

# **2020**

# **Abstract of the Minutes**

## **SOUTH CENTRAL**

## **CLASSIS**

**Spring Meeting**  
**March 23-24, 2020**  
**Held Over Zoom**

**Special Meeting**  
**May 22, 2019**  
**Northland Reformed Church**  
**Kansas City, MO**

**Special Meeting**  
**May 12, 2020**  
**Held Over Zoom**

# Informational Summary

## Officers of South Central Classis

President	Reverend Travis Grassmid
Vice-president	Reverend Matt Powell
Stated Clerk	Reverend Dr. Kevin Carroll
Treasurer	Elder Scott Velgersdyk 3608 S. Anita Ave. Sioux Falls, SD, 57103

### Permanent Committees

(Underlined indicates chairman)

<b>Executive Committee:</b>	<u>T. Grassmid</u> , K. Carroll, Elder Darrell Mehlhaf
<b>Missions:</b>	<u>Rev. Michael McGee</u> , Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Harvey Opp, Elder Fred Hofmann, Elder Dan Mettler, Elder Don Oliver
<b>Publications:</b>	<u>Rev. David Fagrey</u> , Rev. Dr. Robert Grossmann, Rev. Randall Klynsma, Elder Robert Davis, Elder John Frey
<b>Christian Education:</b>	<u>Rev. David Dawn</u> , Rev. George Horner, Rev. Dr. Howard Hart, Rev. Scott Henry, Elder Will Brouwer, Elder Dan Griess
<b>Interchurch Relations:</b>	<u>Powell</u> , Rev. Dr. Lee Johnson, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Elder Warren Nuss, Elder Jerry Stevens
<b>Candidates &amp; Credentials:</b>	<u>Rev. Jon Blair</u> , Rev. Joe Vusich, Rev. Chris Moulton, Elder James Rydell, Elder John Savage
<b>*Heidelberg Youth Camp:</b>	<u>Johnson</u> , Fagrey, Blair, Rev. Dr. J. P. Mosley, Jr., Elder Dave Kimble, Nuss

## 2020-2021 Guidelines for Giving

### Per Communicant Member

Classical Expense Fund:	\$7.00
Missions (inclusive):	\$88.28
Heidelberg Seminary:	\$3.50
<u>New Geneva Seminary:</u>	<u>\$2.00</u>
Total:	\$100.78

## South Central Classis Guideline Remittance Form

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*No. of Communicant Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Found in Abstract Appendix #1 (pp. 37-39), Membership & Financial Statistics – “Total Communicant Members This Year”

<b>Amount / Comm. Mem.</b>		<b>Amount Remitted</b>
Classical Expense Fund	\$7.00	_____
Missions	\$88.28	_____
Heidelberg Seminary	\$3.50	_____
<u>New Geneva TS</u>	<u>\$2.00</u>	_____
Total:	\$100.78	_____

Make check payable to South Central Classis.

Send to: Scott Velgersdyk  
SCC Treasurer  
3608 S. Anita Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
Email: scottvelgersdyk@gmail.com

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## Directory of Classis

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## Directory of Churches

### Colorado

Colorado Springs

[www.trinity-covenant.org](http://www.trinity-covenant.org)  
Trinity Covenant RCUS  
Phone: (719) 590-1477  
Mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
Location: Grace Presbyterian Church, 2511 N. Logan Ave.  
Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 12:30 PM  
Pastor: Vacant

Denver

[mercystreetreformed.org](http://mercystreetreformed.org)  
Mercy Street Reformed Chapel  
Phone: (559) 836-9871  
Mail: 710 S. Clinton St., Apt. 6B, Denver, CO 80247  
Location: Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale Ave.  
Worship: 9:30 AM, Sunday School: 10:45 AM  
Pastor: Chris Moulton (Wife: Carole)

Greeley

[www.reformedgreeley.org](http://www.reformedgreeley.org)  
Grace RCUS  
Phone: (970) 336-9927  
Mail: 1505 10th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631  
Location: 1501 10th Ave.  
Worship: 10:00AM  
Pastor: Jon Blair (Wife: Wendy)

Limon

[www.prclimonco.wordpress.com](http://www.prclimonco.wordpress.com)  
Providence RCUS  
Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828  
Location: 725 Michigan Ave.  
Worship: 10:00AM, Sunday School: 11:30AM.  
Pastor: Vacant

## Nebraska

### Lincoln

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

St. John's RCUS

Phone: (402) 476-1827

Mail and Location: 1101 South 26th St. Lincoln, NE 68502

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM

Pastor: Lee Johnson (Wife: Jenny Jo)

### Omaha

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

Omaha RCUS

Phone: (402) 281-3263

Mail: 8340 Sheffield Dr., Omaha, NE 68122

Location: 4905 N. 96<sup>th</sup> St.

Pastor: Randy Klynsma (Wife: Julie)

### Sutton

Emmanuel RCUS

Phone: (402) 773-4218

Mail: PO Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979

Location: 110 South Way Ave.

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Pastor: Vacant

### Sutton

[www.hopereformedrcus.com](http://www.hopereformedrcus.com)

Hope RCUS

Phone: (402) 773-4330

Mail: PO Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979

Location: 311 E. Hickory

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Pastor: Scott Henry (Wife: Maria)

## South Dakota

### Menno

[www.sermonaudio.com/source\\_detail.asp?sourceid=travisgrassmid](http://www.sermonaudio.com/source_detail.asp?sourceid=travisgrassmid)

Zion RCUS

Phone: (605) 387-2816

Mail and Location: 220 South Pine St. Menno, SD 57045

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Pastor: Travis Grassmid (Wife: Charity )

Mitchell

[www.gracereformed.com](http://www.gracereformed.com)

Grace RCUS

Phone: (605) 996-2803

Mail: 505 S. Davison St., Mitchell, SD 57301

Location: 1021 S. Davison St.

Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School 9:00 AM

Pastor: Kevin Carroll (Wife: Tammy)

Rapid City

[www.gracereformedrapidcity.com](http://www.gracereformedrapidcity.com)

Grace RCUS

Phone: (605) 399-1711

Mail and Location: 5626 Haines Ave., Rapid City, SD 57701

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:00 AM

Pastor: David Fagrey (Wife: Bonnie)

Sioux Falls

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

Trinity RCUS

Phone: (605) 271-0754

Mail and Location: 7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Pastor: Michael McGee (Wife: Jenny)

Associate Pastor: Maynard Koerner (Wife: Marcia)

Vermillion

[www.providencercus.com](http://www.providencercus.com)

Providence RCUS

Phone: (605) 624-4337

Mail and Location: 830 E. Madison, Vermillion, SD 57069

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM

Pastor: Harvey Opp (Wife: Carol)

## Wyoming

Casper

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

Christ RCUS

Phone: (307) 277-5901

Mail: 6061 W. Incline Rd., Casper, WY 82604

Location: 600 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St.

Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School 11:45 AM

Pastor: Matthew Powell (Wife: Andrea)

Rock Springs

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

Providence RCUS

Phone: (307) 352-9518

Mail: 1007 9<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Springs, WY 82901

Location: 1001 9<sup>th</sup> St.

Worship: 10:00 AM, Fellowship & Sunday School: 11:15 AM

Pastor: Joe Vusich (Wife: Gioia)

## **Abstract of the Minutes of the Stated Meeting**

Of the South Central Classis

Of the Reformed Church in the United States

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Session - March 23-24, 2020

(Held Over Zoom)

### **Services**

The President of Classis opened the meeting to order on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 1:00 PM CDT with a devotional from Psalm 48 and an opening prayer.

At 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 24, Klynsma gave a devotion from Luke 9:51.

At 6:00 PM on Tuesday, March 24, Davis presented a closing devotion on Luke 24:13-35 and ended with prayer.

Prayers were also offered for concerns and requests that arose from the parochial reports of ministers and other business of Classis.

### **Organization**

The President of Classis called the body to order on Tuesday, March 24, 2019, at 9:00 AM.

The Stated Clerk, Rev Joe Vusich, called the roll, which showed 15 ministers and 11 elders present. The President declared a quorum. The bar of the house was defined as those delegates who were present. The President appointed Koerner and Elder Darrell Mehlhaf as tellers. The President ruled that Mr. Kevin Te Slaa would serve as technical support for the Zoom meeting.

The following delegates were nominated and elected as the officers of Classis for this year: Grassmid as President, Powell as Vice-President, Carroll as Stated Clerk, and Velgersdyk as Treasurer. The President appointed Klynsma as reporter for the Reformed Herald.

The Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day were adopted. A motion was made to suspend the oral reading of the Standing Rules, which carried by the required 2/3 majority.

### **Fraternal Delegates and Visitors**

There were no fraternal delegates present. Grassmid introduced Mr. Carl Gobelman, who is being considered for the pulpit at Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE. Powell introduced first-time delegate Elder Marty Scott from Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY. Grassmid introduced first-time delegate Mehlhaf from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD. Moulton

introduced first-time delegate Elder Jesse Smith from Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO.

#### Reception of New Ministers and Churches

The President welcomed Christ RCUS in Casper, WY as a newly-particularized church. Klynsma offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

#### Standing Committee Appointments

The President announced the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

Examination and Licensure, Publications, Services, Nominations: Koerner, Dawn, Johnson, Mosley, Nuss, Davis, Rydell, Hofmann, Grossmann.

Judicial: Klynsma, Blair, Vusich, Oliver, Mehlhaf, Hart.

Missions: Powell, Opp, Vusich, Horner, Hall, Ehly, Kimble, Van Stedum.

Finance, Benevolence, Ministerial Aid, Education and Student Aid: Fagrey, Velgersdyk, Henry, Moulton, McGee, Gross, J. Savage, Smith, Scott.

#### Presentation of Overtures and Communications

The overtures and communications were distributed to the Standing Committees as determined by the Executive Committee. The actions taken on the Permanent Committee recommendations are found in the Standing Committee reports (pp. 44-50).

