

# **The Northern Plains Classis**

## **2012 Abstract of the Minutes**



Special Meeting  
October 15th, A.D. 2011  
Eureka Reformed Church  
Eureka, SD

Spring Meeting  
March 12th & 13th, A.D. 2012  
Hope Reformed Church  
Pierre, SD

## ***Classical Guideline for Giving***

Classical Dues:       \$11.00

Missions:             \$63.00

**Total:                \$74.00**

## ***Officers of Classis***

*President:   Rev. David Dawn*

*Vice President:   Rev. William Haddock*

*Stated Clerk:   Rev. James Grossmann*

*Treasurer:   Elder Matthew Fickbohm*

## ***Permanent Committees of Classis***

(Underline indicates Chairman)

### **Auditing**

W. Haddock, L. Goehring, J.P. Mosley

### **Camp**

J. Grossmann, J.P. Mosley, M. Fickbohm, R. De Jong

### **Candidates and Credentials**

W. Haddock, R. Stetler, D. Clark, T. Rott, D. Bentz

### **Christian Education and Publications**

J. Hall, J.P. Mosley, J. Snyder, R. Meidinger

### **Diaconal**

D. Clark, S. Sapp, R. Jung

### **Executive**

D. Dawn, J. Grossmann, M. Fickbohm

### **Home Missions**

P. Poe, D. Dawn, L. Goehring, D. Haak

### **Interchurch Relations**

R. Stetler, J. Hall, E. Mehlhaff, C. Mehlhaff

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**Churches in North Dakota**

**Ashley, ND 58413.....(701) 288-3265**

**Salem RCUS**, 209 1st Ave SW (Mail: PO Box 345)

Worship: 9 AM

Pastor: James Grossmann (wife, Michelle)

**Anamoose, ND 58710.....(701) 839-9778**

**Kassel RCUS**, meeting at St. Martin Lutheran Church in Anamoose  
(Mail: PO Box 121, Butte, ND 58723)

Worship: 10:30 AM

**Minot, ND 58701.....(701) 838-0605**

**Harvest RCUS**, meeting at Grand International Hotel, Norse Room  
(Mail: 1624 Foothills Rd., Minot, ND 58701)

Worship: 10:30am Bible Study: 6:30pm @ Parsonage

Website: [www.harvestreformedchurch.org](http://www.harvestreformedchurch.org)

Pastor: Phil Poe (wife, Karen)

**Chapels in North Dakota**

**Dickinson, ND 58601.....(701) 974-4199**

**First RCUS**, Meeting at Dickinson Holiday Inn Express

Worship: 2:00 PM

Website: [www.frcdickinson.com](http://www.frcdickinson.com)

Pastor: L. Dale Clark (wife, Sandra)

**Churches in South Dakota**

**Aberdeen, SD 57401.....(605) 225-6120**

**First RCUS**, 818 9th Ave S.E. (Mail:1002 Diamond St.)

Website: [www.aberdeenrcus.org](http://www.aberdeenrcus.org)

Worship: 9 AM

Pastor: David Dawn (wife, Colleen)

**Eureka, SD 57437.....(605) 284-2396**

**Eureka RCUS**, 310 F Ave. (Mail: PO Box 456)

Worship: 9 AM

Pastor: Richard Stetler (wife, Heidi)

**Herreid, SD 57632.....(605) 437-2414**

**First RCUS**, 601 Main St. (Mail: PO Box 212)

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

Pastor: Jimmy Hall (wife, Stefanie)

**Hosmer, SD 57448.....(701) 288-3265**  
**Hosmer RCUS**, 202 West 5th St (Mail: PO Box 136)  
Worship: 11AM  
Stated Supply: James Grossmann (wife, Michelle)

**Pierre, SD 57501.....(605) 224-7846**  
**Hope RCUS**, 317 S. Garfield  
Worship: 9:30 AM  
Pastor: J.P. Mosley, jr (wife, Francesca)

**Watertown, SD 57201.....(605) 886-9557**  
**Covenant RCUS**, 15 12th Ave NE (Mail: 1016 Arrow Ave)  
Worship 10AM; Sunday School: 11:15AM

**Radio Programs of the Northern Plains Classis**

<b>Church</b>	<b>Radio Station</b>	<b>Time</b>
Aberdeen – Rev. David Dawn	KGIM – 1420 AM	Sundays, 8:30 AM
Salem – Rev. James Grossmann	KSJB – 600 AM	Sundays, 7:45 AM
Eureka – Rev. Richard Stetler	KOLY – 99.5 FM	Sundays, 9:00 AM

**Church Websites**

- First RCUS – Aberdeen, SD.....*aberdeenrcus.org*
- Harvest RCUS – Minot, ND.....*harvestreformedchurch.org*
- Covenant RCUS – Watertown, SD.....*watertownrcus.org*
- First Reformed Chapel – Dickinson, ND.....*frcdickinson.com*
- SermonAudio.....*SermonAudio.com/npcrcus*

**Northern Plains Classis**  
**Reformed Church in the United States**  
**Special Meeting – October 15th, A.D. 2011**  
**Eureka, South Dakota**

**I. Services**

For the opening devotion, Mr. J. P. Mosley led the Assembly in a devotional using Titus 1:10-16 as his text. He concluded with prayer.

**II. Organization**

The Special Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis convened at 9:01am on Saturday, October 15th, A.D. 2011, at Eureka Reformed Church of Eureka, South Dakota.

Following the devotion, President David Dawn called the Assembly to order at 9:19am. The roll was called and there were 8 ministers and 7 elders present.

The President defined the Bar of the House as the first 8 pews of the church and appointed Elder Lynn Goehring and Rev. Phil Poe as tellers for the meeting. Rev. James Grossmann was chosen to be the *Reformed Herald* reporter.

**III. Adoption Of The Agenda, Orders Of The Day, Special Orders**

The Agenda, Services and Orders of the Day were adopted as amended.

**IV. Welcome & Seating Of Fraternal Delegates;  
 Welcome & Seating Of Visitors**

The President welcomed Elder Floyd Beck and Matthew Fickbohm. Elder Dennis Ritenour, a ruling elder from Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio was also introduced. These men were all seated in the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor.

**V. Announcement Of Standing Committees**

*Examinations & Licensure:* Haddock; Stetler; Poe; Snyder

*Finances:* Grossmann; Kusler; Abbink; Goehring

*Overtures & Excuses:* Hall, Clark; Bentz; Ochsner

**VI. Presentation Of Overtures, Permanent Committee Reports & Communications**

The Stated Clerk presented the overtures and communications to the Standing

Overture Committees. The Permanent Candidates & Credentials Committee Report was distributed to the Standing Committee on Examinations & Licensure. The Permanent Home Missions Committee Report was presented under IX. Miscellaneous Reports.

### *Candidates And Credentials Committee*

Esteemed Brethren of the North Plains Classis, your Committee reports as follows:

Your committee conducted a preliminary exam for orthodoxy and intent of Mr. Mosley by telephone conference call on Tuesday, July 5, at 7:30 pm. Mr. Mosley is a graduate of Mid-America Reformed Seminary and is currently licensed to preach in the Presbyterian Church in America.

Mr. Mosley sustained the exam and preached a trial sermon in the Hope RCUS of Pierre, South Dakota on July 31, 2011. The congregation has extended a call to Mr. Mosley, and he desires to appear before the Classis to undergo a licensure examination. Your committee proposes to examine him in the following areas:

Prolegomena; Theology; Anthropology, Christology; Soteriology; Ecclesiology; Eschatology; Apologetics & Philosophy; RCUS Constitution & History; Church History; English Bible; 3 Forms of Unity and Practica. Each portion of the exam will last for 15 minutes.

Follow-up questions from the floor will be allowed after each part of the exam. Mr. Mosley has submitted two exegetical papers (Hebrew and Greek) and a written sermon to your Committee.

Recommendations:

1. That Mr. J.P. Mosley be examined for licensure at the Special Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis to be held October 15, 2011, according to the proposed schedule in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

William Haddock (chairman), Phil Poe, Richard Stetler, Tim Rott, Jim Snyder

### *Home Missions Committee*

Esteemed brothers,

The Home Missions Committee of Classis presents this progress report concerning the work in Dickinson. Although things have been going slowly, progress has been made, which we will be sharing with you.

## DICKINSON FAMILIES

The Huizinga family lives just north of Dickinson. Mr John Huizinga is a New Zealand native who belonged to the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. This family is very committed to the Reformed faith. They have worked tirelessly in this effort to begin an RCUS church in Dickinson. They are so committed that they have said that they would move away from Dickinson if, after a year, they did not have a Reformed church in which to worship. They are currently members of the Carson, ND OPC church, the nearest Reformed work, at 90 miles from Dickinson. They travel there weekly for services. They bring four children to the group.

The Rollers live in Taylor, ND, seventeen miles east of Dickinson. Mrs. Roller's father was previously a pastor of a Bible Church in Dickinson, and having become Reformed in his thinking, resigned, and he and his wife have been attending the PCA in Spearfish, SD, where their pastor is Rev. Wes White. Mr. Roller is of a Roman Catholic background, and has been entirely convinced of the Reformed faith. They are excited to have a Reformed work in Dickinson, as are their parents, who have mentioned the possibility of moving back to Dickinson if a Reformed work begins there.

The Aune Family lives in Taylor, ND. They have previously been connected with the AFLC Lutheran Church. Our denomination had been recommended to them by Rev. Lynn Marshall of the PCA. They are a young family with a number of children.

Others: There have been two men who have been regular attendees of the Bible Studies. Those attending are pretty sure that there are a number of others who would be interested in a Reformed Church were we to get a man on the ground in Dickinson.

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF DICKINSON

Dickinson is one of the fastest growing communities in North Dakota. It has grown greatly because of the petroleum resources which have recently become available through the technology of fracking. In 2010, the census showed a population of 17,787, up 1,522 from the 2009 estimate. The average wage has also risen from \$34,983 to \$48,450 in the same period. A two-bedroom apartment in Dickinson costs \$1,600 per month, but there is at least a three-month lead time for most apartments. There are more economical alternatives within 25 miles. Dickinson lies on I-94, allowing excellent accessibility.

There are 25 churches in Dickinson, none of them are even close to Reformed. The closest Reformed church is in Carson, ND, 90 miles away.

Dickinson has jobs available in numerous capacities. Dickinson's economy has great diversity, being based on agriculture, energy (coal, ethanol, natural gas, oil

and uranium), national and international manufacturing and tourism. The oil industry is now the main employer, however, there are employment opportunities across the spectrum. The areas of greatest growth are in accommodation & food services, finance & insurance, wholesale trade, and health care & social assistance.

#### THE NEED OF A PARSONAGE

Housing in the city of Dickinson is getting to be very interesting with the rapid growth that is going on there. We have been offered the use of a two bedroom mobile home that is near the town of Taylor, which is about 20 miles east of Dickinson, we would have to pay the current mortgage payments plus utilities. This is not a permanent thing though, because the owners want to use it for a daycare business some time in the future. So we would still have to find other housing later on, and remember that this is only a small mobile home. We have checked into getting a larger manufactured home moved to Dickinson, and this can be done, but the costs range from \$38,200.00 for a refurbished used one, to \$62,800.00 for a new three bedroom, two bathroom, one. We still need a lot to set one on, and many lots that are available, will not allow a manufactured home to be put on them. Double wide manufactured homes seem to be okay, but those prices seem to be in the \$65,000.00 range. ( Still checking on that ) Lots are available, but they also run from around \$25,000.00 to \$65,000.00, and some of them do not have sewer or water hookups. We do have contact with a gentleman that possibly would sell us a lot at what he called a very fair price, I do not know at this time what that would be. We also have to consider that cement work for such a home with a basement could run up to \$30,000.00. So as you can see, a new home could cost up to, and even higher than \$130,000.00. Of course that depends on which way we would chose to go. Renting is still an option, but it is very hard to find something suitable to rent and rent is also very expensive in Dickinson. People told us that it is cheaper to build or move a house in, then to rent. The committee is still checking into other possibilities, but this is what we have found, up to this time.

#### MEN INTERESTED IN DICKINSON

After much searching, the list of those interested in going to Dickinson were Rev. Dale Clark, Rev. Matthew Powell, and Rev. Richard Stetler. However, this list has now changed. Rev. Powell has asked that his name be withdrawn from consideration, and Rev. David A. Dawn has added his name to the list. Interviews have been held with Revs. Clark and Stetler. As details of accommodation and other considerations are underway, no candidate has been selected.

#### SPONSORING CONGREGATION

In keeping with Reformed practice, the prospective members of the Dickinson

work would have to become members of a sponsoring congregation, coming under the pastoral oversight of that church's spiritual council. The missionary who comes to Dickinson would be called as an associate pastor of the sponsoring church. Dickinson would become a chapel under the care of that church. The need for a sponsoring church, which will probably arise shortly, will be an important concern. If any church is willing to undertake this responsibility, please inform your Committee as soon as possible.

