advance of Synod shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Synod at any time. [1998, 2004, 2010]
- 18. The spring meeting of the Classes shall he held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod. [1987]
- 19. The annual session of Synod shall begin each year on the evening of the third Monday of May unless Ascension Day occurs in that week, in which case it shall begin on the evening of the second Monday in May, and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. The Order of the Day of Synod shall provide for a service of worship on Monday evening and for committee work on Tuesday evening. [1992, 1998]
- 20. The Executive Committee of Synod is charged with overseeing contact with groups expressing interest in the RCUS, and with developing materials that will facilitate uniform presentations to such groups. [1997, 2000]

Index of Positions and Resolutions

Entries are keyed by year and page of their respective Abstracts

BENEVOLENCE

Bethesda Sanatorium Assoc. - 57:8: 63:19: 72:21

Dordt College - 64:18

Juan Calvin Seminary - 91:161

Safe Harbor Lighthouse - 2000:51

Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) - 05:75

Guidelines for Benevolent and Diaconal Aid from Synod - 2008:76

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Catalogue of Christmas Programs - 88:11

Catechism for Young Children - 61:20; 63:18

Christian Education Committee - 73:18

City Seminary of Sacramento - 2001:65; 04:94

Covenant College - 2010:93

Dordt College Scholarship - 80:29

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary - 2000:24; 2001:65; 04:94

Heidelberg Theological Seminary - 2001:65; 03:72

RCUS Scholarship Fund - 95:73; 96:71

RCUS Seminary - 04:64; 05:58

Regarding the Support of Colleges - 09:64

Solicitations by Students for the Ministry - 2000:55

Student Aid Policy - 97:59; 2001:66

Student Financial Aid Agreement - 73:22; 74:9; 2001:66

Students for the Christian Ministry - 72:21

Sunday School Curriculum - 94:58: 97:22: 98:51, 04:94

Visitation of Approved Seminaries - 2001:65

Westminster Theological Seminary in California - 2000:52

Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia - 2001:65, 66; 04:94

CONSTITUTION

"Affirm" v. "Oath" in Article 140 - 91:157

"Broader" v. "Higher" Judicatory - 91:144; 92:77

"Church" in Article 31 - 87:69

Constitutional Amendment, Article 14 - 57:8

Constitutional Amendment, Article 28 -63:13; 64:11

Constitutional Amendment, Article 26 - 63:13; 64:11

Constitutional Amendment, Article 35 - 63:13; 64:11

Constitution, Article 81 (84), Family Visitation - 64:11; 65:11

Constitution, Article 81 (84), Explanation of answer other than "yes" - 66:16

Constitution, Article 5 - 69:22 (interpretation of "proper reasons")

Erasure as Discipline - 91:157

Exam for non-RCUS Licentiates and Ministers - 93:128

Excuses for Absent Elders - 98:53

Executive Committee, Article 91 (95) - 64:20; 65:12; 66:16

Local Constitutions to conform to RCVS Constitution - 62:14

Model Constitution for Congregations - Art. 21 - 03:63

Nominations from Floor at Congregational Meetings in Article 48 - 2001:67; 03:63

"Orthodox" in Article 74 (formerly Art. 76) - 70:26

Procedures for Synod Meetings - 2010:86

Revised Forms and Rules of Order - 87:Appendix

DIACONAL

Classes Encouraged to Have Committee - 97:56

Channels for Seeking Aid from Synod Diaconal Committee - 97:56

ECUMENICAL

Alliance of Reformed Churches - 92:89; 93:112, 120; 94:52

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church - 94:57; 96:69; 2000:51

Canadian Reformed Churches - 91:152; 92:89; 93:120; 94:57; 97:57; 98:50; 2001:52, 64

Evangelical Reformed Methodist Episcopal Church - 97:58

Fellowship with non-RCUS groups - 93:121

Fraternal Relations, Rules for Establishing - 92:88

Fraternal Relations, Not to be Established by Classes - 94:61

Goals of Interchurch Relations - 93:56, 120

Interchurch Relations Committee - 78:39: 83:80: 87:64

International Conference of Reformed Churches - 91:152; 92:88; 94:25; 98:50

Independent Presbyterian Church of Mexico - 91:16 1; 94:56; 99:7 1; 2000:51; 03:71

