

**2019  
Abstract  
of the Minutes**



of the

**COVENANT EAST CLASSIS**

Reformed Church in the United States

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Session**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>**

Hosted by

Peace Reformed Church

Napoleon, OH

## INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

### **OFFICERS of Covenant East Classis**

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| President      | Rev. Kyle Sorensen        |
| Vice President | Rev. Christopher Campbell |
| Stated Clerk   | Rev. Steve Carr           |
| Treasurer      | Elder Jim Drewes          |

### **CLASSIS GUIDLINE FOR GIVING**

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund                        | \$10.00     |
| Missions Fund                       | \$56.00     |
| Benevolence Fund                    | \$0         |
| Student Aid Fund                    | \$0         |
| <b>TOTAL per communicant member</b> | <b>66\$</b> |

### **CLASSIS TREASURER**

Mr. Jim Drewes  
(419) 592-0795  
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jimdkhd@bright.net

### **PERMANENT CLASSIS COMMITTEES**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Executive:</b>                  | <u>Sorensen</u> , Carr, Wiersma   |
| <b>Candidates and Credentials:</b> | <u>Marinelli</u> , M. Larson, S. Altman, DeBoer, Hanko                          |
| <b>Church Camp:</b>                | <u>J. Sawtelle</u> , Schnabel, Mittelstaedt, Lau                                |
| <b>Interchurch Relations:</b>      | <u>Muether</u> , Fluck, Potter, Hermann, Rothwell                               |
| <b>Missions:</b>                   | <u>Kron</u> , Schnabel, Campbell, M. Altman, Luquette, Liesveld                 |
| <b>Publications:</b>               | No committee was formed   |
| <b>Special Study Committee:</b>    | <u>Campbell</u> , J. Sawtelle, Fluck, Carr, Luquette, Hanko                     |
| <b>Special Advisory Committee:</b> | <u>Schnabel</u> , Muether, S. Altman, Rothwell, Liesveld, Luquette, J. Sawtelle |

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## 2019 Directory for Covenant East Classis

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### *Northwest ARKANSAS*

Grace RCUS, 72756

3320 N. Second Street, Rogers, AR ..... (479) 372-1108

Pastor: Steven Carr (Wife: Crystal)

Service Times: Worship: 10:00 am.

E-mail: [pastor@gracereformednwa.org](mailto:pastor@gracereformednwa.org) Web site: [www.gracereformednwa.org](http://www.gracereformednwa.org)

### *Garner, IOWA*

Peace RCUS, 50438

1907 200th Street, Garner, IA

(3 miles south of Garner on US 69) ..... (641) 923-3060

Pastor: Rev. Mark Larson (Wife: Cynthia)

Service Times: Worship: 10:30 am; S.S. 9:30 am.

E-mail: [peacereformedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:peacereformedchurch@gmail.com) Web site:

[www.peacereformedchurch.org](http://www.peacereformedchurch.org)

### *Oskaloosa, IA*

Immanuel Reformed Fellowship, 52577

212 North I St. Oskaloosa, IA ..... (641) 295-9264

Pastor: Rev. Charles Muether (Wife: Kristie)

Service Times: Worship: 10:30 am

Email: [chuckmuether@thekirkside.com](mailto:chuckmuether@thekirkside.com)

### *Eden Prairie, MINNESOTA*

Emmaus Road RCUS, 55438

Meeting at Eden Lake Elementary School,

12000 Anderson Lakes Pkwy, Eden Prairie, MN ..... (612) 751-2096

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kron (Wife: Colleen)

Mail: 8701 Woodcliff Road, Bloomington, MN 55438

Service Times: Worship: 10:30 am. S.S. 9:10 am (Sept. through May)

E-mail: [pastor@emmausroadrcus.org](mailto:pastor@emmausroadrcus.org) Web site: [www.emmausroadrcus.org](http://www.emmausroadrcus.org)

### *Hamburg, MINNESOTA*

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 55339

15480 County Road 31 ..... (952) 467-3878

Pastor: Rev. Dan Schnabel (Wife: Marie)

Service Times: Worship: 9:30 am; S.S. 8:30 am

E-mail: [Stpaulsrcus@gmail.com](mailto:Stpaulsrcus@gmail.com) Web site: [www.stpaulsrcus.org](http://www.stpaulsrcus.org)

### *Minneapolis, MINNESOTA*

Redeemer RCUS, 55427

1300 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley, MN ..... (763) 417-9851

Pastors: Rev. Tim Marinelli (Wife: Renita); Rev. James Sawtelle (Wife: Thelma)

Mail: 3101 Virginia Ave., N. Crystal, MN 55427  
Service times: Worship 10:15 am & 5:00 pm; S.S. 9:00 am (Sept.- May)  
E-mail: [debtor2mercy.eph2@gmail.com](mailto:debtor2mercy.eph2@gmail.com); [sawtellejim@gmail.com](mailto:sawtellejim@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.redeemerrcus.org](http://www.redeemerrcus.org)

*Kansas City, MISSOURI*

Northland RCUS, 64164  
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Pastor: Christopher Campbell (Wife: Megan)  
Service Times: Worship: 9:30 am & 5:00 pm.  
E-mail: [pastor@northlandreformed.org](mailto:pastor@northlandreformed.org) Web site: [www.northlandreformed.org](http://www.northlandreformed.org)

*Napoleon, OHIO*

Peace RCUS, 43545  
638 Huddle Road ..... (419) 599-3106  
Pastor: Rev. Steven Altman (Wife: Bianca)  
Service Times: Worship: 10:00 am; S.S. 9:00 am  
Web site: [www.peacercus.com](http://www.peacercus.com)

*Gettysburg, PENNSYLVANIA*

Covenant RCUS, 17325  
1495 Biglerville Road ..... (717) 398-2603  
Pastor: Rev. Jay Fluck (Wife: Loretta)  
Mail: 330 Montclair Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325  
Service Times: Worship: 11:00 am; S.S. 10:00 am; Wed. Study /prayer 7:00 pm  
E-mail: [jefluck@msn.com](mailto:jefluck@msn.com) Web site: [www.rcusgettysburg.org](http://www.rcusgettysburg.org)

*Waymart, PENNSYLVANIA*

Heritage RCUS, 18472  
200 Belmont Turnpike  
(lower level of Waymart Presbyterian Church) ..... (570) 785-4012  
Pastor: Rev. Ron Potter (Wife: Sharon)  
Mail: 136 Grand Ave. Forest City, PA 18421  
Service Times: Worship: 10:30 am; Bible Study 9:30 am; Wed. Study/prayer 7:00 pm  
E-mail: [hrc@nep.net](mailto:hrc@nep.net) Web site: [www.heritagercus.org](http://www.heritagercus.org)

*Manitowoc, WISCONSIN*

Salem Ebenezer RCUS, 54220  
6524 Hwy C..... (920) 726-4940  
Pastor: Rev. Kyle Sorensen (Wife: Donielle)  
Service Times: Worship 10:00 am; S.S. 8:45 am  
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**Abstract of the Minutes**  
of the  
**Covenant East Classis**  
**Special Classis Meeting**  
May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**Services and Organization**

The President, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The President led devotions by reading from Matt. 16:16-19, commenting on the text, and praying. The Stated Clerk, Rev. Steve Carr, called the opening roll showing 10 ministers and 8 elders present, a quorum. The President appointed Rev. Steve Altman as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

**Fraternal Delegates and Visitors**

Revs. J. P. Mosley and Robert Grossmann and Elders Michael Grimes and Randy Schroeder were welcomed. Rev. Chuck Muether was also welcomed.

**Examination of Candidate**

**Examination of Rev. Chuck Muether for Licensure**

The Classis voted to reduce the time limit of the Constitutional exam to 10 minutes.

Campbell examined in Apologetics. Fluck examined in Prolegomena. J. Sawtelle examined in Scripture. Potter examined in Theology Proper. Schnabel examined in Christology. Luquette examined in Anthropology. Luquette examined in Soteriology. Kron examined in Eschatology. Schnabel examined in Ecclesiology. Potter examined in the Three Forms of Unity. Potter examined in the Constitution. Potter examined in Practice. Fluck examined in RCUS History. The President gave time for questions from the floor, after which the exam was arrested.

The Classis entered executive session. After discussion regarding Rev. Muether's examination, theology paper, and sermon, the Classis voted that the examination as a whole be declared satisfactory.

After arising from executive session, the President announced to Rev. Muether that his licensure examination as a whole was declared satisfactory.

Classis voted to receive Rev. Muether into the Covenant East Classis from the Presbytery of the Midwest (OPC) and place him on the ministerial roll.

Classis voted to approve the call to Rev. Muether from Covenant RCUS, Gettysburg, PA.

Fluck prayed for Rev. Muether.

**Excuses**

Classis voted to excuse Rev. Mark Larson and Elders Bobby Duncan, Ben Nelson, and Mark DeBoer from all sessions.

**Reading of the Minutes, Roll Call, Devotions, and Adjournment**

The Stated Clerk read the minutes which were declared approved as read and corrected by the President. The roll was taken showing 10 ministers and 8 elders present, a quorum. The President closed the meeting by leading the Classis in reciting the Lord’s Prayer, pronouncing a benediction, and leading in the Doxology.

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**Spring Meeting**

**CLERK’S NOTE:**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the night before the Spring Classis Meeting convened, the delegates of Classis gathered in a closed-door session between 7.00 pm and 8:30 pm for a discussion led by Rev. Ron Potter on Rosaria Butterfield’s book, *The Gospel Comes with a House-Key*.

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**Abstract of the Minutes  
of the Covenant East Classis**  
of the Reformed Church in the United States  
34<sup>th</sup> Annual Session—March 5-6, 2018  
Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH

**Services**

The President, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, called the 34<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Covenant East Classis to order at 8:01 am. The President led in devotions by preaching from Joshua 24:12-18; 19-28 “From Survival to Revival,” singing Hymn #552, and praying.

On Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm, classis delegates, along with members and guests from Peace Reformed Church gathered for a scheduled worship service. Rev. Muether conducted the service and Rev. Winthrop Groseclose preached a sermon on Deut. 25:11-12 titled “Lex Talionis.”

On Wednesday Morning Rev. Marinelli led the body in devotions by preaching from 1 Corinthians 15:58, leading in singing from Hymn #281, and praying.

Closing devotions were led by Elder Mike Altman from Peace RCUS, who read from Psalm 86 and prayed.