#### Permanent Committee Reports

##### **Executive Committee Report**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee represents the Classis in the interval between classis meetings (Article 91) and conducts the business of Classis via executive circulars. Your committee also serves as advisors (as requested) to member congregations. The following is a review of Executive Committee business since the Spring 2019 Classis meeting. All circulars passed, with no objection to the proposed action.

1. Executive Circular 34.1, dated April 4, 2019, dealt with approving an updated report from the Heidelberg Youth Camp Special Committee.
2. Executive Circular 34.2, dated April 17, 2019, dealt with appointing oversight committees related to the recent particularization of Christ Reformed Church in Casper, WY.
3. Executive Circular 34.3, dated May 2, 2019, called for a special Classis meeting during the 2019 Synod to deal with the recommendations of the permanent Missions Committee related to a potential new mission work in Manhattan, Montana.
4. Executive Circular 34.4, dated May 22, 2019, dealt with appointing a committee to install



the pastor and elders of Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY, and also with scheduling the installation service.

5. Executive Circular 34.6, dated August 20, 2019, dealt with the call of Rev. Vusich as the new minister of Providence Reformed Church in Rock Springs, WY, and scheduling an installation service.
6. Executive Circular 34.7, dated October 8, 2019, dealt with declaring the pulpit of Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, NE, to be vacant, and also with rescheduling Rev. Vusich's installation service in Rock Springs, WY.
7. Executive Circular 34.8, dated February 10, 2020, dealt with announcing the Spring 2020 Meeting of Classis, and the submission of Delegate and Statistics reports.
8. Executive Circular 34.9, dated March 11, 2020, dealt with the distribution of overtures to be discussed at the 2020 Spring Meeting.
9. Executive Circular 34.10, dated March 16, 2020, dealt with convening the Spring Meeting in view of coronavirus concerns, and announcing the option of connecting via Zoom.
10. Executive Circular 34.11, dated March 18, 2020, dealt with canceling the in-person meeting in Lincoln, NE, and converting the Spring Meeting to a Zoom video call.
11. Your committee communicated via e-mails and phone calls prior to proposing Classis actions via executive circulars, and the committee was in agreement on all actions proposed in its circulars.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Travis Grassmid  
President

Rev. Joe Vusich  
Stated Clerk

Elder Larry Streyle  
Elder Member

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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## **Candidates and Credentials**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee received no business, did not meet, and therefore did not conduct any business during the past Classical year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J. Blair, Rev K. Carroll, Rev. C. Moulton, Elder J. Rydell, Elder J. Savage

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

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## **Interchurch Relations**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

In 2019 your committee conducted business as it usually has, via email. The chairman received fraternal invitations from the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas for its spring and fall meetings, from the Classis Central of the URCNA for its spring meeting, and from the RPCNA Midwest Presbytery. The chairman attended the spring PoD presbytery meeting and the fall Midwest Presbytery meeting, bringing greetings to the brothers at both. The chairman also sent greetings to the Classis Central URCNA and the fall OPC PoD meeting. Reports from the two meetings attended are attached. The chairman also wrote communications to the Rocky Mountain Presbytery of the PCA and the Classis Pacific Northwest of the URCNA informing them of our work in Bozeman, MT, at the request of the Home Missions Committee.

Your committee also received an overture request to send to the South Central Classis:

Recommendation: That the South Central Classis overture Synod that membership in ecumenical organizations and fraternal relations be re-evaluated by the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee and re-affirmed by Synod once every three years.

Grounds:

1. This is how the Synod operates in other areas such as continuing support for Seminaries.
2. This allows the Synod to be able to discuss openly the benefits, merit, or shortcomings of the relationships, which currently is unavailable.
3. This provides an active element of oversight for and participation in these bodies and relationships.
4. Synod ought not approve things by passing a budget for a committee.
5. Every Synod has the right to re-evaluate past Synodical decision, it is especially important when it comes to membership in other bodies.

The committee discussed this overture and decided that it had enough merit to present it to the South Central Classis for deliberation.

Recommendation 1: That the South Central Classis overture Synod that membership in ecumenical organizations and fraternal relations be re-evaluated by the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee and re-affirmed by Synod once every three years.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Matt Powell, Chair  
Rev. Lee Johnson  
Rev. Herman Van Stedum  
Elder Warren Nuss  
Elder Jerry Stevens

Esteemed fathers and brothers,

I attended the spring 2019 meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC on April 2-3, 2019 in Salt Lake City as a delegate from the South Central Classis. I was warmly received, and was given an opportunity to address the body. I spoke briefly about the appreciation we have for our fraternal relations, and encouraged them to send a delegate whenever possible. I updated them on the extent of the South Central Classis and the three mission works we currently have.

One issue before the body was the oversight of a mission work in Japan, which was previously overseen by the General Assembly of the OPC, but which has since been handled on the Presbytery level. Despite the fact that this mission work has been in place for many years and was not asking for money, it was still a somewhat contentious issue.

In fact, contention was sadly the characteristic of the Presbytery meeting, which was dominated by discussion of an ongoing accusation made against a pastor of the presbytery, as well as other complaints and charges against other pastors and elders all stemming from this original complaint. The matter has been ongoing for some years, and will continue for at least a year, as the presbytery elected to have a firm end to their meeting, and were unable to complete their business before that time arrived. I am sure the brothers in the PoD would appreciate our prayers for peace and reconciliation in their body.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Matt Powell

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Midwest Presbytery meeting of the RPCNA met on Tuesday November 5 until Thursday morning November 7th. I attended as a delegate, able to be present for all of the meeting on Wednesday November 6. They graciously permitted me time to address the body.

Much of the business was taken up with candidate examinations, and these were thorough and orthodox, as is usually the case with this body. One thing I have always appreciated about the way they do their examinations is that they break them up in stages at different points of the man's education, allowing for more points for evaluation along the way. This it seems to me to be wise, and possibly present some benefits to our all-or-nothing approach.

Otherwise the business was fairly routine. Some details escape me—your delegate wrote a report immediately after the meeting, but this report was misplaced. Nonetheless there was nothing

about the meeting that gave me pause regarding the continued orthodoxy of this body. Their hospitality was warm, as always.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Matt Powell

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Home Missions.**

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**Missions**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

This past year, your committee fulfilled its responsibilities by corresponding via email, meeting through conference calls, and also visiting with our various mission works through site visits and phone calls.

Your committee is pleased to report that the Lord is continuing to build up the mission works of the classis. As of the writing of this report, continued peace and growth has been occurring in Omaha, Denver and Casper. The Lord has also provided two men to regularly serve the saints in the Gallatin Valley Region of Montana. Truly the Lord is prospering the work of missions within our boundaries. May He be pleased to continue to increase our area in His vineyard!

As your committee was tasked to make a site visit with each of the mission works and consult with the overseeing consistories of those works, the following is an accounting of the fulfillment of that task.

**Christ Reformed Chapel: Casper, WY**

On Saturday, February 22, 2020, Elder Daniel Mettler and Rev. Michael McGee visited with the officers and a member of Christ Reformed Church.

Currently, the congregation has 30 confirmed members and 22 unconfirmed. Attendance remains steady, averaging 50-60 souls per Sunday. Of those in attendance, there are two families at various stages in the membership process and up to four individuals who may be confirmed in the coming months.

The congregation has seen its membership wax and wane, but overall there is a continued commitment on the part of the membership to see the congregation develop and grow. The Lord has blessed this desire through the years by causing personal and familial relationships to bear fruit through numeric increase. One family joined Christ RCUS by intentionally moving to Casper since their extended family was already attending and blessed by the ministry of the Church. Another family was added due to the friendship that had existed with another member outside of the bonds of the local church.

Christ Reformed Church continues to rent the facilities formerly used by College Heights Baptist Church for a reasonable price. Although the building is outdated and there are times during the week when the space is unavailable, the current building arrangement is more than adequate to meet the needs of the Church.

The congregation devotes an insignificant amount of money to advertising. Their primary means for promoting the local church is through Google ads, Facebook, Sermonaudio and a website. Although more could be done through these and other mediums, the Consistory does not want to lose sight of the importance of building the Church through the medium of preaching and teaching and the work of personal connections. Although this type of growth may be small numerically, the strength of it lies in the stronger bonds that can exist among the membership. Therefore, regular bible studies are held for the men, women and youth of the Church, with an eye toward developing relationships with regular and new attendees.

Since the work particularized in the summer of 2019, there are currently three elders serving alongside of Rev. Matthew Powell. With the increase in the number of local officers, as well as two of them beginning within the last year, they have had to learn how to work through the deliberative process of formal meetings, as well as determine when to meet as a Consistory or as a Spiritual Council. Although this has meant having to delay action on some items until consistorial approval at a monthly meeting, these challenges have proven useful in the maturation of the local leadership. Although the Spiritual Council only meets when needed, Your Committee encouraged the officers to conduct Spiritual Council meetings on a more regular basis so that time could be given for deliberate planning and attention to the spiritual maturation of the congregation as well as occasions for formal times of prayer for the membership.

Financially, Christ RCUS is holding their own. The 2019 income exceeded expenses by \$7,500. The officers identified the congregation's willingness to increase their financial support for the work in Casper as well as the receipt of the 2018 Offering for the Annual Day of Prayer for Missions provided by the RCUS.

Your committee rejoices with the saints at Christ Reformed Church in the continued progress that the Lord is bringing in Casper. The mission work currently receives \$18,000 in funding from Classis and the same amount from Synod. For the upcoming classical and synodical year, \$15,000 will be requested, which is 50% less than the original amounts received from classis and synod.

### **Mercy Street Reformed Chapel: Denver, CO**

On January 10, 2020, Rev. Harvey Opp and Elder Fred Hofmann visited the SCC mission work at Denver. Classis and Synod first approved its funding for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Rev. Chris Moulton and his wife, Carole, moved there in June 2018, when he became the missionary. The overseeing consistory is that of Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs.

Rev. Moulton continues to have a Bible study on Wednesdays, with a fellowship meal afterward at the Moulton's apartment. He also has a study at the University of CO (School of Pharmacy) once or twice each month, according the students' schedule. There was a previous study on Thursdays at the apartment community. However, that did not bring anyone to the services, and has recently been discontinued.