North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council - 75:34; 92:89; 93:120; 94:25, 57;96:28,70

Orthodox Presbyterian Church - 93:119, 122; 94:26, 57; 95:126; 96:69; 97:57

Relations with other Reformed Churches - 59:16; 60:20

Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated) - 89:27; 91:152

Reformed Confessing Church in Zaire - 94:57

Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly - 93:12 1; 94:26; 96:70

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America - 73:19; 75:32; 92:89; 94:57; 96:69, 70

Reports of Fraternal Delegates - 89:102

United Reformed Churches of North America - 98:49; 2001:64; 2006:81

FAMILY CONVENTION

Inviting non-RCUS Groups to Attend - 97:55

FINANCIAL

Debt Reduction - 94:59

Fiscal Year set from July 1 - June 30 - 2010:90

Loan and benevolence requests to be accompanied by budget - 99:74

Minister's Salaries - 59:16

Monthly contributions to Synod encouraged - 93:126

Property loan Repayments - 99:73

Reimbursement Form - 93:127 and App.

Reporting finances in statistical report - 04:95

Treasurer on Clerk's Mailing List - 94:59

Treasurer to Send Unaudited Report of Contributions by Feb. 01:67

Manual of Procedures for the Office of Treasurer - 2010:71

JUDICIAL

Adopting and Receiving Reports - 84:70 Associate Members - 85:96

Authoritative English Bible Translation - 89:87

Authoritative Heidelberg Catechism Translation - 86:74

Biennial vs. Delegated Meeting - 93:129, 130; 94:19, 62; 04:89

Borrowing Elders - 90:136

Candidates and Credentials Committee - 74:30

Candles at Weddings - 81:38

Closing Religious Services - 70:27

Credentials from Congregation to Synod - 89:87; 94:61

Deaf Reformed Classic - 2000:55

Different Language Classis - 2000:55

Dismission of Minister to Heterodox Denomination - 98:53

Elder Representation at Classis - 70:26

Election of Reformed Herald Editor - 97:69

Email documents and reports - 98:54; 05:81

Form for Baptizing Families - 91:157

Giving to Classis - 74:23; 79:33

Guideline for Giving - 73:21; 75:33

Labor Outside the Bounds of Classis - 78:36

Membership of Minister - 70:26

Membership of Minister in local congregation - 2006:85

Minister as Ruling Elder in non-RCVS Church - 75:32

Minister from Another Denomination - 87:70

Ministers Serving as Elders at Classis/Synod - 93:129

Name of a Congregation - 89:87; 92:94

Number of Elders in Line I of Statistics - 2001:68; 04:95

Objections to a Call - 82:42

Objections to Circular Actions - 80:31; 87:69

Overtures to Synod - 87:69

Pastor's Salary - 74:26; 92:92

Reception of New Congregation - 87:68

Recommendation of a New Minister - 87:68

Register of Licensures - 94:61

Serving on Committees - 83:80

Statistical Report, Definition of "Debt", etc.- 94:60; 04:95

Statistical Report, Definition of "Family" - 70:20

Subsidiary Standards - 83:80

Task of the Church - 83:81

Vows of Officers - 99:75

MINISTERIAL AID

Classis to Determine Need - 91:159

Consistories to Investigate Requests - 99:75

Investing Ministerial Aid Fund Monies in Mutual Funds 92:95

IRA, Churches Encouraged to Include in Pay Package - 92:95

Ministerial Aid Fund Committee - 89:88; 90:138; 98:54

Ministerial Aid Fund, Special Offering Encouraged - 94:63

Ministerial Relief Qualifications - 79:29

Ministerial Relief Questionnaire - 96:31, 75; 97:62

Minister's Pension - 60:20; 61:19; 62:7; 63:13; 64:10; 65:11; 66:6; 67:14; 05:67

MINUTES OF CLASSES

Destroying Documents - 90:139

Organization of Minutes - 95:136

Recording and Storing Minutes - 88:90; 93:131; 94:60, 63; 99:76

MISCELLANEOUS

250th Anniversary Celebration - 94:69; 95:70; 96:46

Anti-abortion Declaration - 72:29; 85:95

Autographs - 73:28

Days of Creation - 85:105; 86:83; see also 99:50

Day of Prayer for ministerial candidates and seminaries - 2010:99

Directory of Worship, Revision of-65:13; 66:10; 67:16; 69:16

Eureka Classis Included in Proper Name of Church - 65:20

Excuses for Congregations without Representation for Two Consecutive Years - 99:73