In addition, each session of Classis was opened and closed with prayer and at appropriate times during the meeting and after each parochial report was read. Meals were conducted with a Bible reading, appropriate comments, and prayer.

**Organization**

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States was called to order at 8:01 am by President Rev. Kyle Sorensen. Following opening devotions, the Stated Clerk, Rev. Steve Carr, called the roll of Classis which showed 11 ministers and 9 elders present, a quorum. The bar of the house was defined as the right side of the sanctuary. Elders Mike Altman and Dustin Rothwell were appointed as tellers. The reading of the standing rules was suspended by two-thirds vote.

The following delegates were elected to serve as officers of Classis for the year: Rev. Kyle Sorensen as President, Rev. Christopher Campbell as Vice President, Rev. Steve Carr as Stated Clerk, and Elder Jim Drewes as Treasurer.

The President appointed Rev. Charles Muether as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

## **Fraternal Delegates and Visitors**

Sawtelle welcomed Rev. Dylan Rowland from the Ohio Presbytery of the OPC. Rev. Rowland was seated in the bar of the house and given the privileges of the floor. Fluck welcomed Rev. Winthrop Groseclose.

## **Reception of New Ministers and New Churches**

No new ministers or new churches were received.

## **Standing Committees**

The President announced the following standing committees (Chairmen are underlined):

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Benevolence; Minutes of Synod:</i>      | <u>Fluck</u> , Lau, DeBoer                     |
| <i>Examination and Licensure; Excuses:</i> | <u>Sawtelle</u> , Muether, Luquette            |
| <i>Finances:</i>                           | <u>Schnabel</u> , Liesveld, Rothwell, (Drewes) |
| <i>Judicial:</i>                           | <u>Potter</u> , Marinelli, S. Altman, Hanko    |
| <i>Minutes of Classis; Services:</i>       | <u>M. Altman</u> , Hermann, Sorensen           |
| <i>Missions; Nominations:</i>              | <u>Campbell</u> , Kron, Mittelstaedt           |

## **Presentation of Overtures, Reports, and Communications**

The items were referred and distributed to the Standing Committees as determined by the Executive Committee, which informed the Classis in writing of these referrals before the meeting (See Appendix #1). The actions taken on these documents are found in the section of this abstract that contains the Standing Committee reports.

## **Presentation of Permanent Committee Reports**

### **A. Executive Committee on Their Minutes**

Esteemed Brothers,

This report comes with one recommendation.

Since the Spring Classis meeting of 2017, your committee fulfilled its responsibilities as per Article 91 of the RCUS Constitution. Those duties included the following:

We planned the special meeting held just before Synod on May 21, 2018 to examine Rev. Chuck Muether for licensure.

We received a request from RCUS minister Rev. Richard Stetler of the Western Classis, who is now living within our geographical bounds. He is currently without a call. He asked if any church in our Classis would call him now that he lives in Iowa so that he could retain his ministerial credentials while actively engaged in an

evangelistic ministry in his area. After referring the matter to the Credentials Committee and corresponding with others from outside the Classis, he was advised to seek retirement from the ministry from his current classis, the Western Classis. His wife, Heidi, is disabled. We do need to pray for the Stetlers and keep in touch should the Lord open doors for the ministry in the future.

Per Standing Rule #14, Emmaus Road RCUS announced the following changes to their constitution at a congregational meeting on August 22, 2018:

Article 11, which formerly read:

"Every male communicant member over twenty-one (21) years of age who is in good and regular standing, and who has signed this Constitution is entitled to vote at all elections for pastor(s) and officers, and any question submitted to the congregation for action. All elections shall be by secret ballot, unless otherwise agreed upon by the congregation."

was replaced in its entirety by the following:

"Every communicant member over twenty-one (21) years of age who is in good and regular standing, and who has signed this Constitution is entitled to vote at all elections for pastor(s) and officers, and any question submitted to the congregation for action. All elections shall be by secret ballot, unless otherwise agreed upon by the congregation."

No other churches reported any changes.

In addition to the above, your committee sent out the following two executive circulars, both of which were approved.

### **Executive Circular Volume 33, Number 1, June 12, 2018**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Executive Committee brings before you for your consideration the following item of business.

#### **1. Installation of Rev. Chuck Muether.**

Recommendation: "The committee to install Rev. Chuck Muether as pastor at Covenant Reformed Church of Gettysburg, PA, consist of the elders of that congregation as well as Revs. Jay Fluck and Ron Potter."

Note: the date of this installation will be passed along to the churches of classis to allow for anyone else to attend who may be able to, as well as to allow for mutual prayer for Rev. Muether's ministry and the congregation.

## 2. Covenant Youth Camp

Please remember to print off the camp brochures for your members and get the number of those who are attending to the Camp Committee as soon as possible for planning purposes.

### Executive Circular Volume 33, Number 2, January 23, 2019

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Executive Committee brings before you for your consideration the following item of business for the Spring 2019 Classis Meeting.

#### 1. Host, time, and place of Spring Classis Meeting.

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Classis Meeting will be hosted by Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH, **March 5-6, 2019**. The Meeting will convene at 8:00 am on the morning of March 5<sup>th</sup> and continue through March 6<sup>th</sup> to the completion of business. There will be a licensure examination (see below) which may likely require meeting well into the afternoon on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup>. Please make travel plans accordingly.

#### 2. Pre-Classis Fellowship and Discussion.

The Executive Committee has once again called for an organized discussion to run from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on Monday evening **March 4, 2019**. Rev. Ron Potter will lead the discussion based on the book *The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World* by Rosaria Butterfield. All pastors and elders are strongly encouraged to purchase and read this book in preparation for the discussion.

Note: The book can be purchased in hardcopy on Amazon for \$16.99 and in Kindle edition for \$9.99.

#### 3. Forms for Classis Meeting.

The forms necessary for this Classis Meeting are included with this Circular. Please send the Clerk the membership statics, financial statistics, and certification of delegate Elders as soon as possible. The Statistics Form is an editable form to facilitate using a computer to fill it out. If you hand write the statistics, please write clearly and legibly. The deadline for the reception of these forms is **February 18, 2019** (standing rules # 3-4). In addition to these forms please include any necrologies and/or overtures. Overtures received by **February 11<sup>th</sup>**, will be circulated with their supporting grounds so the delegates and their Consistories may consider them before the Classis meets (standing rule #15).

Parochial reports need to be forwarded to the President two weeks before the Classis meeting (standing rule #3).



If your congregation is overseeing a mission congregation please see the declaration on statistical reporting that was approved by Classis (2008 Abstract, 31).

Permanent and Special Committee reports need to be mailed to Consistories by **February 11, 2019** (standing rule #15).

#### **4. Licensure Examination.**

Rev. Winthrop Groseclose from St. John's United Evangelical Protestant Church in Rochester, PA has been examined by our Candidates and Credentials Committee for orthodoxy and intent, and they have requested that our Classis conduct a Licensure exam for him that he might enter the RCUS.

#### **5. Travel and Accommodations.**

Rev. Steve Altman has blocked off rooms for us at the Comfort Inn and Suites at 590 Bonaparte Dr., Napoleon, OH 43545. The phone number is (419) 592-5599. Please make reservations ASAP.

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**Recommendation:** That the matter relating to the change to the Constitution of Emmaus Road RCUS be referred to the Standing Judicial Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kyle Sorensen, Rev. Steve Carr, Elder John Larson

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Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

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### **B. Candidates and Credentials Committee**

Fathers and Brethren,

With the election of last year, your committee consists of Dr. Mark Larson, Rev. Tim Marinelli, Elder Mark DeBoer and Rev. Jay Fluck.

I. Reports the Approval of Synod to our action receiving Rev. Charles Muether and his installation as Associate Pastor of Covenant reformed Church of Gettysburg on August 4, 2018. The service was conducted by Rev. Jay Fluck. Rev. Ron Potter gave the charge to the congregation and Dr. Maynard Koerner gave the charge to the Pastor. The Consistory of Covenant Church participated as well.

II. The committee has been in contact with Rev. Winthrop Whitman-Smith Groseclose and examined him in Orthodoxy and Intent on January 17, 2019, pursuant to his application to transfer his credentials to the RCUS Covenant east Classis. The committee was represented by Dr. Larson, Elder DeBoer, Rev. Fluck and augmented by Rev. Potter. The meeting was held online (Zoom). The exam was sustained on a 4-0 vote.

III. The committee recommends that Rev. Groseclose be examined pursuant to his request to transfer his ministerial credentials to the Classis.

IV. The committee recommends that Rev. Groseclose preach the sermon at the worship service Tuesday evening.

V. The committee has a copy of his transcript from Reformed Theological Seminary, Copies of some of his publications and has examined the Confirmation manual on the Heidelberg Catechism which he prepared and uses in the confirmation program of the congregation he serves, letters of recommendation, and a communication commending him to our care from the Consistory of the German United Evangelical Protestant St. John's Church (known in the community as Burry's Church) which he serves as Pastor. The congregation is independent. Rev. Groseclose was ordained initially by the PCA but was released to St. John's church which now holds his ordination.

VI. The committee proposes the following procedure;

A. Introduction of Rev. Groseclose

B. presentation of communications of transfer and recommendation.

C. Examinations: 10 minutes each locus with questions from the floor after each exam and a period of questions from the floor at the conclusion of the exams.

1. English Bible: Rev. Schnabel

2. Hermeneutics: Rev. Campbell

3. Prolegomena: Rev. Muether

4. Theology: Rev. Potter

5. Christology: Rev. Sawtelle

6. Anthropology: Elder Luquette

7. Soteriology: Elder Luquette

8. Apologetics: Rev. Muether

9. Historical Philosophy: Rev. Fluck

10. Eschatology: Rev. Fluck

11. Ecclesiology: Rev. Schnabel

12. Standards: Rev. Potter

13. Constitution: Rev. Carr

14. Practica: Rev. Potter

15. RCUS History: Rev. Fluck

D. Motion to arrest the exam.

E. Move to executive session.

F. Consideration of his sermon and the exam as a whole.

G. Rise from executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Mark Larson, Rev. Rev. Tim Marinelli, Elder Mark DeBoer, Rev. Jay Fluck

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Classis Action: The report was referred by the Executive Committee to the Standing Candidates and Credentials Committee.