Worship services have been held each Lord's Day, since March of 2019. To find a meeting place was a challenge. After a three month search, a room at a local YMCA was obtained. It has been

rented at the minimal cost of only \$30/hour. It can hold 60-70. They use it for Sunday School also. Those who attend say it is adequate for their needs at this time. No one thinks of it as a hindrance, as for worship or for gaining visitors. They have had one person attend after seeing notice of the service, when using the YMCA.

An average of 10-12 attended services during 2019. The same number attended the Wednesday Bible study. The Thursday study had 7 attend consistently.

The core group originally consisted of 6 RCUS members from the three CO churches. Several of these moved away from Denver in the past year. However, your visitors met four new individuals in the meeting time at the Moulton's apt. One couple has been diligent in attendance since meeting Chris at a Reformation conference last October. They are very excited about the work, after leaving a large non-denominational church. Their son has also been attending more recently. As we spoke with the group, we acknowledged the come and go experience with some in every mission work. We encouraged them to invite others and that Rev. Moulton would be glad to have Bible studies with any new contacts they might have. The discussion was said to be encouraging by those who attended.

There were six from the work at the meeting, including two singles, who were new to your visitors. Several others have been regular at studies and services, but were providentially hindered from being at this meeting. That includes 3 who are RCUS members and have been with this group from the beginning. They did fill out questionnaires which we sent prior to the meeting. They express the desire for an RCUS church in Denver, appreciate the preaching and teaching, and seek to invite others to the work.

Your visitors had time to speak with Rev. Moulton privately after the group meeting. We believe he is making good efforts in seeking growth in numbers, and looks for new means of outreach. He provided a list of about 20 other individuals, most of whom have attended Bible studies or worship services at times. Some have connection with another church, or "don't see church attendance as valuable or necessary." So, attendance has been up and down, but more stable since the fall. We suggested that a membership class could be conducted with the new couple, who have been diligent and excited for the work over the past 4 months, even to give an overview, if they are not certain they want to join yet.

A few referrals from other RCUS churches have been received and followed up. Attenders have handed out flyers, and the prominence of the church web site in searches has been improved by a design engineer. Rev. Moulton is looking for new opportunities in outreach, as in teaching English as a second language, volunteer work, and possibly a part-time job. Their web site is: [mercystreetreformed.org](http://mercystreetreformed.org) which has 32 episodes of a podcast produced by Rev. Moulton. Some of his messages are on [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com), and others are to be uploaded there.

A new opportunity is that a Tuesday evening Bible study is to start Feb. 25 at a community club house, which services 200 homes or families. Several families there are known already. Flyers are being distributed. Another means for outreach is a substitute teacher position at a Christian

High School, which Rev. Moulton, as a former teacher, has been approved for, which is to begin later in the spring.

The various avenues have been seen favorably by the consistory, as said in a video conference we conducted with them and Rev. Moulton, after the on-site meeting. Their completed three year budget was then examined with questions asked and answered. They hope to begin reductions in Classis and Synod support in the 2021-22 fiscal year, according to the goal in the Synod Home Missions Manual, in the third year after support begins.

The officers said they were encouraged with the work. They thought attendance had been good when having an elder at a worship service. They seek to do that monthly, and there have been some pulpit exchanges to learn more and evaluate the work. Rev. Moulton participates in the monthly consistory and spiritual council meetings by Skype. We did ask for timely written reports from the missionary each month, and for an annual report from the consistory as called for in the missions manual.

Your visitors were encouraged with the Denver work, especially with the new excited couple. We note that Rev. Moulton has been the missionary at Denver for just over a year and a half. We certainly urge Classis and Synod to continue the support of this rather new mission work!

#### **Omaha Reformed Church – Omaha, NE**

On Monday, December 9, 2019, Dr. Maynard Koerner and Elder Daniel Mettler, members of the South Central Classis Home Missions Committee, conducted a visit as prescribed by the Home Missions Manual with the mission church plant in Omaha, NE.

In addition to meeting the missionary, the Rev. Randall Klynsma, we had an opportunity to visit with some members of the Omaha mission during an evening meal. Following the evening meal and discussions with members, Elder Mettler and Dr. Koerner met with the Consistory of St. John's RCUS of Lincoln. The Omaha church plant is under the oversight of this Consistory.

As part of the visit we were able to have good discussions with a number of the members. We found that there is a good attitude among the members. They expressed appreciation for pastor Klynsma, for the oversight provided by St. John's and for the support and interest of the RCUS in planning a church in Omaha. The members do participate in outreach programs, yet they agree that more could be done. We did not hear any complaints.

Pastor Klynsma indicated that he finds the work to be challenging, yet not more so than his capabilities. He is ready and desires to meet the challenge. He mentioned some frustration in the normal coming and going of members and potential members. As is quite normal in church planting, there are ups and downs yet pastor Klynsma believes there is an upward trend. He readily admits that there is a need to see the upward trend improve.

It is our observation that the financial position of this church plant is very good, and continues to move forward in a positive way. However, the growth in numbers is fairly minimal. We sought to encourage all involved to stay positive and to work towards improvement in this area.

We also discussed with pastor Klynsma the possibility of seeking to establish study groups throughout the city. The committee believes that this is an area which should be seriously pursued.

There was some discussion with the Consistory regarding the timing for moving towards organizing the work as a particular congregation. The advice given to the Consistory was that while it would be good to begin working toward that goal, it should be very evident that the work is ready to be organized before such a move is carried out.

The financial condition of the Omaha work remains very positive. During the past year they took a 30% reduction in support from Classis and Synod. They will be at 45% support for the next Classical year and project continued reductions at a rate of 15% per year. We praise God and commend the members for their generous giving.

The composition of the group currently is as follows:

Current members: 27 Communicant 9 baptized

Growth in members over last year: 100%

Average attendance on the Lord's Day: 35-40 – an increase of 5-10 from the previous year

Average number of visitors - 2 or 3

Attending membership class - 4-6, possibly 8 are close

### **Covenant Reformed – Manhattan, MT**

Since classis identified the group of believers in the Gallatin Valley Region as a core group for the missions committee to oversee, Your Committee has held regular video conferences with the steering committee and sent Elder Daniel Mettler and Rev. Michael McGee to meet with them in person.

As Your Committee has continued to interact with the work which identifies as Covenant Reformed Church, we have been encouraged by their enthusiasm and thankful for their willingness to listen and implement our counsel. The relationship between Your Committee and the Group has been one of mutual respect and appreciation. There have not been any points of contention in any of our meetings, for which we are grateful.

The first task Your Committee sought to fulfill was the securing of weekly pulpit supply. Although we were not able to have someone travel to the Gallatin Valley Region for every Sunday, from June to October, approximately seven RCUS ministers were able to serve the Group by leading them in worship, teaching a study or two and provide pastoral care through personal visitation. Beginning in November, Revs. Wes Brice and George Horner were able to regularly serve the group by providing pastoral labors for two Sundays and living in the Manhattan community during the week. Although not the most ideal situation, the willingness of these two men to contribute in this manner has allowed the core group to have someone working with them for almost every day of the month!

Concerning the labors of Revs. Brice and Horner, they have sought to fill the pulpit, teach a weekly Sunday School class, work with those of the appropriate age through the confirmation



process and encourage the group through pastoral leadership and care. The Group has been appreciative for the labors of these men and repeatedly give thanks for the Lord's provision through Revs. Brice and Horner.

Rev. Brice has also provided materials to the Group for the purpose of outreach. A pamphlet which sets forth basic doctrine and invites people to attend the church has been printed and will be utilized to canvas the town of Manhattan in the coming months. A tract which presents the gospel has also been published. Individuals carry these tracts with them and distribute them to neighbors when the opportunity arises. Additionally, friends, family members and neighbors continue to be invited to attend Sunday services. During the bi-monthly meetings with the committee, the steering committee has a list of names that the Group has continued to contact with the hopes that these families might one day become a part of work in Manhattan.

The current composition of the Group is numerically the same as of May of 2019. They have seen one couple leave due to their Baptist convictions and also had one individual pass away. Three people have begun attending, a single college student who is enrolled at Montana State University, and a father and daughter. The new attendees are all of Reformed conviction. With these changes, the core group is stronger theologically and more consistently Reformed.

For worship, the Group continues to meet at an Episcopalian church building in Manhattan, MT for the cost of \$100 per month. Although the price is really good, the facility does have its drawbacks including curb appeal, accessible parking, building size and a lack of space for children. Although the Group is not committed to remaining in their current location and is seeking an opportunity to move, real estate costs are extremely high in the Gallatin Valley Region.

In the area of promotions, a website and Facebook page have been developed. The Group also pays for advertising in two local papers and seeks to increase its presence on the internet through Google ads. Recently, a digital voice recorder was purchased so that sermons could be recorded and put online.

As for the financial viability of the Manhattan Group, offering totals for 2019 were approximately \$34,000, which includes \$2,500 contributed by the Classis. The group has had to utilize some of its savings for travel costs and housing arrangements for Revs. Brice and Horner, but still has monies to draw from if needed. A 2020 budget has been developed which has been reviewed by the committee and seeks \$10,000 from Classis to assist with travel costs for weekly pulpit supply.

An immediate goal for the work in Manhattan would be for intentional outreach for the purpose of growing the group with the hope that the Lord would increase their numbers and enable them to have a full-time pastor in two years. Your committee would concur with this desire. As was indicated in last year's report,

Your Committee believes that it would be good to work with the families in Gallatin Valley Region in order to build it up as a core group with the intention of seeing it develop into a future

mission work. Reasons for this include those stated by the Group as well as the demographics and rate of growth the area has experienced over the past 30 years, the established roots and personal connections that the families of the Manhattan Group have in the community, the potential for success due to the familiarity of the Reformed Faith that is present in the area, and the benefit for some to have a place for worship. We would also note that if a work would be successful, this could lead to the advancement of the Reformed Faith in a state that is lacking a strong reformed presence.

