

2012
Abstract
of the Minutes



of the
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
 Reformed Church in the United States

27th Annual Session
 March 6 - 7, 2012

held at
 Heritage Reformed Church
 Waymart, Pennsylvania

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

OFFICERS
 of Covenant East Classis

President	Rev. Randall Klynsma
Vice President	Rev. Dan Schnabel
Stated Clerk	Rev. Kyle Sorensen
Treasurer	Elder Jim Drewes

CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING	
General Fund	\$9.00
Missions Fund	\$42.00 *
Benevolence Fund	\$3.00
Student Aid Fund	\$14.00
TOTAL per communicant member	\$68.00

*\$15 per communicant member is set aside for future mission works

CLASSIS TREASURER:

Mr. Jim Drewes
 (419) 592-0795
 13033 Co. Rd. L2, Napoleon, OH 43545
 jimdkhd@bright.net

PERMANENT CLASSIS COMMITTEES

Executive:	<u>Klynsma</u> , Sorensen, Stuebbe, <i>Potter</i> (only for consult with Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, PA)
Candidates and Credentials:	<u>Brice</u> , Fluck, Potter, Kroese, Watson
Interchurch Relations:	<u>Sawtelle</u> , Klynsma, Kron, Fisher
Missions:	<u>Opp</u> , Altman, Schnabel, Harms, Renner, Schroeder, Wiersma
Publications:	no committee formed

(underlined serves as chairman)

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CHURCHES AND MISSION WORKS

Northwest ARKANSAS

Grace RCUS, 72756 worship at Hyatt Place Conf. Center,
4610 W. Walnut St., Rogers, AR. (479) 876-6649
Pastor: Rev. Wesley Brice (Wife: Ginger)
Mail: 15 Kensington Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715
Worship: 10:00 a.m. and 2 p.m.; SS: 11:30 a.m.
www.gracereformednwa.org

Garner, IOWA

Peace RCUS, 50438
1905 200th St. (3 miles south of Garner). (641) 923-3060
Pastor: Rev. Harvey Opp (Wife: Carol)
Worship: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:30 a.m.
www.peacereformedchurch.com

Eden Prairie, MINNESOTA

Emmaus Road RCUS, 55344
12000 Anderson Lakes Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN. (612) 751-2096
Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kron (Wife: Colleen)
Mail: 10600 Yosemite Rd, Bloomington, MN 55437
Worship: 10:30 a.m. ; SS: 9:00 a.m.
www.emmausrcus.org ; ryankron@hotmail.com

Minneapolis, MINNESOTA

Redeemer RCUS, 55422
1300 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley. (763) 417-9835
Pastor: Rev. James Sawtelle (Wife: Thelma)
Mission Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kron (Wife: Colleen)
Mail: 3101 Virginia Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55427
Worship: 10:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.;
SS: 9:00 a.m. (Sept. - May)
www.redeemerrcus.org ; redeemerrcus@usfamily.net

Hamburg, MINNESOTA

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 55339
15470 Co Road 31. (952) 467-3878
Pastor: Rev. Dan Schnabel (Wife: Marie)
Worship: 9:30 a.m., SS: 8:30 a.m.
www.stpaulsrcus.org ; dm7schnabel@gmail.com

Kansas City, MISSOURI

Northland RCUS, 64164
2901 NW Cookingham Dr (816) 420-9700
(Exit 40, I-435, North one mile) FAX: call 1st
Pastor: Rev. Randall Klynsma (Wife: Julie)
Worship: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; SS: 11:00 a.m.
www.northlandreformed.org ; rjklynsma@yahoo.com

Napoleon, OHIO

Peace RCUS, 43545
638 Huddle Rd. (419) 599-3106
Pastor: Rev. Steven Altman (Wife: Bianca)
Worship: 10:00 a.m.; SS: 9:00 a.m.
www.peacercus.com

Waymart, PENNSYLVANIA

Heritage RCUS, 18472 in Lower Level of Waymart Presbyterian Church,
200 Belmont St. (570) 785-4012
Pastor: Rev. Ron Potter (Wife: Sharon)
Mail: 136 Grand Ave., Forest City, PA 18421
Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
www.heritagercus.org; reformed@nep.net

Manitowoc, WISCONSIN

Salem Ebenezer RCUS, 54220
6524 Hwy C. (920) 726-4940
Pastor: Rev. Kyle Sorensen (Wife: Donielle)
Worship: 10:00 a.m.; SS 8:45 a.m.
www.salemebenezer.org; salem@lakefield.net

CLERK's NOTE:

On March 5, 2012, the night before the Spring Classis meeting was to begin, the delegates of classis and members and guests of the host congregation gathered for a discussion. The topic was Missions. Before the discussion, copies of the book *Planting, Watering, Growing: Planting Confessionally Reformed Churches in the 21st Century*, eds. Daniel R. Hyde and Shane Lens, were sent to all delegates. They were purchased at generously discounted price from the publisher (*Reformation Heritage Books*).

The discussion was led by our mission pastor, Rev. Ryan Kron. He prepared a study guide for the delegates. The lively discussion ran from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., and was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

ABSTRACT of the MINUTES

of the

Covenant East Classis

27th Annual Session

March 6 - 7, 2012

Heritage Reformed Church, Waymart, Pennsylvania

Services

After the president, Rev. Randall Klynsmas, called the body to order on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, he led the classis in prayer. He then read Acts 21:15-25 and Hebrews 10:19-25. His devotion called the church to be confident before God because of the work of Christ.

On Tuesday evening at 7 p.m., the classis delegates, along with members and guests of Heritage Reformed Church, worshiped our Triune God and Savior. Rev. Kyle Sorensen conducted the service and Rev. Jay Fluck preached a sermon on Hebrews 11:23-29 titled, "Living By Faith."

On Wednesday morning, March 7, Rev. Steve Altman gave a devotion on the duty of forgiveness from Matthew 18:21-35.

In addition, each session of classis was opened and closed with a prayer asking God to grant wisdom and mercy upon the business and decisions of classis. Meals were concluded with a brief Bible reading, appropriate comments, and prayer. After the reading of each pastor's parochial report, another delegate led in prayer for the pastor and his charge. Prayer was also offered to our God at other appropriate times in the meeting, such as for retired ministers, widows, and fraternal churches.

Organization

The 27th annual session of Covenant East Classis was called to order at 8:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, by Rev. Randall Klynsmas,

President. After the devotions were completed the opening roll was called which showed 10 ministers and 7 elders present, *a quorum*. The bar of the house was defined as the first six rows. Rev. Dan Schnabel and Elder Bobby Duncan were appointed tellers by the president. A motion was made from the floor to suspend the reading of the standing rules this year, which carried by a 2/3 majority.

The following delegates were elected to serve as the officers of classis for the year: Rev. Randall Klynsmas as president, Rev. Dan Schnabel as vice-president, Rev. Kyle Sorensen as stated clerk, and Elder Jim Drewes as treasurer.

The president appointed Rev. Ryan Kron as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

The following fraternal delegates were present during all or part of the classis meeting. Each brother was given time to address the classis: Rev. Paul Brace of the Atlantic Presbytery, Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, Rev. Wes Bredenhof, of Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches, and Rev. Kevin Hossink, of Classis Eastern U.S. of the United Reformed Churches of North America.

Several visitors were present during all or part of the proceedings. Among them were Rev. William Boekestein of Carbondale United Reformed Church, Carbondale, PA, and Elders Don Buysse and Dennis Luquette of Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Reception of New Ministers and New Churches

There were no new ministers. The new congregation of Grace RCUS in Northwest Arkansas had been received through action by an executive circular. The Stated Clerk noted the history of God's providence in raising up Grace Reformed, and the president asked Rev. Ron Potter to lead the classis in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Standing Committees

The President announced the Standing Committee appointments. Chairmen are underlined:

Benevolence/Excuses: Kron, Harms, Schroeder

Judicial / Examination & Licensure: Brice, Potter, Sawtelle,
Stuebbe, Watson

Finances: Altman, Sorensen, Duncan (Drewes advise)

Minutes of Classis/Services: Opp, Harms, Renner

Minutes of Synod: Sorensen, Duncan

Missions/Nominations: Schnabel, Klynsmas, Fisher

Presentation of Overtures 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, p. 45) The actions taken on these documents are found in the section of this abstract that contains the Standing Committee reports.

The only exception to the above is that a motion was passed from the floor to discuss the communication from the OPC Presbytery of the Midwest as an entire classis from the floor, at the call of the chair. (see below, under the Interchurch Relations Report)

Presentation of Permanent Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee Report

Dear Brothers,

During the classical year of 2011 your committee conducted spiritual oversight of congregations and its ministerial members when sought or where appropriate. Much effort was spent in providing assistance to Grace RCUS of Northwest Arkansas in its organization, and also in determining how to properly install Rev. Jay Fluck in his labors at Gettysburg, PA.

We also followed up on contacts with individuals and/or groups interested in joining the RCUS or asking about the possibility of starting a mission work. These contacts include a PCUSA minister from South Carolina, an elder from an independent Reformed church in Michigan, and an elder from a mission work in Indiana which has been told by the OPC to shut down. As of this writing, none of these prospects have developed further, but please pray for these situations and others out there. Usually, contacts are made simply by people searching for faithful Reformed denominations on the web, and they send an e-mail to begin dialogue.

Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA

Your Committee, through the agency of Rev. Ron Potter, maintained contact with Sovereign Grace Church (SGC) of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, through this past Classical year. Rev. Jay Fluck entered his field of labors in Gettysburg in June of 2011. Rev. Ron Potter along with Rev. Steve Altman and Rev. Randy Klynsmas conducted an "installation service" for Rev. Fluck in Gettysburg in mid-September of 2011. Very positive feedback from the brothers and sisters at Sovereign Grace Church to this event was received. There appears to be a good working relationship between Rev. Fluck and the Session of Sovereign Grace Church. During the year one elder was asked to step down from active service. The introduction of various RCUS practices and the use of RCUS materials is systematically taking place and a Constitution is presently being written. Subjects germane to eventual union with the

RCUS are being discussed. There has been some minor opposition from an individual to Rev. Fluck's preaching ministry which was not unexpected. At the same time it must be said that pastoral ministry to the saints in Gettysburg is going forward and being well received. Rev. Fluck's parochial report will flesh things out more fully. Your committee plans to meet with Rev. Fluck before Classis convenes. We are pleased with the progress thus far and see no reason to discontinue Classis' permission to Rev. Fluck to labor outside the ecclesiastical bounds of Classis.

One issue that came unexpectedly before the Executive Committee this year was an expenditure for the Stated Clerk. He had to purchase a newer laptop computer, and sought permission from the Executive Committee and the Classis Treasurer for reimbursement. That reimbursement was granted, but we could not come to a conclusion on how to best handle this situation. Since two of the members of the Executive Committee are financially involved in the matter, we thought it best to bring the decision before the Standing Finances of Classis at this meeting for a decision.

Recommendation 1: We refer the matter of the reimbursement of the Stated Clerk's laptop to the Standing Finances Committee for a decision on what, if any, terms should be attached to such reimbursement.

The Executive Committee also brought before the classis the following three circulars with their information and recommendations (all were approved without objection).

Executive Circular - Volume 26, Number 1 - August 22, 2011

A. Installation of Rev. Jay Fluck

Both Rev. Jay Fluck and the elders of Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA, have expressed to your Executive Committee a deep desire for a more formal and visible display of the Classis' actions which were taken in March 2011. Those actions are listed on page 40 of the 2011 Abstract, under recommendations 1 and 2 of the Judicial Committee.

After much deliberation and consultation among your Classis committee and input from other ministers of Synod, we have made the following conclusions which lead to our recommendation.

1. When a RCUS pastor requests permission of Classis to labor outside its bounds, the normal action from Classis is to grant or deny that

request. No further action is needed by Classis to install the pastor to this position.

2. Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA, is not a RCUS congregation. We do not have the legitimate authority to install their pastor. They are, of course, moving towards the goal of joining the RCUS. Yet we cannot install Rev. Fluck as their pastor in the way that would normally be done for installing a RCUS minister in a RCUS church.
3. Nevertheless, Rev. Fluck is a member of our Classis, and we have granted him "permission to labor outside the bounds of Classis." Those "boundaries" were specifically the boundaries of the congregation of Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg. Since we approved the call from them to him, it is appropriate for representatives of Classis to witness their mutual vows to God and to each other. The most we could do is install a RCUS pastor who will serve among them.
4. The purpose of all this is, of course, for the mutual encouragement of the saints in Gettysburg and of our brother, Rev. Jay Fluck. This mutual encouragement will also highlight the glorious wisdom of God in calling His people to live in a healthy accountability in their relationships to one another, as pastor to congregation, congregation to pastor, and pastor to his Classis, (and hopefully in the near future, of a new congregation to this Classis).

It is our understanding that if and when the Sovereign Grace Church joins the RCUS, a separate action (which may or may not include a specific installation service) will be needed from Classis to recognize the full pastoral relationship between them and Rev. Fluck.

With all of these principles and considerations in mind, your Executive Committee recommends the following action:

RECOMMENDATION #1: That Rev. Jay Fluck be installed as a RCUS pastor who will serve the Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA, thus laboring outside the ecclesiastical boundaries of Covenant East Classis. The Committee to oversee the installation and worship service on September 14, 2011, shall be Rev. Ron Potter, Rev. Steve Altman, and Elder John Honeck.

Executive Circular - Volume 26, Number 2 - September 30, 2011

A. Organization of Mission Work in Bentonville, Arkansas as a New Congregation

Both Rev. Wes Brice and the overseeing Consistory of Peace Reformed Church in Garner, IA, report that Grace Reformed Chapel in Bentonville, Arkansas, is now ready to form as a new congregation of the RCUS within Covenant East Classis. The RCUS Constitution, Article 8 outlines this process, along with some pertinent instructions in the Home Missions Manual.

Delegates of Classis should remember that some of the steps that need to be taken when organizing a mission into a congregation have already been approved by us back in 2009. The signed Memorial from all the members, as well as their Articles of Incorporation and their local Constitution were all found in order, approved, and filed in the records of Covenant East Classis (see 2009 Abstract, 37). At the same meeting, Classis found in order the request to be organized as a congregation, and we decided to appoint a committee to superintend the election of elders and deacons at such time as Grace Reformed Chapel is able to do so according to its constitution (Ibid.).

Your Executive Committee thus recommends the following actions:

RECOMMENDATION #1: That Covenant East Classis appoint the ministers and elders of Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA, to be the committee to superintend the election of the first elders and deacons of the new congregation, and to ordain and install them into office. Once these officers have been installed, the mother-daughter church relationship between Peace Reformed Church in Garner, IA, and Grace Reformed Church in Bentonville, AR, shall be dissolved.

RECOMMENDATION #2: Upon the completion of the actions and events of Recommendation #1, Covenant East Classis hereby enrolls Grace Reformed Church of Bentonville, AR, as a regular congregation of the Reformed Church in the U.S., per Article 8 of the RCUS Constitution.

[Note: it is anticipated that the election and installation/ordination of officers will take place in connection with the visit of the Home Missions Committee, probably in November, 2011]

RECOMMENDATION #3: That Covenant East Classis clarify that the 2011-2012 Communicant Guideline for Student Aid of \$4.00 is to be taken out of the \$9.00 listed for the Benevolence Fund. Thus, the total per communicant member is \$70.00, not \$74.00.

[Note: Many of us thought we decided the action of Recommendation #3 at Classis, but the official record proves otherwise. This action is needed so that we can do what we thought we did. All guideline information the Treasurer has sent you throughout the year is accurate.]

Executive Circular - Volume 26, Number 3 - January 17, 2012

A. Time and Place of Spring Classis Meeting

Our annual Spring Classis meeting will be held at Heritage Reformed Church in Waymart, PA. Classis will convene at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, March 6, 2012, and continue on Wednesday, March 7, through the end of business, but no later than 12 noon. Please contact Rev. Ron Potter (reformed@nep.net 570-785-4012) with your housing and transportation needs.

B. Pre-classis Fellowship and Discussion

The Executive Committee has again called for an organized discussion time the evening we all arrive. This discussion will run from 7:00-8:30 p.m., on March 5, 2012. The topic requested by several of you was "Missions." We have asked Rev. Ryan Kron to lead a discussion of Planting, Watering, Growing: Planting Confessionally Reformed Churches in the 21st Century, eds. Daniel R. Hyde and Shane Lens. We have secured one copy for each delegate to Classis. Please READ THE SECTIONS LISTED on the study guide, so you will be best prepared. May God bless us and His Church through our diligent study and conversations.

C. Pastoral Call to Rev. Wesley E. Brice

Your Executive Committee has received a pastoral call which was issued from the Grace Reformed Church of Northwest Arkansas to Rev. Wesley E. Brice. The call states that at a congregational meeting held on January 1, 2012, Rev. Brice was elected as pastor. Your committee has also received the acceptance of that call from Rev. Brice, his resignation as Associate Pastor of Peace Reformed Church of Garner, Iowa, and the Consistory's acceptance of that resignation. After considering these documents and the terms of the call, your committee brings the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION #1: "That the call from the Grace Reformed Church of Northwest Arkansas to Rev. Wesley E. Brice to serve as pastor be found in order and approved as received. The pastoral relationship is thus established between Rev. Brice and Grace RCUS and the pastoral relationship dissolved between

Rev. Brice and Peace RCUS (Garner), beginning on January 31, 2012.”

RECOMMENDATION #2: “That Rev. Harvey Opp, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, and the elders of Grace RCUS of Northwest Arkansas, constitute the installation committee for Rev. Wesley E. Brice.”

D. Forms for Classis Meeting

The forms necessary for the classis meeting are included with this circular. Please send the clerk the statistical information form, financial record form, and the delegate credential form as soon as possible. In addition to these three forms, please include any pertinent necrologies and overtures.

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

Statistics should be received by FEBRUARY 14 (3 weeks before Classis). Overtures received by that date will be circulated with their supporting grounds so that delegates and their Consistories may consider them before the Classis meets (Standing Rule 14).

Permanent and Special Committee Reports shall be mailed to Consistories by FEBRUARY 14.

Parochial reports shall be sent to President Randy Klynsma by FEBRUARY 21.

E. Covenant East Classis Youth Camp

Please inform your congregations that camp will run from July 10-13. Brochures to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Randall Klynsma, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, Elder Bill Borgwardt

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

B. Candidates and Credentials

Dear Brothers,

Your committee was inactive for most of the past year, but in the past several weeks has engaged in a flurry of activity. We recently made contact with Cody Schwichtenberg, a student taken under care of our Classis at last year’s classis meeting. Your committee will be more attentive in its oversight in the year before us of Mr. Schwichtenberg and any other men taken under care of Classis as contemplated by RCUS Constitution Article 17. Mr. Schwichtenberg continues his studies at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and has submitted a report to classis as a student under care.

We met via teleconference as a committee with three men who have requested to be taken as students under care of the Classis, inquiring as to each man’s fitness to be a student for the ministry. Each of these men is in his mid thirties, and desires to pursue the pastoral ministry.