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### **C. Interchurch Relations Committee**

Dear Brothers,

This past year your committee was rather active. In July the chairman called a meeting and asked the committee to do a “re-boot” of sorts in which we would recommit ourselves to fraternal visits. At the previous Spring Classis meeting the committee requested classis add a member to our committee to help us. The result was a stellar four fraternal visitations in the fall of 2018. Visits were made to the Atlantic Presbytery of the RPCNA, Classis Eastern US URCNA, Classis Niagara CanRC and Presbytery of the Midwest OPC. Special thanks to Ron Potter for doing three of these visits.

Letters of invitation to attend our Spring meeting, including pre-classis meeting, were sent to all the relevant classes/presbyteries in our territory. Classis Central US URCNA declined our invitation determining that it would be better for Eastern Classis to attend as we are meeting in its geographical region.

It is our sincere hope and desire that the committee will build on our progress with diligent pursuit of interaction with our fraternal churches on the classis/presbytery level. We have already a delegate committed to attend the spring Presbytery of the Midwest OPC meeting in March. We would also ask that classis not reduce our numbers for the coming year. We would also ask that pastors/elders of classis be willing to respond to requests to attend assemblies that may be meeting in locations relatively close to you.

It would be especially desirable to send a delegate to Classis Central URCNA and the Midwest Presbytery RPCNA this year. Your committee would like to see visits to those assemblies a priority this year. We would also like to explore the idea of visitations to URCNA classis meetings in Ontario, presbytery meetings in the Gettysburg PA area and possibly Philadelphia.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James Sawtelle, Rev. Steve Altman, Rev. Ron Potter, Elder Richard Kroells,  
Elder Marc Wiersma

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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### **D. Missions Committee**

Brothers,

Members of your Classis Home Missions committee made visits to Redeemer Reformed Church in Minnesota, Grace Reformed Church in Arkansas, and to Reformation Church in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania this past year. We also have a scheduled visit to Oskaloosa, Iowa on February 25. There will be a supplement to this report related to the visit to Oskaloosa.

## **Update on the RCUS Mission work, Grace Reformed Church in Rogers, Arkansas**

On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Christopher Campbell and Elder Jay Liesveld travelled to Rogers, Arkansas as representatives of the Classis Home Missions Committee. Rev. Campbell led the morning worship service and preached a sermon from 1 Samuel 19:8-17 entitled, "A Divine Escape Plan."

After the service, in lieu of the normally scheduled Sunday School time, we had a meeting with the members of Grace Reformed Church. We informed them of our purpose in visiting, that we come as representatives of Classis to be an advocate for them with Classis and, in doing so, to communicate any successes the congregation has had along with any potential dangers the congregation might be facing.

There were approximately 12 individuals in attendance at this meeting. They expressed joy in the fact that there is a reformed witness in northwest Arkansas of which they were able to be a part. They also expressed great confidence in the preaching and pastoral work of Rev. Steve Carr and thankfulness to God for sending him to labor on their behalf.

The only issue that was brought to our attention was the potential lack of men to serve as elders in the church, an issue that had already been raised by Rev. Carr in our pre-visit phone call. The cause seemed to be that the men who are willing to serve are not yet qualified and the men who are qualified do not believe they are able, or are not willing, to serve. We met with Elder Bobby Duncan after the congregational meeting and he informed us of his desire, at that time, to step away from serving as elder. Since our meeting we have learned that he is willing to serve another term. Another potential elder candidate is Bruce Wilkerson. However, he does not feel he has the temperament to serve in the office. Rev. Carr is working with two younger men in the church who desire to grow in the knowledge of Christ and who he believes will become strong elders in the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Christopher Campbell, Elder Jay Liesveld

## **Redeemer RCUS, Golden Valley, MN**

On January 22, 2019 two members of the classis home missions committee visited with the consistory of Redeemer RCUS. Those attending were Rev. Dan Schnabel (Hamburg) and Rev. Ryan Kron (Eden Prairie). From Redeemer, Rev. Jim Sawtelle and Rev. Tim Marinelli were in attendance, along with 6 other members of their consistory.

Rev. Kron opened with devotions from Ephesians 3:7-21. We then began to talk about the ministry of Redeemer through this past year. We give thanks to God that they have grown in their addition of new office bearers over the years, which has been encouraging. They met their budget for 2018. Redeemer hosted synod in 2018 and had an elevator project last year as well. Also, there is a study that is

taking place among the Chinese at the University of Minnesota. They also had a number of baptisms this past year and completed membership classes. Currently they have two families that are visiting regularly. They use a spreadsheet to track those who visit. They noted that often (not always) visitors come with a personal connection to the church.

We then talked about the labor of both Rev. Sawtelle and Rev. Marinelli. Rev. Marinelli has been laboring here since the summer of 2015. Both pastors are well supported by the congregation. They have a rotating plan for preaching (morning and evening) and doing the sacraments. This past year Rev. Marinelli did a series in Galatians, Esther, and the law of God. Rev. Sawtelle did a series in the gospel of Luke. They divide up the labor of counseling and pastoral visitation.

Rev. Sawtelle teaches the ladies Bible study, membership classes, and adult Sunday School. Rev. Marinelli teaches a congregational Bible study (which includes some people participating through a google hangout), leads a prayer meeting, and teaches catechism. Rev. Marinelli also led an outreach class in 2018. This outreach class in the fall was attended by some members of Redeemer and various visitors. The class went through the gospel of Mark and they used some portions of *Christianity Explored*. They also had a hospitality focus this past year in the church where they offered the congregation the opportunity to sign-up to invite visitors to their home.

Next, we talked to them about their goals. Their consistory met in January 2019 to assess their goals, progress, and initiatives. They also reviewed background information regarding mission work efforts and progress, including previously adopted mission and church objectives, numerical growth and financial information over the prior 5 years, and financial projections. They want to be wise and stewardly in the funds they are receiving (they are not asking for a reduction in giving from classis this year). They see the Twin Cities as a good place to be active in church planting, but the growth is not happening right now. Over the past 3-5 years close to 50 people have been added to Redeemer. At the same time, others have moved away.

Historically, the RCUS has been very patient over the years in their mission works. They don't believe that their original 3-5-year plan from 2015 will be attainable at this point and they are considering different options with having further discussions on this in 2019. In God's providence, they have been providentially hindered.

They are hopeful and think it is still possible for them to grow to 75 families and then begin a mission work. However, the timeline might be longer than they originally thought in terms of the hopes of beginning a new mission work. Their question is "how much longer can they sustain what they are doing?" They plan to take 2019 to talk about this question and how they assess things moving forward.

They asked the question if they should be doing anything differently. They want to reach the un-reached (not just the reached). Some ideas include that they have thought of how to help sponsor a divorce care group. We talked briefly about other

ways of being engaged in the community such as helping at a food shelf, connecting with a pro-life group, etc.

We also talked about finding ways to be active in social media to help get the word out. We also encouraged them to do continue to do some advertising and to get a presence known in the community. They are going to try to come up with strategies of reaching their goal.

We concluded with a time of prayer. We prayed for Redeemer to work through these things in an orderly and peaceable manner. We also prayed for avenues for them to engage the culture and to develop personal relationships.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Ryan Kron, Rev. Daniel Schnabel

### **Visit Report for Blue Bell Church Planning & Mission Work - February 6, 2019**

Blue Bell is a mission work of Heritage Reformed Church, Waymart, PA. Blue Bell is located in the Valley Forge area outside Philadelphia.

Statistics and location from the web:

Blue Bell, PA has a population of 6,403 people with a median age of 49.5 and a median household income of \$130,164. Between 2015 and 2016 the population of Blue Bell, PA grew from 5,985 to 6,403, a 6.98% increase and its median household income grew from \$120,602 to \$130,164, a 7.93% increase.

It should be noted that Blue Bell is part of the greater Philly area and is surrounded by several other interconnected towns such as Norristown and King of Prussia

### **Financial Picture**

Blue Bell has a rent-free church building to meet. They maintain the building but don't have to pay any rent. They also have a large parking area that is maintained by neighboring office complexes. Their expense is limited to advertising, utilities, salary, maintenance, travel, insurance, and miscellaneous.

In 2016 the following was approved, and the same funding continued into 2018.

1. That Classis provide Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA with \$867 per month, a total of \$10,400 in mission funds for the Classical year beginning March 2016, to be used for remuneration for sermons preached in the morning services at Blue Bell. [This would be \$200 per sermon.]

In addition, in 2018 the Classis provided Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA with \$3,000 for outreach through Reformation Church Blue Bell if needed. [Same as previous year.] These funds were not used.

### **History of Reformation Church, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania**

Official beginning of RCUS ministry was in Aug 2012 when Rev Potter and Fluck began leading afternoon services after the Canadian Reformed Church disassociated with the congregation and released care to the RCUS as current

members had an interest in joining our denomination. By August of 2013 the service of Rev. Potter and Rev. Fluck was regular, supplying 3 or 4 afternoon services each month, the majority by Rev. Potter.

### **Current Meetings Report of Mission Committee Visit on February 6, 2019**

Meeting was held at the home of Elder Hanko of Rev Ron Potter (Heritage RCUS of Waymart), and Elder Ken Hanko with the Missions Committee's representatives Elders Dennis Luquette and David Oberhaus.

We discussed the overall status of the church and the future goals. At this point there are no written goals beyond seeing this work grow to be self-sustaining. Currently there are 12 members made up of 5 families and 2 singles.

Discussion also included the financial viability of the work, issues with members (many of which have been resolved), and the overall desire to continue the work. More specifically it was noted that Elder Hanko is not only dependent on funds from the Missions Committee and a portion the church funds but is also needing to draw from personal investments/savings to cover his cost of living. Elder Hanko is presently working one day a week doing remodeling work.

A second meeting followed at the Blue Bell Church building with the aforementioned Pastor and Elders and the congregation absent one member. During the second meeting with the congregation Elder Dennis Luquette opened with reading Romans 1:8-17, and prayer. We discussed evangelism including mailings, special conferences, brochures, and interaction with friends and acquaintances in the area.

One member expressed difficulty in communicating with people regarding the current makeup of the church and practice. The size of the church is 12 members in a building suited for about 100 people. The singing in worship has been limited to the Psalms often in unfamiliar tunes to most people. That is not to judge this practice as bad, but to point out this member saw it as something that needed to be explained along with an invitation to come.

The congregation was asked if there was anything Mission Committee could do to help the Blue Bell work. There is a desire for getting more support from other RCUS churches by way of visits, youth group visits/ministry, interaction with other mission churches, prayer for the Blue Bell work, continued financial support, and as may be offered. Also, the idea of having a Seminary student internship or short-term support role was discussed. We concluded with a time of prayer led by Rev Potter.