Your committee is grateful for the labors of Revs. Brice and Horner among the Manhattan Group. Truly the Lord has blessed their wisdom and work among the saints in the Gallatin Valley Region. The interaction between Your Committee and the saints in Manhattan has also gone well, for which we give praise to God. In light of the work that has transpired thus far, as well as the way in which the Lord has cultivated the relationship between us, Your Committee is recommending that \$10,000 be designated for pulpit supply and travel arrangements for the Gallatin Valley Region.

**Goals:**

Your committee is encouraged about the work of the Lord in our mission churches and the potential for continued growth. In light of these developments and the Home Missions Manual's guidelines, the committee has the following goals in mind:

1. That the congregation in Omaha will experience sufficient growth to become an established, particularized RCUS congregation within the next two years.
2. That the congregation in Casper continue to experience sufficient growth so that it no longer is identified as a mission work of the RCUS in three years.
3. That the work in Denver would experience sufficient growth to become an established, particularized RCUS congregation within the next four years.
4. That within the next five years, the Lord would raise up new RCUS works in metropolitan areas within our classis where established RCUS congregations already exist. These areas include, but are not limited to: Lincoln, NE; Council Bluffs, IA; Colorado Springs, CO; Denver, CO and Sioux Falls, SD.
5. That cities with few to no existing NAPARC churches be identified within our classical boundaries and consideration be given to the possibility of starting RCUS mission works in these areas within the next five to ten years.

Recommendation 1: That the South Central Classis support the work in Casper in the amount of \$15,000 for the upcoming classical year (represents a 10% reduction from the current year and 50% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 2: That the South Central Classis overture the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$15,000 for the next

synodical year (represents a 10% reduction from the current year and 50% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 3: That the South Central Classis support the work in Denver in the amount of \$45,000 for the upcoming classical year (represents the same amount from the current year).

Recommendation 4: That the South Central Classis overture the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, Denver, CO in the amount of \$36,000 for the next synodical year (represents the same amount from the current year).

Recommendation 5: That the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$20,250 for the upcoming classical year (represents a reduction of 15% from the current year and 45% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 6: That the South Central Classis overture the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$16,200 for the upcoming synodical year (represents a reduction of 15% from the current year and 45% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 7: That the South Central Classis support the work in the Gallatin Valley Region in the amount of \$12,000 for the upcoming classical year for the purpose of assisting with the costs for pulpit supply and travel expenses.

Recommendation 8: That the congregations of the South Central Classis continue to pray for the mission works in Casper, Denver and Omaha, particularly noting:

- a. Giving thanks with the saints in Omaha for their financial stability and increase in attendees and members;
- b. Giving thanks with the saints in Casper that the Lord has provided them another officer;
- c. Giving thanks with the saints in Denver for the opportunity to continue with the work;
- d. Giving thanks with the saints in Manhattan for the provision of Revs. Brice and Horner as regular pulpit supply;
- e. Pray for peace, wisdom and love to continue in the coming year;
- f. Pray for an increase in numeric and spiritual growth; and
- g. Pray for wisdom, discernment and strength for the missionaries as they labor in their respective fields.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Hoffmann, Maynard Koerner, Michael McGee (chairman), Daniel Mettler, Don Oliver, Harvey Opp

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Home Missions.**

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**Publications**

Dear brothers,

The Publications Committee received no business, did not meet, and therefore did not conduct any business during the past Classical year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David Fagrey, convener

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Publications.**

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**Christian Education**

Esteemed brothers,

Your committee did not meet during this past classical year, 2019-2020. We did no business.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev David A Dawn, Chairman

Rev Scott Henry

Rev Howard Hart

Rev George Horner

Elder Dan Griess

Elder Will Brouwer

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Education and Student Aid.**

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Reports of Officers

**President's Report on the State of the Church**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

*May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you; May He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion. (Psalm 20:1-2)*

In the Lord's providence, I am writing this report just a few days before Classis is scheduled to convene. I had good intentions of having this written up weeks ago, but alas here we are, and everything has changed from just last week! At the beginning of the month my mind would likely have fallen upon a Scripture text which deals with the regular working of the church of our Lord. Today, our mind is set upon praising God as He cares for His people in extraordinary circumstances. The Psalmist's prayer is our prayer. The Psalmist's confidence is our confidence. We trust not in horses, nor in modern medicine; our ultimate confidence is set upon Jehovah who

has created, provided for, redeemed, and shall fully glorify His church. Where the world falls in confusion, the church is strengthened to stand and point to the God who provides!

The planning for this Classis meeting has been an adventure, yet here also the Lord has provided the perfect path forward. We recognize of course the atypical nature of a strictly internet convened Classis meeting, and we recognize that certain elements will be a challenge, yet we trust as we strive to convene business in a God-glorifying manner, so also God will bless our feeble labors. We thank you all for pulling together, and working towards a healthy solution.

Our statistics report shows an overall decrease of twenty-seven members; that said I have reason to believe that most of those numbers are artificial and the result of incorrect numbers being submitted last year. We probably have a real decline of about ten members, and the rest are the result of correcting faulty statistics of past years. I conclude this because the congregation showing the most drastic rate of erasure is the same congregation bringing a request for a better way to amend previous errors. This is certainly a concern which should have a uniform answer by which we all abide.

Last year the South-Central Classis showed an increase of five baptisms over the previous year; this year that number is trimmed by two. The past year has brought the blessing of thirty-two baptisms, thirty of which were infant baptisms. We continue to praise God for His covenant faithfulness. We pray not only for babies to be born, but that our covenant children would continue to walk with the Lord and His church.

Although total membership is down very slightly, the rate of financial giving has improved significantly. This year shows an increase of giving in excess of \$143,000. It is encouraging to see the people of God being faithful in their giving to the work of the Lord. I do not want to be a naysayer, but given the enormous decline in the stock market, the closing of so many businesses and the uncertainty of how long all this will last, I believe that we should strive for reducing our budget as much as we realistically can. The work of the church must go on, but we should proceed with the expectation 2020 will most likely bring far less giving, and far greater diaconal needs for the churches.

Last year Rev. McGee's parochial report noted that Trinity, Sioux Falls, SD was planning the construction of a new sanctuary; this year we note that the sanctuary is complete, has been dedicated, and the congregation has invited Synod to utilize this blessing for the meeting of Synod 2020. We rejoice with Trinity as they enjoy this provision from the Lord.

Rev. Joe Vusich and family moved to the Rock Springs, WY charge in November, following the retirement of Rev. George Horner. Rev. Vusich has hit the ground running by preaching through Matthew; he notes that "the ministry of the Word has been gratefully received by the congregation."

Rev. Vusich's move has left the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, NE vacant. The pulpit has been regularly filled, and they look forward with anticipation to calling the man whom the Lord has already ordained to minister to them. Their report concludes with these encouraging words; "as we at Emmanuel Reformed Church move forward, we trust that the Lord will sustain us and provide us with a qualified man to bring God's Word to us, and shepherd His flock."

Midyear Rev. Hall and family moved to Columbus, OH, having first resigned as the pastor of the Limon charge. Rev. Hall reports that he is “in the process of transferring both family and ministerial credential to Hope Reformed Church in Napoleon, OH, and to the East Covenant Classis.” Amidst trials, the Lord has sustained the Hall family, and we pray that the Lord would continue to guide and protect them. Meanwhile, John Savage reports for the Limon charge that “God continues to provide for our congregation spiritually as our pulpit has been filled every Sunday.” It is our continued prayer that the Lord would provide His servant to minister to the saints of Limon.

Each of us is a year older than we were last year, and it is beginning to show for some of us. The Lord has been pleased to preserve both Rev. Kevin Carroll and myself through difficult health years and major surgery; we praise God for His preservation through a challenging year. Rev. David Fagrey reported that many members of Grace Reformed Church in Rapid City, SD have been struggling with cancer. Certainly each of the congregations represented in this Classis have their own health concerns. May we be marked as a people who uphold one another always in prayer!

On the home missions front, we are encouraged that Christ Reformed Church has become a particular congregation last summer. Besides Rev. Matthew Powell, the congregation now has three ordained elders. The Lord is certainly blessing the labors of this congregation, as they enjoy a regular attendance of fifty to sixty souls. It has truly been a blessing for us as a Classis to watch the Lord build His church in Casper, WY.

Mercy Street Chapel of Denver, CO has shown limited growth. We give thanks that for about a year now the congregation has been worshipping regularly every week, and now also have two Bible studies. There has been limited interest from new visitors, and we are thankful for that interest. Our prayer is that the Lord would be pleased to grow this young group into a thriving community over the coming year.

The growth at Omaha Reformed Church has been slow, but still advancing. We are encouraged to read that the financial position of the congregation is continuing to improve, and that there are solid plans being formulated to continue to evangelize the greater community. We praise God for establishing this congregation in Omaha, NE, and pray that He would be pleased to continue to strengthen Rev. Klynsma to the work which he is faithfully conducting.

One additional mission work has been added over the past year. At a special Classis meeting which was convened at last year’s Synod meeting we approved working with a group in the Gallatin Valley of Montana. The Home Missions committee gives a favorable report of the labors in Manhattan, MT. This mission work, which is identifying as Covenant Reformed Church, has benefited greatly by the unflinching labors of two retired ministers. Rev’s Wes Brice (Northern Plains Classis) and George Horner have consistently led this congregation in weekly worship since November of last year. This consistency has been a great encouragement for the saints who are a part of the Gallatin Valley mission, even allowing them opportunity to conduct regular catechism classes and organize evangelistic efforts. We are saddened to read of the death of one of the members of this core group, yet we are encouraged to read that there are others who are beginning to worship with them. May the Lord bless this mission work, encourage the saints

of Covenant Reformed Church, and be pleased to establish a vibrant congregation in this growing region.

The Missions Report shows that the committee is faithful in conducting her business, and has laid out ambitious plans for striving to grow the church within this classis. We are thankful to see the fruit of the consistant [sic] labors of this entire committee.