Excuses for Primarius and Secundus Elders - 98:53; 07:76; 10:98

Excuses from Synod meetings - 2008:82

History of the Eureka Classis - 59:16; 60:20

Homosexuality - 99:75

Hyperpreterism, Condemnation of - 97:61

Sunday School - 69:16

Trinity Hymnal - 63:12; 07:73

Use of Pictures - 93:128

MISSIONS

Annual Day of Prayer - 93:135; 95:138

Applying for Home Missions Support, Procedure - 94:64

Classic to Notify SHMC of New Works - 94:64

Commissioning a Foreign Missionary - 67:10; 68:12

Committee on Assessment - 89:90; 90:141

Constitution of Mission Churches - 93:135

Descending Scale, Abolished - 94:65

Diaconal Support for ERCZ Encouraged - 94:66

ERCZ Church Government - 88:30

Establishing and Funding New Works - 99:77

Evangelism - 90:81

Faith and Word Ministry - 97:65

Foreign Ministries Committee - 92:98: 93:134

Five Year Commitment of Mission Pastors - 94:65

Five Years' Experience for Mission Pastors - 94:64

Home Missions Committee - 87:73

Home Missions Fiscal Year the Same as Synod's - 94:65

Home Missions Manual - 2001:56

Home Missions Works - 87:75

Home Missions Procedure - 64:11; 65:11; 67:15

Missionary-at-Large - 78:24; 84:34

Missionary to Kenya - 03:76

Policy and Procedures for Foreign Missions - 81:17

Riverbank Resolution - 84:73

Second Year of the Salary Scale - 77:20

Supplementing Home Missionaries' Salary - 92:97

Support for Construction in Ruashi, Zaire, Encouraged 94:66

Three Year Budget for Mission Works - 91:162; 92:98

Zaire Administration Committee - 87:71; 92:98,99

Instructor in Mbale, Uganda - 2006:88

Mission Prospects in Philippines - 2006:90

PUBLICATIONS

Assistant Editor - 90:149; 92:106

Classes Urged to Coordinate Publishing with Synodical Committee 99:82

Copyright of Reformed Herald Articles - 99:81

eBooks Researched - 2001:61; 04:80; 05:57

Editorial Advisory Committee - 88:97

Graded Sunday School Curriculum- 04:35,93; 05:77

Heidelberg Catechism Workbook - 70:19

Marketing Formula - 81:24; 96:32, 81

Memorial Issues of the Reformed Herald - 97:68

Printing of Heidelberg Catechism - 85:105

Reformed Herald - 56:10, 18; 57:7; 67:17

Royalty Policy - 89:102

Semi-Anonymous Articles in the Reformed Herald prohibited - 61:20

SPECIAL STUDIES

Assoc. for the Advancement of Chm. Scholarship - 71:20

Authority of Position Papers - 2000:48

Bible Text used in the Catechism - 89:76

Biblical Principles of Church Unity - 2008:47

Canons of Dordt - 74:19

Canons of Dordt and Belgic Confession - 81:28; 82:30; 83:47; 84:45; 85:58; 93:121, 122; 94:17,61,62