### **Other Observations & Comments**

The regular attendance is the same as past two years (twelve people total) with irregular attendance by visitors. Nonetheless the group remains strongly committed to the work of the church. Visitors that do come are invited to a home for lunch after the service. There are two services every Sunday; one in the morning and one late afternoon. Most members are attending both services. There

are also six or more prayer meetings per year. Last year this was done every other month.

In 2018 Rev Fluck had been preaching once a month in the afternoon. Due to his workload he had to discontinue this ministry at Blue Bell. Rev Ron Potter minister occasionally and administers the Lord's Supper once a month. As mentioned in last year's report they put together posters and business cards. They posted a realtor's type box outside the door of the church to hold Three Forms of Unity and various other pamphlets. Some consideration is being given to a mailing campaign, but this has not materialized. The use of the internet is primarily restricted to posting on Sermon Audio and the church's own website.

### **Visit Report for Blue Bell Church Planning & Mission Work - February 6, 2019**

Elder Hanko and David Sawyer continue to work on versifying the psalms and putting them to metrical tunes. After our meeting David showed Dennis a number of these, which are written in musical score. All 150 psalms are now available for singing in the congregation, though the book is undergoing further revisions.

### **Oversight**

From 2018 report Elder Hanko said that the relationship is very good with the overseeing consistory at Heritage. Elder Hanko meets once a month with the Spiritual Council at Heritage and gives them a report, and Rev. Potter contacts Elder Hanko each week. Elder Hanko and Rev. Potter do pastoral visitation together.

### **Conclusion:**

In summary, this mission work should be continued. There are some challenges like current size of congregation, and practices of worship that many visitors may find different (practices adopted from the CanRef). Elder Hanko has decided not to pursue licensure with the RCUS even though he has served as an ordained minister in the past in the Protestant Reformed Church. This does not impact moving forward and he does not have objection to another man being added in a ministerial capacity in the future. The congregation is interested in continuing as a church, Waymart is willing to continue to oversee the work, and Gettysburg also desires to see the work established. The Blue Bell Church is in a unique area that is highly populated, and with a strong economy. The church is meeting in a historic building with no rent. Waymart is directly overseeing the work. The Word of God is faithfully preached, the biblical practice of worship and sacraments continues, and the dependencies on the triune God for all their provisions, forgiveness, and care are present.

Submitted by,  
Elders David Oberhaus and Dennis Luquette

### **Recommendations:**

1. That Covenant East Classis of the RCUS be overturned to provide Reformation Church, Blue Bell, PA, mission funding of \$866.67 per month, a total of \$10,400 for the Classis fiscal year 2019-2020 beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>,



2019, for remuneration for sermons preached in the morning and afternoon services of Reformation Church, Blue Bell, PA. (Note: this is the same as last year's request: 2018 Abstract p. 49, Recommendation #1.)

2. That Classis provide Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA with \$3,000 for outreach through Reformation Church Blue Bell if needed. [Same as last year.]
3. That Classis support Redeemer RCUS of Golden Valley church building efforts with up to \$1,250 a month, a total of \$15,000, in 2019-2020, as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area. (This is the same as last year)
4. That Classis overture Synod to provide Redeemer RCUS church building efforts with up to \$1,250 a month, a total of \$15,000, in 2019-2020 as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area. (This is the same as last year)
6. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$330.75 per month, a total of \$3,969 in the fiscal year beginning July 2019. [This is the same as last year].

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ryan Kron, Rev. Dan Schnabel, Rev. Christopher Campbell, Elder Jay Liesveld, Elder Dennis Luquette, Elder Dave Oberhaus

Addendum to the Missions Committee Report:

### **Immanuel Reformed Fellowship, Oskaloosa, Iowa**

On Monday, February 25, 2019 two members of the classis home missions committee visited with Rev. Chuck Muether via zoom video conference. Those attending were Rev. Dan Schnabel (Hamburg) and Rev. Ryan Kron (Eden Prairie). We were planning to drive to Oskaloosa, but because many roads (including the interstate) were closed due to a recent blizzard, and because the group met for worship for the first time on February 24, 2019 we decided to delay our in-person visit until later in 2019.

Rev. Kron opened with reading Matthew 28:18-20 and prayer. In this past year, Rev. Muether transitioned from the OPC to the RCUS. He was installed in the summer of 2019 at the RCUS in Gettysburg, PA. Rev. Muether has attended most of the Gettysburg consistory meetings. They have had a healthy and transparent relationship and the oversight has been good. Gettysburg will be sending some men soon to visit Oskaloosa.

The population of Oskaloosa is 12,000, and there are also some interested people in nearby Ottumwa and Pella. They are meeting for worship in a church building that is currently used by Iowa State University. The rent is \$700 a month. It is very accessible and in “an ideal location.” They had hoped to start worship services earlier, but in the Lord’s timing they met for the first time on February 24. There were about twenty in attendance. As they meet for worship they are using the Red Trinity Hymnal and the ESV. They will also have a regular Bible study on Wednesday night or Sunday night and they desire to have a prayer-meeting.

Rev. Muether is very involved in reaching out to the community and the institutions in Oskaloosa. He “gets out of his study a lot” and does a lot of visiting in coffeehouses, hospitals, the county seat, county jail, etc. He will also be doing some work as a chaplain. As a mission work they want to offer to the community a family-oriented church and they desire to reach the unreached and those who are not in Reformed churches.

They are involved in social media with a church facebook page and they are working on launching a website. They are also trying out live streaming of the worship service on facebook live. Another possibility is to record the services and post them on you-tube. There are some shut-ins who have shown an interest in the work. Rev. Muether’s father-in-law died recently, and his mother-in-law (and others) could benefit from a live broadcast.

We also talked about their goals. Rev. Muether’s thoughts are that he envisions them to grow and particularize as a church. Among the group there is one man that could be a potential elder. There are others who have attended the exploratory meetings who have previously served as office bearers in other Reformed churches. There are not any over-bearing personalities among the group. Rev. Muether doesn’t want to define the mission work by what they are “against” but by what they are “for.” Rev. Muether wants them not to be “legalistic” but to be “a confessionally Reformed (Three Forms of Unity) church.”

Covenant Reformed in Gettysburg is helping with the cost of the rent for Immanuel in Oskaloosa. At this point, Gettysburg might want to get some help from classis for this cost. Otherwise there is no support as everything else Rev. Muether is underwriting himself as he is tent-making. Rev. Muether is working part-time as advancement director for Heidelberg Seminary. He also does some media work and helps to raise support for Heidelberg. Rev. Muether also has a business named Kirkside Media, where they do work for churches around the country. His wife also works full-time. Rev. Muether wonders if there is the possibility of financial assistance from classis in the future.

Rev. Muether is also part of the church planters in the RCUS who meet every other Friday with Eric Merz. Rev. Muether sends out regular updates on the work of the church via email and he is thankful for the prayers of the churches of classis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ryan Kron, Rev. Daniel Schnabel

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Classis Action: The report and its addendum were referred by the Executive Committee to the Standing Missions Committee.

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### **E. Publications Committee**

No committee was formed.

### **F. Church Camp Committee**

Campbell gave an oral report.

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Classis Action: The oral report was adopted.

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## **Reports of Officers**

### **A. Presidents Report on the State of the Church**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

I am once again humbled by the Lord God's amazing grace to each of His churches in our Covenant East Classis. The parochial reports reveal that God's people are being fed the gospel, are being confirmed in that gospel through the sacraments, and are walking as disciples of Christ through the accountability of church discipline. The "grace" factor is seen in that none of us deserve God to pour out His love to us in this way. The "grace" factor is further seen in that what we have done with our feeble efforts to preach this amazing gospel and to live as disciples is still full of weakness, and even sometimes inconsistencies and fears for the future. Yet, here we are, a year later. How can this still be? By the Lord's amazing grace. Let us remember that as we go about the business of both this meeting and the daily activity of Christian ministry in our congregations.

Part of my constitutional duty as president of the Executive Committee is to (along with the Committee) "serve as advisors in the amicable adjustment of disputes in the administration of the affairs of the congregations" (Art. 91). Rather than wait for potential troubles to get severe, I have tried to keep in touch with all the pastors in the classis and pray for each congregation through the course of the year. Sometimes, I have been contacted by pastors seeking advice on concerns in their ministry or congregation. I feel blessed to be able to talk with others and hope that I have been able to point them in a direction which is wise, Biblical, and pastoral for the long-term health of the congregation. I do encourage more of this interaction among pastors and elders throughout the year, not only with someone on the executive committee, but especially with the fellow members of this classis.

Part of the work of classis is done through our permanent committees. The Interchurch Relations Committee has gone through a "reboot" and is making more visits to more fraternal churches. This is commendable. Please continue to keep

this work in your prayers and let us give careful attention and prayer to the reports we receive on God's work among these other corners of His kingdom.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee is really much more than the "examination arm" of a classis. They are on the frontiers of inquiries from prospective new RCUS pastors. This year they have continued that work and we look forward to the examination of Rev. Winthrop Groseclose. We are also delighted to hear of the first request to take a student-under-care of our classis in several years. May God continue to raise up laborers for the harvest.

Neither the Church Camp Committee nor the Special Committee on the Biblical teaching about the office of believer in the church have submitted a report to this meeting. Both committees have done work this year within the classis, and we need these reports so we can be encouraged by the knowledge of that work as well as supervise that work as it continues into the next year.

The Missions Committee was quite active this year with several visitation committees. Each of them mentions that the local missionaries and members have faith and hope in God's will, yet the blessing in numbers and finances is not what was hoped for. I don't know how best to do this, but it seems to me that our missionaries and mission works could benefit from some encouragement and open conversation from more of us in the Classis. Rather than leaving this duty to the visiting committee alone, and then all we do at a full Classis meeting is vote on continuing funding, is there a way we can provide more pastoral oversight? Perhaps the Standing Committee on Missions will meet with missionaries during the meeting or come up with a suggestion for this Classis to consider.