## CONCLUSION

The committee understands the importance of getting things right the first time. Therefore, progress has been taken very deliberately. However, things now appear to be starting to clarify. We would ask that you be in prayer for the committee and the work in Dickinson. Please pray that God, in his good pleasure, would establish a strong Reformed witness in that growing city.

Recommendation 1 – That the Classis appoint an additional minister to the Committee.

Grounds: This allows the Committee to establish a sub committee to deal with Dickinson, having two ministers and removing any conflict of interest for Rev Dawn.

Respectfully submitted,

James Grossmann (chairman); David A. Dawn; Doug Haak; Lynn Goehring

## VII. Special Orders

The Special Order of the Classis was to examine Mr. J. P. Mosley for the purpose of licensing him to preach in the boundaries of the Northern Plains Classis.

## VIII. Reports Of Standing Committees

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

### A. Examinations and Licensure

Esteemed Brethren:

Your committee brings the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – That the examination of J. P. Mosley be sustained.

Recommendation #2 – That, in preparation for Mr. Mosley's ordination exam:

- a. He write a theological paper on God's decree as it relates to evil;

election and reprobation; and God's love.

- b. He write a theological paper on the final judgment, rewards and punishment.
- c. He be re-examined on the floor in RCUS Constitution and History.
- d. He be re-examined on the floor in the Three Forms of Unity.

Recommendation #3 – That the call to J. P. Mosley from Hope RCUS of Pierre, SD, and his acceptance of the call, be approved.

Recommendation #4 – That Rev. William Haddock be assigned as the overseer of Mr. Mosley's internship.

Recommendation #5 – That the resignation of Rev. Michael McGee from Covenant RCUS of Watertown, SD, and the Consistory's acceptance of the resignation be declared in order.

Recommendation #6 – That Rev. McGee's ministerial credentials be transferred from the Northern Plains Classis to the South Central Classis.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Haddock, Phillip Poe; Richard Stetler; Jim Snyder

*Rev. Dawn informed Mr. J. P. Mosley of the decision of the Classis. Mr. Mosley read the Oath of Licensure and signed and dated the form. Rev. Haddock offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Following the prayer, the right hand of fellowship was extended to Mr. Mosley.*

## B. Finances

Esteemed Brethren,

Recommendation #1 – That Matthew Fickbohm be reimbursed for the airplane ticket for J.P. Mosley in the amount of the ticket, which was \$388.80.

Recommendation #2 – That travel to Classis be reimbursed for delegates in the following amounts: Lynn Goehring, 270 miles -- \$94.00; Jim Snyder, 470 miles -- \$164.50; Dale Clark, 458 miles -- \$160.30; Keith Lorentzen, 52 miles -- \$18.20; Michael McGee, 360 miles -- \$126.00; James Grossmann, 60 miles -- \$21.00; and Ralph Kusler, 150 miles -- \$52.50; Total -- \$636.50

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann; Ron Abbink; Lynn Goehring; Ralph Kusler

## C. Overtures and Excuses

Your Committee received the following items:



1. A call to Mr. J.P. Mosley from Hope RCUS in Pierre, SD;
2. Mr. Mosley's letter accepting this call;
3. Letter of resignation from Rev. Michael McGee;
4. Letter from Covenant RCUS accepting Rev. McGee's resignation;
5. A call to Rev. McGee from Grace RCUS in Mitchell, SD;
6. Rev. McGee's letter accepting this call;
7. Letter from Rev. McGee requesting that his credentials be transferred to South Central Classis of the RCUS;
8. Letter of excuse from Elder Raymond Jung;
9. Letter of Excuse from Elder Ron Meidinger;
10. Letter of excuse from Elder LeRoy Neifer;
11. Letter of Excuse from Elder Tim Rott.

Your committee makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – That items 1-7 be referred to Examinations and Licensure.

Recommendation #2 – That items 9 and 11 are excused; Elder Ron Meidinger and Tim Rott.

Recommendation #3 – That items 8 and 10 are not excused; Elder Raymond Jung and LeRoy Neifer.

Rev. Clark moved that the Stated Clerk write a letter to the Consistory of Hosmer RCUS, informing them that their elders were not properly excused from the Special Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis. This motion was defeated.

Recommendation #4 – That future letter of excuse provide more information, take note.

Recommendation #5 – That the NPC special meeting of Classis on October 15th, 2011, express our appreciation and gratitude to all the saints at Eureka RCUS Church for their work of love providing wonderful meals and snacks, as well as the blessing of fellowshiping together. Thank you for your hospitality on our behalf. We give thanks to our great God and Savior for your kindness unto us and pray that our Heavenly Father may continue to bless you richly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jimmy Hall; Dale Clark; Darrell Bentz; Vern Ochsner

## **IX. Miscellaneous Reports And Other Business**

### **A. Report of the Executive Committee**

1. The location of the 27th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis: Rev. McGee presented a verbal report indicating that Covenant RCUS in Watertown, SD, is asking to rescind their invitation to host the 27th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis and that Hope RCUS in Pierre, SD, is willing to be the new host.

#### 2. Election of Stated Clerk

Since Classis approved the dismissal of Rev. McGee to the South Central Classis, an election for a new Stated Clerk was held. Election by ballot was held for the position to be filled. Rev. James Grossmann was elected to the position of Stated Clerk on the first electing ballot.

### **B. Report of the Permanent Home Missions Committee**

Rev. Grossmann presented the Permanent Home Missions Committee Report. Rev. Grossmann moved reception of the report and consideration of the item.

Rev. Grossmann moved Recommendation 1 – That the Classis appoint an additional minister to the Committee. Seconded. Carried.

A request was made that the new member be elected by secret ballot. Rev. Haddock; Rev. Hall and Rev. Poe were all nominated for the position. On the second electing ballot, Rev. Hall was elected to the Permanent Home Missions Committee.

Rev. Grossmann moved adoption of the report as a whole. Seconded. Carried.

In light of some of the discussion during the Permanent Home Missions Committee Report, Rev. Clark offered prayer on behalf of the work of home missions in Dickinson, as well as the need for spiritual, numerical and financial growth within the boundaries of the Northern Plains Classis.

#### Expression of Appreciation to Hosting Congregation

This matter was addressed under Recommendation #5 of the report presented by the Overtures and Excuses Committee.

## **X. Reading Of The Minutes**

At the end of the business meeting, the minutes for the day were read and corrected by the Stated Clerk. The President asked, “Shall the minutes be now approved?” Since there were no objections, he declared the minutes approved.

## **XI. Adjournment**

The Northern Plains Classis adjourned at 5:23pm to the 27th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis, to be held at Hope Reformed Church of Pierre, South Dakota, on March 12th, A.D. 2012.

### A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 8 ministers, 7 elders and 1 licentiate present.

### B. Devotions

Elder Darrell Bentz led the Assembly in a devotional, reading from 2 Peter 1:3-14.

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

The Assembly stood and united in reciting the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. The President pronounced the Benediction and led the Assembly in the singing of the Doxology.

**Northern Plains Classis  
Reformed Church in the United States**

**27th Annual Spring Meeting – March 12-13, AD 2012  
Pierre, South Dakota**

**I. Services**

For the opening devotion, Rev. David Dawn opened in prayer and lead the assembly in a devotion entitled, “Dealing with Discouragement,” using Hebrews 12:1-17 as his text. He concluded with prayer.

On Monday evening at 7:30 pm, the Classis met for a worship service with the congregation of Hope Reformed Church of Pierre, South Dakota. Rev. William Haddock conducted the worship service and Rev. Richard Stetler preached a sermon entitled “*The Parable of the Two Sons*” using Matthew 21:28-32 as his text.

The Northern Plains Classis opened its Tuesday Session at 8:30 am, with a devotion lead by Lic. Mosley with a reading and exhortation from Titus 3:9-15. The devotion was concluded with prayer.

**II. Organization**

The 27th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis convened at 1:21pm on Monday, March 12th, A.D. 2012, at Hope Reformed Church of Pierre, South Dakota.

Following the opening devotional, the President, Rev. David Dawn, called the meeting to order. The roll was called and there were 7 ministers, 6 elders and 1 licentiate present.

The President defined the Bar of the House as the first 4 pews of the church. The President appointed Rev. Jimmy Hall and Elder Tim Rott as tellers and Rev. Richard Stetler as the *Reformed Herald* reporter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Election by ballot was held for men to serve in the following capacities: President: Rev. David Dawn; Vice-President: Rev. William Haddock; Stated Clerk: Rev. James Grossmann; and Treasurer: Elder Matthew Fickbohm.

**III. Adoption of the Agenda, Orders of the Day,  
Special Orders**

The Agenda, Services, and Orders of the Day were adopted as amended with the examination of Lic. J.P. Mosley taking place after IX. E. Treasurer's Report and

Auditing Committee Report.

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

The President welcomed Elder Ralph Kusler and Elder Lynn Goehring. These men were seated in the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor.

Lic. J.P. Mosley was also introduced and welcomed.

**V. Reception of New Churches**

There were no new congregations to be received.

**VI. Reception of New Ministers**

Rev. Jimmy Hall was received as a new minister. Rev. Haddock offered a prayer of thanksgiving. The right hand of fellowship was extended to Rev. Hall.

**VII. Announcement of Standing Committees**

The chairman of the committee is underlined.

*Education, Student Aid, Publications,*

*Services & Interchurch*.....Stetler, Hall, Fickbohm, Haak

*Examination and Licensure*.....Haddock, Stetler, Poe, Rott

*Judicial*.....Clark, Haddock, Haak, Abbink

*Missions*.....Poe, Hall, Rott, Bentz

*Nominations*.....Clark, Grossmann, Abbink, Lorentzen

*Finances, Benevolence & Ministerial Aid*.....Dawn, Haak, Fickbohm

*Overtures & Excuses*.....Hall, Bentz, Lorentzen

**VIII. Presentation of Overtures, Permanent  
Committee Reports & Communications**

The Stated Clerk presented overtures and communications to the Standing Overture Committees. The following Permanent Committee Reports were referred to these Standing Committees: *Auditing* – to Finances, Benevolence & Ministerial Aid; *Camp* – to Education, Student Aid, Publications, Services & Interchurch; *Candidates and Credentials* – to Examinations & Licensure; *Christian Education* – to Education, Student Aid, Publications, Services & Interchurch; *Diaconal* – to Finances, Benevolence & Ministerial Aid; *Missions* – to Missions; *Interchurch Relations* – to Education, Student Aid, Publications, Services & Interchurch.

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Esteemed brothers,

Your Auditing Committee met to audit the Treasurer’s books for 2010. We have

determined that they are in order. We also commend our Treasurer, Elder Ralph Kusler, for his detailed and accurate execution of his duties.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A. Dawn, Chairman, Elder Doug Haak, Elder John Bender

## CAMP COMMITTEE

The Joint Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee met by conference call on Feb. 25th, 2012. Present were Rev. Lee Johnson, Rev. David Fagrey, Rev. Darrell Kingswood from the South Central Classis, and the Rev. James Grossmann and Elder Matthew Fickbohm from the Northern Plains Classis. The Camp Director Rev. Michael McGee was on the call as well and had sent out material to the committee via email.

The 2011 Camp was reviewed and the responses to the survey discussed. Overall the reviews were positive. Some of the comments were discussed. The Committee then moved into planning the 2012 Camp.

The evening worship services were discussed, and some concern to their constitutionality raised. The committee was left with this question: can Classis call a worship service that is not under the oversight of any Spiritual Council? The committee will be soliciting opinions and making a decision about worship services next year.

The All Nighter was discussed and a decision was reached to change the Thursday night All Nighter to a bed time of 3am for the Seniors. Reasons for the change include the difficulty in finding people able to stay up all night, a concern for those driving getting enough rest to drive safely, and that staying up all night on the last night of camp may not encourage putting off the old man and putting on the new.

The Theme of HYC 2012 will be "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ: A Study through the Book of Ephesians". Ephesians shows us the depth of the mercy, grace, glory, and love of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, or as the book repeats it is about "the riches of His glorious inheritance" (1:18), which Paul describes as "unsearchable" (3:8) and "immeasurable" (2:7). Thus each lecture will cover about one chapter of the Book of Ephesians so we can show the youth how to mine for these "riches" and appreciate them, thank God for them, and apply them to their lives. The sermons likewise should be related to the theme.

Unsearchable Riches . . .

1:1-23 - The Riches of the Godhead in Salvation

2:1-22 - The Riches in Christ

3:1-21 - The Riches Unsearchable brought to us

4:1-5:16 - The Riches Applied to our walk

5:17-6:9 - The Riches Applied to our Relationships

6:10- 24 - The Riches as our Armor in Spiritual Warfare

Finances were discussed. There was a significant shortfall in last year's budget. This was on account of fewer than expected campers. The camp checking account is still in good financial shape. The committee raised the fee for camp based on a new projection of campers. It is now \$159 per camper if fee is before the June 1st deadline and \$189 if after. This is an increase of about \$10. A budget is attached for Classis approval.