Mr. Chris Campbell is a member of Northland Reformed Church of Kansas City and is presently taking distance learning classes from Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Chris is married and has two children, ages 11 years and 11 months. Chris has a BS in information technology and presently works full time as the IT Director for a non-profit organization. He intends to continue that employment while he pursues seminary classes at GPTS, likely on a part time basis for 5-7 years.

Mr. Steve Carr is a member of Redeemer Reformed Church of Minneapolis, and intends to enroll at Mid America Reformed Seminary. Steve is married and has three children, ages four and under. Steve grew up in the PCA, where his father is a minister, and graduated from Kuyper College with BS in interdisciplinary studies.

Mr. Tom Short is a member of Grace Reformed Church in NW Arkansas and is presently taking distance learning classes from Heidelberg Theological Seminary. Tom is married with three children ages 9, 6 and 5, and he and his wife are expecting their fourth child shortly. Tom has a masters degree in liberal arts and in the past taught English at the community college level for several years. Tom desires to complete his seminary education in four years and pursue the pastoral ministry.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee brings the following recommendations:

1. That Classis overture Synod for \$400 for books and \$4800 for tuition at Heidelberg Theological Seminary for Cody Schwichtenberg for the 2012-13 academic year.
2. That Christopher Campbell be taken under care of Classis as a student for the ministry.
3. That Classis overture Synod for \$400 for books for Chris Campbell for the 2012-13 academic year.
4. That Steven Carr be taken under care of Classis as a student for the ministry.
5. That Classis overture Synod for \$400 for books and to pay the tuition and fees at Mid America Reformed Seminary for Steve Carr for the 2012-13 academic year.

6. That Thomas Short be taken under care of Classis as a student for the ministry.
7. That Classis overture Synod for \$400 for books and to pay the tuition and fees at Heidelberg Theological Seminary for Tom Short for the 2012-13 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Wesley Brice, Chairman

Rev. Jay Fluck, Rev. Ron Potter, Elder Jay Kroese

Classis Action: The report was referred to the
Standing Examination and Licensure Committee.

C. Interchurch Relations

Dear Brothers,

Your committee again made efforts to maintain our fraternal relationships within the bounds of the classis. Letters of greeting were sent to those classes and presbyteries at which we were not able to be present. We received numerous invitations to classis and presbytery meetings this past year, including the CanRC Ontario East Classis, the OPC presbyteries of Ohio and of the Midwest, the URCNA classis Central and Eastern classis.

We were able to represent our classis at the OPC Presbytery of the Midwest and Classis Eastern US URCNA. Reports on those meetings will be presented by those men who attended.

In terms of general ecumenical activities to report, in April of 2011 Rev. Ryan Kron and Rev. Jim Sawtelle attended a minister's conference hosted by Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD. Two URCNA pastors who are ministers within the bounds of the Central Classis URCNA were present and we were able to get to know these men better. There was an OPC minister there also, as well as a PRCNA pastor who is ministering at a PRC in Sioux Falls. It was good to establish these contacts, and enjoy the camaraderie of a number of RCUS ministers there as well.

In addition, Rev. Randy Klynsma was elected chairman of the Kansas City Alliance of Reformed Churches, which consists of PCA, URC, OPC and RCUS congregations.

This year, in keeping with our rotation agreed upon a couple years ago, we hope to send a delegate to the CanRC brothers in Ontario this March, and to the URCNA classis Central. We will make every reasonable effort to send delegates to any other classis or presbytery meetings to which we are invited. Opportunities abound, but man power doesn't.

Our other area of concentration as a committee for 2012 is to try

to send a delegate to one of the RPCNA Presbyteries in the bounds of our classis. It is high time we did a better job of interacting with these brothers. The difficulty we have with the RPCNA Presbyteries is that we haven't received invitations from them. That is a matter we need to address. We will appoint a member of the committee to work on making contacts through internet searches and then establish correspondence and exchange information about dates of our respective meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James Sawtelle

Rev. Randall Klynsma

Rev. Ryan Kron

Elder Marc Wiersma

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Before the classis met, an official communication was received from several committees of the OPC Presbytery of the Midwest (Candidates and Credentials Committee, in consultation with the Committee on Ecumenicity and the Committee on Church Extension). The letter was regarding their possible reception of Rev. Jari Saavalainen and also of a deaf congregation. [see the fraternal delegate report on pages 37-38 for more background]

The president called up this matter for a full discussion from the floor. Four specific questions had been asked of Covenant East Classis. These questions were answered by the classis. A motion then passed which authorized Reverends Randall Klynsma, James Sawtelle, and Kyle Sorensen, to formulate a letter of response based on the discussion. These documents can be found in the official minutes for this meeting.

D. Missions

Dear Brothers:

Since our last report, your Committee conducted visitations at Bella Vista, AR, Waymart, PA, and Eden Prairie, MN. A summary of these events during the year follows:

Bentonville, Arkansas

Rev. Harvey Opp and Elder Don Larson, from Garner, met with Rev. Brice and some of the members of Grace Reformed Chapel on December 13 -14, 2011. These were individual meetings. All expressed the desire to hear God's word, and that they are pleased with the ministry of Rev. Brice. During the year, a retired RPCNA minister and his wife joined as members, as did 3 other men. The internet or personal contacts were means by which the new people learned of the chapel. There are two other couples of retirement age, who attend regularly, one of which

may join soon. A younger family has also been attending for several months. The fellowship and prayer time is seen as a blessing, as they have lunch after each service, and then a time to sing psalms and pray as a congregation.

Rev. Brice was blessed with good health during the year. And elder Bobby Duncan helped in serving the chapel well. The meeting space at the La Quinta Inn, Bentonville, was adequate for their needs on Sundays. Recently, however, the management wanted to use the space for other renters, with a substantially higher rate. Therefore, they now meet nearby at the Hyatt Place in Rogers, AR. A building fund is growing, as they desire to obtain their own property where they could meet at all times.

The Lord's blessing is evident in that offerings exceeded the 2011 budget by \$14,000, although this includes some special gifts, two from outside the congregation. Also, there have been some new diaconal needs, and they intend to pay all of their guidelines, on their own, in 2012. So, they have again made good efforts to become self-supporting as soon as possible. The offerings from the 11 families on the roll, the visitors, and the outside gifts totaled over \$62,000.

The care from the Garner congregation over the years has been much appreciated by the people. The major step forward in 2011 was that the chapel was organized on Dec. 14th, as approved by Classis. The other 2 Garner elders, Jerry Kropp and Tom Renner, and their wives, arrived on that day. The Garner Spiritual Council superintended the election of 4 officers who had been previously nominated. The two elders are Bobby Duncan and Rev. Don Weilersbacher, and two deacons are Sam Hillyer and Stephon Johnson. Ordination of the deacons and installation of the four men followed. The Council then dismissed 19 communicants and 1 baptized child to the new congregation, as had been requested.

Grace RCUS appreciates all the support of Classis and Synod, in prayers and finances. Your committee agrees with their request for continued support. They agreed to a total reduction of 20% of original support from Classis and Synod. May the Lord bless the newly organized congregation greatly!

Waymart, Pennsylvania

On September 12-13, 2011, committee members Rev. Steve Altman, Rev. Dan Schnabel and Elder John Honeck met with 8 families of the congregation of Heritage Reformed Chapel, and with Rev. Ron Potter and his wife Sharon. The work over the past year was reviewed. We rejoice that the Lord has granted His healing care to Rev. Potter, who had a serious hospitalization earlier in the year. When your committee met, he was just getting back to the pulpit. Rev. Potter has been preaching on Ezekiel, as well as some thematic passages from Proverbs. He also

teaches the catechism to the congregation, and on Wednesdays has begun teaching on church offices, as a possible time of organizing the work in 2012 is envisioned. The men continue their Calvin study every other Sunday evening. The Ladies are going through the *Legacy of Faith* by Lydia Brownback. Recently, they started using the Truth Project DVD series on worldview, once a month. They are also using this as an opportunity to invite visitors.

The meetings with the families went well. There is a strong love for the Reformed faith and a great deal of appreciation for the Pastor that God has appointed over them. One member commented, "*Pastor Ron is an exceptional Christian man... gifted shepherd, gifted teacher and preacher. We are so blessed.*" It was also good to hear from all their gratitude for how Dan Wright stepped up to assist Rev. Potter, in his need, as well as keeping the Classis informed of what was occurring during Rev. Potter's illness. Most of the men in the church read sermons from Rev. Altman and others during Ron's sickness. Over all, the relationships in the church are strong, although there have been interpersonal issues with one family. Rev. Altman encouraged the family according to 1 Corinthians 13, in how we are to show love for others. In these meetings it was also becoming clear to the congregation whom God was calling for the offices of elder and deacon. The congregation is committed to becoming established. They have a constitution which is in final proofing and, Lord willing, is soon to be approved by the congregation.

Currently they have 21 communicant members and 8 covenant children. A number of regular visitors are also coming. The congregation is committed to paying their own guidelines fully, on their own, for the first time. Offerings have gradually increased. Meeting in the lower level of the PCUSA church, in Waymart, has continued to be adequate, and the kitchen has enabled meals there. They are still in need of aid, and ask that Classis support continue at \$350 monthly for rent and incidental expenses regarding the building. Their offerings in 2011 were \$2,400 above what was budgeted. Your committee recommends continued support for the work at Waymart.

Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

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

Rev. Kron, his wife Colleen, and their son Isaiah, which has been very beneficial, with space for a study, and for membership classes, etc., to be held there.