We praise God for His continued blessing upon the churches of South Central Classis of the RCUS, and trustingly pray for His continued hand of blessing upon our labors.

*The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.* (Psalm 46:11)

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Travis Grassmid

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**Classis Action: The report is to be spread in the minutes, printed in the SCC Abstract, and submitted to the Reformed Herald; it was also referred to Standing Services.**

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### **Stated Clerk's Report**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Following is the list of the duties performed by your Clerk since the 2019 Spring Classis meeting:

1. Your Clerk recorded the business of the 2019 Spring Classis Meeting in the Minutes of Classis; prepared the formal Abstract of the Minutes for publication; and distributed copies of the Abstract to member churches at the 2019 Synod. Your Clerk formatted, indexed, and placed in a permanent binder the 2019 Minutes of Classis, along with all reports and relevant documents. After reviewing the the 2019 Minutes of Classis, the Synodical Minutes of Classis Committee determined that some corrections were necessary, mostly having to do with pagination errors; however, as your Clerk was finishing this report, he recalled that those corrections have not yet been added to the official minutes. He apologizes for this oversight and will make the necessary corrections before turning over the bound minutes to the new Stated Clerk.
2. Per page 18 of the 2019 Abstract, the Classis President's Report on the State of the Church was spread in the minutes, printed in the Abstract, and sent to the editor of the *Reformed Herald*.
3. Per page 29 of the 2019 Abstract, regarding the recommendation of Standing Benevolence, a letter requesting benevolent aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens was sent to the Clerk of Synod on April 17, 2019.
4. Per page 29 of the 2019 Abstract, regarding the recommendation of Standing Education and Student Aid, a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on April 17, 2019 requesting that Synod provide tuition and book expenses for Mr. Matthew Dawn to continue his studies

at Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

5. Per page 29 of the 2019 Abstract, regarding recommendation #3 of Standing Finance, a letter of thanks dated April 17, 2019, was sent to Paula Bindert for giving Classis her auditor's opinion.
6. Per page 31 of the 2019 Abstract, regarding recommendations #1-8 of Standing Ministerial Aid, a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on April 17, 2019 requesting ministerial aid from Synod for Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart, Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, Rev. and Mrs. Herman Van Stedum, Rev. and Mrs. David Dawn, Mrs. Kay Savage, Mrs. Penny Powell, and Mrs. Lori Kingswood.
7. Per pages 31-32 of the 2019 Abstract, regarding recommendations #2, #4, and #6 of Standing Missions, a letter was sent on April 17, 2019 requesting \$18,000 from Synod to support the mission work in Casper, WY; \$36,000 to support the mission work in Denver, CO; and \$25,200 to support the mission work in Omaha, NE
8. Executive Circulars, Volume 34, #'s 1-11 (see Classis Executive Committee Report) were prepared and emailed to the Classis delegates.
9. Your Clerk recorded the business of the Special Classis Meeting held on May 22, 2019 in the Minutes of Classis, and distributed the minutes to the delegates for their review.
10. A proposed Agenda, Services, and Order of Business for the Spring 2020 Classis meeting was prepared and emailed to the delegates. This was later revised and resent when the meeting was converted to a Zoom video call.
11. Delegate, membership, and financial statistics forms were sent to the member churches.
12. The reports and overtures to be considered at the Spring 2020 Classis meeting were sent to the delegates.
13. Completed Statistics and Delegate forms submitted by the member churches of Classis were reviewed and compiled, and the Report of Numerical and Financial Statistics was prepared in spreadsheet form and sent to the delegates.
14. Delegate credentials were sent to the Clerk of Synod, along with the Report on Ministerial Changes and the Informational Form on the Congregations of the Classis.
15. Your Clerk prepared this report and the Executive Committee Report in anticipation of their being presented at the Spring meeting.
16. Your Clerk served on the Executive Committee of Classis, and participated in numerous discussions with President Grassmid regarding Classis business.



In conclusion, it has been an honor to serve as Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis the past three years. Your Clerk greatly enjoyed working with President Grassmid and the other members of the Executive Committee, and he is thankful to our Lord for having had the opportunity to serve Him and the regional church in such a way. Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joe Vusich  
Stated Clerk of Classis

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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**Report of Synod Clerk to Classes**

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 273<sup>rd</sup> Synod, there are some items that the Classes should take note of:

1. Regarding the Minutes of Classis Committee, I sent our hard copies of the errors needing correcting to the Classis clerks; and did not publish these in the 2019 Synod Abstract.
2. In regards to the presentation of the Permanent Web-Site Committee Report, a motion from the floor, which was seconded and carried, (lines 191-192 of Synod Minutes) was inadvertently left out of the 2019 Abstract. It should have been Recommendation #3 of the Report: *“That 5Q be looked into to manage the RCUS website and possibly each church’s web-site if they so choose.”* I corrected the error in the electronic version of the 2019 Abstract. Please accept my sincere apologies for this error.
3. Regarding article 84 of the RCUS Constitution, Classis clerks need to remember that “Classis shall forward to Synod its actions concerning ministers from other denominations, and also provide a resume regarding the new minister. The confirmation of a new minister from another denomination may be accomplished by executive circular at the request of Classis, provided that the resume and the actions of Classis be included in the circular.” When a man from the RCUS is ordained between Classis and Synod, the Classis clerk needs to notify the Synod Clerk, and then the Synod Clerk automatically includes him on the Roll of Synod.
4. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the calendar year.
5. Standing rules #2 and #3 which respectively read: “The statistics of the Classes for the calendar year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod May 1”; “The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk May 1.”

6. 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.
7. Standing Ministerial Aid recommendation 8 (2013 Abstract page 76), that pursuant to Article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, Classes shall not consider a pastoral call letter as “adequate support” to the temporal needs of the called pastor, unless retirement is addressed and funded in the terms of the call.
8. That treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with Synod standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
9. Please remember to send necrologies to me in time for Synod.
10. The Classes are reminded that the 274<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 11-14, 2020, at Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

Respectfully submitted,



David Fagrey  
*Stated Clerk, RCUS*

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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## Treasurer's Report

### CHECKBOOK

July 1, 2019 - Jan 31, 2020

Beginning Balance	\$	68,416.42
Deposits	\$	88,896.58
Checks	\$	(65,404.78)
Interest	\$	124.70
Bank Charges	\$	(114.10)
Ending Balance	\$	91,918.82
Variance	\$	23,502.40

### CASHFLOW

July 1, 2019 - Jan 31, 2020

#### Ordinary Income/Expense

##### Income

##### Guidline Dues

##### Emmanuel RCUS

Classis Dues	789.60
Heidelberg Seminary	705.00
Missions	7,339.52
New Geneva Seminary	564.00

Total Emmanuel RCUS 9,398.12

##### Grace Reformed Greeley

Classis Dues	210.00
Heidelberg Seminary	187.50
Missions	1,952.00
New Geneva Seminary	150.00

Total Grace Reformed Greeley 2,499.50

##### Grace Reformed Mitchell

Classis Dues	680.40
Heidelberg Seminary	607.50
Missions	6,324.48
New Geneva Seminary	486.00

Total Grace Reformed Mitchell 8,098.38

<b>Grace Reformed Rapid City</b>	
Classis Dues	604.80
Heidelberg Seminary	540.00
Missions	5,621.76
New Geneva Seminary	432.00
<b>Total Grace Reformed Rapid City</b>	<b>7,198.56</b>
<b>Hope Reformed</b>	
Classis Dues	1,455.48
Heidelberg Seminary	1,170.00
Missions	12,035.40
New Geneva Seminary	936.00
<b>Total Hope Reformed</b>	<b>15,596.88</b>
<b>Omaha Reformed Church</b>	
Classis Dues	168.00
Heidelberg Seminary	150.00
Missions	1,561.60
New Geneva Seminary	120.00
<b>Total Omaha Reformed Church</b>	<b>1,999.60</b>
<b>Providence Reformed Rock Spring</b>	
Classis Dues	319.20
Heidelberg Seminary	285.00
Missions	2,967.04
New Geneva Seminary	228.00
<b>Total Providence Reformed Rock Spring</b>	<b>3,799.24</b>
<b>Providence Reformed Vermillion</b>	
Classis Dues	210.00
Heidelberg Seminary	187.50
Missions	1,952.00
New Geneva Seminary	150.00
<b>Total Providence Reformed Vermillion</b>	<b>2,499.50</b>
<b>St. Johns Reformed</b>	
Classis Dues	662.40
Heidelberg Seminary	645.00
Missions	6,714.88
New Geneva Seminary	533.00
<b>Total St. Johns Reformed</b>	<b>8,555.28</b>
<b>Trinity Covenant</b>	
Classis Dues	613.20
Heidelberg Seminary	0.00
Missions	5,699.84
New Geneva Seminary	0.00
<b>Total Trinity Covenant</b>	<b>6,313.04</b>

<b>Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls</b>		
Classis Dues		699.78
Heidelberg Seminary		562.50
Missions		5,786.28
New Geneva Seminary		450.00
<b>Total Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls</b>		<u>7,498.56</u>
<b>Zion Reformed</b>		
Classis Dues		1,293.60
Heidelberg Seminary		1,155.00
Missions		12,024.32
New Geneva Seminary		967.00
<b>Total Zion Reformed</b>		<u>15,439.92</u>
<b>Total Guidline Dues</b>		<u>88,896.58</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		88,896.58
Dues		7,706.46
HTS		6,195.00
Missions		69,979.12
NGS		5,016.00
<b>Expense</b>		
Bank Service Charges		114.10
Guideline Payments		
Heidelberg Seminary		4,690.00
New Geneva Seminary		3,752.00
<b>Total Guideline Payments</b>		<u>8,442.00</u>
Mission Exp		
Christ Ref. Church		10,500.00
Covenant Ref Church (Manhattan)		3,332.00
Mercy Street, Denver		26,250.00
St. John's RCUS (Omaha Ref)		15,750.00
<b>Total Mission Exp</b>		<u>55,832.00</u>
Travel Exp		1,130.78
Void		0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>		<u>65,518.88</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>		23,377.70
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
Other Income		
Interest Earned		124.70
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<u>124.70</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>		<u>124.70</u>
<b>Net Income</b>		<u><u>23,502.40</u></u>