The offering was designated for Middle East Reformed Fellowship.

Rev. Lee Johnson will be scheduling the speakers and Rev. McGee coordinating volunteers for other camp duties.

Camp will be July 23-27 of 2012.

For the record future camp dates are:

2013 - July 22-26

2014 - July 21-24

2015 - July 27-31

*Proposed 2012 fees: \$159 per camper provided both the registration fee and form are received by June 1. After June 1, the fee will be \$189. Adult volunteers continue to be free. Fees based on 139 campers and 41 adults.*

We submit the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 - That Classis approve the 2012 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.

Recommendation #2 - That Classis take note of the need for a sound system.

Recommendation #3 - That Classis take note of the desire to have beef, bacon, or sausage donated to HYC in order to assist in keeping food costs at a minimum.

Recommendation #4 - That Classis take note of the importance of submitting registration forms, payments, and volunteer lists in a timely manner.

Recommendation #5 - That Classis take note that pastors should take the time to explain to perspective campers and their parents the changes in the Thursday Night All-Nighter.

Recommendation #6 - That Classis approve the HYC report as a whole.

**Heidelberg Youth Camp Budget for 2012**

<b>Balance Forward</b>	\$5,870.89	
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Actual 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Budget 2012</u></b>
Camp Fees	\$19,026.80	\$22,101.00
Gifts		
Worship Offering	\$2,021.49	\$1,200.00
Interest	\$4.08	
Camp Store Sales	\$663.82	\$750.00
T-Shirt Sales		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$21,716.19</b>	<b>\$24,051.00</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Facility Use	\$12,721.19	\$13,000.00
Food	\$4,688.54	\$4,800.00
T-Shirts	\$2,802.45	\$2,900.00
Crafts	\$207.03	\$175.00
Supplies & Equipment	\$701.97	\$600.00
Promotion		\$100.00
Custer State Park Fees	\$168.00	\$100.00
Administration	\$217.51	\$200.00
Camp Store Supplies	\$479.10	\$500.00
Worship Offering	\$2,021.49	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,007.28</b>	<b>\$23,575.00</b>
<b>Revenue Less Expenses</b>	<b>-\$2,291.09</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,579.80</b>	

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann, Ronald Abbink, Matthew Fickbohm, Jimmy Hall

**CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Esteemed Brethren of the North Plains Classis, your Committee reports as follows:

**I. Ordination Exam of Licentiate J. P. Mosley**

The Northern Plains Classis conducted a licensure exam for Mr. J. P. Mosley at a meeting held on October 15, 2011 in Eureka, South Dakota. Mr. Mosley



sustained the exam and was licensed to preach in the Northern Plains Classis. The Classis required Mr. Mosley to submit two papers and to be re-examined in several areas for his ordination exam. Your Committee proposes to conduct the ordination exam as follows:

Floor Exam: RCUS Constitution and RCUS History: 20 minutes.

Floor Exam: Three Forms of Unity:, 20 minutes.

Theological Paper #1, Eternal Reward.

Theological Paper #2, God's Decree Of Reprobation And His Attribute Of Love.

The two theological papers have been submitted with this report. Follow-up questions from the floor will allowed after each part of the exam and the content of the theological papers.

Mr. Mosley has accepted a call from the Hope RCUS of Pierre, South Dakota. Rev. William Haddock was assigned to oversee his internship. Rev. Haddock plans to give a report about the internship to the Classis.

## **II. Rev. Brian Behl**

In February 2012, Elder Ron Abbink contacted the chairman of Candidates and Credentials Committee about a man who has shown interest in candidating in the Covenant RCUS of Watertown, South Dakota. His name is Rev. Brian Behl, who is currently an ordained minister of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. Haddock has contacted Rev. Behl by telephone.

It will be necessary for the Northern Plains Classis to handle several matters relating to this situation. First, any call that the Covenant RCUS will make to a candidate is likely to depend upon the Classis granting continuing financial aid to the congregation. This matter will come up at the Classis Meeting as a request from the Watertown RCUS.

Secondly, the constitutional requirements for dealing with an ordained minister from another denomination apply in this case:

ARTICLE 35. A minister from another denomination, before he shall be admitted into the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States, shall present a certificate of dismissal, and shall be examined as to his orthodoxy and the purity of his intentions. If his application is approved, he shall upon signing the formula prescribed for licentiates, be admitted by a two-thirds vote of the Classis to which he has applied for reception. A minister from another denomination shall not be a candidate for a pastoral charge until he has received approval from Classis or a committee appointed by Classis, nor shall he receive a call from a charge until

said call shall have been approved by Classis.

Standing Rule 17 of Classis requires that ordained ministers from other denominations must undergo a six month internship with a supervisor from the Classis.

At this point, Rev. Behl and Elder Abbink thought it best if Rev. Behl were to attend the meeting of the Northern Plains Classis in Pierre. This would give the Classis an opportunity to meet him. The Standing Candidates and Credentials Committee would also be able to conduct a preliminary exam at the meeting. If Rev. Behl sustains such an exam, he could pursue a call, depending on how the matter of financial aid for Watertown turns out. Should things proceed to the point where a call would be issued, Rev. Behl would need to undergo a full exam before Classis according to Article 35 at a future meeting before he could accept such a call.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Licentiate J. P. Mosley be examined for ordination at the Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis to be held at Pierre, South Dakota, March 12-13, 2012, according to the proposed schedule in this report.
2. The Northern Plains Classis direct the Standing Candidates and Credentials Committee to conduct a preliminary exam or Rev. Brian Belh at the Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis to be held at Pierre, South Dakota, March 12-13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Haddock (chairman), P. Poe, R. Stetler, T. Rott, J. Snyder

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your Committee reports as follows:

1. Northern Plains Chronicles

Rev. William Haddock is willing to continue as the editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles, should the Classis reelect him. Your committee reminds each congregation to submit a summary paragraph of church news by email to the Editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles, when the summary paragraphs are due for each edition of the NPC.

2. Sermon Audio.com

Your committee recommends that the Classis continue to have a site on SermonAudio.com. The site can be found by searching for NPCRCUS on

www.sermonaudio.com The site costs \$29.95/month plus \$1.00 per sermon above 10/month.

Your Committee Recommends:

1. That Rev. William Haddock be elected to serve as editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles.
2. That the Editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles be paid an annual stipend of \$200.00 per year for his labor.
3. That each congregation be reminded to submit a summary paragraph of church news by email to the Editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles, when such summary paragraphs are due for each edition of the Northern Plains Chronicles.
4. That the Northern Plains Classis budget \$1,000 to continue the site of SermonAudio.com.
5. That the Churches of the Northern Plains Classis be encouraged to add recordings of the weekly sermons and radio broadcasts to the NPC SermonAudio.com website.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann (chairman), Ronald Meidinger, Darryl Bentz, Jimmy Hall

## DIACONAL

Fathers and Brothers in Christ,

Your committee met two times over the phone to conduct their business this past year. Your committee had one item of business that came before it. We wrote a letter to the churches of Classis to encourage them to help Rev. Clark after the flood in Minot. We thank Rev. McGee for stepping in to give guidance to the committee with the conflict of interest present with Rev. Clark being the chairman.

Respectfully in Christ,

L. Dale Clark (chairman), Raymond Jung, Earl Mehlhaff, Steve Sapp

## HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee has been very busy during 2011 giving its attention to two primary areas of work. First, your committee has been working to establish the mission in Dickinson, ND, to select a missionary and to provide housing for him upon his arrival. Second, your committee has given attention to the oversight of

the Watertown mission work. There have been numerous skype conference calls and emails for the purpose of these labors.

**WATERTOWN, SD**

The situation of our mission church in Watertown is certainly in flux. In November 2011, Rev Mike McGee left the church to take up the pastorate in Mitchell, SD. This definitely presents a challenge for the congregation. Coupled with this is the news that Elder and Mrs Ron Abbink plan, God willing, to move to Sioux Falls next spring.

On the positive side, there are a couple families who have been visiting and have shown interest in the church. In addition, an RCUS family from Sioux Falls has moved to Watertown. It is hoped that they will join as well.

Another encouragement is that there is an ordained OP minister who has expressed an interest in Watertown. Rev Brian Behl will, d.v., be present at our Classis meeting. At that time, the Candidates and Credentials Committee will give him an orthodoxy and intent examination. If he sustains this exam, he will be able to candidate in Watertown. We need to be in prayer that in all this, the Lord's will shall become known.

Continued funding for Watertown is an important question that Classis will have to decide. On the one hand, the church has not seemed to grow very much over the past years. The argument could be made that we have limited resources and a shrinking Classis membership upon whom to call on for support through the guidelines. One could make the case that after fifteen years our limited funds would be better spent in our new work in Dickinson. Weighed against this is the strong desire of many in Watertown to see the work continue – which would be difficult without NPC support. Elder Abbink reports that Rev Behl is aware of these difficulties. They do not appear to have put him off. The issue of funding for Watertown will be one of the most difficult matters our Classis will be considering. Let us pray that God will give us the wisdom to discern his will.

**FIVE YEAR PLAN**

South Dakota: The NPC continues to support the mission work in Watertown, SD. Synod does not provide any financial support to Watertown. Plans are that the NPC will continue to support the work in Watertown, but at a reduced rate of 10% per year. It is anticipated that the last support will in be 2018.

North Dakota: North Dakota continues to be our primary mission field for new works. Our efforts have been focused in Dickinson, where we have had a positive response to our efforts (see the section on Dickinson, ND).

**Dickinson, ND**

The Dickinson work has come along since we last reported. The three families,

Aunes, Huizingas and Rollers, continue to grow and be active. The ladies have been meeting regularly outside of the Worship/Bible study for encouragement and strengthening. The men also meet for breakfast once a week and invite others as opportunity avails. They are not sitting idly by. They have much enthusiasm for the work and their growth in Christ. By way of reminder, the Aunes have five children, the Huizingas have four and the Rollers are expecting their first. So there is growth also in the covenant. There was some sorrow about a month ago. Chet Logan, a member of the Limon congregation, who is working in Dickinson, seriously injured his right hand. We praise our Sovereign Lord for healing of his hand and the wonderful outlook Chet has. O, the wondrous gift of a heritage of faithful parents and pastors this young man has.

More recently another couple has been attending (three weeks). The Fredricksons have come to us in a marvelous manner and speak of staying. Nathan and Holly and their daughter have come to us from Minnesota with a conservation PCUSA background. They are already looking for catechizing of their daughter. We will begin membership classes and hope to have the adults profess their faith in Salem RCUS in Ashley before Synod time.

The group has chosen as the name for the work First Reformed Chapel which will eventually be First Reformed Church in Dickinson by God's grace and power. This was chosen because this is the first Reformed "church" in the Dickinson area and the hope it will not be the last. There have been visitors who have come and gone, though many are still in contact with the three families. It is our prayer that these and many new contacts will enable this work to reach out into the new gold rush that has engulfed western North Dakota.

Salem Reformed Church of Ashley, ND has requested to be the overseeing consistory for the Dickinson Work, and has in consultation with the NPC Missions Committee and the RCUS Synodical Missions Committee called Rev. L. Dale Clark to be their associate pastor to be Missionary to Dickinson. With the help of temporary funding, Salem Reformed Church has entered into a contract for deed for a parsonage in Taylor, ND approximately 20 miles to the east of Dickinson for the sum of \$68,500.

*Recommendation #1* – That \$9,600 be given to Covenant RCUS in Watertown, SD for support for fiscal year 2012 per their request. (This is a \$1,600 reduction in support from 2011.)

*Recommendation #2* – That \$12,500 and \$10,000 be budgeted for the purpose of supporting the mission work in Dickinson for the Classical years 2012 and 2013, respectively.

*Recommendation #3* – That Classis overture Synod requesting financial support of \$38,400 and \$30,720 for the Dickinson mission work for the 2012 and 2013

Synodical years, respectively.

*Recommendation #4* – That Classis overture Synod for on behalf of the Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, for a building loan in the amount of \$68,500.

*Recommendation #5* – That \$500 be budgeted for committee expenses related to oversight of the Watertown and Dickinson mission works.

*Recommendation #6* – That Classis designate June 24th, 2012 for churches to set aside as a day of prayer for Home Missions within the Northern Plains Classis and that an offering be taken on that day for the Dickinson work.

*Recommendation #7* – that the Five-Year Plan be approved and passed on to the Synodical Home Missions Committee.

## INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

Your Interchurch Relations Committee received invitations to provide fraternal delegates to the Fall meeting of Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches, to the Spring and Fall meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and to two meetings of the Classis Central of the United Reformed Churches North America.