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

A separate web site, emmausrcus.org, was developed for the work. Some newspaper ads, and one on Facebook have been used. Neighborhood flyers were also distributed. It is encouraging that word of mouth has brought most of the visitors. In fact, there is now an average of 55 people in attendance on the Lord's Day! Rev. Kron teaches catechism classes for the youth, a membership class, and another class for more recent visitors.

On Feb. 5, 2012, Rev. Opp preached during the Emmaus Road service. Elder Steve Stuebbe was in attendance, and afterward two other committee members, Rev. Schnabel and Elder Curtis Kroells arrived for the church meal, and to give information on our missions procedures, etc., to the congregation. Some questions from the group were answered. Then, the committee members met with the Consistory of Redeemer. One elder, Walt Van Heest, and a deacon, Fritz Morgan, of Redeemer are part of Emmaus. There is also a separate steering committee for the work. Comments from the consistory stated that they were pleased with the interaction and cooperation among those attending the work. Officer training is being planned.

As for finances, Rev. Kron said that provision for his housing and support through Redeemer, Synod, and Classis was "very generous". Support from Classis and Synod began at the end of October 2010, at \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year respectively, from monies set aside for new works. The offerings from the work were over \$22,000 since starting services. Therefore, with such giving continuing, the support asked from Classis and Synod is being reduced to \$15,000 each, beginning in July 2012. The committee was asked if this seemed too aggressive, but with the offerings being received and some savings already accrued, it seems quite reasonable. Therefore, in considering all these things, we join with our brothers and sisters in the metro area in giving thanks to our gracious Lord for all the ways He has provided, thus far, for Emmaus Road!

Strategic Plan for Missions

In fulfillment of the Synod requirement for each Classis to

develop and annually update a 3-5 year plan for its mission endeavors, we offer the following:

1. We look for our Grace RCUS, Bentonville, to be self-supporting within that time frame, as it has progressed, and is near the 10 year point of support.
2. We look for Emmaus Road Chapel to be established as a church, and to be self-supporting within that time frame.
3. We look for our Classis work in Waymart, PA to be nearly self-supporting within that time frame.
4. We hope to start at least one other mission work in that time frame.

The Missions Committee brings the following recommendations:

1. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$780 per month, from April to June 2012, a total of \$2,340 for 3 months; and \$600 per month, a total of \$7,200 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 2012. [This will be a reduction of \$2,160, a 15% decrease from original support.]
2. That Classis overture Synod to provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas, with \$360 per month, a total of \$4,320 in fiscal year 2013. [This will be a reduction of \$720, for the year, a 5% decrease from original support.]
3. That Classis provide Emmaus Road Chapel with \$2,500 per month, from April to June 2012, a total of \$7,500 for 3 months; and \$1,250 per month, a total of \$15,000 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 2012. [This will be a reduction of \$15,000 for the year, a 50% decrease from original support.]
4. That Classis overture Synod to provide Emmaus Road Chapel with \$1,250 per month, a total of \$15,000 in fiscal year 2013. [This will be a reduction of \$25,000 for the year, a 62% decrease from original support.]
5. That Classis provide Heritage Reformed Chapel of Waymart, PA with \$350 per month from April 2012 through June 2012, a total of \$1,050 for 3 months; and \$350 per month, a total of \$4,200 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 2012, for rental costs.
6. That Classis take note of the Missions Committee's proposed Strategic Plan for 3-5 years.
7. That the Classis Missions Committee overture the Synod Missions Committee that Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas might be designated for the Day of Prayer offering for its building fund.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Harvey Opp, chairman
Rev. Steve Altman
Rev. Dan Schnabel
Elder John Honeck
Elder Curtis Kroells
Elder Don Larson
Elder Steve Stuebbe

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Missions Committee.

E. Publications

No committee was formed for this year.

Reports of Officers

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

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

I begin my report with these verses from Hebrews 12 as a testimony to our fellow laborer in the Gospel, Rev. Chester Ploeger, and the many guarded saints and servants, who have now run their races and finished their course. It's remarkable to think that our labors today are part of the same work and ministry as those who have gone before us. For us the passing of loved ones is bitter-sweet, but not so with our heavenly Father, who remarks through the Psalmist, "*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*"

As we work and labor in the present, let each of us remember our connections to the past... our parents and grandparents, our former ministers and godly teachers and others, all who played a part in making us who we are today. But let's do more than just remember them, let us also labor to honor them and their memories, and show ourselves faithful in this generation.

As the parochial reports starting coming in, I found myself intrigued and encouraged to hear about the labors and ministries of the ministers in Covenant East Classis. Some overflowed with thanksgiving, others were anxious to share what the Lord was doing in their midst.

Perhaps the most noteworthy events in the Classis were the planting of a new congregation in the greater Minneapolis Area and the steps taken by two of our mission works toward particularizing (becoming self-governing congregations). The faithful labors of Rev.

Brice have resulted in the organizing of the Northwest Arkansas mission work into the Grace Reformed Church, while those of Rev. Ron Potter are bringing the Waymart, PA congregation close to the same.

The church plant of Redeemer Reformed, formerly known as "The *Minneapolis-Metro Mission Work*" has become known as the "*Emmaus Road Reformed Church.*" After meeting for Bible studies and planning sessions for many months, a handful of families from Redeemer, being led by Rev. Ryan Kron, they began holding worship services at a Eden Lake public school on October 23, 2011. We are thankful to hear that their services are well attended and that as a new work they are growing together in the grace and admonition of the Lord.

Rev. Sawtelle mentioned the sense of loss he and the rest of the congregation experienced when part of their congregation left to start the Emmaus Road work.

"Seeing the start of services at Emmaus was a day of great joy, first and foremost. At the same time, I consider it as the second most emotionally challenging thing I have worked through in almost twenty years as a pastor. It was not until a couple weeks before the first worship service of Emmaus that I realized how profoundly it would affect me on a pastoral level. Those continuing at Redeemer miss the presence of so many beloved members on a weekly basis."

In addition to hearing about the pulpit ministries and the various books of the Bible being taught, I was heartened to hear about the many Bible Studies and study groups meeting for fellowship and mutual learning. Some groups were studying the confessions, others great reformed works like Calvin's *Institutes* and Berkhof's *Manual of Christian Doctrine*, still others books on living the Christian life and church history. May the Lord be pleased to bless all of these labors for His glory and the building up of the saints.

Each report also indicated that our ministers are laboring toward the instruction of the youth. Many of the ministers have participated in our Summer Church Camp. We are all grateful for the faithful labors of the Manitowoc congregation and Rev. Sorensen for the organizing and hosting of each year's camp. "Thank-you!" It has been a wonderful ministry and a blessing to all. We were even joined this year by a family from Gettysburg, PA, who came over 800 miles to attend the camp.

Each report indicated that the truths of the Heidelberg Catechism and the Reformed confessions are being taught. In my esteem the catechization of our youth is one of the most important things we do as pastors. In memorable fashion, the Heidelberg summarizes the central truths of the Christian faith and applies to the everyday life of God's people. What a blessing has been handed down to us.

A number of consistories have been making a concerted effort to bring their membership roles in line with their active membership. While some denominations allow absenteeism and the neglect of the means of grace, on the whole we are pretty clear about what it means to be a Christian and to live the Christian life. All should realize that membership vows are made when we join church and are really the condition for continued membership in the church as well.

When can we stop believing in the truth of Scripture and our Reformed Confessions? When can we stop confessing our sinfulness and trusting in God's grace in Christ? When can we stop acknowledging the Lordship of Christ and serving Him with our whole hearts? Or when can we not yield to the godly counsels of our pastor and consistories? Of course the answer to all these is never.

Most of our ministers indicated a growing use of the internet for the promotion of their congregations and the spread of the Gospel. A couple reports were remarkable. Rev. Altman comments:

"The second thing that I think we have certainly witnessed this year, and we are absolutely praising Almighty God for, is the many visitor's that have passed through our doors throughout this past year! In January, Mark Priestap (a member here at PRC) built for our church a new website that has dramatically increased our visibility as a congregation of the Reformed Church of the United States, who exists here in Northwest Ohio to joyfully proclaim God's mercy, and grace to sinners, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ! He has also set us up on Sermon audio, which has also increased our visibility in the area. *As of the writing of this report, our website has logged almost five thousand hits from forty-nine different states and nine different countries! Our sermon audio site has logged over twelve hundred hits and five hundred sermon downloads from all over the world.* We praise God for this wonderful opportunity to see to it that His glorious Word, and the wonderful message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is heard all over the world!

Another of our pastors has started sending out a Bible verses and brief devotions several times a week. This initially was sent to the members of his congregation and then friends and visitors of the congregation, and now through a variety of social media (Facebook, Twitter, and blogs), he presently estimates that these devotionals are read by hundreds, potentially thousands of people each day.

Another growing aspect of our joint ministry is the relationships that are developing with those preparing themselves for the Gospel ministry. Interestingly, we held a classical discussion a couple years ago on things we might do as pastors and congregations to encourage men to

consider studying for the Gospel Ministry. Remarkably, I believe there are five of our ministers presently in mentoring relationships with those studying or beginning to study for the Gospel ministry. Perhaps this is a wake-up call for all of us to begin considering how we might utilize these prospective pastors in the future... perhaps as church planters, or maybe co-laborers in fields where much work remains. Perhaps we will have to enlarge our vision for how we might impact our communities and surrounding cities with the Gospel.