Changes to the Modem Version of the Heidelberg Catechism - 2010:83

Charitable Organizations - 81:28

Church Incorporation - 91:109; 92:69

Confessional Conferences for Reformed Unity - 94:53

Creation in Six Literal Days - 99:50

Deaconesses - 81:31

Directory of Worship - 93:113; 94:18, 41, 62; 95:74; 96:56; 98:40

Dividing into Classes - 73:28; 85:64; 94:60

Doctrine of Scripture, WTS (Phila.) - 92:79; 95:75

Ecclesiastical Divorce and Remarriage - 90:121; 91:44

Elders on Permanent and Special Committees - 70:19

Federal Vision - 07:63

Group Health Insurance - 97:55

Guidelines for Receiving Congregations - 94:44; 95:77

Hymnal - 94:46; 95:81, 13 3; 04:63

Infant Communion - 77:23; 77:40

Investigate a RCUS Seminary - 85:68; 86:61; 04:64; 06:71

Justification - 04:82; 05:67

Knox Theological Seminary - 98:48

Lodge Membership - 64:12

Ministerial Requirements - 88:72

New Perspective on Paul 05:67

Nominations at Congregational Meetings - 2003:68

Ordination Vow - 80:28; 96:49

Preaching and Exhorting - 81:35

Procedures for Establishing an RCUS Seminary 05:58; 06:72; 08:79

RCUS Ecclesiology - 94:40; 95:117

Reformed Pastors on Independent Mission Boards - 94:48

Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS - 74:20

Revolving Fund for Church Buildings - 72:20; 73:20

"Right to Die" Issue - 93:115

Student Assistants to Ministers - 73:19; 77:26

Theonomy - 85:72; 87:41; 92:94

Voting in Congregational Meetings (Place of Women in the Church) - 64:11; 65:12

Voting in Congregational Meetings - 78:28

Women in the Military - 95:124; 96:60; see also 99:75

Membership and Financial Statistics 2011	No. of Elders	No. of Deacons	Comm. Memb. Last Yr.	Rec'd by Confirm- ation	Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by Prof.	Total Rec'd	Tot. Old/New Memb.	Lost by Dis- missal
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS									
Northwest, AR Grace	2	2	17	0	3	2	5	22	2
Garner, IA Peace	3	3	91	0	1	4	5	96	4
Minneapolis, MN Redeemer/ Eden	4	4	111	0	8	7	15	126	8
Eden Prairie, MN (w/Redeemer)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg, MN St Paul's	3	3	211	2	0	0	2	213	0
Waymart, PA (w/ Napoleon)	0	0	20	0	0	1	1	21	0
Kansas City, MO Northland	3	4	56	0	0	0	0	56	2
Manitowoc, WI Salem Ebenezer	4	3	196	1	0	2	3	199	1
Napoleon, OH Peace (incl. PA)	3	3	73	2	0	11	13	86	2
Subtotal	22	22	755	5	12	26	43	798	19
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS									
Aberdeen, SD First	3	3	108	5	0	2	7	115	5
Anamoose, ND Kassle	1	1	22	0	0	0	0	22	0
Ashley, ND Salem	3	3	44	0	0	0	0	44	0
Eureka Eureka	3	3	153	1	2	2	5	158	0
Herried, SD First	2	2	50	1	0	0	1	51	0
Hosmer, SD Hosmer	2	2	23	0	1	0	1	24	2

Minot, ND	Harvest	1	1	17	0	2	2	4	21	0
Pierre, SD	Норе	2	0	25	0	0	0	0	25	3
Watertown, SD	Covenant	2	0	19	2	0	0	2	21	2
Subtotal		19	15	461	9	5	6	20	481	12
SOUTH CENTRA	L CLASSIS									
Col Spr., CO	Trinity Cov.	4	2	45	0	2	0	2	47	1
Greeley, CO	Grace	3	3	57	0	3	1	4	61	1
Limon, CO	Providence	3	2	42	0	0	1	1	43	2
Lincoln, NE	St. John's	3	4	97	0	2	0	2	99	9
Menno, SD	Zion	4	4	156	5	2	0	7	163	5
Mitchell, SD	Grace	3	2	67	1	6	1	8	75	0
Rapid City, SD	Grace	2	3	68	2	9	0	11	79	2
Rock Spr., WY	Providence	3	2	38	0	2	1	3	45	6
Sherman, TX	Christ the King	0	0	10	0	2	0	2	12	0
Sioux Falls, SD	Trinity	5	5	146	6	1	7	14	160	1
Sutton, NE	Emmanuel	3	3	121	0	5	0	5	126	0
Sutton, NE	Hope	4	4	184	0	0	6	6	190	4
Vermillion, SD	Providence	2	1	22	0	0	0	0	22	0
Subtotal		39	35	1053	14	34	17	65	1122	31
WESTERN CLAS	SIS									
Anderson, CA	Faith	2	1	24	0	0	0	0	24	0
Bakersfield, CA	Grace	4	4	135	4	0	0	4	139	3
Chico, CA	Covenant	2	1	22	0	0	0	0	22	0
Grass Valley, CA C	ovenant w.Stkn	3	0	43	0	0	7	7	50	0
La Habra, CA Reho	both w/Shafter	1	1	29	1	3	0	4	33	2
Lancaster, CA	Grace	2	4	30	0	3	6	9	39	4
Lodi, CA	Providence	3	3	39	0	0	1	1	40	7
Modesto, CA	Trinity	4	3	67	0	0	0	0	67	3
Sacramento, CA C	ov. (Incl S.D.)	6	7	156	5	6	9	20	176	5
S. Diego, CA	Covenant w/Sac	1	1	16	2	1	3	6	22	0
Stockton, CA Calva	ry w/G.Valley	1	0	11	0	0	3	3	14	0
Shafter, CA Ebenez	zer/Incl La Hab	5	6	101	1	3	0	4	105	2
Willows, CA	Grace	2	3	33	0	0	0	0	33	1
Yuba City, CA	First	2	2	52	0	0	1	1	53	0
Subtotal		35	34	702	10	12	24	46	748	25
TOTALS THIS YI	EAR	115	106	2,971	38	63	73	174	3,149	87
TOTALS LAST Y	EAR	109	103	2,996	41	60	54	155	3,151	82
PERCENTAGE O	F CHANGE	6%	3%	-1%	-7%	5%	35%	12%	0%	6%