Your Committee was unable to send a delegate to the meetings of Central URCNA or to the Presbytery of the Dakotas. Rev. James Grossmann was able to attend the March meeting of Classis Manitoba Classis, his report will be given at the Classis meeting. Greetings were sent to the Central Classis of the URCNA (attached), and regrets were sent to the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC.

Invitations have been sent to Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches, the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America and Classis Central U.S. Of the United Reformed Churches to provide delegates to our 27th Annual Spring Meeting to be held in Pierre, SD. As of this date, we have not received any replies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Stetler (chairman), Keith Lorentzen, Vern Ochsner

## IX. Reports of Officers

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

Esteemed brothers,

This report is an attempt to evaluate where this Classis stands at the beginning of our 2011 spring Classis meeting, as well as a summary of the parochial reports from our ministers.

We begin by considering the state of our membership. Looking at the statistics, our communicant membership has dropped again this year from 479 to 460, a loss of about 4%. Herreid gained one member, and Ashley, Hosmer, and Watertown held their own. Every other church showed a loss. There were only three baptisms in Classis this past year, down from eleven the year before. In 2009 there were four students confirmed, but in 2010 there was not a single person confirmed.

I asked myself why this should be the case. Going back to the statistics, I saw that we had 264 families in Classis and 523 baptised members. That means the average family had 1.8 members. Therefore, we must have a large number of single members in our churches – both very young and very senior.

I believe the numbers show that we have an ageing membership with fewer families with two parents and children. If this is true, there is only one alternative for our Classis, and that is evangelisation. Of course, we should never seek to turn the preaching of the Gospel into a membership drive to boost our numbers. On the other hand, unless we have an infusion of new members, our membership will continue to decline.

Turning to the parochial reports, we are thankful to learn that Rev Phil Poe is settling in well at Minot. He refers to his first year there as a “honeymoon period.” May this honeymoon last far longer than twelve months. After a protracted period of time without a minister, it is a great blessing to see Harvest Reformed Church once more with their own pastor.

Rev Grossmann continues his labours in Ashley and Hosmer. In addition to his pastoral duties, he continues to preach on Start The Week, the second oldest continuous radio ministry in our Classis (only the Eureka church service has been broadcasting longer). He has also been sharing the teaching duties in Dickenson, where the Classis is attempting to form a mission congregation. He does mention the problem of members of churches who do not attend. This matter is not unique to Ashley and Hosmer. All our Spiritual Councils need to take note.

Rev Stetler reported on his ministry in Eureka. Along with faithfully carrying out the work of the pastorate, he has begun writing for the local paper. He has also been preaching in Dickenson, as has Rev Grossmann. Also, for the second year in a row, the Eureka church held a conference taught by the faculty of the Heidelberg Theological Seminary. Rev Stetler did mention another pastoral problem, the neglect of the Lord’s Supper by the membership of the church. Article 6 of the RCUS constitution says, “Every member shall attend faithfully

the public services of the Church and shall engage diligently in private devotions; and those who have been confirmed shall partake regularly of the Lord's Supper." Therefore, this is a serious negligence on the part of those who do not properly use the sacrament.

Rev McGee reports progress in the Watertown work. Although their membership has not increased, there has been more regular visitors this year than before. In addition to his activities as Stated Clerk, he has been involved in activities organised by the ministerial association, including newspaper articles and opening city council meetings with prayer. They also held a conference and intend to hold another one this year on the subject of evangelism. Rev McGee has an enthusiasm for outreach that finds him involved in activities that reflects the ability to think outside the box.

It should be noted that, as a mission work, Watertown receives financial assistance from Classis. For 2011, they are requesting \$11,600, a reduction of \$1,600 over 2010. This is a positive sign that the congregation is supporting seriously this church. This is a real encouragement.

As for myself, I pastor the First Reformed Church in Aberdeen. The most significant event of the year was the completion of our new addition to the church building. We thank God for providing both the labour and the funds for this project and pray that the fruit of this work will glorify God. I, too, have a pastoral concern that I would add to those mentioned in other reports. I am concerned that there is a tendency in our churches not to support activities other than the morning worship service. I have mentioned this from time to time from the pulpit. I think, in the long run, only the Lord can move people to fellowship with each other.

And then there is Rev William Haddock. Rev Haddock has resigned as pastor of Hope Reformed Church of Pierre. The burden of working a full time job at the State Capitol and serving the church has become too much. Therefore, he has been led by the Lord to retire from the full time ministry.

Rev Haddock's tentmaking ministry in Pierre has allowed the church there to retire the debt on the parsonage and to remodel the church building. Without Rev Haddock's willingness to make this sacrifice for the church, they would not have been able to accomplish these goals. Thanks in large part to Rev Haddock's willingness to work at the capitol, the Pierre church is now in a position, with its debts cleared, to call a man full time to the pastorate.

Rev Haddock has been used by the Lord significantly in our Classis over the twenty five years of his ministry, barring only a few years in Hamburg, MN. He has led the Classis as its President during really difficult days and, later, as Stated Clerk. His knowledge of the RCUS constitution and the proper procedures to be used in Classis are comprehensive. This President has



repeatedly asked for his advice over the years, and has, as a result, gotten into less hot water than would have otherwise been the case. So we wish Rev Haddock God's richest blessing as he settles down in Ft Pierre and seeks to assist the church in finding a new minister. May the Lord lead him into new fields of labour, and may they be within the bounds of the Northern Plains Classis!

Meanwhile, the Pierre congregation continues to struggle, having taken a loss in membership this past year. Still, they are looking to the future as they seek to find a new pastor. Let us pray that God will prosper the ministry of the Word in Pierre. May this be the beginning of a new and bright chapter in the history of that congregation.

As we read over the permanent committee reports, potentially the most significant matter to be considered will be our attempt to establish a mission work in Dickenson, ND, The Classical Home Missions Committee has recommended that we employ a home missionary in that town. Their report details the attendance at the Bible Studies held there, and which would become the core group for a mission church. If a missions pastor is hired, the budgeted cost of this mission work would be \$23,600. Of this amount, Synod would be asked to contribute \$12,600. Classis would provide \$10,000 (I calculate this to come in at just under \$22.00 per communicant member.) Then, for the full year 2012,

The questions Classis needs to ponder include the following. 1. Is the core group described in the Missions report sufficient to justify hiring a missionary? 2. Can the Classis sustain the additional financial commitment? Does the calling of only a part-time missionary justify the extent of our proposed investment? 3. Who would the Classis call as a missionary who has demonstrated the gifts necessary to this project? (Rev Stetler and Rev Clark have expressed an interest.) Should we erect a committee aggressively to find the best candidates with proven gifts and "track record," so we would have the largest possible talent pool to choose from (without precluding either Rev Clark or Rev Stetler)? May the Lord give Classis real wisdom as it debates this issue.

This report has sought to detail the state of the Classis as we begin our 2011 spring meeting. We look back and see the good hand of God prospering us this past year. Let us be in prayer that the Lord will guide us into his will as we chart our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev David A Dawn

## B. Stated Clerk's Report

Esteemed Brethren,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Stated Clerk over the course of these past months. I will be reporting on my labors as well as the labors of our previous stated clerk, Rev. Michael McGee, since he last reported to you.

Duties Performed:

1. Completed the Minutes from the 26th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis and presented them to the 265th Synod of the Reformed Church of the United States. (There were a few exceptions noted by the Committee on the Minutes of Classis, which have been corrected.)
2. Prepared the Abstract of the 26th Annual Spring Meeting of Classis and delivered copies of them to the churches of the RCUS at the Synod meeting held in Mitchell, SD.
3. Completed the Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis held on October 15th, A.D. 2011.
4. Prepared the Statistical Report, Stated Clerk's Report, as well as any items needed for this meeting.
5. Issued a Certificate of Ordination to Rev. Jimmy Hall as well as a Certificate of Licensure to Mr. J.P. Mosley.

Correspondence Sent and Received:

1. A letter from the Stated Clerk of Synod regarding the documents to be submitted to the churches prior to the next session of Synod.
2. Five items to the Stated Clerk of Synod:
  1. Statistical & Membership Report for the NPC
  2. Writ of Certification for Classis Delegates to the 265th Synod of the RCUS
  3. Addresses of the Churches and Delegates of the NPC
  4. Report of Changes
  5. An Overture from the NPC to the Synod of the RCUS
3. Forms for Membership and Financial Statistics, as well as the Form for the Credentials of Elders to Classis to the churches of the NPC to be completed prior to our 27th Annual Meeting.
4. Three Executive Circulars to the Delegates of Classis sent via email and the US Postal Service.
5. Emails and correspondence to denominations with which we have fraternal

relations, forwarding them to the Interchurch Relations Committee for response.

Items for your consideration:

**Timeliness of Reports:** To quote from the NPC 25th annual Stated Clerk's Report, "Brethren, I know that this is a matter we seem to address every year. However, it is important to continue to remind you to send your forms to me in a timely manner. I did not keep a list, but many of the Churches failed to submit their information to me as required by our Standing Rules. Please remember that statistics are to be sent to the Stated Clerk four weeks prior to the Spring Meeting of Classis, all other reports are to be sent to their respective locations no later than two weeks prior to the meeting of Classis." This year was no exception, I also did not keep a list, however, numerous reports were not submitted in accordance with our standing rules. This creates a hardship for the stated clerk, and if an unforeseen even should occur in the final days before Classis, this combination could make it impossible for him to finish his labors before Classis.

**Pastors Working Outside the Church to Supply their Temporal Needs:** We have an overture to this Classis in which a pastor requests to be placed on the roll of retired ministers, having been worn out by the rigors of this practice. Question 7b of the Article 81 Constitutional Questions to elders asks, "Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?". This indicates that meeting those needs ought to be considered a requirement in a call. I know that Rev. McGee has asked in previous years whether things like retirement and insurance should be considered as a part of that constitutional question. I Corinthians 9:14, "Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel." Brothers, I do not have a good answer, however, I believe that allowing this to continue without questioning it is very dangerous for our churches and pastors, and that this question ought to be carefully considered in reviewing ministerial calls when they are placed before our Classis.

Therefore, I propose the following recommendation, That Standing Rule #6 be amended by replacing "four" with "eight." And that Standing Rule #7 be amended by replacing the three instances of the word "two" with "six." This would require statistics, Credentials and mailing addresses of delegates to be submitted eight weeks prior to Classis and Permanent and Special committee reports, Parochial reports, and excuses for not complying with this requirement to be submitted six weeks prior to Classis.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann

## C. Report of the Executive Committee's Report of Synod

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 265 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 (265 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 266 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, RCUS

**D. Executive Committee's Report on the Minutes**

Esteemed Brethren:

Three (3) circulars were sent out this past year and the following is a summary of that business. Since no objections were received, all the recommendations brought by the Executive Committee became actions of the Classis.

**Volume 26, Number 1**

Take note regarding the answers submitted by the elders of Kassel Reformed Church, Anamoose, North Dakota and from Harvest Reformed Church, Minot, North Dakota regarding Article 81 of the Constitution of the RCUS.

The appointment of Rev. James Grossmann, Rev. Richard Stetler and the elders of First Reformed Church, Herried, SD to serve on a special committee to ordain and install Mr. Jimmy Hall as the minister of First Reformed Church in Herried, South Dakota on April 10th, A.D. 2011 at 7:00pm. Rev. Grossmann was approved to conduct the service; Rev. Stetler to present the charge to the congregation and Rev. Jeff DeBoer, a minister in good standing of the Presbyterian Church in America, conduct the charge to the minister.

Take note that although Rev. DeBoer has permission to give the charge to the minister, he was not a member of the committee ordaining and installing Lic. Jimmy Hall, nor was he to participate in the laying on of hands.

**Volume 26, Number 2**

The announcement to convene a special meeting of the Northern Plains Classis on Saturday, October 15th, A.D. 2011, beginning at 9:00 AM, at Eureka Reformed Church of Eureka, South Dakota, in order to administer a licensure exam to Mr. J. P. Mosley according to the manner prescribed in Article 20 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States. This meeting also included a report from the Permanent Home Missions Committee and the Executive Committee, as well as approval of the dissolution of the relationship between Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, South Dakota and Rev. Michael McGee.

Take note that the congregations of the Northern Plains Classis prayerfully consider ways they might assist the Clark family during this time.

**Volume 26, Number 3**

The announcement to convene the Northern Plains Classis 27th Annual Spring Meeting, to be held at 1:00pm, on March 12th, A.D. 2011 at the Hope Reformed Church of Pierre, South Dakota.

The Resignation of Rev. L. Dale Clark from the pastoral charge of Kassel Reformed Church, Anamoose, North Dakota and the acceptance of Rev. Clark's

resignation by Kassel Reformed Church were declared to be in order.