As I look over the Statistical Report it looks like our churches are fiscally sound. There was an overall increase in giving and each organized congregation met their guideline. It might be somewhat attributed to the change in our fiscal year, but our reported giving to Classical and Synodical guidelines was up 17%. I was encouraged to hear our ministers express gratitude to their respective congregations for the provision of their temporal needs. Those of us who receive our living from the Gospel truly are blessed that we can give ourselves wholly to the work and ministry of Christ's Church.

While there are clearly some changes of note, most of these seem consistent with the ebb and flow of congregational life. It seems clear that the Golden Valley congregation has been the most fruitful, accounting for over ½ of the 15 infants baptized this year. And speaking of fruitfulness, we extend congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Altman, as they are expecting a new baby this May.

It was also noted that a number of congregations took significant steps in updating their buildings and facilities, marking a 133% increase compared to last year. Also significant progress was also noted for the two congregations with mortgages, which were reduced by 13%. Also quite impressive was a 68% increase in the amount of Special Offerings compared to last year. Likely, part of this was the generous outpouring of benevolent aid that was gathered from RCUS sources for Japan Disaster Relief which totaled (denomination wide) almost \$30,000.

We also have a minister, Rev. Jay Fluck, who is ministering in a somewhat unusual circumstance. He is laboring within the geographic bounds of the Covenant East Classis, but outside of our ecclesiastical bounds. He has been called and granted permission to serve an independent congregation, the Sovereign Grace Church, in Gettysburg, PA. This congregation has gone through some difficult times and for several years has been in contact with our classis. It is moving in the direction of eventual union with the RCUS. Rev. Fluck reports that his labors seem fruitful and are largely well received. So far his work has been a learning and growing experience for both himself and the congregation. As an aside, he also expressed gratitude to the Lord for His providence in giving him the opportunity to spend more time with his dad in the last six months before his death, than in the previous 10 years.

We also note with gratitude to God our Brother Ron Potter's presence among us. We rejoice that the Lord has seen fit to restore him to sufficient health to continue his labors in the gospel ministry. We are grateful for the support of his wife Sharon and the members of Heritage Reformed who assisted greatly during his illness.

In summary then, it seems the Lord is using and blessing the ministry of the Gospel of the churches of Covenant East Classis. Let's all give ourselves afresh with renewed zeal that we might "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Let's all remember this admonition of the Apostle Peter:

"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Sincerely, your co-laborer in the Gospel,
Rev. Randall Klynsma

Classis Action:

The report was to be spread in the official minutes, printed in the Abstract of the Minutes, and submitted to the *Reformed Herald*.

B. Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes

Dear Brothers in Christ,

It has been a privilege to serve as your Stated Clerk for another year. Following the 2011 Spring Classis Meeting the minutes of the 26th Annual Meeting of the Covenant East Classis were typed, indexed, and placed in a permanent binder with all reports, overtures, and relevant information. The exceptions which Synod took upon reviewing our minutes have been duly amended where possible. The President's Report on the State of the Church was printed in the abstract and sent to the *Reformed Herald*. The 2011 Abstract was prepared and copies were printed and distributed to the churches at Synod in compliance with the synodical standing rule #10. All of the requisite forms and communications were sent to the clerk of Synod along with the overtures from our Classis.

In addition three Executive Circulars were sent out this year. Together with the president of Classis, I planned out the discussions and researched study materials to handout in advance of this meeting. I am very grateful to Rev. Ryan Kron for his able leadership in preparing study guides for the discussion on Missions.

I also handled the paperwork and was part of advising Rev. Wes Brice and the Grace Reformed Church of Northwest Arkansas, in the process of that congregation's organization, and then the resignation of Rev. Brice from Garner, and his call and acceptance to Grace in NWA.

For this meeting, nearly all of the credential and statistical information came in early or on time. Well Done! Well Done! Thank you very much for heeding my pastoral plea in last year's report. I do need to give one reminder, however. Please read the fine print instructions on the statistic forms. Those are important directions. Unfortunately, 5 of the 9 reporting churches or mission works had statistical errors. It took some time, but the clerk's calculator was able to fix these. Also, please do verify that you have filled out all the information that is requested, since apparently two elders do not have a phone, and one church building does not have an address.

I do seek the advice of the Classis on how to list in our Abstracts and on the denominational website the times of our worship services and Bible studies. This year, I noticed several churches providing more information in the past on the statistical form. In the past, we only listed events that occur on every Lord's Day. Mid-week meetings and monthly Sunday evening events were left for local churches to post on their own websites. However, this new information could be added. I would need some direction, and then we would want to give a fair chance to all congregations to give me that information, so the listing can be complete. Whatever we choose, it should be consistent for all churches. Right now, the 2012 Directory that I have printed is inconsistent, but accurate to what was sent in to me.

One necrology have been received at this writing. Please submit any more necrologies as soon as possible for publishing in the 2012 Abstract.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kyle Sorensen

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

C. Report of the Executive Committee of Synod

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 265th Synod, there is an action that requires consideration by the Classes. The following motion carried at our last Synod meeting: "That Synod overture the Classes to request that home mission funding be based on the Synodical fiscal year."

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 (265th Abstract, p. 103).
2. The change in the Standing Rules of Synod, #1, "The fiscal year of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from July 1

to June 30 of the following year. The synodical dues shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid not later than the *thirtieth* of June of the current fiscal year.

3. The change in Standing Rule #2: “The statistics of the Classes *for the calendar year* shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod two weeks before the session of Synod.”

4. The change in Standing Rule #5: “The Treasurer shall reimburse travel on behalf of Synod at forty-five cents (\$0.45) per mile per vehicle. *Public transportation costs and rental car fees for the delegate shall be reimbursed at full cost. (Delegates are exhorted to exercise good stewardship in the use of Synod's funds and to not abuse this provision).*”

5. The change in Standing Rule #6: “Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Synod whose congregations have paid the synodical dues in full to the Synod Treasurer, and those delegates who have ended all sessions of Synod or have been properly excused by Synod.”

6. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the *calendar year*.

7. 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.

8. The Classes are reminded that the 266th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 21-24, 2012, at Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.

Respectfully submitted,
David Fagrey

Stated Clerk for the Executive Committee of Synod

Classis Action:

The report was referred to the Standing Minutes of Synod Committee.

D. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer, Elder Jim Drewes, presented the following report.

Classis Action: The report was adopted. It was also audited by the Standing Finances Committee and found to be in order.

Fund Balances (March - June 2011 PRORATED)

<u>Starting Balance- February 1, 2011</u>		<u>\$ 100,862.03</u>
General Fund	Balance 2/1/11	\$ 6,240.82
Receipts		\$ 2,988.01
Expenses		\$ 4,307.42
Balance 6/30/11		\$ 4,921.41
*Missions Fund	Balance 2/1/11	\$ 89,546.01
Receipts		\$ 16,318.00
Expenses		\$ 14,687.54
Balance 6/30/11		\$ 91,176.47
*Set-aside funds received as follows:		
<u>INCOME</u> in 2006 (\$8,360), 2007 (\$15,520),		
2008(\$15,240), 2009 (\$23,160), 2010 (\$22,650),		
2011 ProRated (\$9,464) = \$ 94,394		
<u>EXPENSES</u> thus far for Emmaus Road:		<u>\$ 30,000</u>
<u>Available funds within the Missions Fund</u>		
<u>for future CEC mission works:</u>		\$ 64,394
Benevolence Fund	Balance 2/1/11	\$ 5,075.20
Receipts		\$ 2,866.00
Expenses		\$ 1,261.00
Balance 6/30/11		\$ 6,680.20
Student Aid Fund	Balance 2/1/11	\$ 0.00
Receipts		\$ 1,261.00
Expenses		\$ 0.00
Balance 6/30/11		\$ 1,261.00
<u>Ending Balance 6/30/11</u>		<u>\$ 104,039.08</u>

Detailed Income Report (March - June 2011 PRORATED)

	13%	74%	13%	100%		
Guideline Total-\$70	\$9.00	\$52.00	\$9.00	\$70.00		
	Members	General	Missions	Benevolence	Budget	Totals
Northwest AR	18	\$68.00	\$389.00	\$68.00	\$525.00	\$525.00
Garner, IA	91	\$345.00	\$1,964.00	\$345.00	\$2,654.00	\$2,654.00
Minneapolis, MN	111	\$421.00	\$2,396.00	\$421.00	\$3,238.00	\$3,238.00
Hamburg, MN	211	\$800.00	\$4,554.00	\$800.00	\$6,154.00	\$6,154.00
Kansas City, MO	56	\$305.66	\$1,209.00	\$212.00	\$1,633.00	\$1,726.66
Manitowoc, WI	196	\$743.00	\$4,231.00	\$743.00	\$5,717.00	\$5,717.00
Napoleon, OH	<u>73</u>	<u>\$277.00</u>	<u>\$1,575.00</u>	<u>\$277.00</u>	<u>\$2,129.00</u>	\$2,129.00
Totals	756	\$ 2,959.66	\$16,318.00	\$2,866.00	\$22,050.00	\$22,143.66
Other income and interest						\$28.35
Income Total						\$ 22,172.01

Detailed Expense Report (March - June 2011 PRORATED)

General Fund Expense

Spring Classis Meeting	\$3,087.78
Clerk/Printing & supplies	\$687.00
Travel	\$0.00
Honorarium	\$500.00
Postage/Phone/Conf Calls	\$32.64
Total	\$4,307.42

Mission Fund Expense

Grace Reformed Chapel	\$3,120.00
Heritage Reformed Chapel	\$1,400.00
Redeemer Mission (\$18,750 due from set-aside funds)	\$10,000.00
Travel	\$167.54
Total	\$14,687.54