Lost by Erasure/ Discipline	Lost by Death	Tot. Lost	Comm Mem This Yr	Uncomfirm Mem	Tot. Baptized Mem	No. of Families	No. of child in SS	Adult Baptms	Infant Baptisms	Total Baptms	No. Rec'ng LdsSup	Times Lds Supper Served
1	0	3	19	1	20	12	6	0	1	1	16	6
0	1	5	91	20	111	53	15	0	3	3	81	4
0	0	8	118	78	196	56	64	0	8	8	118	6
0	0	0	22	10	32	10	22	0	0	0	0	0
0	4	4	209	27	236	128	20	0	0	0	185	9
0	0	0	21	8	29	11	0	0	1	1	21	10
3	0	5	51	22	73	21	21	0	1	1	60	6
28	1	30	169	24	193	102	11	0	1	1	173	4
0	0	2	84	25	109	43	13	0	1	1	84	16
32	6	57	741	197	938	415	150	0	15	15	717	51
2	5	12	103	17	120	54	14	0	2	2	100	4
0	1	1	21	1	22	12	0	0	0	0	19	4
2	1	3	41	1	42	27	0	0	0	0	32	3
0	2	2	156	7	163	91	5	0	0	0	118	4

6	1	7	44	11	55	24	11	0	1	1	24	3
1	0	3	21	0	21	15	0	0	0	0	13	4
0	0	0	21	12	33	11	10	0	2	2	20	12
2	0	5	20	3	23	13	7	0	0	0	18	5
0	0	2	19	2	21	8	1	0	0	0	19	6
13	10	35	446	54	500	255	48	0	5	5	363	45
3	0	4	43	23	67	22	34	0	2	0	38	11
2	0	3	58	27	85	32	9	0	2	2	54	5
0	0	2	41	21	62	18	17	0	3	3	41	12
5	0	14	85	37	122	46	31	0	1	1	78	6
1	2	8	155	20	175	97	14	0	0	0	151	4
0	0	0	75	19	94	33	13	0	2	2	69	5
1	0	3	76	41	117	38	25	0	7	7	67	6
1	0	7	38	20	58	19	9	0	4	4	37	12
0	0	0	12	1	13	6	1	0	0	0	12	3
4	0	5	151	69	220	74	72	0	3	3	134	6
2	3	5	121	23	144	73	19	0	0	0	113	6
0	2	6	184	50	234	87	36	1	2	3	135	6
0	0	0	22	13	35	12	7	0	0	0	20	4
19	7	57	1061	364	1426	557	287	1	26	25	949	86
0	1	1	23	2	25	15	0	0	0	0	26	12
2	3	8	131	48	179	58	36	0	2	2	75	4
3	0	3	19	6	25	9	0	0	0	0	21	12
0	0	0	50	20	70	21	17	0	4	4	50	14
2	0	4	29	20	49	17	19	0	0	0	29	6
1	0	5	34	16	50	20	12	0	0	0	28	4
7	1	15	25	6	31	15	0	0	1	1	34	9
0	1	4	63	17	80	29	21	0	2	2	62	4
9	0	14	162	57	219	68	51	0	8	8	162	12
1	0	1	21	1	22	11	1	0	0	0	21	12
0	0	0	14	4	18	8	3	0	0	0	14	2
2	0	4	101	24	125	55	19	0	0	0	101	4
0	0	1	32	15	47	15	8	0	2	2	32	12
1	0	1	52	14	66	27	12	0	3	3	52	12
25	6	56	692	225	917	332	176	0	22	22	643	99
89	29	205	2,940	840	3,781	1,559	661	1	68	67	2,672	281
85	35	202	2,958	834	3,792	1,577	662	5	59	64	2,673	279
5%	17%	1%	-1%	1%	0%	-1%	0%	-80%	15%	5%	0%	1%