The main work of our classis is done through the local congregations. The Parochial Reports reveal the clear focus on the 3 marks of the Christian Church. They also reveal some unique suffering and challenges. Several ministers have faced health difficulty in their immediate families. In a few cases, there has been remarkable healing, for which we give God thanks. Another kind of suffering is that which is not only personal but corporate. Several parochial reports mention an especially difficult way to lose a congregation member. I am not speaking of discipline, which is always difficult. Rather, it is the death of a member who was a foundational member to the congregation, whose faith and legacy affected the rest of the congregation for good. Those losses continue to be felt, not only because of the personal loss to the family, but because of the loss of a fellow elder or leader who helped shoulder the load of pastoral ministry. In such cases, dear brothers, let us not forget to listen and believe the very words we have preached in the hospital room and at the funerals. God's grace is truly sufficient for us, since we belong to Him body and soul, in life and in death.

From West to East, a selective summary of the parochial reports follows.

In Kansas City, Rev. Campbell is busy with all the aspects of ordained ministry. One particular opportunity he has had is in the area of counseling. To better serve

the saints in this way, he is beginning continued education to receive certification in biblical counseling.

In Northwest Arkansas, Rev. Carr describes forward thinking methods in the sort of lessons he is teaching and in the plans for the youth. There remains a great need for men who are both qualified and willing to serve as officers, and attempts have been made to address this, with limited success thus far.

In Hamburg, Rev. Schnabel reports around 20 regular visitors in recent weeks, with several families potentially joining soon. This is a real blessing, especially for a rural church. People are flocking in because they desire a faithful Reformed congregation. Hamburg also celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year with a special service and various events.

In Garner, Rev. Larson reports a focus on deepening the maturity of the saints. Along with an annual Reformation Conference, he ministers to those in the local nursing home and also to the youth and their guests for their 3 weeklong Vacation Bible School.

In Eden Prairie, Rev. Kron describes an active life of fellowship within the congregation. Their Wednesday “Family Night” sounds quite interesting. One important challenge on the horizon is the search for their own building. A committee is in place, and we should keep this a matter of prayer.

In Minneapolis, both pastors report the joy which the congregation experienced in all their labors to host their first ever Synod meeting this past year. Rev. Marinelli led a new evangelism effort of outreach Bible studies during the Fall. Rev. Sawtelle reached a milestone of 25 years of ordained ministry this year. He mentions a desire to improve in communicating the gospel to the people of the congregation. “I understand now more than ever the value of simply spending time with all ages of the congregation.”

In Manitowoc, Rev. Sorensen reports that the congregation remains faithful to the Lord, yet sufferings, sickness, and death have threatened to take away the joy of the Christian faith at times. The Lord has sent several visitors and several new members are preparing to join, which is a cause for joy. Also, the elders have committed to a renewed visitation program of members, along with the pastor, to focus on encouragement of each household on their journey as disciples of Christ.

In Napoleon, Rev. Altman reports a problem with church growth. It is happening! New members are coming, and new babies are being baptized. New bricks are also coming, Lord willing, as the congregation takes steps to plan out a building addition to accommodate a growth in Sunday School and Bible Study as well as fellowship and kitchen area needs.

In Gettysburg, Rev. Fluck reports continued church growth and the blessing of a new rental facility. Although there have been adjustments “we are still ‘a city set on a hill’ even though the ‘hill’ is in a different place.” The West Wing of this

Gettysburg mission has just started developing out in Oskaloosa, Iowa. With the addition of Rev. Chuck Muether to the church for the purpose of planting a mission work in Iowa, the Consistory of Gettysburg is stretching the long arm of supervision. Rev. Muether reports that it is a loving and constructive supervision, and the mission is in its infancy since they have only had worship services for a few weeks. A great deal of groundwork and preparation was set down in advance, and there is promise for the future.

In Waymart, Rev. Potter reports continued service to the church in denominational work. He also continues to actively oversee (along with their two elders) the church's Blue Bell mission in greater Philadelphia. He does report as well a bit of set back with the loss of a few members. The congregation, however, is going through this trial with their hopes set firmly in the Providence of God.

In last year's President's Report, I referenced some overtures which were before us as showing a desire for a maturity and clarity in our understanding of the proper role of men and women in the life of the Church. I said, "We should praise God for the call to deeper unity through debate, Biblical discussion, and service together...It is right for us as a classis to want to be even more unified in our faith and practice. Let us be patient and trusting of one another in that process."

However, this year we hear of a congregation which changed its voting privileges to include women as well as men. Others may be considering this action, too. As we consider as a classis what sort of action to take, if any, let us remember a few ground rules for our debate as Christians. We are to be patient and trusting of one another, especially when we may disagree with one another. We are to have and use a process which is fitting and Biblical and consistent with our vows and covenant as members of a denomination.

In my feeble attempts to give some guidance to the classis, I ask us all to consider what is the connection between the following two Scriptures. Compare...

Psalms 133:1—"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

and 1 Corinthians 14:40—"Let all things be done decently and in order."

The blessing of unity among the brethren, the reality of the experience of Biblical peace is seen and expressed as we follow through with the Biblical order and process that God provides in His Word.

The question of how men and women are to serve God in His Church has always been a challenging one for Christians. Our problems are not new. The issue has intensified for Christians within our culture. The issue has also intensified very quickly within our Classis and denomination. We must guard our unity and peace jealously. We must remember the love and mutual trust we have built up with one another over recent years, especially since we began our practice of yearly roundtable discussions and more open discussions of parochial reports and the

elders' answers to the Article 81 questions. I remind the members of classis of the concerns expressed over twenty years ago by the president of Synod at that time Rev. Vernon Pollema. In 1995, a Constitutional amendment passed by 2/3 vote at Synod to define the voting membership of a congregation as only male heads of household, 21 years or older. The next year, 2 of the 4 classes had ratified it (including Covenant East Classis), but an amendment required a third classis. With the amendment failing, another matter became evident, Pollema noted. What is the authority of any of our position papers, since the RCUS has a position "that stipulates this very thing (See Abstract 78:28). Are such position papers merely pastoral advice or do they have binding authority? Clarification is needed."

The clarification which the Synod president requested was provided and agreed upon a few years later. (See the year 2000 Abstract of Synod 48-50). Interestingly, part of that clarification states that "a position paper is intended to be used to enlighten and instruct the church on matters not spelled out in the ordinances of the church, with the goal of promoting unity within the church." Are we using our positions this way, as a means to promote unity? If we find we cannot, what must we do so that we can continue to preserve unity?

The same year Rev. Pollema advised the search for clarification, he also warned of what could happen as we debate and conduct ourselves on the way to clarification. "Because of the split vote on the voting issue, labels and reputations concerning ministers and Classes are bound to arise, i.e., conservative, liberal, etc. I dislike bringing this up, but I must. We have seen the same thing happen in other denominations, including those orthodox and reformed. That is another reason why I believe that strict subscription vows and inter-classis examinations will help us to avoid such labels and divisions." (Abstract 1996:40).

I certainly hope we are not labeling one another in the Classis or denomination. Let us be alert to the devil's scheme to find any and every opportunity to blunt the good work of the gospel which we are doing in our congregations, our classis, and our denomination. Let us also remember that the peace of the local congregation is directly connected to the peace we have with the entire church. May we pray to the Prince of Peace to guide us and preserve us with His "amazing grace." Without it, we will be torn apart. With it, we shall know how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Kyle A. Sorensen

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Classis Action: The report was to be spread in the minutes, printed in the Abstract and submitted to the *Reformed Herald*.

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## **B. Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes**

Esteemed Brethren,

I thank you all for your kindness as I have received encouragement throughout the year of my work as Stated Clerk. I have enjoyed the work more now that I feel I have gotten into a certain groove. And the thanks I have received throughout the year has made it even more enjoyable.

As your Stated Clerk, I have formatted, indexed, and placed in permanent binders all of the Minutes of the Special Video Conference Meeting of September 12, 2017 and Spring 2018 Meeting of the Covenant East Classis, along with all of the reports, overtures, and other relevant information. These Minutes were submitted to the Standing Minutes of Classes Committee at Synod and their corrections were noted and the Minutes corrected accordingly. The President's Report on the State of the Church was spread in the Minutes, printed in the 2018 Abstract, and sent to the *Reformed Herald*.

I prepared the 2018 Abstract, which included the Special Video Conference Meeting of September 12, 2017. I distributed the printed copies to all the churches of Synod in compliance with standing rule #10 either by mail (Covenant East Classis and several retired or without charge ministers) or by physical distribution at Synod to the remaining Classes and retired ministers.

I sent the required forms, communications, and overtures to the Synod Clerk on time. All Classis records are kept in hard copy and in electronic form and backed up on a second computer and on a memory stick.

I kept and formatted the minutes of the Special Meeting on May 21, 2018. These minutes will be recorded in the Abstract of this 2019 Spring Meeting. I sent a letter to the Synod Clerk informing him of our reception of Rev. Chuck Muether. I also sent a Letter of Reception for Rev. Muether, as per the request of Classis, to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC. I sent out two circular letters and participated in the work of the Executive Committee as detailed in that report.

For this meeting, I have organized all the overtures, communications, and reports, and placed them all in their proper folders for distribution at Classis. I received two necrologies for this year.

Thank you for your encouragement, support, and confidence. I hope and pray that I can be of blessing to you all through this work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Steven J. Carr (Stated Clerk)

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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## **C. Report of the Executive Committee of Synod**

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 272nd Synod, there are some items that the Classes should take note of:

1. Classes should take note of the corrections that should be made to their minutes as adopted by the Synod (272nd Abstract, pp. 88-89).
2. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the calendar year.
3. Standing rules #2 and #3 which respectively read: “The statistics of the Classes for the calendar year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod May 1”; “The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk May 1.”
4. That the Stated Clerk of each Classis regularly provide the webmaster, in electronic form, an updated roll of ministers, elders, and churches following their spring Classis meeting.
5. Standing Ministerial Aid recommendation 8 (2013 Abstract page 76), that pursuant to Article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, Classes shall not consider a pastoral call letter as “adequate support” to the temporal needs of the called pastor, unless retirement is addressed and funded in the terms of the call.
6. That treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with Synod standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
7. Please remember to send necrologies to me in time for Synod.
8. The Classes are reminded that the 273rd Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 20-23, 2019, at Northland Reformed Church, Kansas City, MO.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fagrey, Stated Clerk, RCUS

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Classis Action: The report was referred by the Executive Committee to the Standing Minutes of Synod Committee.