Benevolence

	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00

Expense Total \$18,994.96

Total Classis Income vs Expense 2011-2012 YTD \$ 164.40

Respectfully submitted, Jim Drewes, Treasurer

Fund Balances (July 2011 - Feb 2012 Fiscal YTD)

Starting Balance- June 30, 2011		\$ 104,039.08
General Fund	Balance 6/30/11	\$ 4,921.41
Receipts		\$ 4,286.41
Expenses		\$ 1,982.13
Balance 2/29/12		\$ 7,225.69
*Missions Fund	Balance 6/30/11	\$ 91,176.47
Receipts		\$ 23,039.00
Expenses		\$ 29,207.88
Balance 2/29/12		\$ 85,007.59
*Set-aside funds received as follows: INCOME in 2006 (\$8,360), 2007 (\$15,520), 2008(\$15,240), 2009 (\$23,160), 2010 (\$22,650), 2011 ProRated (\$9,464), 2011-12 YTD \$13,132 = \$107,526		
<u>EXPENSES</u> thus far for Emmaus Road:		\$ 60,000
<u>Available funds within the Missions Fund</u> <u>for future CEC mission works:</u>		\$ 47,526
Benevolence Fund	Balance 6/30/11	\$ 6,680.20
Receipts		\$ 4,029.00
Expenses		\$ 1,773.00
Balance 2/29/12		\$ 8,936.20
Student Aid Fund	Balance 6/30/11	\$ 1,261.00
Receipts		\$ 1,773.00
Expenses		\$ 0.00
Balance 2/29/12		\$ 3,034.00
Ending Balance 2/29/12		\$ 104,203.48

Detailed Income Report (July 2011 - Feb 2012 Fiscal YTD)

		13%	74%	13%	100%	
Guideline Total-\$70		\$9.00	\$52.00	\$9.00	\$70.00	
	<u>Members</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Northwest AR	18	\$109.00	\$622.00	\$109.00	\$1,260.00	\$840.00
Garner, IA	91	\$414.00	\$2,357.00	\$414.00	\$6,370.00	\$3,185.00
Minneapolis, MN	111	\$505.00	\$2,875.00	\$505.00	\$7,770.00	\$3,885.00
Hamburg, MN	211	\$800.00	\$4,554.00	\$800.00	\$14,770.00	\$6,154.00
Kansas City, MO	56	\$728.00	\$2,912.00	\$504.00	\$3,920.00	\$4,144.00
Manitowoc, WI	196	\$1,040.00	\$5,923.00	\$1,040.00	\$13,720.00	\$8,003.00
Napoleon, OH	<u>73</u>	<u>\$657.00</u>	<u>\$3,796.00</u>	<u>\$657.00</u>	<u>\$5,110.00</u>	\$5,110.00
Totals	756	\$ 4,253.00	\$23,039.00	\$4,029.00	\$52,920.00	\$31,321.00
Other income and interest						\$33.41
Income Total						\$ 31,354.41

Detailed Expense Report (July 2011 - Feb 2012 Fiscal YTD)

General Fund Expense

Spring Classis Meeting	\$0.00
Clerk/Printing & supplies	\$1,295.76
Travel	\$661.27
Honorarium	\$0.00
Postage/Phone/Conf Calls	\$25.10
Total	\$1,982.13

Mission Fund Expense

Grace Reformed Chapel	\$6,240.00
Heritage Reformed Chapel	\$2,800.00
Redeemer Mission	\$18,750.00
Travel	\$1,417.88
Total	\$29,207.88

Benevolence

	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00

Expense Total \$31,190.01

Total Classis Income vs Expense 2011-2012 YTD \$ **164.40**

Respectfully submitted, Jim Drewes, Treasurer

Parochial Reports of Ministers

Each minister read his parochial report. Opportunity was given for 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.

Classis Action: The classis took note of each report.

Constitutional Questions to the Elders

The President addressed the questions found in article 81 of the RCUS Constitution to the elder delegates of each congregation. A brief time of further questions for the elders followed the official answers found below:

1. Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?
All 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 answered "Yes."
3. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation:
 - a. Is visitation faithfully performed?
All answered "Yes," except Kansas City answered "No."
 - b. Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?
All answered "Yes."
4. Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution?
All 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 answered "Yes."
 - b. Are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?
All answered "Yes."
 - c. Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the guidelines for giving?
All answered "Yes."
 - d. Are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?
All answered "Yes."
6. Are the Church records properly kept?
All answered "Yes."

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

All answered "Yes."

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

All answered "Yes."

Membership and Financial Statistics

The Stated Clerk provided a table of statistics based on information submitted by the churches of classis (see Appendix #3, pages 47-48 of this abstract).

Reports from Classis Delegates to Fraternal Bodies

The Classis Eastern U.S. of the URCNA was visited in October 2011 by Rev. Jay Fluck. The Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC was visited in September 2011 by Rev. Kyle Sorensen.

Classis Eastern US of the URCNA

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren;

It was my privilege to represent the Covenant East Classis as our Fraternal Delegate. I was warmly received and fed, enjoyed the fellowship and made connections with men and congregations that intrigue me. The New Holland, PA congregation has purchased the old Zeldenreich RCUS property and is worshipping in a facility which was part of us until the merger of 1939; and the Heidelberg Reformation Association is seeking to revive the love for and use of the Heidelberg Catechism among congregational churches. I trust that they share the feelings.

The meeting actually began before it was called to order with an hour long presentation by Dr. Brian Lee on "Making Use of Technology in the Work of Ministry", at 8:00 am on October 19th. The Actual Classis meeting was called to order at 9:15am by Rev. Boekestein following opening devotions.

The first and virtually only order of business was the examination of a candidate by the Classis. The Classis spent an exorbitant amount of time on the exam which covered the same loci as ours but had less done in committee than we commonly do. The exam was thorough, in spite of the loquaciousness of the candidate.

Overtures regarding the proposed new hymnal were passed on to Synod. A problem developed (the kind we would love to have) when a large donation to the Classis from one of the congregations earmarked for missions within the Classis demonstrated the need for seriously revamping the office of treasurer. Other business was tabled to a subsequent meeting because of the lateness of the hour.

I was given the privilege of the floor for the meeting, and the opportunity to address the body; I took the opportunity to exhort the Classis to be diligent in its exams and contend earnestly for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints (Jude :3).

The next regular meeting of the Classis is scheduled for March 16th at Pompton Plains, NJ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Jay Fluck

Presbytery of the Midwest of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

On September 26, 2011, your delegate represented our classis to the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC, in Sheboygan, WI. My sources tell me this Presbytery is the largest in the entire OPC as far as number of churches, number of members, and number of pastors, elders, and deacons. This past year was busy for them, with 5 special meetings in addition to the 2 regular Presbytery meetings held each Spring and Fall. Several of the special meetings had to do with issues relating to the relationship between a senior pastor, an associate pastor, and a congregation.

The OPC publishes a helpful magazine for pastors, elders, and deacons called *Ordained Servant*, which is available online. They also hold a "Timothy Conference" annually. This gives young men who are prospects for the ministry a taste of seminary training and of what the ministry is all about.

Their Regional Home Missionary reported that a new mission work has begun in St. James, MN. Also, the church in Madison, Wisconsin, was organized as a particular church. Meanwhile, the Presbytery proposed a 12 month plan to dissolve a congregation in Independence, IA. Also, they are reluctantly closing the Chicago Hispanic Mission work they began several years ago, and the Spanish-speaking home missionary they had hired is now looking for a call. This was a sad chapter in the history of the church's outreach to the large Spanish-speaking population in Chicagoland. The missionary himself requested the closing of the mission. The people whom they were serving are being encouraged to join already existing OPC churches, and to assimilate. The missionary shared some lessons he learned through the whole experience. After much research, prayer, and counsel, it appears that it is not going to work for Reformed churches to establish ethnically focused churches. He mentioned that even Redeemer PCA in New York City has given up on planting Hispanic churches. This church, he said, is on the 'cutting edge' of missions in the Reformed world. They have seen the same failure in several different Reformed and Presbyterian denominations around the country.

In light of the closing of the Hispanic mission, I found it ironic that a few minutes later the regional home missionary reported that their presbytery had an exciting new opportunity: to plant churches among the Deaf community –which is another distinct cultural community within our country. Rev. Jari Saavalainen had asked them how he could be received into the OPC, and the Deaf church in Lombard, Illinois, which he serves might be interested in entering the OPC. We should pray for wisdom for the OPC and for Rev. Saavalainen and the deaf congregations who are seeking how to establish Reformed congregations among the deaf culture.

A few men were taken under care in their preparations for the ministry. One candidate preached a sermon, of which I heard the last half. I was pleased to hear several delegates bold and courageous enough to take issue with the sermon itself, the exegesis, and the inability of the candidate at the present time to present an accurate and appropriate sermon to God's people. Another candidate in his exam mentioned that he held to a 6-day creation view.

The OPC is in the middle of creating their own Psalter Hymnal. A musicologist is helping. They have invited the URCNA to cooperate with them. There is about 75% agreement with the URC already on the details. The likely date for

publishing is 2014, though the URCNA fraternal delegate told me he suspected it would take longer if the URCNA were to be a part of the final product.

The Presbytery has a Permanent Youth Committee. The Committee is organizing a Reformed Singles Online service of sorts. They also are asking and trying to determine what covenant youth should know about Polity, Worship, the Catechism, and so on. They have been celebrating the youth in the congregations who do memorize their catechism (they do not require that the youth memorize the catechism). They are rewarding them with T-shirts that have relevant Bible and theological statements printed on them. Their presbytery also runs an annual family camp, but there is no annual youth camp. They are looking in to starting one.