## GUIDELINE INCOME

**July 1, 2019 - Jan 31, 2020**

Ordinary Income/Expense Income	Com. #	Guidelines	Received	Variance
		99.98		
Christ Reformed Casper	24	2399.52	0.00	-2399.52
Emanuel RCUS, Sutton	94	9398.12	9398.12	0.00
Grace Reformed Greeley	50	4999.00	2499.50	-2499.50
Grace Reformed Mitchell	93	9298.14	8098.38	-1199.76
Grace Reformed Rapid City	72	7198.56	7198.56	0.00
Hope Reformed, Sutton	156	15596.88	15596.88	0.00
Mercy Street, Denver	5	499.90	0.00	-499.90
Omaha Reformed	20	1999.60	1999.60	0.00
Providence Reformed Limon	34	3399.32	0.00	-3399.32
Providence Reformed Rock Spring	38	3799.24	3799.24	0.00
Providence Reformed Vermillion	28	2799.44	2499.50	-299.94
St. Johns Reformed, Lincoln	86	8598.28	8555.28	-43.00
Trinity Covenant, Colorado Springs	73	7298.54	6313.04	-985.50
Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls	150	14997.00	7498.56	-7498.44
Zion Reformed, Menno	149	14897.02	15439.92	542.90
<b>Total Guidelines</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>107178.56</b>	<b>88896.58</b>	<b>-18281.98</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
Interest Earned 1st Dakota			124.70	

<b>Total Income</b>			<b>89021.28</b>	
<b>Expense</b>		<b>Budget</b>		
<b>Guideline Payments</b>		<b>FY July 1 - June 30</b>	<b>Paid July -Jan</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>Heidelberg Seminary</b>		8040.00	4690.00	3350.00
<b>New Geneva Seminary</b>		6432.00	3752.00	2680.00
<b>Mission</b>				
Christ Ref. Church, Casper		18000.00	10500.00	7500.00
Mercy Street, Denver		45000.00	26250.00	18750.00
St. John's RCUS (Omaha Ref.)		27000.00	15750.00	11250.00
<b>Total Mission</b>		90000.00	52500.00	37500.00
<b>Mission Other</b>				
Covenant Ref. Church, Manhattan			3332.00	4998.00
				6300 From Reserves
				8330 Total from Mission Fund
				28000 Transferred to Fund
<b>Classis Expense</b>				
Equipment				
Supplies				
Printing and Reproduction				
Travel Exp			1130.78	
Officer Stipend				
<b>Total Classis Expense</b>		9000.00	1130.78	7869.22
<b>Total Guideline Payments</b>		113472.00	65404.78	56397.22
				8330 Difference - See Above
<b>Other Expense</b>				
Bank Service Charges			114.10	

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>65518.88</b>
<b>Net Cash Flow July 2019- Jan 2020</b>	<b>23502.40</b>
<b>Projected Cash Flow End FY</b>	<b>-38115.24</b>
<b>Projected Checkbook Balance End FY</b>	<b>53803.58</b>



**GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY**

**July 1, 2019 - Jan 31, 2020**

1072 Com. Mem	Budget	Received	Variance
Classical Dues 8.40/Com Mem	\$9,000.00	\$ 7,706.46	\$ (1,293.54)
Missions 78.08/ Com Mem*	\$ 90,000.00	\$69,979.12	\$(20,020.88)
Heidelberg Seminary 7.5/Com. Mem	\$ 8,040.00	\$ 6,195.00	\$ (1,845.00)
New Geneva Seminary 6.0/Com Mem	\$ 6,432.00	\$ 5,016.00	\$ (1,416.00)
Benevolence / Uncategorized 0/Com. Mem	0	\$ -	\$ -
 Total Guidelines	 \$113,472.00	 \$88,896.58	 \$(24,575.42)
1072 Mem x \$99.98	\$107,178.56		
* From Reserves	\$ 6,300.00		
	\$113,478.56		

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Finance.**

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Parochial Reports of Ministers

The Ministers of the Word read their parochial reports. Opportunity was given for the delegates to ask questions about each report. After the reports were read, prayer was offered for noted concerns.

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**Classis Action: Took note of each report.**

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Constitutional Questions to Elders

The President addressed the questions found in Article 81 of the RCUS Constitution to the elder delegates of each congregation. The following answers were given:

1. Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God? All answered, "Yes."
2. Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members? All answered, "Yes."
3. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation
  - a. Is visitation faithfully performed? All answered, "Yes," with the exception of Elder John Savage from Limon, CO, who answered, "No," because they have no minister.
  - b. Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution? All answered, "Yes."
4. Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution? All answered, "Yes."
5. In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:
  - a. Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving? All answered, "Yes," with the exception of Elder Jesse Smith from Colorado Springs, CO, who answered, "No."
  - b. Are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer? All answered, "Yes."
  - c. Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving? All answered, "Yes," with the exception of Elder Jesse Smith from Colorado

Springs, CO, who answered, “No.”

- d. Are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer? All answered, “Yes.”
6. Are the Church records properly kept? All answered, “Yes.”
  7.
    - a. Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge? All answered, “Yes.”
    - b. Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs? All answered, “Yes.”

#### Report of Membership and Financial Statistics

The Stated Clerk presented the report. It appears in Appendix #1 of this Abstract (pp. 48-49).

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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#### Reports from Classis’ Fraternal Delegates

There were no fraternal delegates present.

#### Addresses by Delegates and Visitors from Other Reformed Churches

There were no delegates or visitors from other Reformed churches present.

#### Special Committee Reports

##### **Heidelberg Youth Camp**

Dear brothers,

Your joint committees met on Tuesday October 22nd, 2019 (failed to meet quorum) and Thursday January 23rd, 2020 (quorum achieved).

The committee recommends the theme The Armor of God, with the following lesson and services:

*LESSON 1:* Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

*LESSON 2:* Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth.

*SERMON 1:* For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

*LESSON 3:* Having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

*LESSON 4:* And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

*SERMON 2:* Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

*LESSON 5:* Taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

*LESSON 6:* And take the helmet of salvation.

Your committee recommends the designation of the offerings collected during HYC 2020 toward Save the Storks, a prolife organization that provides buses equipped with medical equipment (including ultrasound) to pregnancy resources centers. The centers then staff the buses and park them outside of abortion clinics with the hope of intercepting women seeking out an abortion. HYC has supported STS once before and had record giving. More information is available at <https://savethestorks.com/>.

The committee warmly thanks Warren and Laura Nuss for their leadership in the kitchen for HYC 2019 and return in 2020!

The committee notes the following dates for future camps: July 20-24, 2020; July 26-30, 2021, July 18-22, 2022, July 24-28, 2023, & July 22-26, 2024.

Your committee brings the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the budget and registration fees (attached) be adopted.

Recommendation 2: That the theme the Armor of God be adopted as the theme of HYC 2020.

Recommendation 3: That the offerings collected during HYC 2020 be designated to Save the Storks.

Recommendation 4: That congregations take note of the registration deadlines for early registration (by May 31st) and final registration (no later than June 30th) and that congregation be encouraged to submit registrations as early as possible.

Representing the SCC: Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll, Rev. David Fagrey, Rev. Jimmy Hall, Rev. J.P. Mosley, Elder Dave Kimble, & Elder Warren Nuss

Representing the NPC: Rev. James Grossmann, Rev. Hank Bowen, Rev. Michael Lassely, & Elder Matthew Fickbohm

## Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget

	2019 <u>Budget</u>	2019 <u>Actual</u>	Difference <u>(under)/over</u>	2020 Proposed <u>Budget</u>
<b>Opening Fund Balance (1/1/19)</b>		2,902.71		
<b>Revenue</b>				
Camp Fees (105 campers)	\$ 17,400	\$ 18,775.00	\$ 1,375	\$ 19,725
Donations	2,000	2,246.00	246	2,000
Worship Offering	1,000	1,083.26	83	1,000
Camp Store Sales	600	498.00	(102)	500
Interest		0.15		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>22,602.41</u>		<u>23,225</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Camp Bob Marshal Rental	\$ 11,457	11,322.00	(135)	\$ 12,259 *
Camp Bob Sewage Surcharge	1,700	1,500.00	(200)	1,700
Food	4,000	4,268.53	269	4,400
T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	2,500	3,007.02	507	3,000
Arts & Crafts	100	-	(100)	100
Supplies and Equipment	400	980.75	581	200
Administration	100	23.30	(77)	100
Camp Store Supplies	500	519.58	20	500
Designated offering recipient	-	-	-	1,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>20,757</u>	<u>21,621.18</u>		<u>23,259</u>
<b>Operating Gain (Loss)</b>		<u>981.23</u>		<u>(34.10)</u>
<b>Ending Fund Balance (9/30/19)</b>		<u>\$ 3,883.94</u>		

\* Rental cost: \$600 (kitchen use) +[\$19 (daily rate/person) X 4 (days) X 135 (people)] + 5.5% tax

Proposed 2020	Camper
<b>Fees:</b>	\$185 per camper if registration and fee received by June 1. (\$5 increase)
	\$215 per camper if received June 1 or after. (\$5 increase)
	No fee for adult volunteers.
Proposed budget is based upon 105 campers and 40 adults.	

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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### Reports of Standing Committees

#### **Examination and Licensure, Publications, Minutes of Synod, Services, and Nominations**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Regarding permanent Committee Reports of Candidates and Credentials and Christian Education, and Publication: no action is required since these committees had no business and did no work. Take note.

Recommendation 2: That delegates be encouraged to provide information to members of Classis of any publications which they have produced. Take note.

Recommendation 3: Regarding Minutes of Synod Report: Report was adopted, no further action needed. Take note.