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## D. Treasurer's Report

### YTD Report

### Expense July 1, 2018-February 28, 2019

#### General Fund Expense

|                         |    |                    |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------|
| Classis Meeting         |    | 0                  |
| Clerk/Printing Supplies | \$ | -                  |
| Travel                  | \$ | 2,128.00           |
| Honorarium              | \$ | -                  |
| Postage/Phone/Checks    | \$ | -                  |
| Total                   |    | <b>\$ 2,128.00</b> |

#### Mission Fund Expenses

|                           |    |                     |
|---------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Grace Reformed Church     | \$ | 2,649.00            |
| Reformed Church Blue Bell | \$ | 6,932.00            |
| Redeemer Reformed Church  | \$ | 10,000.00           |
| Travel                    | \$ | -                   |
| Total                     |    | <b>\$ 19,581.00</b> |

#### **Benevolence**

|       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| Total | \$ | - |
|-------|----|---|

#### **Student Aid**

|       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| Total | \$ | - |
|-------|----|---|

**Expense Total** **\$ 21,709.00**

**Total Classis Income vs Expense July 2018-February 2019** **\$ 24,609.00**  
**\$ 21,709.00**

### YTD Report

### Balance July 1, 2018-February 28, 2019

**Beginning Balance July 1, 2019** **\$ 65,041.16**

|                     |                             |    |                     |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----|---------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b> | <b>Balance July 1, 2018</b> | \$ | 14,834.17           |
| Receipts            |                             | \$ | 4,429.62            |
| Expenses            |                             | \$ | 2,128.00            |
| Balance 02/28/2019  |                             |    | <b>\$ 17,135.79</b> |

|                        |                            |    |                     |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----|---------------------|
| <b>**Missions Fund</b> | <b>Balance July 1 2018</b> | \$ | 36,676.00           |
| Receipts               |                            | \$ | 18,702.84           |
| Expenses               |                            | \$ | 19,581.00           |
| Balance 02/28/2019     |                            |    | <b>\$ 35,798.55</b> |

|                         |                             |    |                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----|--------------------|
| <b>Benevolence Fund</b> | <b>Balance July 1, 2018</b> | \$ | 3,132.04           |
| Receipts                |                             | \$ | 1,476.54           |
| Expenses                |                             | \$ | -                  |
| Balance 02/28/2019      |                             |    | <b>\$ 4,608.58</b> |

|                         |                             |    |                      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----|----------------------|
| <b>Student Aid Fund</b> | <b>Balance July 1, 2018</b> | \$ | 10,398.24            |
| Receipts                |                             | \$ | -                    |
| Balance 02/28/2019      |                             |    | <b>\$ 10, 398.24</b> |

**End Balance 02/28/2019      \$ 67,941.16**

\*\*Set Aside \$29,144.30-\$5,000 = \$24,144.30  
available for future CEC Mission works

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Drewes, Treasurer

### **Parochial Reports of Ministers**

Each minister read his parochial report. Opportunity was given to delegates to ask questions about any report. Prayer was then offered for each of the pastors, elders, and their charges after their report was read.

### **Constitutional Questions to the Elders**

1. Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity agreeably to the Word of God? All churches answered "Yes."
2. Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members? All churches answered "Yes."
3. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation:
  - a. Is visitation faithfully performed?  
All churches answered "Yes," except Gettysburg which answered "Yes, but not complete," and Manitowoc which answered "Improving, yes."
  - b. Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?  
All churches answered "Yes."
4. Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution?  
All churches answered "Yes."
5. In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:

a. Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?

All churches answered "Yes."

b. Are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?

All churches answered "Yes."

c. Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?

All churches answered "Yes."

d. Are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?

All churches answered "Yes."

6. Are the Church records properly kept?

All churches answered "Yes."

7a. Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?

All churches answered "Yes."

7b. Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?

All churches answered "Yes."

### **Report of Membership and Financial Statistics**

The Stated Clerk provided a table of statistics based upon the information submitted by the churches of classis (see Appendix #3 of this Abstract).

This report was adopted as amended.

### **Reports from Classis delegates to Fraternal Bodies**

Rev. Potter gave reports of his visits to the Atlantic Presbytery of the RPCNA, the Classis Eastern US of the URCNA, and the Classis Niagara of the Canadian Reformed Churches. Rev. Carr gave an oral report of his visit to the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC.

### **Addresses by Delegates from Other Reformed Churches or Visitors**

Rev. Dylan Rowland addressed the Classis on behalf of the Ohio Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. Marinelli responded with prayer.

### **Examination of Candidate**

Sawtelle outlined the procedure to be followed in the licensure examination of Rev. Winthrop Groseclose. Classis adopted the schedule in the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee report. Each examiner was given 10 minutes and opportunity was given to have questions asked from the floor. Schnabel examined

in English Bible. Campbell examined in Hermeneutics. Muether examined in Prolegomena. Potter examined in Theology Proper. Sawtelle examined in Christology. Luquette examined in Anthropology. Luquette examined in Soteriology. Muether examined in Apologetics. Fluck examined in Historical Philosophy. Fluck examined in Eschatology. Schnabel examined in Ecclesiology. Potter examined in the Standards. Carr examined in the Constitution. Potter examined in Practica. Fluck examined in RCUS History.

The Classis went into executive session to discuss the examination and evaluate the sermon preached on Tuesday evening. Classis voted to declare the exam portion satisfactory but voted to remand the sermon requirement portion to the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee to hear another sermon and receive a written sermon. After arising from executive session, the Classis invited Rev. Groseclose back to inform him that the exam portion was declared satisfactory but that he would be required to provide another sermon and a written sermon to the Permanent Committee.

### **Reports of Special Committees**

#### **A. Special Committee to Install Rev. Charles Muether**

Fathers and Brethren,

The committee appointed to install rev. Charles Muether as Associate Pastor of Covenant reformed Church of Gettysburg, PA. was composed of the Consistory of Covenant reformed Church, Rev. Jay Fluck included, and Rev. Ron Potter. The committee invited Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner to participate at Rev. Muether's request.

On Saturday August 4, 2018 at 7:00 pm the service began. Rev. Fluck conducted the service and administered the vows, Dr. Koerner gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. Potter gave the charge to the congregation. The newly installed Associate Pastor pronounced the benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elder Dennis Luquette, Rev. Ron Potter, Rev. Jay Fluck

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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#### **B. Special Committee to Discuss Office of Believer**

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

Your committee met twice this year over video conference to discuss the roles of men and women in the church.

We accepted as our mandate for the four points of the overture from Redeemer RCUS:

1. Provide a biblical and confessional definition of the Office of Believer.

2. Explain what is common to men and women (male/female) in the outworking of this office in the life and service of the church, providing exegesis of biblical texts that speak to how these commonalities are expressed, distinguishing between what is descriptive and prescriptive about biblical examples cited.
3. Discuss what is distinct to men and women (male/female) in the outworking of this office in the life and service of the church, providing exegesis of biblical texts in how these distinctions are worked out, distinguishing between what is descriptive and prescriptive about biblical examples cited.
4. Discussion of how age and maturity affect the way the church teaches and utilizes the gifts of young members (male/female) in the life and service of the church.

While we have had good discussion and started to build a bibliography, at this time we have nothing specific to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Christopher Campbell, Rev. Steve Carr, Rev. Jay Fluck, Rev. Jim Sawtelle, Elder Ken Hanko, Elder Dennis Luquette

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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### **Reports of Standing Committees**

The following reports with their motions appear in the final form in which classis adopted them unless otherwise noted. Thus, the reports listed here include any amendments and additional motions made from the floor to the standing committee's report. The first name listed is the chairman of the standing committee.

#### **A. Benevolence**

1. That Covenant East Classis provide Grace Reformed Church of NW Arkansas \$956 for life insurance for Rev. Steve Carr.
2. That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of \$1200 per month for the Synodical year 2019-2020.

Fluck, Lau, DeBoer

#### **B. Minutes of Synod**

1. That the Stated Clerk had properly addressed all the items for correction on pages 88-89 of the 272<sup>nd</sup> Synod abstract. [Classis Action: Classis took note]

2. That the Classis take note of items 2-8 on the Minutes of Synod report. [Classis Action: Classis took note.]

Fluck, Lau, DeBoer

### **C. Examination and Licensure**

1. Regarding the request from Manitowoc to commend Mr. Ryan Anderson as a student for the ministry: That this matter be referred to the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Sawtelle, Muether, Luquette

### **D. Services**

1. That the following words of appreciation be expressed to the congregation of Peace RCUS of Napoleon, OH by including it in the bulletin: "The delegates of Covenant East Classis express our sincere gratitude for your loving and generous hospitality at our 2019 Spring meeting. Your work and effort provided us with delicious food, wonderful fellowship and facility to conduct the work of the church. As your attention to our needs encourages us, so we would encourage you to pray that the Lord would bless you and meet your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

M. Altman, Hermann, Sorensen

### **E. Judicial**

1. That the Covenant East Classis of the RCUS overture the Synod of the RCUS 2019 to form a committee to draft a paper and then speak on behalf of the synod so as to provide Biblical input to the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service (NCMNPS) regarding the Selective Service System (SSS). This input is to be preferably in person through a paper read by a designated synod representative(s), or if not possible, in written form. [Classis Action: Defeated]

2. That Classis take note of the resolutions adopted by Heritage RCUS. [Classis Action: Classis took note]

3. That Classis overture synod to make a ruling on the following question: may a church take an action or make a change to its constitution that is contrary to a position of the RCUS?

4. That the consistories of the Covenant East Classis be reminded to report any constitutional changes to the Executive Committee of Classis in a timely manner (Standing Rule 14). [Classis Action: Classis took note]

5. That the consistories of the Covenant East Classis be encouraged to seek the advice and counsel of the Executive Committee of Classis regarding significant or potentially divisive issues (Article 91 of the RCUS Constitution). [Classis Action: Classis took note.]

## **F. Finances**

1. That the Standing Committee on Finances has audited the final Treasurer's report, fiscal year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 year to date treasure report and found it in order.

2. That travel reimbursements for this Classis meeting be as follows:

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Chuck Muether:                   | \$161     |
| St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed: | \$942.67  |
| Dennis Luquette:                 | \$357     |
| Ron Potter:                      | \$531.50  |
| Jim Sawtelle:                    | \$1087.80 |
| Ryan Kron:                       | \$726     |
| Ken Hanko:                       | \$349.86  |
| Graydon Lau:                     | \$640     |
| Kyle Sorensen:                   | \$361.53  |
| Steven Carr:                     | \$386     |
| Win Groseclose:                  | \$242     |

**Total: \$5624.36**

3. That Classis adopt the following guidelines:

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| General Fund:     | \$10 |
| Missions Fund:    | \$56 |
| Benevolence Fund: | \$0  |
| Student Aid Fund: | \$0  |

**Total per Communicant Member: \$66**

Schnabel, Liesveld, Rothwell (Drewes advise)

## **G. Missions**

1. That Covenant East Classis provide Reformation Church, Blue Bell, PA, mission funding of \$866.67 per month, a total of \$10,400 for the Classis fiscal year 2019-2020 beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, for remuneration for sermons preached in the morning and afternoon services of Reformation Church, Blue Bell, PA. (Note: This is the same as last year's request: Abstract p. 49, Recommendation #1.)