The pulpit of Kassel Reformed Church, Anamoose, North Dakota was declared vacant effective March 8th, A.D. 2012.

The Call of Rev. L. Dale Clark by the Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, North Dakota to be Missionary in Dickinson and the acceptance of the call by Rev. Clark were declared in order.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Dawn, James Grossmann, Ralph Kusler

## E. Treasurer's Report and Auditing Committee Report

*See the Appendix of this Abstract for the Treasurer's Report.*

## X. Special Orders

The Special Order of the Classis was to examine Lic. J.P. Mosley for ordination.

## XI. Parochial Reports of Ministers

### Parochial Report of Rev. Dale Clark

<sup>1</sup>To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: <sup>2</sup>A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; <sup>3</sup>A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; <sup>7</sup>A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; <sup>8</sup>A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

This year has been one of change, of ebb and flow. It has gone from over abundant snow and devastating floods to warmth and little precipitation. It has moved from one small congregation to another, from a “mother in Israel” to a brand new baby. The year has indeed been varied in what it has offered from the hand of our most gracious Lord and Savior.

My duties began as we left them last year, preaching through the Word of God. This year we have been working through Isaiah 1-39 and Matthew 5-6:15. We first looked at Isaiah 1-12 and then Matthew 5, then back to Isaiah 13-39, finishing with Matthew 6:1-15. We also continued our Sunday School finishing Revelation, Esther, and then tackling the Covenant of Grace. We also

tried to have a mid-week study. The hope was to meet together every other week and use Jerry Bridges' book "The Discipline of Grace" as the basis for our study. But flood waters put an end to this, as I did not have the time to carry this project to completion. We used the conference call for this and also used it for a number of Sundays in which travel was ill advised.

I continue to teach one student in catechism. We meet over the phone and discuss, the Scriptures, the Catechism and Church history. As I speak of the youth, I also remember that Kassel is an older congregation by and large. With this comes the inevitable passing from this world to the next of dear saints. Helen Sprenger passed to be with her Savior. She was our only loss, but there were no gains. Financially, we had a budget shortfall, but previous years windfall was more than enough to cover it.

I have been called to labor in Dickenson. The question then is what to do for Kassel. We have discussed a number of options: get a new pastor, probably retired or willing to supplement his income; a student; join another congregation; close the church, which is not desired. With the joining another congregation is the possible use of technology to facilitate this. Which way the Lord works is His choice, which at the moment we do not know. Keith has also resigned as elder to take effect at the end of April. We ask that you keep this congregation in your prayers.

Much has happened and it has been a time of grief and a time of joy. My family and I would like to thank the congregations of Classis and individuals of those congregations for their prayers and financial help this year as the normally placid Mouse River roared as it has never done before. By your and the help of many others we have been able to rebuild our home. So with some disappointment Sandra and I take up Christ's summons to work for His kingdom in Dickenson. The sense of amazement and wonder at your generosity and the profound care and love of our King overwhelms me as I meditate on it. Thank you from the very depths of my heart.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. L. Dale Clark

### **Parochial Report of Rev. David Dawn**

Esteemed Brothers,

The past year has been an eventful one in the life of the First Reformed Church. In the midst of all that needs to be done, it is encouraging to remember that both the Holy Catholic Church and our local church belongs to Jesus Christ. As such, Christ's purpose is majestic and must come to pass that, in the words of It is he, who, in the words of Ephesians 5:27, "might make it unto himself a glorious

Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blame.”

One of the high points this past year was the confirming of five of our young members. This is the largest class we have had for several years, and we thank God for them. We also started a new confirmation class with four intelligent and enthusiastic students this fall. It is always delightful to see bright young minds come to grips with their faith.

Sadly, we also saw five of our members go to be with the Lord. This, of course, raises the familiar question in our minds, what will the church do as our older members leave us? We must leave this question with the Lord. It is, after all, his church. However, the demographics are, humanly speaking, worrying. Still, God knows what he is about, and it is for us to be faithful.

Our radio programme, Pause For Thought, continues on KGIM radio here in Aberdeen. As of the last Sunday in 2011, we have been continuously on the air for 387 weeks. All the praise goes to God for faithfully allowing us to continue this ministry.

On the Classical level, I served the body in two different positions. As President, I presided over our meetings and performed various administrative functions, ably assisted by the Stated Clerks, Revs. McGee and Grossmann. I also served as chairman of the Home Missions Committee, as we sought to supply a home missionary for a group of Reformed believers in Dickinson, ND. This was quite an epic struggle, which shall be described at length elsewhere.

Our radio ministry, Pause for Thought, continued this past year. At the end of the year, we had been broadcasting for 387 consecutive weeks. We thank God for this outreach. Although no one came to our church because of this broadcast, we have learned by word of mouth that there are many people who do listen on a regular basis.

It should be noted that, at our annual meeting in January 2012, Elder Ralph Kusler retired from the Spiritual Council after having served since the early 1980's. We thank God for his service to our local church, as well as the Classis and Synod. He has been replaced by Elder Craig Mehlhaff, an extremely able man who is known to many of the delegates.

In God's good hand of providence, my family has had a rather difficult year concerning health. The peripheral neuropathy in my hands and feet continues to be a hindrance, but has not significantly slowed me down, for which I thank the Lord. My two boys had a total of five visits to the emergency room between them. My son, Matthew, went to the Mayo Clinic twice and I went once. For all that, we confess that God has been merciful. No one in my family has been slowed down by their infirmities. In our various journeys through medical facilities, we have crossed paths with many whose trials are so much more



severe than our own. We would certainly appreciate your prayers, however, that if it can please the Lord, perhaps we might have a year of relative good health.

It is a joy to be a labourer in the Lord's vineyard. I count it as an undeserved privilege to be numbered amongst the highly gifted colleagues of this Classis. To God be the glory.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A. Dawn

### **Parochial Report of Rev. James Grossmann**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Mark writes: "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:15-16

Salem Reformed Church has in this past year taken a firm stand that they will not go gentle into that good night, but will rage against the dying of the light through the planting of a daughter church in Dickinson. Yes, this is a challenge to the congregation, yet at that same time, it is an opportunity to see that God's Gospel continue to be spread, to the end that the Gospel would be preached to every creature.

Hosmer continues to plan for the future as well, though they were sorrowful to lose two members through transfer this year.

It has again my joy to serve the saints at Salem Reformed and Hosmer Reformed Churches in the past year, ministering the word of God to them. In Ministering the word, I have been privileged to lead fifty-three worship services in Ashley and forty-nine in Hosmer. I also preached God's word at the Salem Reformed Christmas Program and at the combined Ashley Ascension day Service. My sermons have been largely in series format from Genesis, Psalms, Proverbs, I Corinthians, I Samuel, and Luke. We also celebrated the Lord's Supper three times in Ashley and four times in Hosmer this year. On Start the Week, I have preached fifty-two sermons from Hebrews, Judges and Acts. I continue to hear comments about our services from those outside our church, who watch them on the community access channel, and from those who listen to Start the week.

I have endeavored to increase the frequency of my visitations this year, and while falling short of the goals I set for myself, I have surpassed last years record. I have preached in the Ashley Nursing Home on a monthly basis, and have had the opportunity to lead a Bible study there a couple of times this year. The residents of the nursing home also watch our weekly broadcast on the public access channel.

I have continued to work for the mission in Dickinson, and Praise the LORD that Salem was able to take that under our care. I pray that God will bless that beginning with fruit to build His Church. I continue to oversee the efforts to purchase the parsonage and get Dale Clark settled there as our Associate pastor.

At the NPC Fall Classis meeting, I was elected Stated Clerk of Classis. At that time I was also elected to chair the Dickinson Subcommittee of the NPC Missions Committee, and while I was able to step down from that capacity after the selection of the Missionary had been made, my continuation as overseeing pastor has kept me on my toes. Brothers, I request your prayers as I undertake these labors, that I may faithfully minister to God's churches in Ashley and Hosmer as well as serve God's church in these other capacities.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann

### **Parochial Report of Rev. William Haddock**

Esteemed Brethren:

This is my first parochial report as a pastor without charge. I ended my ministry as the pastor of the Hope Reformed Church in Pierre on April 30, 2011. Since then, the Lord has seen fit to call a new man, Mr. J.P. Mosley, to serve as the minister of the congregation. I will defer to him to report on the state of the congregation in his parochial report.

Currently, I and my wife are still communicant members of the Hope Reformed Church. I informed the Classis at its Spring Meeting in 2011 that I would be seeking God's will as to how I should serve Him following my resignation. Having sought His counsel, I have officially requested by letter to our Stated Clerk for action at this meeting to be placed on the role of retired ministers.

I did not come to this decision lightly. I was facing the prospect of either staying in Pierre and seeking to help the congregation there or to move, if a call would come, and begin one more ministry. I have decided that I should stay in Pierre as a retired minister and use my talents to support our new pastor and the work for the future of the congregation in Pierre. At this point in the life of the congregation, it seemed good to do so. Our congregation is at the point where we are seeking to support a minister without the need for outside help, or for our minister to labor outside of the church. This has not been the situation in Pierre for over 14 years, and we are hoping by God's grace to have a sustainable and growing ministry. I pray that I may be used of God to help in that goal.

I also find it beneficial to remain within the bounds of the Northern Plains Classis. I am the only current minister in the Classis whose name can be found on the role of ministers of the Northern Plains Classis when it officially

convened for the first time in April 1986. Apart from a five-year period of service in the Covenant East Classis, my entire ministry in the RCUS has been within the bounds of the Northern Plains Classis. Undeserving as I am as a sinner redeemed only by the blood of Jesus Christ and the grace of God, I hope to continue to be of use to God in the service of the Church within the Northern Plains Classis. May God add His blessing upon all of us as we seek to do His will.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. William W. Haddock

### **Parochial Report of Rev. Jimmy Hall**

Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS,

As we look around us in both the political and spiritual spheres of life, it is interesting, very interesting, how those of certain views decades ago utilize, take over, and borrow the language they previously abhorred in order to look like and smell like something they are not. The Apostle Paul says to the Galatian Christians in chapter 1 verses 6 and 9 that the Gospel has been perverted, possibly by utilizing, taking over, and borrowing similar language of the Gospel. Embedded in these verses is the acknowledgement that others are proclaiming so-called “good news” and that others were performing one of the means of grace, namely, so-called “preaching.” However, Paul says that these are contrary to the true Gospel made known through the preaching ministry. What is missing in their lives is not necessarily religious zeal but discernment. We see this today as well.

In order to uphold the ministry of the Gospel and proper teaching thereof, Herreid First Reformed Church has been very interested in perusing these goals. Over the last year, we have found faithful Sunday school material for the young people, discussing relevant subjects in our adult Sunday school, started an after school youth Bible study, attempting to reach out to more people in our small town, and have Wednesday night Bible study.

Our young people have been brought together in the Wednesday afternoon for study and Sunday evenings for Catechism class. At Youth 4 Truth, the young people have been studying the Epistle to the Romans. We plan to finish this study and challenge them this summer regarding another subject. In addition, they greatly enjoyed going to Heidelberg Youth Camp and are looking forward to going again.

The women also engaged in learning more about the Christian life by studying the Book of Ecclesiastes. Meeting from September to early December was a great time of fellowship together. In addition, last year our Area Bible

Study listened to a series called That the World May Know. After parsing through some liberalism, the consensus was that there was a lot that we learned. In our upcoming ABS we hope to continue to learn the Word of God for our life before God. In our adult Sunday school class, the congregation is currently studying the Book of Revelation. There is a lot of interest and a lot of interest in a possible sermon series.

Over the past year, the pastor has been working through several series from the Bible; the Epistle to the Ephesians, the Epistle to the Romans, the Book of Jonah, some Psalms, and the Book of Judges. In addition to the preaching of the Word of God we have celebrated the Lord's Supper three times, have had one baptism, and one confirmed member. To add to the preaching and teaching is the frequent visitation of those who are shut-in or sick. These visitation are not exclusive, they have in fact broadened to include many people from outside our church. Lastly, far from our church considering the ministry of First Reformed Church as a "maintenance ministry" some have been involved in our 3-2-1 program, which is directed at, to, and for those who are outside of our church and witnessing to them. So far, we have seen a couple of visitors as a result.

The church has also improved the parsonage and the church building. A new roof was put on the parsonage, right before the damaging hail storm. A new garage was also put up with just garage doors and plumbing to finish. Lastly, the church received a new roof. There are other improvements to be made, but these are big improvements that were need badly. We thank God for making these improvements and preaching and teaching possible according to His grace.

Over the last year, our statistics have not changed to any great effect. We have a total of 46 communicant members and 11 covenant youth, for a total of 57 members. However, like a farmer in the field who is watching the beginning of some growth, we are very happy and blest to be involved in the ministry of the Gospel and we are looking forward to growing in our discernment and to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior (Titus 2:10).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jimmy John Hall

### **Parochial Report of Rev. Phil Poe**

Fathers and Brothers,

The year 2011 was an eventful year in Minot, ND and in Harvest Reformed Church.