Recommendation 4: Regarding the President's Report: That Classis express its thanks to Rev. Grassmid for his good work. Carried

Recommendation 5: That the request for excuse from J. P. Mosley be granted.

Recommendation 6: That the request for excuse from Jimmy John Hall be granted.

Recommendation 7: That any delegates who were not able to attend due to the change in venue and/or due to technical difficulties be excused.

Recommendation 8: That the South Central Classis accept the invitation from Zion Reformed of Menno, SD to host the 2021 meeting of Classis.

Recommendation 9: That the 2020 PERMANENT COMMITTEES be as follows (underlined indicates chairman):

Executive: T. Grassmid, K. Carroll, D. Mehlhaf

Missions: M. McGee, M. Koerner, H. Opp, F. Hofmann, D. Mettler, D. Oliver

Publications: D. Fagrey, R. Grossmann, R. Klynsma, R. Davis, J. Frey

Christian Education: D. Dawn, G. Horner, H. Hart, S. Henry, W. Brouwer, D. Griess

Interchurch Relations: M. Powell, L. Johnson, H. Van Stedum, W. Nuss, J. Stevens

Candidates and Credentials: J. Blair, J. Vusich, C. Moulton, J. Rydell, J. Savage

\*Heidelberg Youth Camp: L. Johnson, D. Fagrey, J. Blair, J. P. Mosley, Jr., D. Kimble, W. Nuss \*Special Committee

Respectfully submitted:

Members: M. Koerner, D. Dawn, L. Johnson, J.P. Mosley, W. Nuss, R. Davis, J. Rydell, F. Hofmann, R. Grossmann.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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## **Judicial**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: After reviewing Rev. J.P. Mosley's letter of resignation and his Consistory's acceptance letter, we recommend that the South Central Classis approve and declare the charge of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO, vacant as of July 12, 2020.

Grounds: articles 30 and 82.

Recommendation 2: That the South Central Classis overture the 274th Synod of the RCUS to amend article 79 of the RCUS Constitution to read as follows: "The annual meeting of a Classis shall be preceded by a prayer of invocation and opened with the roll being called. If a quorum is present, the officers for the ensuing year shall be elected, and the business shall proceed according to the Rules of Order prescribed by the Synod. Classis shall conduct religious services either during or before its annual meeting, which shall include the preaching of a sermon by the President, or by one of its members designated by him or by the Classis."

Recommendation 3: That the statistical reporting form not be modified.

Grounds: Corrections are easily noted by use of an asterisk\*, with explanation at the bottom of the form, which has been the customary way clerks have noted corrections.

Recommendation 4: In response to a request from Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD, that the South Central Classis Overture the 274th Synod to provide an interpretation of Article 12 of the Constitution of the RCUS.

Recommendation 5: That Classis affirm the positions in the overture from Trinity Reformed Church (Sioux Falls) concerning two pastors in a Charge with the following clarifications:

- a: In the case of a single charge having two pastors serving the same pulpit, either pastor may serve as the President of the Consistory and Spiritual Council.
- b: In the case of a single charge having two pastors serving the same pulpit, if one of them leaves the pulpit is not vacant.
- c: In the case of a single charge having two pastors serving two pulpits, when one leaves, the pulpit which they served may be declared vacant.

Recommendation 6: That South Central Classis transfer ownership of and responsibility for the Hoeflinger Library to Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted, except for Recommendation #5, which was tabled indefinitely.**

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## **Missions and Inter-Church Relations**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the South Central Classis support the work in Casper in the amount of \$15,000 for the upcoming classical year (represents a 10% reduction from the current year and 50% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 2: That the South Central Classis overture the 274th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$15,000 for the next synodical year (represents a 10% reduction from the current year and 50% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 3: That the South Central Classis support the work in Denver in the amount of \$45,000 for the upcoming classical year (represents the same amount from the current year).

Recommendation 4: That the South Central Classis overture the 274th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, Denver, CO in the amount of \$36,000 for the next synodical year (represents the same amount from the current year).

Recommendation 5: That the Permanent Missions Committee be directed to re-evaluate the viability of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel in light of the lack of progress of the work and to report back to the Classis next year.

Recommendation 6: That the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$20,250 for the upcoming classical year (represents a reduction of 15% from the current year and 45% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 7: That the South Central Classis overture the 274th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$16,200 for the upcoming synodical year (represents a reduction of 15% from the current year and 45% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation 8: That the South Central Classis support the work in the Gallatin Valley Region in the amount of \$12,000 for the upcoming classical year for the purpose of assisting with the costs for pulpit supply and travel expenses.

Recommendation #9—That the congregations of the South Central Classis continue to pray for the mission works in Casper, Denver and Omaha, particularly noting:

- a. Giving thanks with the saints in Omaha for their financial stability and increase in attendees and members;
- b. Giving thanks with the saints in Casper that the Lord has provided them another officer;
- c. Giving thanks with the saints in Denver for the opportunity to continue with the work;



- d. Giving thanks with the saints in Manhattan for the provision of Revs. Brice and Horner as regular pulpit supply;
- e. Pray for peace, wisdom and love to continue in the coming year;
- f. Pray for an increase in numeric and spiritual growth; and
- g. Pray for wisdom, discernment and strength for the missionaries as they labor in their respective fields.

Recommendation #10—That the South Central Classis overture Synod that membership in ecumenical organizations and fraternal relations be re-evaluated by the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee and re-affirmed by Synod once every three years.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted, except for Recommendation #5, which was defeated.**

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### **Finance, Benevolence, Ministerial Aid, Education and Student Aid**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: That Classis submit an overture to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting benevolent aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens in the amount of \$1,550 per month for the next synodical year. This amount is the same from the previous year.

Recommendation #2: In light of the economic uncertainty and financial instability that is before us due to the coronavirus pandemic, that local church diaconates give prayerful and thoughtful planning to the various financial concerns present in their local contexts and be willing to consider requests from their fellow deacons in the RCUS.

Recommendation #3: That Classis submit an overture to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting ministerial aid for the following recipients for the next synodical year:

1. Rev. and Mrs. David Dawn, \$2,000 per month (same amount as previous year).
2. Mrs. Kay Savage, \$1,200 per month (same amount as previous year).
3. Rev. and Mrs. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,800 per month (same amount as previous year).
4. Mrs. Phyllis Grossman, \$1,000 per month (same amount as previous year).
5. Mrs. Penny Powell, \$1,200 per month (same amount as previous year).
6. Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart, \$1,850 per month (same amount as previous year).

7. Mrs. Lori Kingswood, \$1,500 per month (a reduction of \$300 per month; \$3,600 less than the previous year).

Recommendation #4: Regarding the request for ministerial aid for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, take note.

Recommendation #5: That Classis submit an overture to the 274th Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$1,800, of which \$200 is for books, for Mr. Matthew Dawn, a Student Under Care of the South Central Classis and a member of Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

Recommendation #6: That the Auditor's Opinion be approved.

Recommendation #7: That the Treasurer's Report be approved.

Recommendation #8: That the Stated Clerk send a note of thanks to the Auditor.

Recommendation #9: That if congregations fulfill their financial obligations to Classis and expenses remain as projected, the projected checkbook balance on June 30, 2020 will be approximately \$53,800, take note.

Recommendation #10: In light of the current economic instability and financial uncertainty that is before us due to the coronavirus pandemic, that the guideline for Heidelberg Theological Seminary be set at \$3.50 per communicant member in the 2020-2021 classical year.

Recommendation #11: In light of the current economic instability and financial uncertainty that is before us due to the coronavirus pandemic, that the guideline for New Geneva Theological Seminary be set at \$2.00 per communicant member in the 2020-2021 classical year.

Recommendation #12: That the Permanent Christian Education Committee evaluate the necessity and desirability of funding RCUS institutions at the classical level and make a report at the next annual meeting of classis.

Grounds:

1. Cost – Funding of institutions has a financial impact which should be evaluated.
2. History – Although this practice has occurred for a few years, classis should evaluate the reasons for our action and determine if these are still valid today.
3. Redundancy – Since funding of institutions occurs on both the synodical and classical levels, classis should consider whether or not it desires to have our churches provide monies through both the classis and synod.
4. Accountability – Since funding of institutions has occurred for a number of years without any evaluation process or any reports on their work, classis should evaluate its current practice and if it continues, provide guidelines on the manner in which accountability of the institutions would take place.

Recommendation #13: That the total budget for the 2020-2021 classical year be set at \$105,315.10 and that the classical guideline per communicant member for the upcoming year be allocated as follows:

**2020-2021 Guideline per Communicant Member:**

Classical dues:	\$ 7.00
Missions:	\$ 88.28
Heidelberg Seminary:	\$ 3.50
New Geneva Seminary:	\$ 2.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$100.78</b>

Recommendation #14: That Classis pay the submitted classis travel expense for Rev. Travis Grassmid in the amount of \$69.00.

Recommendation #15: That Classis establish an account with Zoom for the purpose of allowing the classis and its committees to conduct business through its video capabilities and approve up to \$300 for the expense associated with this service.

Recommendation #16: That Classis express its appreciation for Mr. Kevin TeSlaa for his technical assistance and management in our use of Zoom and that an honorarium of \$200 be provided to him.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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Reading of The Minutes

The Stated Clerk read aloud the minutes of the closing items of business, and upon correction from the floor, the Minutes were approved.

Adjournment

The 2020 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 6:27 PM on Tuesday, March 24th, until the convening of the next Spring Meeting, on March 22-23, 2021 at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.

The final roll call showed 17 ministers and 12 elders present.

Elder Don Oliver closed with a devotion from John 14:1-6 and prayer.