I was granted time to bring greetings to the presbytery. In my remarks, I added that when I heard their regional home missionary mention a possible application for admission into the OPC from Rev. Saavalainen and even a future OPC mission in the Lombard, IL, area, I was compelled by our fraternal relationship to make myself available to anyone who would like background on the RCUS history with these Christian brothers and sisters. Three ministers in particular sought out my input, and I was able to correspond with them the next week in order to give them a more complete record of the history of the RCUS deaf ministers, elders, and congregations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Kyle A. Sorensen

Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Bodies and Visitors

Rev. Paul Brace of the Atlantic Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, brought fraternal greetings. A time for questions from the delegates followed.

Rev. Wes Bredenhof, of Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches, brought fraternal greetings. A time for questions from the delegates followed.

Rev. Kevin Hossink, of Classis Eastern U.S. of the United Reformed Churches of North America, brought fraternal greetings. A time for questions from the delegates followed.

Sawtelle led the body in prayer for these fraternal delegates and their respective churches.

Ray Schnabel gave an update on Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Reports of Special Committees

A. Special Committee to Organize Grace RCUS, Northwest Arkansas

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We give thanks to our gracious Lord that Grace Reformed Church of Northwest Arkansas has been organized! On Dec. 14, an organizational meeting was held at the home of Rev. Wesley and Virginia Brice, as conducted by the Spiritual Council of Peace RCUS, Garner, IA, which had been the overseeing church since 2002.

At the meeting two elders and two deacons were elected. Ordination of the

deacons followed and installation of the four officers, the elders being previously ordained. The elders are Mr. Bobby Duncan and Rev. Donald Weilersbacher. The deacons are Mr. Sam Hillyer and Mr. Stephon Johnson. Nineteen communicants and one baptized child were dismissed from the rolls of Peace RCUS, to the new congregation.

The new church is now enrolled as a congregation of Covenant East Classis, RCUS, as had been approved by Classis Circular upon completion of said organization. Rev. Brice has been the missionary to the work, since December 2002, when he was called as an associate pastor by Garner.

We ask for your prayers for the new congregation, in this area of the 'Bible belt'! May the Lord grant continued growth to His honor and glory! All praise and thanks be to our God!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Harvey Opp

B. Special Committee to Install Rev. Wes Brice

Esteemed Brothers in Christ,

The undersigned represented Classis in the installation of Rev. Wesley Brice, at a service of Grace Reformed Church on February 2, 2012. Rev. Kyle Sorensen brought the charge to Rev. Brice. Rev. Harvey Opp led the service and brought the charge to the charge to the congregation, and asked the installation questions of Rev. Brice and the congregation. The two elders of the congregation, Bobby Duncan and Donald Weilersbacher then came forward to extend the right hand of fellowship to their newly installed pastor.

It is good to officially have Rev. Brice installed as pastor of the newest congregation of Classis! May the Lord bless them all, as they serve Christ together!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Harvey Opp, chairman
Rev. Kyle Sorensen
Elder Bobby Duncan
Elder Donald Weilersbacher

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. Benevolences

1. That the student aid fund be increased by \$9,000 to provide benevolent aid to the four students under care for the Classical year 2012.
2. That Covenant East Classis provide \$150 per month to Cody Schwichtenberg for living expenses for Classical year 2012.
3. That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial

aid for Mrs. Grace Ploeger in the amount of \$1,200 per month for Synodical Year 2012.

4. That Covenant East Classis overture the RCUS Synod for benevolent aid in the amount of \$450 per month for Synodical Year 2012 to assist with life insurance, medical insurance, and medical costs for Rev. Ron Potter.
5. That Covenant East Classis overture the RCUS Synod for benevolent aid in the amount of \$658 per month for Synodical Year 2012 to assist with medical insurance costs for Rev. Jay Fluck.
6. That Covenant East Classis overture the RCUS Synod for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of \$1,000 per month for Synodical Year 2012.
7. Mrs. Grace Ploeger thanks the Synod of the RCUS for providing ministerial aid for Synodical Year 2011. [Classis action was: Take Note.]

Kron, Harms, Schroeder

B. Judicial / Examination and Licensure

1. That Heritage Reformed Church add to her Constitution, Article 35, a provision for a sabbatical leave for elders.
 - a. Grounds: The document as written does not contain this provision and the members of the steering committee do seem to want this kind of language.
2. That classis approve the constitution of Heritage Reformed Church.
3. That classis find the memorial of HRC in order and that Peace Reformed Church of Napoleon, OH be appointed as the committee to supervise the election of elders and deacons and to induct them into office.
4. That classis overture Synod for \$400 for books and \$4800 for tuition at Heidelberg Theological Seminary for Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg as student for the ministry for the 2012-13 academic year.
5. That Mr. Chris Campbell be taken under care of classis as a student for the ministry.
6. That classis overture synod for Mr. Chris Campbell \$400 for books and \$2000 for tuition for the 2012-13 academic year.
7. That Mr. Steve Carr be taken under care of classis as a student for the ministry.
8. That classis overture synod for \$400 for books and to pay the tuition and fees at Mid America Reformed Seminary for Mr. Steve Carr for the 2012-13 academic year.
9. That Mr. Tom Short be taken under care of classis as student for the ministry.
10. That classis overture synod for \$400 for books and pay the tuition and fees at Heidelberg Theological Seminary for Mr. Tom Short for the 2012-13 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,
Brice, Potter, Sawtelle, Stuebbe, Watson

C. Excuses

No excuses were requested.

Kron, Harms, Schroeder

D. Finances

1. We have audited the Treasurer's reports and find them to be in order.
2. That travel reimbursement for this classis meeting be as follows:

Schroeder	\$555.00
Duncan	\$302.20
Brice	\$436.00
Stuebbe	\$82.60
Opp	\$872.22
St. Paul, Hamburg	\$1,304.63
Watson	\$1,653.00
Fluck	\$204.00
Sorensen	\$705.30
Fisher	\$577.59
Klynsma	\$361.20
Sawtelle	<u>\$112.00</u>

TOTAL **\$7,165.74**

3. That Classis add to the Standing Rules the following: 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.
4. On the matter of the reimbursement for the notebook computer for the Classis Stated Clerk, we propose no further action. [Classis action was: Take Note.]
5. That the classis adopt the following guidelines:

GENERAL Fund	\$ 9.00
MISSIONS Fund	\$42.00
BENEVOLENCE Fund	\$ 3.00
<u>STUDENT AID Fund</u>	<u>\$14.00</u>
TOTAL GUIDELINE	\$68.00

6. That the Classis Treasurer set aside \$15 of the Missions Fund guideline for future RCUS mission works.

Altman, Sorensen, Duncan

E. Minutes of Classis

1. Your committee received the draft minutes from the Stated Clerk, made corrections which were then incorporated in the revised minutes by the Stated Clerk (for distribution to the body). [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

Opp, Harms, Renner

F. Minutes of Synod

1. We read the report, take note of its content, and we further take note that since our Classis fiscal year matches the Synod's fiscal year, our home mission funding requests will be based on Synod's fiscal year. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

Sorensen, Duncan

G. Missions

1. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$780 per month, from April to June 2012, a total of \$2,340 for 3 months; and \$600 per month, a total of \$7,200 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 2012. [This will be a reduction of \$2,160, a 15% decrease from original support.]
2. That Classis overture Synod to provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas, with \$360 per month, a total of \$4,320 in fiscal year 2013. [This will be a reduction of \$720, for the year, a 5% decrease from original support.]
3. That Classis provide Emmaus Road Chapel with \$2,500 per month, from April to June 2012, a total of \$7,500 for 3 months; and \$1,250 per month, a total of \$15,000 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 2012. [This will be a reduction of \$15,000 for the year, a 50% decrease from original support.]
4. That Classis overture Synod to provide Emmaus Road Chapel with \$1,250 per month, a total of \$15,000 in fiscal year 2013. [This will be a reduction of \$25,000 for the year, a 62% decrease from original support.]
5. That Classis provide Heritage Reformed Chapel of Waymart, PA with \$350 per month from April 2012 through June 2012, a total of \$1,050 for 3 months; and \$350 per month, a total of \$4,200 in fiscal year 2013, beginning July 2012, for rental costs.
6. That Classis take note of the Missions Committee's proposed Strategic Plan for 3-5 years. [Classis action was: Take Note.]

7. That the Classis Missions Committee overture the Synod Missions Committee that Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas might be designated for the Day of Prayer offering for its building fund.

Schnabel, Klynsma, Fisher

H. Nominations

The committee's recommendations for the permanent committees are as follows (underlined serves as the chairman).

Executive: Klynsma, Sorensen, Stuebbe, *Potter* (only for consult with Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, PA)

Candidates and Credentials: Brice, Fluck, Potter, Kroese, Watson

Interchurch Relations: Sawtelle, Klynsma, Kron, Fisher

Missions: Opp, Altman, Schnabel, Harms, Renner, Schroeder, Wiersma

Publications: no committee formed

Schnabel, Klynsma, Fisher

I. Services

1. That the following statement be published in the bulletin of Heritage Reformed Chapel, Waymart, PA, and read in the worship service this coming Sunday:
"To the congregation of Heritage Reformed, the Covenant East Classis extends our heartfelt appreciation for your wonderful hospitality, and your labor of love, in providing the facility and the delicious meals at our Spring Meeting of Classis. It was a blessing to meet with you, for the first time, as a Classis! May God richly bless you in your fellowship and service unto Christ our Lord!"