I am thankful to report the numerical growth of the church. Two new covenant

families came into church membership. Dennis and Lavonne Ritenour transferred membership from Redeemer OPC in Dayton, Ohio where Dennis served as an elder and Lavonne as a Sunday School teacher. Jeremy and Fiona James came into membership by confession of faith with their two small children, Emma and Oliver, who received the sacrament of covenant baptism. In addition to these new members we have enjoyed an increased attendance with a number of visitors each week, some of whom are Reformed and others are Calvinistic Baptists. The Baptists end up attending Harvest Reformed Church because we are the only Calvinistic church in the Minot area. Some of them are very supportive in attendance and giving. We are putting together a “Visitors’ Packet” for first time visitors.

Because of last summer’s flood we were forced out of our meeting place in the City Auditorium with just four days notice. God has been very good to us as we ended up meeting at the Grand International Inn. We signed a contract with the Grand and that move has been a real blessing. They provide us with a nicely furnished large room (chairs, platform, pulpit, tables, etc). Also, it is less expensive than what we had before! The congregation counts this a true gift from the Lord. Occasionally we pick up a visitor from the hotel since the Grand advertises for us with a sign in the lobby as well as on the electronic marquee outside the hotel.

Since our space is one large room, we had to make other arrangements for Sunday school. We meet at the parsonage on Sunday nights. In addition to two children classes we have the adult class. The adults use my sermon as the basis of the lesson. This has been well received as it allows them to ask questions that were not answered in the morning sermon. I also ask questions by way of further application. For eight Sunday nights during early and mid-winter Elder Jim Snyder taught on “A Survey of Islam for Christians”. The Sunday night ministry is well supported and space gets tight on some evenings at the parsonage.

We have a men’s ministry that meets 2 nights per month with anywhere from 5 – 10 men in attendance. We are currently studying Dr. Gary Crampton’s book on Scripture. Our women’s ministry continues to meet once a month and is well attended. They just finished Tripp’s book, *The War of Words* and are about to begin *Disciplines of a Godly Woman* by Barbara Hughes.

The near future of HRC looks bright. Another new family has moved to Minot and will be coming into membership soon. Also, a large covenant family is getting ready to move here from Colorado in mid-April. The husband has been working in the Minot area for the past ten months. God has blessed them with new-found housing here for this family of fourteen!

By God’s blessing we continue to enjoy the “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:3) Because of a generous raise in salary I’ve been able to drop

my work load at Menards to just three mornings a week. I am very thankful for the generosity from this body of believers.

The giving has been generous throughout the year and the church has helped several families from within and from outside the church with the diaconal aid fund. 2011 was a blessed year for HRC. God be praised!

We continue to be amazed at God's blessings in the midst of an historic flood here in Minot. We look to Christ alone for all that we need to minister in His name in a way that brings glory to His matchless name.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillip E. Poe, Pastor

### **Parochial Report of Rev. Richard Stetler**

Dear Esteemed Brethren:

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” (1 Timothy 1:15-16) All too often we tend to forget why Jesus Christ came into this world some 2,000 years ago. This is true not only as individuals who profess faith in Christ, but also a church. There are so many distractions that take our eyes of this very fundamental purpose of Christ's first coming. This is especially true as concerns arise regarding the political direction in which our country appears to be traveling, and the economy continues to take its toll on many families in the country; with so much uncertainty that is projected for 2012, is it any wonder that our attention is subtly being redirected to these problems, which are really symptomatic of a far great issue. Sadly, many churches have taken up the fight for this, or that issue, which in many cases, are worthy causes, but they are done or supported at the expense of the real mission of the church; that is, to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified for our sins; yes, Him raised again from the dead. I praise the Lord that we, as a church have maintained our diligence to preach gospel and to be faithful witnesses of God's grace through Jesus Christ in the community. I pray that we will continue to be diligently focused upon the proclamation of gospel of Jesus Christ; namely, that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, like you and I; and then to be patient as He works grace in the hearts of those around us, according to His good purposes.

In the year 2011 five new members were added to our rolls, one by confirmation and two by profession of faith, and two by transfer: Amy Beck was confirmed in June, Tawny Opp and Matthew DeBoer were received in January,

and Leroy Mehlhaff and his mother, Emilia, were received into membership in December, transferring their membership from the Hosmer Reformed Church. We rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for His abounding grace in bringing these new members into our midst.

In December, we also sorrowed in the loss of two members through death, Sanrow Koerner and Carol Geist. Our prayers for God's comfort and peace for their loved ones are before our faithful God and Father.

As a result, there was a net gain of three communicant members, which brings our membership to 156 communicant members with 7 children on the baptized rolls.

The Lord's Supper was served four times in 2011. It was also served separately to those in the Eureka Nursing Home. A total of 118 communicant members partook of the Lord's Supper for the year. This is a decrease from 2010; the percentage of qualified members who ought to be participating went from 83% in 2010 to 75% in 2011. In my pastor's report to the congregation, I encouraged those who are not participating in communion to contact me privately with their questions and concerns.

I have preached faithfully from the pulpit of this church 48 out of 52 weeks in 2011; I thank the Lord for Rev. Jimmy Hall, who filled the pulpit while I was away on vacation for three of those worship services. Rev. Hall also delivered two messages to us for Missionfest Sunday, October 9th. Further, I delivered God's word on Ascension Day, and Thanksgiving Day. I also filled the pulpit in Herreid as pulpit supply seven times and once in Pierre.

This past year, we finished Chapter 14 in our series of messages from the Gospel according to John; then we began a series in the Epistle of James ending that series at the end of Chapter 3; after James, we went through the Old Testament book of Hosea, and then, began a series of messages on the parables of Jesus. During the month of December, a series of messages were delivered focused on the birth of Jesus Christ. In addition to these series of messages, there were topical sermons preached covering the Lord's Supper, the Ascension, and Thanksgiving.

In addition to my preaching duties, devotionals were given at the Christmas Program, and from time to time at the Eureka nursing home. I also continued to contribute articles to the NW Blade from time to time, nuggets of truth from God's word. I also conducted Bible studies for the mission work in Dickinson, ND on a rotating schedule with other ministers of the Northern Plains Classis. And then finally, I conducted an adult Sunday school class in the fall going through a DVD series on the Exodus of the Children of Israel.

I have visited with those who are at the Eureka and Hosmer Nursing Homes, and several shut-ins and other members. I have also visited members who were at

the hospitals in Aberdeen and here in Eureka.

This year was met with many challenges as a pastor, but the Lord strengthened me through the trials and has blessed me greatly with His boundless grace. I have made a number of adjustments, hopefully to the better; but I know there is still room for improvement. I pray that the Lord will continue to grant me grace to grow in Him and in His calling of me as the pastor at Eureka Reformed Church. In my pastor's report to the congregation, I ask for their continued patience as the Lord teaches me His wisdom and conforms me more and more to the image of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Considering what lies before us, I am praying that as a congregation the members will continue to seek ways to not only support one another as not only material needs arise, but to also encourage one another spiritually in the faith, and to reach out to those around them in the community with the good news of Jesus Christ. I also encouraged the congregation to consider how they might be able to increase their time in the word of God, in prayer for one another, and efforts to build up our mission works of the RCUS, both foreign and home.

It is my prayer that the congregation of the Eureka Reformed Church might increase in the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom, and spiritual understanding, walking in His mighty power so that all things may be done in love with hearts filled with joy and thanksgiving to the Lord.

I pray that the Lord will continue His blessing upon this congregation this year and in the years to come!

Respectfully Submitted, Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Richard Stetler

### **Pastoral Report of Lic. J.P. Mosley**

My Dear Brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ,

As the apostles opened each and every one of their letters with at least these comments, Grace and Peace; it seems that these words have been my prayers of late- that God would grant the grace to lead His people in Pierre, the grace to study for upcoming examinations, and grace to continue to learn and grow from His word; but also the peace to lead His people in Pierre, the peace to lead my family into a new chapter in our life, and the peace that one needs as they struggle in the study with God's very Word. To sum it all up, my prayers have been for continued grace and an ever present reality of the Prince of Peace in my life.

Coming out of spending a year in North Carolina serving a rebuilding church with many needs, I felt more than ready to enter the field of pastoral ministry.



Spending that year studying for examinations within the Presbyterian Church in America, I was ready to receive a call, accept the call, and sustain my examinations. The only problem was the call in the PCA never came. Instead, I received a call from a dear brother of mine, Rev. Jimmy Hall. He asked if I would consider a call within the RCUS. I said I would consider it, and upon considerable amount of time in prayer, my family and I decided to make the switch, if of course, it was God's will.

Without knowing how soon the process would take, I called Elder Lynn Geohring, and after that initial phone call, I was on my way to the RCUS examinations. By the time the first examination was scheduled, our family was moved into a farm house in Mason City, Iowa, without any of my RCUS books. It was not my intention at first, but God's intentions are not our intentions. The schedule was set to take my exam in intention and orthodoxy. During that time, we were attending Peace Reformed Church in Garner, Iowa, and I was receiving plenty of encouragement from the elders and Rev. Harvey Opp. After a two hour exam, I was preparing for the Licentiate Exam in October.

I had little time to prepare for a completely different tradition, but one cannot complain when time is precious. I began to read all that I could find online, and prepare harder for passing the hardest parts of the next exam. My last week before my examination was one I will never forget. In a matter of seven days my Granny died, I drove down to Tennessee, officiated the funeral ceremony, and then assisted in the wedding of my brother and his longtime girlfriend. In short, I had a funeral sermon, a wedding sermon, and an exam to prepare for in a matter of a couple of weeks.

October 15th came and went. I sustained the majority of the exam, and was told I could start work at Hope Reformed Church in Pierre, South Dakota.

Moving in was made easy by the amount of help that we had. We are still getting into our new home, but each and everyday it feels like home. We could not ask for a more friendly, peaceful, and loving church home to be apart of.

I have been preaching through the Psalms of Ascents, beginning a series of sermon on the Gospel of Matthew, teaching through a series of booklets P&R publishes on the Basics of the Reformed Faith, and just recently started our Wednesday night study in Church History.

My preparation for ordination is everyday. I long for that day, which I consider a milestone.

This past year has had its ups and downs, but if it was not for the grace of God, the Mosley Family would not be where we are today, aiding Christ in His Kingdom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. J.P. Mosley, Jr.

## **XII. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS**

The President asked the Elder delegates that were present the Constitutional Questions from Article 81 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States. The following are the questions that were read and the answers that were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the word of God?* **All Elder delegates 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 Elder delegates answered Yes.**
- 3a. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation, is visitation faithfully performed?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes, except the Elder from Minot.**
- 3b. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation, is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**
4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the constitution?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**
- 5a. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes, except the Elders from Ashley and Hosmer.**
- 5b. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**
- 5c. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes except the Elders from Ashley, Eureka, Herreid, Hosmer and Pierre.**
- 5d. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**
6. *Are the church records properly kept?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**
- 7a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**
- 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?* **All Elder delegates answered Yes except the elder from Anamoose.**

*The president instructed Rev. Hall and Rev. Poe to forward to the Stated Clerk properly signed answers to the Constitutional Questions provided by the elders of First Reformed Church (Herreid) and Harvest Reformed Church (Minot), which will be circularized upon receipt by the Stated Clerk.*

### **XIII. REPORT OF NUMERICAL & FINANCIAL STATISTICS**

*See the Appendix of the Abstract for this Report.*

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

*The Standing Rules were not read due to a motion to dispense with their reading.*

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

*Presbytery of the Dakotas, Orthodox Presbyterian Church –  
September 27-28, AD 2011*

Esteemed Brethren in Christ,

The fall meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 27th-28th, in Freeman, South Dakota. I was able to attend the meeting on Tuesday. The brothers received me warmly and gave me ample opportunity to be involved in their meeting. The Presbytery of the Dakotas has fewer ministers than in previous years due to a few of their pastors accepting calls to serve congregations in other presbyteries. As a result, the fall meeting had two men who were being presented for an ordination exam, and two additional men working through the process of licensure.

Prior to the meeting of the Presbytery, each congregation presented a list of praises and concerns to be prayed for by the Presbytery. During this time, I noticed that many of the concerns that they have are the same concerns that we have in our congregations. I mentioned this in my address to them and encouraged them with the words of *Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 27* and 28.

One item of interest was a review of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Presbytery of the Dakotas, beginning on Wednesday, September 30, 1936. At that time, the Presbytery consisted of three ministers and six churches, which were spread across North and South Dakota. Two humorous comments noted in the history, which is not unlike our own, was the offering amounting to \$6.10 to buy a book in which to keep the records of Presbytery and the heartfelt thanks to the work in Bancroft for “the courtesy of meeting in their church [and] to the ladies for that delicious chicken dinner.”