Membership and Financial Statistics 2011		Receipts from Reg. Offerings	Receipts from Spec. Offerings	Receipts from other Sources	Total Receipts	Giving to Synod Guidelines	Giving to Classis Guidelines	Giving to Non- Guide- line Causes	Giving to Non- RCUS
COVENANT EAS	ST CLASSIS								
Northwest, AR	Grace	62,427	2,000	0	64,427	1,827	1,156	0	700
Garner, IA	Peace	117,352	25,079	8,245	150,676	17,326	5,839	2,443	5,218
Minneapolis, MN I	Redeem/Eden	279,728	12,821	67,997	360,546	39,247	28,750	17,161	3,206
Eden Prairie, MN (w/Redeemer)	22,417	0	80,697	103,114	0	0	0	509
Hamburg, MN	St Paul's	177,403	0	193,319	370,722	32,030	6,154	5,725	10,650
Waymart, PA (w/l	Vapoleon)	32,710	0	10,380	43,090	1,540	700	0	0
Kansas City, MO	Northland	174,766	9,678	0	184,444	15,377	5,871	3,110	9,960
Manitowoc, WI Sa	lem Ebenezer	168,495	3,131	11,387	183,013	38,375	13,720	2,125	3,581
Napoleon, OH Pe	ace (incl. PA)	163,323	2,206	11,127	176,656	20,224	7,239	1,230	5,897
Subtotal		1,143,494	54,915	292,075	1,490,484	164,406	68,729	31,794	39,212
NORTHERN PLA	AINS CLASSIS								
Aberdeen, SD	First	87,501	3,173	30,475	121,149	20,673	7,344	1,864	0
Anamoose, ND	Kassle	24,998	227	46	25,271	5,616	1,360	0	227
Ashley, ND	Salem	25,724	9,310	5,720	40,754	6,210	2,698	350	0