2. That Classis provide Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA with \$3000 for outreach through Reformation Church Blue Bell if needed (Same as last year).



3. That Classis support Redeemer RCUS of Golden Valley church building efforts with up to \$1250 a month, a total of \$15,000, in 2019-2020, as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area (This is the same as last year).

4. That Classis overture Synod to provide Redeemer RCUS church building efforts with up to \$1250 a month, a total of \$15,000 a month, as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area (This is the same as last year).

5. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$330.75 per month, a total of \$3,969 in the fiscal year 2019-2020 beginning July 2019 (This is the same as last year).

6. That Classis provide Covenant Reformed Church of Gettysburg, PA with \$700 per month, a total of \$10,500, to cover the cost of renting a worship facility for Immanuel Reformed Fellowship, Oskaloosa, IA. This support will start in April 2019 and continue throughout the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Campbell, Kron, Mittelstaedt

## H. Nominations

1. We recommend the following permanent committees:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Executive:</b>                  | <u>Sorensen</u> , Carr, Wiersma                                 |
| <b>Candidates and Credentials:</b> | <u>Marinelli</u> , M. Larson, S. Altman, DeBoer, Hanko          |
| <b>Camp:</b>                       | <u>Sawtelle</u> , Schnabel, Mittelstaedt, Lau                   |
| <b>Interchurch Relations:</b>      | <u>Muether</u> , Fluck, Potter, Hermann, Rothwell               |
| <b>Missions:</b>                   | <u>Kron</u> , Schnabel, Campbell, M. Altman, Luquette, Liesveld |

**Special Study Committee Office of Believer:**  
Campbell, Sawtelle, Fluck, Carr, Luquette, Hanko

**Special Advisory Committee to Heritage Reformed:**  
Schnabel, Muether, S. Altman, Rothwell, Liesveld, Luquette, Sawtelle.

Campbell, Kron, Mittelstaedt

## I. Minutes of Classis

1. Your committee received the draft minutes from the Stated Clerk and made corrections which were then incorporated into the revised minutes. [Classis Action: Classis took note.]

M. Altman, Hermann, Sorensen

## **J. Excuses**

1. That in light of their respective weighty reasons, Rev. Mark Larson and Mr. Bobby Duncan (elder) be excused from all sessions of classis.

Sawtelle moved that Hanko, Schnabel, Hermann, DeBoer, Kron, Sawtelle, Rothwell be excused to leave early from Classis.

## **Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business**

### **A. Expression of Appreciation to Host Congregation**

This was handled by the Standing Services Committee

### **B. Adoption of Stated Clerk's Report and Executive Committee Report**

The Stated Clerk's report was previously adopted.

The Executive Committee report was adopted as a whole.

## **Reading of the Minutes and Their Approval**

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

## **Adjournment**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Covenant East Classis was adjourned at 4:35 pm until the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting the time and place of which to be determined by Executive Circular.

### **A. Roll Call**

The final roll call showed 8 ministers and 5 elders present, a quorum.

### **B. Devotions**

Elder Mike Altman from Peace RCUS, Napoleon, OH, led the Classis in devotions by reading from Psalm 86 and praying.

### **C. Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Doxology**

The President led the Classis in reciting the Apostles' Creed and praying the Lord's Prayer. He then pronounced a benediction and led in the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted and chronicled for Christ's glory,

Rev. Steve Carr, Stated Clerk



Appendix  
for the  
2019 Abstract  
follows:

#1 - List of Overtures and Communications

#2 – Necrologies

#3 – Statistics

#4 – Standing Rules

## APPENDIX #1

### List of Overtures and Communications

#### Overtures

**Overture #1:** February 7, 2019. From Heritage RCUS, Waymart, PA, that Covenant East Classis of the RCUS provide Reformation Church, Blue Bell, PA, mission funding of \$866.67 per month, a total of \$10,400 for the Classis fiscal year 2019-2020 beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, for remuneration for sermons preached in the morning and afternoon services of Reformation Church, Blue Bell, PA. (TO STANDING MISSIONS)

**Overture #2:** February 19, 2019. From Heritage RCUS Waymart, PA, that the Covenant East Classis of the RCUS form a Committee to draft a paper and then speak on behalf of the Classis so as to provide biblical input to the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service (NCMNPS) regarding the Selective Service System (SSS). (TO STANDING JUDICIAL)

**Overture #3:** February 26, 2019. From Covenant RCUS, Gettysburg, PA, that Covenant East Classis of the RCUS support the Immanuel Reformed Fellowship started by Rev. Chuck Muether in Oskaloosa, Iowa by providing the rent money for the worship facility that they are renting (\$700/month). (TO STANDING MISSIONS)

**Overture #4:** February 28, 2019. From Grace RCUS, Rogers, AR, that Covenant East Classis of the RCUS provide Grace Reformed Church with \$956 for life insurance for Rev. Steven Carr for the remainder of fiscal year 2019 and the entirety of 2020, a reduction from last year (\$1328). (TO STANDING BENEVOLENCE)

**Overture #5:** March 5, 2019. From Salem-Ebenezer RCUS, that Covenant East Classis overture Synod to provide ministerial aid to Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of \$1200 per month for the Synodical year 2019-2020. (TO STANDING BENEVOLENCE)

#### Communications

**Communication #1:** January 28, 2019. From the Stated Clerk of Synod: Minutes of Synod Report. (TO STANDING MINUTES OF SYNOD)

**Communication #2:** February 28, 2019. From Elder Bobby Duncan requesting to be excused from all sessions of Classis 2019. (TO STANDING EXCUSES)

**Necrologies**

**Kenneth Armbruster**

Peace RCUS, Napoleon, OH

Kenneth D. Armbruster, 83, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. He was born December 8, 1934 to Frank and Amelia (Huber) Armbruster in Henry County. He graduated from Florida High School in 1952. He married Doris Rohrs on August 27, 1960. Ken was a faithful member of Peace Reformed Church, having served as an elder, deacon, Sunday school teacher and President of the Congregation. Ken was one of the founding members of Peace Reformed Church many years ago when the body was seeking out denominations true to the Word of God. Ken served his country in the United States Army, participating as a member of the honor guard. Ken also enjoyed singing in the Defiance chapter of the Northwesterners Barbershop Chorus for many years and the Peace Reformed Church choir. Ken worked at the Napoleon Post Office for 38 years and farmed.

Ken was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He cherished his time spent with his family. Ken is survived by his wife, Doris; daughters, Lori (Jim) Drewes and Patti (Mike) Altman of Napoleon, Ohio; Kristi (Archie) Allison of Fort Collins, Colorado; and son, Mark (Angie) Armbruster of Bowling Green, Ohio; grandchildren Andrew and Aaron Drewes; Jill (Aaron) Schalk; Alex and Haley Altman; Rachel, Elizabeth, Anna, Lydia and Gloria Allison; and Ben, Grace and Luke Armbruster. Ken was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Don Armbruster and Harold Armbruster; and sisters, Helen Bostelman, Virginia Hitts, Evelyn Palmer and Jean Davis. He was also preceded in death by his granddaughter, Sophia Allison. Funeral services were held at Peace Reformed Church on June 1, 2018 with Pastor Steve Altman officiating. Burial followed at Forest Hill Cemetery of Napoleon.

**APPENDIX #3: Statistics of Covenant East Classis covering 2018 reported in 2019 follows pp. 48-49**

| Statistics of Covenant East Classis: Covering 2018 reported in 2019 |            |              |            |              |              |              |
|---|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Northwest  | Eden Prairie | Garner     | Gettysburg   | Hamburg      | Kansas City  |
| Category  | Arkansas   | Minnesota    | Iowa       | Pennsylvania | Minnesota    | Missouri     |
| 1. No. of Elders  | 1          | 2            | 2          | 3            | 3            | 4            |
| 2. No of Deacons  | 1          | 5            | 3          | 1            | 3            | 4            |
| 3. Comm. Last Year  | 17         | 112          | 53         | 37           | 188          | 69           |
| 4. Rec'd by Confirm.  | 0          | 1            | 0          | 1            | 0            | 0            |
| 5. Rec'd by Letter  | 0          | 0            | 1          | 4            | 0            | 0            |
| 6. Rec'd by Prof.   | 0          | 5            | 0          | 4            | 3            | 0            |
| 7. Total Received   | 0          | 6            | 1          | 9            | 3            | 0            |
| 8. Tot. Old/New Mem   | 17         | 118          | 54         | 46           | 191          | 69           |
| 9. Lost by Dismissal  | 2          | 8            | 2          | 0            | 0            | 4            |
| 10. Lost by Era/Dis.  | 2          | 1            | 1          | 0            | 3            | 0            |
| 11. Lost by Death   | 0          | 1            | 2          | 1            | 3            | 0            |
| 12. Total Lost  | 4          | 10           | 5          | 1            | 6            | 4            |
| 13. Comm this Year  | 13         | 108          | 49         | 45           | 185          | 65           |
| 14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.  | 5          | 55           | 4          | 23           | 21           | 14           |
| 15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.   | 18         | 163          | 53         | 67           | 206          | 79           |
| 16. No. of Families   | 11         | 54           | 33         | 22           | 108          | 33           |
| 17. No. of S.S Child.   | 12         | 45           | 4          | 15           | 10           | 16           |
| 18. Adult Baptisms  | 0          | 0            | 0          | 1            | 0            | 1            |
| 19. Infant Baptisms   | 0          | 8            | 0          | 7            | 3            | 1            |
| 20. Total Baptisms  | 0          | 8            | 0          | 8            | 3            | 2            |
| 21. No.L.S. Received  | 15         | 108          | 41         | 45           | 164          | 61           |
| 22. Times L.S. Served   | 12         | 12           | 5          | 12           | 9            | 6            |
| 23. Regular Offerings   | \$ 77,234  | \$ 308,587   | \$ 120,883 | \$ 84,388    | \$ 166,838   | \$ 195,225   |
| 24. Special Offerings   | \$ 650     | \$ 22,128    | \$ 5,908   | \$ 6,030     | \$ 6,746     | \$ 9,481     |
| 25. Other Sources   | \$ 3,864   | \$ -         | \$ 7,907   | \$ 10,413    | \$ 33,944    | \$ -         |
| 26. Total Receipts  | \$ 81,748  | \$ 330,715   | \$ 134,698 | \$ 100,831   | \$ 207,528   | \$ 204,706   |
| 27. Giv. To Syn. Guide.   | \$ 4,429   | \$ 27,776    | \$ 13,774  | \$ 8,354     | \$ 48,312    | \$ 18,104    |
| 28. Giv. To Clas. Guide.  | \$ 1,089   | \$ 7,392     | \$ 3,465   | \$ 2,248     | \$ 13,068    | \$ 4,818     |
| 29. RCUS non-budget   | \$ 650     | \$ -         | \$ 5,796   | \$ 1,030     | \$ 3,338     | \$ 2,518     |
| 30. Non-RCUS causes   | \$ -       | \$ 8,000     | \$ 244     | \$ 5,000     | \$ 2,230     | \$ 7,417     |
| 31. Other Expenses  | \$ 82,881  | \$ 129,707   | \$ 120,168 | \$ 85,108    | \$ 138,320   | \$ 177,396   |
| 32. Total Expenses  | \$ 89,049  | \$ 172,875   | \$ 143,447 | \$ 101,740   | \$ 205,268   | \$ 210,253   |
| 33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.  | \$ 112,636 | \$ -         | \$ 750,000 | \$ -         | \$ 3,570,900 | \$ 2,100,000 |
| 34. Val. Of Parsonage   | \$ 70,000  | \$ 371,972   | \$ 125,000 | \$ -         | \$ 425,600   | \$ -         |
| 35. Impr. Of Property   | \$ 12,798  | \$ -         | \$ 4,576   | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ 598,000   |
| 36. Property Debt   | \$ 99,521  | \$ 250,000   | \$ -       | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ 587,000   |
| 37. Debt Paid Last YR.  | \$ 8,516   | \$ -         | \$ -       | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ 10,120    |
| 38. Synod Giving/Com.   | \$ 260     | \$ 248       | \$ 260     | \$ 226       | \$ 257       | \$ 262       |
| 39. Classis Giving/Com.   | \$ 64      | \$ 66        | \$ 65      | \$ 61        | \$ 70        | \$ 70        |
| 40. RCUS Giving/Com.  | \$ 363     | \$ 314       | \$ 435     | \$ 314       | \$ 344       | \$ 369       |