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to attend

the latest meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas. My God continue to bless the relationship we have as we seek to advance the kingdom of Christ in the Dakotas. The date of their next meeting is April 3rd and 4th, A.D. 2012, at a location yet to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael A. McGee

*Manitoba Classis, Canadian Reformed Church – March 25, 2011*

Esteemed Brethren:

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to represent the Northern Plains Classis as our fraternal delegate to the Classis Manitoba meeting held in Carman, Manitoba on March 25th, 2011.

Upon arrival, I was greeted by the brothers. In fact, they quite quickly addressed some of the things mentioned in our President's report, specifically about the youth of our Classis. They suggested we apply the techniques they have used to keep their youth to our situation. Sadly, many of these techniques would be very difficult to implement in our congregations.

I continued to dialog with them concerning their practice of sending church visitors and specifically this year requested further information on the questions that their church visitors ask (since there seemed to be a fairly consistent set of questions being answered in their church visitor reports). I was forwarded a copy of the "Canadian Reformed Church of Carman West Officebearers' Handbook" containing examples of these questions as well as many other wise ideas in it's 46 pages. Topics include suggested scriptures to be used in comforting members, sermon evaluation forms, and a schedule for consistory discussion of church topics, among many other items.

I was honored to address the brothers, and brought our greetings in Christ to them.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended their meeting. I enjoyed the fellowship and expanded perspective that I gained through fellowship with them. I pray that both churches can be helped by the exchange of ideas and ways.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann

## **XVI. ADDRESS AND/OR REPORTS OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES & VISITORS**

*There were no Fraternal Delegates to address the Northern Plains Classis.*

## **XVII. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

*There were no Special Committees to give a report to the body.*

## **XVIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

### **A. Education, Student Aid, Publications, Services & Interchurch**

Your committee received the following: the Permanent Christian Education Committee Report, the Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee Report and the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee Report.

We bring the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – That Rev. William Haddock be appointed to serve as editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles.

Recommendation #2 – That the Editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles be paid an annual stipend of \$200 per year for his labors.

Recommendation #3 – That each congregation be reminded to submit a summary paragraph of church news by email to the Editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles, Take Note

Recommendation #4 – That the Northern Plains Classis budget \$1,000 to continue the site on SermonAudio.com

Recommendation #5 – That the churches of the Northern Plains Classis be encouraged to add recordings of the weekly sermons and radio broadcasts to the NPC SermonAudio.com Web Site, Take Note.

Recommendation #6 – That the Classis approve the 2012 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camp fees.

Recommendation #7 – That the Classis take note of the need for a sound system.

Recommendation #8 – That Classis take note of the desire to have beef, bacon, or sausage donated to HYC in order to assist in keeping food costs at a minimum.

Recommendation #9 – That Classis take note of the importance of submitting

registration forms, payments, and volunteer lists in a timely manner.

Recommendation #10 – That Classis take note that pastors should take time to explain to perspective campers and their parents the changes in the Thursday Night All-Nighter.

Recommendation #11 – That Classis approve the HYC report as a whole.

Recommendation #12 – That Classis approve the Interchurch Relations Committee as a whole.

## **B. Examinations and Licensure**

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Committee has received the following: The Permanent Candidates and Credentials committee Report.

We bring the following Recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – That the ordination exam of J.P. Mosley be proceed according to the order found in the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee Report.

Recommendation #2 – That the ordination exam of J.P. Mosley be sustained.

Recommendation #3 – That the ordination service of J.P. Mosley proceed in the month of April 2012, the details of which to be announced by circular letter. *Passed by a 2/3 vote of the Classis.*

Respectfully Submitted,

William Haddock, Richard Stetler, Phil Poe, Tim Rott

*During the Monday evening session of Classis, Rev. Dawn informed Lic. Mosley of the decision of the Classis. Rev. Haddock offered a prayer of thanksgiving. The assembly arose to offer the right hand of fellowship to Lic. Mosley.*

## **C. Excuses**

Your committee received items #9, 10, 11, 20, 21, excuses from Elders Snyder, Neifer, Jung, J. Goehring, and Ochsner, respectively.

Recommendation #1 – That the excuse from Elder Ochsner be granted.

Recommendation #2 – That the excuse from Elder Neifer be granted.

Recommendation #3 – That the excuse from Elder Jung be granted.

Recommendation #4 – That the excuse from Elder Snyder not be granted.

Recommendation #5 – That the excuse from Elder J. Goehring not be granted.

Recommendation #6 – That letters of admonition be sent from the Stated Clerk to Elders Snyder and J. Goehring.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jimmy John Hall, Darryl Bents, Keith Lorentzen

## **D. Finances, Benevolences, and Ministerial Aid**

Your Committee received the following items: Item 1, The Permanent Auditing Committee Report; Item 4, the Permanent Deaconal Committee Report; Item 8, an Overture from Hope Reformed Church, Pierre for Ministerial Aid in the amount of \$1,200 for Mrs. Lena Jones; and Item 18, Letters from Mrs. Lena Jones.

We make the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – With regard to the Permanent Auditing Committee Report, Take Note.

Recommendation #2 – That Classis overture the Synod for continued Ministerial Aid to Mrs. Jones in the amount of \$1,200 per month.

Recommendation #3 – With regard to the letters from Mrs. Lena Jones, Take Note.

Recommendation #4 – With Regard to the Permanent Deaconal Committee Report, take note.

Recommendation #5 – That Classis delegates be reimbursed for mileage in the following amounts: Grossmann: \$112; Hall: \$77; Poe: \$219.80; Lorentzen: \$199.50; Clark: \$213.50; Stetler: \$89.60; Dawn: \$108.50; Abbink: \$136.50; Total: \$1156.40

Recommendation #6 – That each church tell the Stated Clerk how many abstracts it needs, take note.

Recommendation #7 – That Classis overture Synod to amend Standing Rule #9 by replacing the words “and shall send one copy to each minister, elder delegate, and congregation of Synod” with “and shall submit a digital copy in a format to be designated by the Synodical Stated Clerk for posting on the denominational website.

Recommendation #8 – That the guidelines for 2012 be set at \$11.00 for dues and \$63.00 for Home Missions for a total of \$74.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Dawn, Doug Haak, Matthew Fickbohm

## **E. Judicial**

Your Committee received the following items: The Stated Clerk's Report; Item 12, Overture from Hosmer; Item 13, Answers to Constitutional Questions from Hosmer; Item 14, Overture from Eureka; Item 17, Overture from Rev. Bill Haddock; Item 22, Overture from Elder Keith Lorentzen; and Item 24, an Overture from Elder Tim Rott.

Your Committee brings the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – That the stated supply relationship between Hosmer Reformed Church and Rev. James Grossmann be continued.

Recommendation #2 – With regard to the Constitutional Answers from Hosmer, Take Note.

Recommendation #3 – With Regard to the Overture from Eureka, Take Note.

Recommendation #4 – That Rev. Bill Haddock be placed on the roll of Retired Pastors.

Recommendation #5a – From the Stated Clerk's report, that Standing Rule #6 be amended by deleting Everything after “Stated Clerk” and Adding “By February 1st”. *Carried Unanimously*

Recommendation #5b – From the Stated Clerk's Report, that Standing Rule #7 be amended by deleting “two weeks” after “churches” and “at least” and replace with “by February 15th”. *Carried Unanimously*

Recommendation #6 – From the Stated Clerk's Report, that Classis be more diligent in utilizing the Constitutional Question 7b and that Classis be more careful in looking at the calls of ministers. Take Note.

Recommendation #7 – From the Overture from Elder Keith Lorentzen, that Kassel Reformed Church and Harvest Reformed Church get together to discuss ways to aid each other, such as supply for Kassel, and how Kassel can benefit Harvest, Take Note.

Recommendation #8 – That the Northern Plains Classis Overture the consistory of Harvest Reformed Church to be a Borrowed Consistory for Kassel Reformed Church.

Recommendation #9 – That Classis overture Synod to assign an committee to look into the feasibility and develop a procedure to implement a delegated Synod.

Respectfully Submitted,



L. Dale Clark, William Haddock, Ronald Abbink, Doug Haak

## **F. Missions**

Your committee received the following: The Permanent Missions Committee Report; an overture from Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, SD; and two overtures from Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, ND.

Recommendation #1 – That \$9,600 be given to Covenant RCUS to Covenant RCUS in Watertown, SD for support for the fiscal year 2012 per their request (this is a \$1,600 reduction in support from 2011). That the funding from Classis to Covenant Reformed Church at Watertown for calendar year 2013 be contingent on the following 2 conditions: 1. That the problem with the erring member be dealt with in a timely fashion and the outcome verified by the Missions committee. 2. That a minister not be called until the problem has been dealt with and a satisfactory outcome has been reached.

Recommendation #2 – That \$12,500 and \$10,000 be budgeted for the purpose of supporting the mission work in Dickinson for Classical years 2012 and 2013, respectively.

Recommendation #3 – That Classis overture Synod requesting financial support of \$38,400 and \$30,720 for the Dickinson mission work for 2013 and 2014 Synodical years, respectively.

Recommendation #4 – That Classis overture Synod on behalf of the Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, for a building loan in the amount of \$68,500.

Recommendation #5 – That \$500 be budgeted for committee expenses related to oversight of the Watertown and Dickinson Mission works.

Recommendation #6 – That Classis designate June 24, 2012 for churches to set aside as a day of prayer for home missions within the Northern Plains Classis and than an offering be taken on that day for the Dickinson Work.

Recommendation #7 – That the five-year plan be approved and passed to the Synodical Home Missions Committee.

Recommendation #8 – That Classis budget for the expenses of “Start the Week” radio program in the amount of \$2,504.25 (75%)

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Poe, Darrell Bentz, Jimmy Hall, Tim Rott

## **H. Nominations**

Your Committee Makes the following recommendation:

**Auditing**-----W. Haddock, L. Goehring, J.P. Mosley  
**Camp**-----J. Grossmann, J.P. Mosley, M. Fickbohm, R. De Jong  
**Candidates and Credentials**-----W. Haddock, R. Stetler, D. Clark, T. Rott, D. Bentz  
**Christian Education and Publications**-----J. Hall, J.P. Mosley, J. Snyder, R. Meidinger  
**Diaconal**-----D. Clark, S. Sapp, R. Jung  
**Executive**-----D. Dawn, J. Grossmann, M. Fickbohm  
**Home Missions**-----P. Poe, D. Dawn, L. Goehring, D. Haak  
**Interchurch Relations**-----R. Stetler, J. Hall, E. Mehlhaff, C. Mehlhaff  
*(The chairman of the committee is the first name listed and is underlined)*

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Clark, James Grossmann, Ronald Abbink, Keith Lorentzen

## H. Overtures

Your Committee received the following items:

1. Auditing Committee Report – to Finances, Benevolence & Ministerial Aid
2. Candidates and Credentials Committee Report – to Examination and Licensure
3. Christian Education Committee Report – to Education, Publication & Student Aid
4. Diaconal Committee Report – to Finances, Benevolence & Ministerial Aid
5. Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee Report – to Education, Publication & Student Aid
6. Home Missions Committee Report – to Missions
7. Interchurch Relations – to Services & Interchurch Relations
8. Overture for Ministerial Aid for Lena Jones – to Finances, Benevolence & Ministerial Aid
9. Excuse from Jim Snyder – to Excuses
10. Excuse from LeRoy Neifer – to Excuses
11. Excuse from Raymond Jung – to Excuses
12. Overture from Hosmer – to Judicial
13. Hosmer's Answers to the Article 81 Constitutional Questions – to Judicial
14. Overture from Eureka – to Judicial
15. Letter from Heidelberg Theological Seminary – to Education ,Student Aid...
16. Overture from Salem Reformed – to Missions
17. Overture from William Haddock – to Judicial
18. Letter from Lena Jones – to Finances, Benevolence & Ministerial Aid
19. Overture from Salem Reformed – to Missions
20. Excuse from Justin Goehring – to Excuses
21. Excuse from Vern Oschner – to Excuses
22. Overture from the Kassel Reformed Church, Anamoose, ND – to Judicial
23. Overture from Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, SD – to Judicial
24. Overture from Tim Rott – to Missions

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – that #8 Overture for Ministerial Aid for Lena Jones be referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid.

Recommendation #2 – That Excuses (Items 9, 10, 11, 20, 21) be referred to the Excuse Committee.

Recommendation #3 – That Item 12, Overture from Hosmer be referred to Judicial.

Recommendation #4 – That Item 13, Hosmer's Answers to Article 81 Constitutional Questions be referred to Judicial

Recommendation #5 – that Item 14, Overture from Eureka be referred to Judicial.