Opp, Harms, Renner

Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

A. Expression of Appreciation to Hosting Congregation

This was done through the Standing Committee on Services report.

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

Each of these reports was adopted by the classis.

Reading of the Minutes and their approval

The "Draft Minutes" were reviewed by the Standing Committee on Minutes of Classis and returned to the stated clerk for revision. These revisions were entered and then published as the "Revised Minutes," which were distributed to all delegates as available. After appropriate time for review, the president called for any further corrections from the floor, and then declared them approved as corrected. The final

items of business for which there was no time to complete this review process were read aloud by the stated clerk. Upon corrections from the floor, the president declared the minutes approved as corrected.

Adjournment

The 27th annual meeting of the Covenant East Classis of the RCUS was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, until the time of the next stated meeting of classis.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 10 ministers and 7 elders present.

B. Devotions

Elder Steve Stuebbe read from Psalm 121 and closed in prayer.

C. Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Doxology

The president of classis led the delegates in reciting the Apostle's Creed and praying the Lord's Prayer. He then pronounced the Benediction and all present sang the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted and Chronicled for the King's Glory,
Rev. Kyle A. Sorensen, Stated Clerk

Appendix for the 2012 Abstract follows:

#1 - List of Overtures and Communications

#2 - Necrology

#3 - Statistics

#4 - Standing Rules

Appendix #1: List of Overtures and Communications

OVERTURES

1. From Northland RCUS in Kansas City, to take Mr. Christopher Campbell under care as Student for the Ministry. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
2. From Redeemer RCUS in Golden Valley, to take Mr. Steve Carr under care as Student for the Ministry. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
3. From Peace RCUS in Garner, to overture Synod for ministerial aid for Mrs. Grace Ploeger. (To BENEVOLENCE)
4. From Peace RCUS in Napoleon, to overture Synod for benevolent aid for Rev. Potter's medical insurance-related costs. [5 pages] (To BENEVOLENCE, with 3-year budget attached)
5. From Heritage RCUS in Waymart, a memorial requesting to be organized as a congregation. (To JUDICIAL)
6. From Rev. Jay Fluck, request for benevolent aid for medical insurance costs. (To BENEVOLENCE)
7. From Salem Ebenezer RCUS in Manitowoc, to overture Synod for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance. (To BENEVOLENCE)
8. From Grace RCUS in Northwest Arkansas, to take Mr. Thomas Short under care as Student for the Ministry. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. From Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC, regarding their possible reception of Rev. Jari Saavalainen and of a deaf congregation. (2 pages) (To Permanent INTERCHURCH. By motion, this was read on the floor and a discussion was held from the floor to formulate a response to it.)
2. From Cody Schwichtenberg, a report on his seminary studies. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
3. From Mr. Christopher Campbell, regarding his wish to be taken under care. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
4. From Mrs. Grace Ploeger, a thank-you for the ministerial aid. (To BENEVOLENCE)
5. From Heritage RCUS in Waymart, their proposed constitution. (8 pages) (To JUDICIAL)

Appendix #2: Necrology

Rev. Chester Raymond Ploeger (1925-2011)
Peace Reformed Church of Garner, Iowa

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix #3: Statistical Information covering 2011, reported at Spring 2012 Classis meeting

Category	NW Arkansas	Garner, IA	Minneapolis MN	Hamburg, MN	Kansas City, MO	Manitowoc WI
1. No. Of Elders	2	3	4	3	3	4
2. No. Of Deacons	2	3	4	3	4	3
3. Comm. Last Year	17	91	111	211	56	196
4. Rec'd by Confirm.	0	0	0	2	0	1
5. Rec'd by Letter	3	1	8	0	0	0
6. Rec'd by Prof.	2	4	7	0	0	2
7. Tot. Received	5	5	15	2	0	3
8. Tot. Old/New	22	96	126	213	56	199
9. Lost by Dismissal	2	4	8	0	2	1
10. Lost by Era/Dis.	1	0	0	0	3	28
11. Lost by Death	0	1	0	4	0	1
12. Total Lost	3	5	8	4	5	30
13. Comm. this Year	19	91	118	209	51	169
14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.	1	20	78	27	22	24
15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.	20	111	196	236	73	193
16. No. of Families	12	53	56	128	21	102
17. No. of S. S. Child.	6	15	64	20	21	11
18. Adult Baptisms	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Infant Baptisms	1	3	8	0	1	1
20. Total Baptisms	1	3	8	0	1	1
21. No. L.S. Served	16	81	118	185	60	173
22. Times. L.S. Served	6	4	6	9	6	4
23. Regular Offerings	\$62,427	\$117,352	\$279,728	\$177,403	\$174,766	\$168,495
24. Special Offerings	2,000	25,079	12,821	0	9,678	3,131
25. Other Sources	0	8,245	67,997	193,319	0	11,387
26. Total Receipts	\$64,427	\$150,676	\$360,546	\$370,722	\$184,444	\$183,013
27. Giv. to Syn. Guidlin.	1,827	17,326	39,247	32,030	15,377	38,375
28. Giv. to Clas. Guidln.	1,156	5,839	28,750	6,154	5,871	13,720
29. RCUS non-budget	0	2,443	17,161	5,725	3,110	2,125
30. Non-RCUS causes	700	5,218	3,206	10,650	9,960	3,581
31. Other Expenses	44,233	133,380	254,988	166,239	154,903	104,118
32. Total Expenses	\$47,916	\$164,206	\$343,352	\$220,798	\$189,221	\$161,919
33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.	NA	750,000	850,000	850,000	1,500,000	800,000
34. Val. of Parsonage	NA	125,000	170,000	200,000	NA	200,000
35. Impr. on Property	0	33,547	23,490	13,400	0	6,635
36. Property Debt	0	0	\$316,476	0	\$188,000	0
37. Debt Paid Last Yr.	0	0	31,709	0	54,000	0
38. Synod Giving /Com.	\$107	\$190	\$354	\$152	\$275	\$196
39. Classis Giving /Com.	\$68	\$64	\$259	\$29	\$105	\$70
40. RCUS Giving /Com.	\$175	\$281	\$767	\$208	\$435	\$277

Appendix #3: Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States

Napoleon OH	2011 Total	2010 Total	% Change	mission work stats also in supervising church's totals	Eden Prairie, MN (Minneapolis)	Waymart, PA (Napoleon)
3	22	21	4.8%	1. No. Of Elders	0	0
3	22	20	10.0%	2. No. Of Deacons	0	0
73	756	755	0.1%	3. Comm. Last Year	0	20
2	5	20	-75.0%	4. Rec'd by Confirm.	0	0
0	12	3	300.0%	5. Rec'd by Letter	0	0
11	26	12	116.7%	6. Rec'd by Prof.	0	1
13	43	35	22.9%	7. Tot. Received	0	1
86	798	790	1.0%	8. Tot. Old/New Mbrs.	0	21
2	19	14	35.7%	9. Lost by Dismissal	0	0
0	32	8	300.0%	10. Lost by Era/Dis.	0	0
0	6	12	-50.0%	11. Lost by Death	0	0
2	57	34	67.6%	12. Total Lost	0	0
84	741	756	-2.0%	13. Comm. this Year	22	21
25	197	188	4.8%	14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.	10	8
109	938	944	-0.6%	15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.	32	29
43	415	417	-0.5%	16. No. of Families	10	11
13	150	150	0.0%	17. No. of S. S. Child.	22	0
0	0	1	-100.0%	18. Adult Baptisms	0	0
1	15	14	7.1%	19. Infant Baptisms	0	1
1	15	15	0.0%	20. Total Baptisms	0	1
84	717	716	0.1%	21. No. L.S. Served	0	21
16	51	53	-3.8%	22. Times. L.S. Served	0	10
\$163,323	\$1,143,494	\$1,057,818	8.1%	23. Regular Offerings	\$22,417	\$32,710
2,206	54,915	32,614	68.4%	24. Special Offerings	0	0
11,127	292,075	75,778	285.4%	25. Other Sources	80,697	10,380
\$176,656	\$1,490,484	\$1,166,210	28%	26. Total Receipts	\$103,114	\$43,090
20,224	164,406	150,728	9%	27. Giv. to Syn. Guidlin.	0	1,540
7,239	68,729	53,091	29%	28. Giv. to Clas. Guidlin.	0	700
1,230	31,794	22,112	44%	29. RCUS non-budget	0	0
5,897	39,212	29,243	34%	30. Non-RCUS causes	509	0
139,469	997,330	850,412	17%	31. Other Expenses	72,175	37,970
\$174,059	\$1,301,471	\$1,105,586	18%	32. Total Expenses	\$72,684	\$40,210
275,000	5,025,000	5,175,000	-3%	33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.	NA	NA
NA	695,000	805,000	-14%	34. Val. of Parsonage	NA	NA
13,689	90,761	38,921	133%	35. Impr. on Property	0	0
0	504,476	578,407	-13%	36. Property Debt	0	0
0	85,709	98,706	-13%	37. Debt Paid Last Yr.	0	0
\$277	\$217	\$200	9%	38. Synod Giving /Com.	\$0	\$77
\$99	\$91	\$70	29%	39. Classis Giving /Com.	\$0	\$35
\$393	\$350	\$299	17%	40. RCUS Giving /Com.	\$0	\$112

**Appendix #4
Standing Rules of the 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, Missions, Candidates and Credentials, Inter-Church Relations, Publications. The Standing Committee on Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees.

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]

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]

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]

22. In order to preserve the historic Reformed and Biblical practice of voting in congregation meetings by male heads of households, the Covenant East Classis shall neither start nor receive new congregations in which voting by women is practiced.