						10.571	10.101		
Eureka	Eureka	93,955	2,685	13,752	110,392	12,674	10,404	1,114	1,571
Herried, SD	First	42,731	7,795	5,106	55,632	5,603	3,400	0	652
Hosmer, SD	Hosmer	4,555	10,500	4,480	19,535	684	1,100	0	0
Minot, ND	Harvest	48,587	5,793	43	54,423	2,003	1,300	0	5,008
Pierre, SD	Hope	33,378	1,155	0	34,533	1,000	1,700	194	0
Watertown, SD	Covenant	40,012	0	12,896	52,908	2,094	1,292	0	0
Subtotal		401,441	40,638	72,518	514,597	56,557	30,598	3,522	7,458
SOUTH CENTRA			0.050	0.000	00.454		2.440		000
Col Spr., CO	Trinity Cov.	62,162	9,079	8,930	80,171	3,334	3,118	0	898
Greeley, CO	Grace	107,630	5,946	827	114,403	10,138	4,043	1,311	5,034
Limon, CO	Providence	71,567	2,984	5,250	79,801	12,053	4,206	2,052	600
Lincoln, NE	St. John's	69,776	8,379	26,646	104,801	17,957	7,002	400	600
Menno, SD	Zion	115,176	28,376	2,886	146,438	41,201	13,541	10,399	0
Mitchell, SD	Grace	102,986	35,198	6,008	144,192	13,251	4,982	1,442	14,457
Rapid City, SD	Grace	172,734	0	0	172,734	5,612	892	15,100	9,600
Rock Spr., WY	Providence	92,815	400	0	93,215	6,949	3,176	400	0
	hrist the King	22,778	0	19,500	42,278	2,000	750	660	910
Sioux Falls, SD	Trinity	248,354	10,652	17,598	276,608	27,274	10,179	4,038	4,728
Sutton, NE	Emmanuel	95,900	21,091	0	116,991	35,152	1,713	1,600	1,061
Sutton, NE	Hope	176,362	16,699	1,242	194,303	51,044	13,432	0	18,328
Vermillion, SD	Providence	62,451	3,100	1,714	67,265	4,191	1,590	1,000	0
Subtotal		1,400,691	141,904	90,601	1,633,200	230,156	68,624	38,402	56,216
WESTERN CLA									
Anderson, CA	Faith	46,742	0	12,000	58,742	480	336	0	0
Bakersfield, CA	Grace	222,976	10,976	25,770	259,722	18,141	14,190	6,331	6,330
Chico, CA	Covenant	31,817	2,247	36,079	70,143	967	914	205	0
Grass Valley, CA	Cov./Stkn)	148,981	10,960	527	160,468	3,135	1,620	0	10,445
La Habra, CA Reh	ob w/Shafter	89,393	0	67,783	157,176	5,365	3,190	324	3,000
Lancaster, CA	Grace	81,609	9,339	14,119	105,067	2,040	3,960	0	632
Lodi, CA	Providence	49,928	1,853	347	52,128	498	481	0	1,193
Modesto, CA	Trinity	104,015	5,454	0	110,469	10,979	8,236	895	0
*Sacramento, CA	Cov./SD)	246,870	77,690	127,733	452,293	28,107	17,160	9,551	10,116
S. Diego, CA Covenant w/Sac		35,159	0	10,434	45,593	2,911	1,760	1,320	420
Stockton,CA Calv	ary w.G.Valley	32,250	0	527	32,777	2,437	1,210	0	3,250
Shafter, CA Ebene	zer/La Hab	259,873	5,600	54,806	320,279	18,685	11,110	3,200	2,267
Willows, CA	Grace	96,550	945	1,275	98,770	2,420	3,520	0	16,956
Yuba City, CA	First	102,599	9,279	0	111,878	7,924	5,720	1,978	0
Subtotal		1,391,960	134,343	272,656	1,799,959	93,376	67,247	22,160	47,939
TOTALS THIS Y	EAR	4,337,586	371,800	727,850	5,438,240	544,495	235,198	95,878	150,825
TOTALS LAST YEAR		4,208,608	331,160	560,602	5,090,398	532,831	229,990	73,401	108,589
PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE		3%	12%	30%	7%	2%	2%	31%	39%

*Includes City Seminary

Other Expenses	Total Expenses	Value of Church Building	Value of e of Church Parsonage	Improve- ments on church property	Present Property Debts	Debt Payments Past Year	to Synod per Com. Mbr.	to Classis per Com. Mbr.	to rcus per Com Mbr
44,233	47,916	NA	NA	0	0	0	107	68	175
133,380	164,206	750,000	125,000	33,547	0	0	190	64	281
254,988	343,352	850,000	170,000	23,490	316,476	31,709	354	259	767
72,175	72,684	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0
166,239	220,798	850,000	200,000	13,400	0	0	152	29	208
37,970	40,210	NA	NA	0	0	0	77	35	112
154,903	189,221	1,500,000	NA	0	188,000	54,000	275	105	435
104,118	161,919	800,000	200,000	6,635	0	0	196	70	277
139,469	174,059	275,000	NA	13,689	0	0	277	99	393
997,330	1,301,471	5,025,000	695,000	90,761	504,476	85,709	1,551	694	2,536
93,174	123,055	350,000	N/A	5,380	28,568	17,860	191	68	277
20,913	28,116	0	0	0	0	0	255	62	317
29,534	38,792	24,900	38,000	0	0	0	141	61	210
83,755	109,518	250,000	100,000	0	0	0	83	68	158