Recommendation #6 – that Item 15, Letter from Heidelberg Theological Seminary be referred to Education, Student Aid, Publications, Services & Interchurch

Recommendation #7 – that Item 16, Overture from Salem Reformed be referred to Missions

Recommendation #8 – that Item 17, Overture from Rev. William Haddock be referred to Judicial

Recommendation #9 – that Item 18, Letter from Lena Jones be referred to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid.

Recommendation #10 – that Item 19, Overture from Salem Reformed Church be referred to Missions.

Recommendation #11 – that Item 22, Overture from Kassel Reformed Church be referred to Judicial

Recommendation #12 – that Item 23, Overture from Covenant Reformed Church be referred to Missions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jimmy Hall, Darrell Bentz, Keith Lorentzen

## **XIX MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Expression of Appreciation to the hosting congregation**

That the following expression of appreciation was adopted:

*The delegates of the 27th Annual Northern Plains Classis wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to the saints at Hope Reformed Church of Pierre, SD for hosting us. We were well fed and are all leaving a few pounds heavier. Thank you for your hospitality and labor of love on our behalf. We give thanks to the Lord for your kindness to us and pray that our heavenly Father would continue His blessing upon you and his watchcare over you.*

### **B. Adoption of the Stated Clerk's Report, Executive Committee's Minutes, and Overture Committee's Reports**

The Stated Clerk's Report, Executive Committee's Minutes and Overture Committee's Report were all adopted by the Northern Plains Classis.

## **XX. Reading of the Minutes**

On Tuesday morning, March 13th, the minutes of the previous session were read and corrected. The President declared the minutes of the previous session to be

approved as read and corrected.

At the end of the business meeting, the minutes for the day were read and corrected by the Clerk. The President asked, “Shall the minutes be now approved?” Since there were no objections, he declared the minutes approved.

## **XXI. Adjournment**

The Northern Plains Classis adjourned to the 28th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis to begin on March 11th, A.D. 2013 at 1:00 pm, the location to be determined by Circular Letter. The Classis adjourned at 2:48pm on March 13, A.D. 2012.

### **A. Roll Call**

The final roll call showed 7 ministers, 6 elders and 1 licentiate present.

### **B. Devotions**

Elder Fickbohm closed the meeting by reading Ephesians 3:20-4:16 and exhorting the brothers.

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

The Assembly stood and united in reciting the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. The President pronounced the Benediction and lead the Assembly in the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. James W. Grossmann, Stated Clerk

# **APPENDIX**

**Treasurer's Report**

NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS

**FUND BALANCES**

Jan. 1, 2011 Thru Dec 31, 2011

<b>FUND</b>	<b>BALANCE 1-1-11</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BALANCE 12-31-11</b>	<b>SAVINGS CERTIFICATES</b>
Classical Dues	3,833.33	3,895.26	4,462.47	3,266.12	1,000.00
Home Missions	14,180.72	28,917.91	27,954.75	15,143.88	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,014.05</b>	<b>32,813.17</b>	<b>32,417.22</b>	<b>18,410.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>
Foundation	6,209.56	133.51	.00	.00	6,343.07

**STATEMENT OF INCOME**

<b><u>From Source Received</u></b>	<b>Classical <u>Dues</u></b>	<b>Home <u>Missions</u></b>	<b><u>Foundation</u></b>
Interest on NOW Account	1.76	5.16	
Interest on Savings Certificates	21.50	43.00	133.51
Harvest Ref. Church – Minot	300.00	1,000.00	
Covenant Ref. Church – Watertown	152.00	1,140.00	
First Reformed Church – Aberdeen	864.00	6,480.00	
Kassel Reformed Church – Anamoose	160.00	1,200.00	
Hope Reformed Church – Pierre	200.00	1,500.00	
Salem Reformed Church – Ashley	352.00	1,858.00	
Eureka Reformed Church – Eureka	1,224.00	9,180.00	
Hosmer Reformed Church – 2010	220.00	880.00	
Herreid Reformed Church – Herreid	400.00	3,000.00	
Dickinson Mission		1,589.00	
Eureka-Dickinson Mission		659.00	
Ashley-Dickinson Mission		383.75	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,895.26</b>	<b>28,917.91</b>	<b>133.51</b>

**STATEMENT OF EXPENSE****SPRING CLASSIS MEETING**

Rev. Bill Haddock	\$119.00
Rev. Phillip Poe	218.40
Rev. Richard Stetler	51.80
Rev. J. Grossmann	56.00
Rev. Jimmy Hall	67.20
Darrell Bentz	63.00
Ronald Abbink	68.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 644.00</b>

**OFFICERS HONORARIUM**

Rev. David Dawn-President	\$100.00
Rev. Michael McGee	400.00
Ralph Kusler-Treasurer	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 600.00</b>

**SPECIAL CLASSIS MEETING**

Lynn Goehring	\$ 94.50
Rev. Michael McGee	126.00
Jim Snyder	164.50
Ralph Kusler	52.50
Rev. Dale Clark	160.30
Keith Lorentzen	180.20
Rev. James Grossmann	21.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 637.00</b>

**CLASSIS EXPENSES**

Rev. Grossmann-Mileage	\$410.55
Rev. Grossmann-Audio	359.40
J.P. Mosley (Fickbohm)	388.80
Rev. David Dawn-Mileage	188.65
Rev. McGee-Mileage	96.25
Rev. Haddock-NP Editor	200.00
Jurgens Printing-Abstracts	704.85
Rev. McGee-supplies	53.57
Check Blanks	12.40
Lynn Goehring-Mileage	140.00
U.S. Postmaster	27.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,581.47</b>

**HOME MISSIONS**

Watertown	\$12,800.00
Rev. Powell-Dickinson	294.00
Rev. Dawn-Dickinson	422.80
Rev. Stetler-Dickinson	6200.06
Rev. Grossmann-Dickinson	2605.00
Rev. Clark-Dickinson	2097.45
Dickinson Press	781.00
RCUS-Books-Dickinson	344.69
Salem Reformed Church-	
Radio Broadcast	2409.75
<b>Total Home Missions</b>	<b>\$ 27,954.75</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 32,417.22**

Dickinson 2011 = \$ 12, 745.00

Dickinson 3-1-11 to 12-31-11 = \$11667.93

Northern Plains Classis Treasurer prepared this financial statement on a cash basis. Fund accounting, which consists of a self balancing group of accounts and in which is recorded cash received and expenditures paid, is used by the Classis. In addition, revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Ralph Kusler, Treasurer

**2011 Membership & Financial Statistics**

	Aberdeen	Anamoose	Ashley	Eureka	Herried
Number of Elders	3	1	3	3	2
Number of Deacons	3	1	3	3	2
Communicants Last Year	108	22	44	153	50
Received – Confirmation	5	0	0	1	1
Received – Transfer	0	0	0	2	0
Received – Profession	2	0	0	2	0
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Old &amp; New</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>51</b>
Lost – Dismissal	5	0	0	0	0
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	2	0	2	0	6
Lost – Death	5	1	1	2	1
<b>Total Lost</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Communicants This Year</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>44</b>
Unconfirmed Members	17	1	1	7	11
Total Baptized Members	120	22	42	163	55
Number of Families	54	12	27	91	24
Children in Sunday School	14	0	0	5	11
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	2	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Baptisms this Year</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Members' Lord's Supper	100	19	32	118	24
Lord' Supper Observed	4	4	3	4	3
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$87,501	\$24,998	\$25,724	\$93,955	\$42,731
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$3,173	\$227	\$9,310	\$2,685	\$7,795
Receipts – Other Sources	\$30,475	\$46	\$5,720	\$13,752	\$5,106
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$121,149</b>	<b>\$25,271</b>	<b>\$40,754</b>	<b>\$110,392</b>	<b>\$55,632</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$20,673	\$5,616	\$6,210	\$12,674	\$5,603
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$7,344	\$1,360	\$2,698	\$10,404	\$3,400
Non-Guideline Causes	\$1,864	\$0	\$350	\$1,114	\$0
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$0	\$227	\$0	\$1,571	\$652
Other General Expenses	\$93,174	\$20,913	\$29,534	\$83,755	\$46,265
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$123,055</b>	<b>\$28,116</b>	<b>\$38,792</b>	<b>\$109,518</b>	<b>\$55,920</b>
Value of Church Buildings	\$350,000	\$0	\$24,900	\$250,000	\$40,000
Value of Parsonage	none	\$0	\$38,000	\$100,000	\$42,000
Property Improvements	\$5,380	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,161
Present Property Debts	\$28,568	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Paid Last Year	\$17,860	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Synod Giving per Communicant	\$191	\$255	\$141	\$83	\$112



	Hosmer	Minot	Pierre	Watertown	Totals
Number of Elders	2	1	2	2	19
Number of Deacons	2	1	0	0	15
Communicants Last Year	23	17	25	19	461
Received – Confirmation	0	0	0	2	9
Received – Transfer	1	2	0	0	5
Received – Profession	0	2	0	0	6
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total Old &amp; New</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>481</b>
Lost – Dismissal	2	0	3	2	12
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	1	0	2	0	13
Lost – Death	0	0	0	0	10
<b>Total Lost</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Total Communicants This Year</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>446</b>
Unconfirmed Members	0	12	3	2	54
Total Baptized Members	21	33	23	21	500
Number of Families	15	11	13	8	255
Children in Sunday School	0	10	7	1	48
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	0	2	0	0	5
<b>Total Baptisms this Year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
Members' Lord's Supper	13	20	18	19	81.39%
Lord' Supper Observed	4	12	5	6	45
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$4,555	\$48,587	\$33,378	\$40,012	\$401,441.00
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$10,500	\$5,793	\$1,155	\$0	\$40,638.00
Receipts – Other Sources	\$4,480	\$43	\$0	\$12,896	\$72,518.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$19,535</b>	<b>\$54,423</b>	<b>\$34,533</b>	<b>\$52,908</b>	<b>\$514,597.00</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$684	\$2,003	\$1,000	\$2,094	\$56,557.00
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$1,100	\$1,300	\$1,700	\$1,292	\$30,598.00
Non-Guideline Causes	\$0	\$0	\$194	\$0	\$3,522.00
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$0	\$5,008	\$0	\$0	\$7,458.00
Other General Expenses	\$16,388	\$38,136	\$36,709	\$44,332	\$409,206.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$18,172</b>	<b>\$46,447</b>	<b>\$39,603</b>	<b>\$47,718</b>	<b>\$507,341.00</b>
Value of Church Buildings	\$25,000	\$0	\$110,000	\$0	\$799,900.00
Value of Parsonage	\$0	\$260,000	\$90,000	\$150,000	\$680,000.00
Property Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$7,890	\$0	\$35,431.00
Present Property Debts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,568.00
Debt Paid Last Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,860.00
Synod Giving per Communicant	\$30	\$118	\$40	\$110	\$122.68
Classis Giving per Communicant	\$48	\$76	\$68	\$68	\$66.37
<b>Total RCUS per Communicant</b>	<b>\$78</b>	<b>\$194</b>	<b>\$116</b>	<b>\$178</b>	<b>\$196.70</b>

## **Standing Rules**

### **Organization**

1. The Standing rules shall be read during the session of Classis.
2. That the Northern Plains Classis hold its annual meeting on the second Monday in March and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. (2009)
3. The worship services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circulated before Classis.
4. 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.
5. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the yearly Spring meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send the answers to the questions placed before the elder 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.

### **Correspondence**

6. The statistics, Credentials of Elders to Classis and the Mailing Addresses of Delegates to Classis shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk by February 1st. (2010, 2012)
7. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to the Consistories of all the Churches by February 15th before the Spring Meeting of Classis. Parochial reports from all Ministers and Licentiatees are to be sent to the President by February 15th before the Spring Meeting of Classis. Excuses for these requirements are to be made by written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis. (2012)
8. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of Classis shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at any time.
9. If pastors, elders, and members of congregations request information from the Executive Committee of Classis concerning constitutional

matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented in written form and relevant only to the item in question.

10. All documents submitted to Classis be written on sheets of white paper measuring 8.5 inches wide and 11 inches long. (2005)

**Financial**

11. The Classical dues shall be due on the first of September and are to be paid not later than the 30th of September of the current year.
12. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form to "Northern Plains Classis," and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.
13. The President of Classis shall receive one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive four hundred dollars (\$400.00), and the Treasurer one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the Classical year. (2008)
14. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only to those delegates whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions or have been properly excused by Classis.
15. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel to and from Classis, or for Classis business, at 35 cents (\$0.35) per mile per vehicle. When distance and time require public travel on public transportation to and from Classis, or for Classis business, they shall be granted full fare. (2007)

**Examinations**

16. It shall be the practice of the Classis before ordaining candidates for the ministry and before installing ordained ministers from other denominations, to require no less than an eight month internship for them under the supervision of a pastor of the Classis who has served in the Reformed Church in the United States for at least five years. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed upon learning the peculiarities and practices of the RCUS. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed. (2010)