\* - Statistics for Bluebell, PA are included in statistics for Waymart, PA.



| Manitowoc    | Minneapolis  | Napoleon   | Waymart      | Bluebell*    | Total 2018   | Total 2017 | % Change |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| Wisconsin    | Minnesota    | Ohio       | Pennsylvania | Pennsylvania |              |            |          |
| 3            | 3            | 3          | 1            | 1            | 25           | 31         | -24%     |
| 3            | 5            | 3          | 0            | 0            | 28           | 29         | -4%      |
| 124          | 116          | 64         | 25           | 10           | 815          | 781        | 4%       |
| 0            | 6            | 0          | 1            | 0            | 9            | 12         | -33%     |
| 0            | 5            | 0          | 0            | 0            | 10           | 10         | 0%       |
| 0            | 0            | 3          | 0            | 0            | 15           | 36         | -140%    |
| 0            | 11           | 3          | 1            | 0            | 34           | 57         | -68%     |
| 124          | 127          | 67         | 26           | 10           | 849          | 838        | 1%       |
| 0            | 2            | 0          | 0            | 0            | 18           | 23         | -28%     |
| 2            | 4            | 5          | 0            | 0            | 18           | 13         | 28%      |
| 3            | 2            | 2          | 1            | 0            | 15           | 10         | 33%      |
| 5            | 8            | 7          | 1            | 0            | 51           | 46         | 10%      |
| 119          | 119          | 60         | 25           | 10           | 788          | 792        | -1%      |
| 11           | 57           | 28         | 6            | 2            | 224          | 203        | 9%       |
| 130          | 176          | 88         | 31           | 12           | 1011         | 995        | 2%       |
| 72           | 54           | 37         | 12           | 5            | 436          | 443        | -2%      |
| 6            | 61           | 16         | 0            | 0            | 185          | 191        | -3%      |
| 0            | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0            | 2            | 0          | 100%     |
| 0            | 6            | 4          | 0            | 0            | 29           | 25         | 14%      |
| 0            | 6            | 4          | 0            | 0            | 31           | 25         | 19%      |
| 120          | 112          | 63         | 25           | 10           | 754          | 758        | -1%      |
| 4            | 6            | 6          | 12           | 12           | 84           | 82         | 2%       |
| \$ 154,475   | \$ 274,182   | \$ 129,736 | \$ 42,960    |              | 1554508      | 1470051    | 5%       |
| \$ 4,268     | \$ 50,096    | \$ 825     | \$ 350       |              | 106482       | 213552     | -101%    |
| \$ 39,778    | \$ 37,138    | \$ 2,078   | \$ 14,502    |              | 149624       | 122992     | 18%      |
| \$ 198,521   | \$ 361,416   | \$ 132,639 | \$ 57,812    | \$ -         | 1810614      | 1806595    | 0%       |
| \$ 32,328    | \$ 27,516    | \$ 12,333  | \$ 6,320     |              | 199246       | 155303     | 22%      |
| \$ 8,250     | \$ 7,326     | \$ 4,224   | \$ 1,650     |              | 53530        | 48759      | 9%       |
| \$ 7,838     | \$ 7,011     | \$ 775     | \$ -         |              | 28956        | 42106      | -45%     |
| \$ -         | \$ 29,332    | \$ 2,990   | \$ 1,000     |              | 56213        | 49079      | 13%      |
| \$ 235,896   | \$ 334,178   | \$ 108,741 | \$ 46,528    |              | 1458923      | 1214878    | 17%      |
| \$ 284,312   | \$ 405,363   | \$ 129,063 | \$ 55,498    | \$ -         | 1796868      | 1510125    | 16%      |
| \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,853,000 | \$ 600,000 | \$ -         |              | 9986536      | 5697636    | 43%      |
| \$ 250,000   | \$ 352,000   | \$ -       | \$ -         |              | 1594572      | 1401972    | 12%      |
| \$ 120,915   | \$ 9,875     | \$ -       | \$ -         |              | 746164       | 134779     | 82%      |
| \$ -         | \$ 352,346   | \$ -       | \$ -         |              | \$ 1,288,867 | 1048805    | 19%      |
| \$ -         | \$ 4,575     | \$ -       | \$ -         |              | \$ 23,211    | 19411      | 16%      |
| \$ 261       | \$ 237       | \$ 193     | \$ 253       | \$ -         | 223          | 223        | 0%       |
| \$ 67        | \$ 63        | \$ 66      | \$ 66        | \$ -         | 70           | 70         | 0%       |
| \$ 390       | \$ 361       | \$ 269     | \$ 319       | \$ -         | 343          | 343        | 0%       |

## APPENDIX #4

### Standing Rules of Covenant East Classis

1. The fiscal year of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the U.S. shall run from July 1st to June 30th of the following year. The Classical 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. [2011]
2. The Consistory of the Church to which the treasurer belongs shall audit the final Classis Treasurer report in July. The Treasurer shall distribute their findings and his report to the Consistories of Classis. [2012]
3. The parochial reports shall be forwarded to the President and the statistics to the Stated Clerk of Classis two weeks before the Spring Session of Classis.
4. The writ of certification of delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring session of Classis.
5. All congregations shall present an annual report on confirmation instruction, Sunday School and weekday school at the Spring Meeting of Classis. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire Heidelberg Catechism before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include Bible history, Bible survey, Bible reading, Catechism, and also singing of “Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.”
6. The Standing Rules shall be read immediately after defining the bar of the house.
7. If pastors, elders, or members of congregations request information from the Executive of Classis concerning Constitutional matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented to the parties concerned in written form and pertain only to the item in question. This correspondence shall be part of the official minutes of the Executive Committee.
8. A pastor and his elder delegate to Classis shall be paid a maximum of fifty cents per running mile; when an elder or pastor drives his own car, he shall be paid fifty cents per mile; when a pastor or elder rides with another person he shall be paid \$20 per day. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare. [2009]
9. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel on behalf of Classis at fifty cents per running mile, or, if several ride together in one car or travel by public transportation, the actual fare. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only to those delegates to Classis whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the

Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Classis or have been properly excused by Classis. [2009]

10. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.

11. The Classis shall designate the following Permanent Committees when needed as follows: Executive, Candidates and Credentials, Church Camp, Interchurch Relations, Missions, Publications. The Standing Committee on Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees. [2014] The members of the Executive Committee shall not be from the same congregation. [2016] 12. The complete Classis statistics shall be made part of the minutes at the Spring Meeting of Classis.

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

14. Prior to the Spring Meeting of Classis, the Spiritual Council of each charge shall direct the elder delegate how to answer the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the Constitution. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the Spring Meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the Constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge, and sent to the Stated Clerk. [2003] Whenever the congregation amends its constitution and/or bylaws, these amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee of Classis for its information. [2017]

15. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to the Consistories of all the Churches at least three weeks prior to the meeting in which these recommendations are being made to Classis. If possible, overtures with their supporting grounds shall be submitted to the clerk of classis at least three weeks before the scheduled meeting for circulation among the churches of classis. [2006]

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

17. Students for the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States shall be urged by Classis to attend seminaries which are listed as institutions 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.

18. It shall be the practice of Classis before ordaining candidates for the ministry to require an internship of eight months for them to be spent with a pastor who has served in the RCUS for at least five years. 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.

19. The Stated Clerk shall be paid an honorarium of \$500.00 annually. [2005]. The President shall be paid an honorarium of \$500 annually. [2015]

20. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall begin on the first Tuesday of March, and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. [2002]

21. It shall be the practice of Covenant East Classis to examine ministers coming to it from other Classes of the RCUS to ensure that they have not departed from Reformed teaching or have developed major objections to the peculiar practices of the RCUS. Such examinations shall be completed before these candidates shall enter into a charge in Covenant East Classis and shall be conducted in such a way that each minister and delegate shall have opportunity to put questions to the candidate. [2003]

[Standing Rule #22 was removed 2018.]