46,265	55,920	40,000	42,000	22,161	0	0	112	68	180
16,388	18,172	25,000	0	0	0	0	30	48	78
38,136	46,447	0	260,000	0	0	0	118	76	194
36,709	39,603	110,000	90,000	7,890	0	0	40	68	116
44,332	47,718	0	150,000	0	0	0	110	68	178
409,206	507,341	799,900	680,000	35,431	28,568	17,860	120	65	190
54,770	62,120	0	0	0	0	0	74	69	143
102,161	117,653	192,000	158,000	13,562	0	0	178	71	272
67,893	86,804	40,000	0	0	0	0	287	100	436
91,769	117,728	110,000	99,100	25,674	0	0	185	72	261
92,937	158,078	500,000	75,000	25,169	0	0	266	87	420
112,104	146,238	275,000	155,225	0	29,283	8,266	198	74	294
106,074	137,278	515,000	185,000	0	0	0	83	13	340
76,746	87,271	170,000	incl.	0	7,708	3,547	204	93	298
22,437	26,757	0	0	0	0	0	200	75	341
155,273	201,492	1,032,191	0	5,450	217,765	59,868	193	72	265
97,751	137,277	522,000	157,000	5,332	0	0	291	14	318
107,874	190,678	800,000	80,000	3,254	0	0	277	73	350
64,253	71,034	305,000	125,000	7,257	0	0	191	72	308
1,152,042	1,540,408	4,461,191	1,034,325	85,698	254,756	71,681	219	74	337
57,212	58,028	400,000	N/A	0	0	0	20	14	34
162,198	207,190	600,000	250,000	10,000	0	0	134	105	286
71,980	74,066	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	44	42	95
103,194	118,229	533,000	N/A	100	21,384	21,512	73	38	111
143,697	155,576	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	185	110	306
87,021	93,653	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	68	132	154
53,231	55,913	268,066	N/A	0	0	0	10	10	20
86,181	106,291	350,000	N/A	3,000	14,000	12,000	163	123	286
491,420	556,354	344,549	N/A	27,360	0	0	180	110	352
38,952	45,363	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	182	110	375
22,949	29,846	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	222	110	332
258,561	293,823	1,000,000	250,000	0	0	0	185	110	327
79,308	102,204	550,000	N/A	4,523	0	0	73	107	180
100,492	116,114	260,000	145,000	16,159	0	20,471	152	110	300
1,550,798	1,781,865	4,305,615	645,000	61,142	35,384	53,983	100	82	195
4,109,376	5,131,085	14,591,706	3,054,325	273,032	823,184	229,233	498	229	814
3,923,612	4,884,443	14,748,576	3,174,325	756,338	1,052,201	242,312	160	74	262
5%	5%	-1%	-4%	-64%	-22%	-5%	211%	209%	211%

GENERAL INFORMATION

Internal Revenue Service Number for the RCUS 51-0202914

Publications of the RCUS

RCUS Book Depository
RCUS BOOKS c/o Elder Dave McPherson
E-Mail only: mcpinc@gwtc.net

The Reformed Herald (Monthly magazine) Rev. Paul Treick (Editor) (209) 551-2407 4005 Masterpiece Dr., Modesto, CA 95357 E-Mail: TriWheeler@aol.com Rev. Frank Walker (Subscriptions) (916) 320-0548 6121 Pine Vista Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 E-Mail: DrFHW@comcast.net

Churches in Fraternal Relationship

Canadian and American Reformed Churches
Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated)
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
United Reformed Churches in North America
Member: North American Reformed and Presbyterian Council
Member: International Conference of Reformed Churches

Colleges Listed as Worthy of Support

Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA

Seminaries Listed as Worthy of Support

Mid-America Reformed Seminary, Dyer, IN
New Geneva Theological Seminary, Colorado Springs, CO
Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Vermillion, SD
Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Greenville, NC
City Seminary of Sacramento, Sacramento, CA

Benevolences Listed as Worthy of Support

Diaconal committee of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Faith and Word Ministries
Hope Haven, Rock Valley, IA
Radio Administration Committee (French)
Middle East Reformed Fellowship

Reformed Church in the U.S. Website

www.rcus.org Reformed Herald Online - reformedherald.org