The President led the body in confessing the Apostles' Creed and praying the Lord's Prayer. After the President pronounced the Benediction, the Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll led the body in singing the Doxology.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll

Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Membership and Financial Statistics

<b>2019 Member/Financial Statistics South Central Classis Reformed Church in the United States</b>	Colorado Springs, CO Trinity Covenant	Greeley, CO Grace Reformed	Limon, CO Providence Reformed	Lincoln, NE St. John's Reformed	Sutton, NE Emmanuel Reformed	Sutton, NE Hope Reformed	Menno, SD Zion Reformed	Mitchell, SD Grace Reformed	Rapid City, SD Grace Reformed	Sioux Falls, SD Trinity Reformed	Vermillion, SD Providence Reformed	Rock Springs, WY Providence Reformed	Omaha, NE Omaha Reformed	Denver, CO Mercy Street Reformed	Casper, WY Christ Reformed	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>LAST YEAR</b>
Number of Elders	4	3	2	2	2	3	4	3	3	6	2	3	0	0	3	40	40
Number of Deacons	3	3	2	3	3	4	4	2	2	5	1	1	0	0	0	33	34
Communicant Members Last Year	73	50	34	86	94	156	139	93	72	150	28	38	20	5	24	1062	1,051
Received by Confirmation	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	13	27
Received by Letter of Dismission	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	6	1	4	5	0	0	23	36
Received by Profession of Faith	3	2	1	1	0	4	0	4	8	1	2	0	2	0	6	34	56
<b>Total Members Received</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Total Old/New Members</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>1,170</b>
Lost by Dismissal	0	1	2	7	9	1	5	2	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	35	24
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	4	4	0	0	2	6	1	16	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	40	59
Lost by Death	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	12	15
<b>Total Members Lost</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Communicant Members This Year</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>1,072</b>
Unconfirmed Members	37	16	15	25	0	35	15	23	26	50	11	17	9	0	24	303	306
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1348</b>	<b>1,378</b>
Number of Families	28	26	15	41	46	97	75	46	35	72	15	23	12	4	14	549	538
Number of Children in SS	22	10	14	19	0	17	7	16	22	39	10	11	9	0	17	213	202
Number of Adults Baptized	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Number of Infants Baptized	5	6	0	1	0	5	1	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	30	32
<b>Total Number of Baptism</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>
Number Received the Lord's Supper	69	51	32	80	88	150	129	70	69	139	35	40	25	0	30	72 (avg)	67 (avg)
Times Lord's Supper Served	11	13	11	6	6	6	4	6	6	6	6	12	6	2	12	8 (avg)	8 (avg)
<b>Financial Statistics</b>																	
Receipts from Regular Offerings	126,704	122,760	51,530	163,768	88,267	252,726	173,340	102,046	244,704	272,802	73,363	131,717	85,634	17,215	62,756	1,969,332	1,825,786
Receipts from Special Offerings	7,728	19,888	0	365	39,440	43,987	24,315	1,793	1,783	11,767	0	830	110	114	1,790	153,910	206,638

Receipts from other sources	0	0	526	0	0	11,971	3,435	81	0	112,012	3,243	0	62,550	81,000	53,483	328,301	413,001
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>133,982</b>	<b>142,648</b>	<b>52,056</b>	<b>164,033</b>	<b>127,707</b>	<b>308,684</b>	<b>201,090</b>	<b>103,920</b>	<b>246,487</b>	<b>396,581</b>	<b>76,606</b>	<b>132,547</b>	<b>149,294</b>	<b>98,329</b>	<b>118,029</b>	<b>2,451,993</b>	<b>2,445,425</b>
Budgeted	16,300	12,940	8,250	22,360	28,619	40,620	37,250	12,500	18,840	39,000	0	9,840	5,270	0	4,712	256,501	263,150
Synodical Funds																	
Budgeted	6,313	5,036	3,299	8,598	9,398	15,597	15,397	7,500	7,199	15,102	2,500	3,799	1,999	0	1,914	103,651	99,998
Classical Funds																	
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	4,950	6,000	200	365	0	4,000	10,230	0	0	2,261	600	4,830	0	0	995	34,431	56,485
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	447	576	0	600	2,426	75,068	12,542	0	26,653	4,289	0	0	0	0	1,200	123,801	92,442
Other General Expenses	106,812	200,423	46,818	109,494	98,655	136,244	135,460	92,524	182,794	186,790	76,046	113,572	87,051	81,457	101,610	1,755,750	1,711,179
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,822</b>	<b>224,975</b>	<b>58,367</b>	<b>141,417</b>	<b>129,700</b>	<b>271,529</b>	<b>210,879</b>	<b>112,524</b>	<b>235,486</b>	<b>247,442</b>	<b>79,146</b>	<b>132,041</b>	<b>94,320</b>	<b>81,457</b>	<b>110,431</b>	<b>2,264,536</b>	<b>2,223,345</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>																	
Value of Church Building	0	242,000	40,000	110,000	525,000	800,000	500,000	525,000	900,000	2,261,969	310,000	240,000	160,000	0	0	6,613,969	5,359,692
Value of Parsonage	0	158,000	0	99,100	160,000	100,000	350,000	189,000	225,000	0	130,000	included	0	0	0	1,411,100	1,378,100
Improvements on Church Property	0	0	0	25,127	21,346	3,540	13,857	0	50,000	1,237,989	2,586	0	0	0	0	1,354,445	84,946
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,009,437	0	0	0	0	0	1,009,437	0
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86,671
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	223	240	250	260	304	260	268	154	262	260	0	259	263	0	196	229 (avg)	242
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	86	93	100	100	0	100	111	93	100	101	89	100	100	0	80	90 (avg)	89
<b>Total Giving to RCUS</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>346 (avg)</b>	<b>385</b>

## Appendix 2: Necrologies

### **Clinton James Mehlhaf, Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD**

Clinton James Mehlhaf, 70, of Menno, SD left the church militant, and entered the church triumphant on June 8th, 2019 at Freeman Regional Hospital.

Clinton was born October 26, 1948 to Eugene and Lenora (Mehlhoff) Mehlhaf. A lifelong member of Zion Reformed Church of Menno, SD, he was baptized on December 19th, 1948 by Rev. William Korn and confirmed on June 24th, 1962 by Rev. William Korn. He attended Huber Country School District 13, and later graduated from Menno High School in 1966. Upon graduation, he began farming with his dad. On April 25th, 1982, he married Lori (Ulmer) of Menno at Grace Lutheran Church.

Their 37 year union was blessed with two children: Karla (Jeremy ) Van Noort of Harrisburg, SD and Amber (Mark) Bradley of Menno, SD; and six grandchildren: Kjerstin and Courtney Van Noort and Abigail, Hannah, Jordan, and Sarah Bradley.

In January of 2014, Clinton received the diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease. As Clinton's health digressed, his faith never wavered. He loved the Lord, and made it his top priority to teach his children and grandchildren about God.

Clinton served Zion Reformed as a trustee in his younger years, and as a faithful elder from January 2011-January 2017.

Clinton was preceded in death by his parents and several aunts and uncles.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Lori, children Karla (Jeremy) Van Noort and Amber (Mark Bradley) and his grandchildren who were very dear to him. He is also survived by his three aunts Darlene Mehlhaf, Ruth Mehlhaf, and Caroline Roth, Mother and Father-in-law, Marvin and Betty Ulmer, brothers Allen (Delila) Mehlhaf of Freeman, SD and Charles (Donna) Mehlhaf of Sioux Falls, SD, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at Zion Reformed Church of Menno, SD at 10:30 Thursday, June 13th 2019, with Rev. Travis Grassmid officiating.

### **Ewald Ochsner, Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO**

Ewald Ochsner was born in Quinn, SD on Nov. 22, 1931 to Frederick and Hulda (née Mayer) Ochsner. In Isabel, SD, Ewald lost his father at an early age, and his mother and three brothers moved to Sutton, Nebraska where his dad's older brother Arnold married his mother to become his step dad.

Ewald was confirmed at Hope Reformed Church by Rev. Ulrich Zogg in 1944. He graduated from Sutton High School in 1949. On Sept 8, 1956 he married the love of his life Elsie Griess in the Hope Reformed Church parsonage by Rev. Kreiger. Ewald's entire career was with the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph company, where he worked for 44 years, where he started on the construction crew and finally retired as a Manager of the York, NE Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph office.

Ewald had a burden for the gospel and felt one of the best ways to present that was the Heidelberg Catechism specifically, Question and Answer #1. Ewald always carried a box of

catechisms with him in his car. Ewald also had a burning desire to plant churches. Ewald was first ordained as elder in Lincoln, NE at Faith Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Ewald was transferred several times by the phone company and he labored to establish mission works wherever that was. Ewald was the elder when both the Grace Reformed in Hastings and St. John's in Lincoln were started. In 2003, Ewald and Elsie moved to Northern Colorado and Ewald once again served on the Consistory of another mission work, Grace Reformed Church (Greeley). Ewald as elder had followed in the footsteps of his step dad Arnold Ochsner (Hope Reformed-Sutton), and his grandfather Jacob Mayer (Isabel and Tripp, SD) by all serving in the Eureka Classis.

Ewald Ochsner, 87, of Greeley, went to be with his "Faithful Savior" on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, surrounded by four generations of family singing hymns and reading psalms.

He is survived by his wife Elsie; brother Cleon Ochsner (wife, Norma); daughter Linda (husband, Albert); two sons, David (wife, Margie) and James (wife, Jenette); 13 grandchildren: Courtney Ochsner (husband Byron Anway), Hannah (husband, Carson) Blair; Maggie Ochsner, Aaron (wife Jenna Goehring) Haller; Elsa (husband, Ian) De Jong; Greta (husband, Elijah) De Jong, Taylor Sorenson, Seth Haller, Hayley Sorenson, Peter (wife, Marion Chase) Haller, Silas (wife, Hannah Rensink) Ochsner, Martha Haller, Mirette Ochsner; and 10 great-grandchildren: Alexis, Scout, Willa, Luke, Robert, Hermione, Loralyn, Amos, Jack, Zoe; and many nieces and nephews.

Ewald was preceded in death by his parents: Frederick Ochsner, Hulda Mayer, Arnold Ochsner (step-father), and brothers Wally and Armond.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at Grace Reformed Church in Greeley with Rev. Jon Blair officiating. Graveside service took place on Friday, August 16, 2019 at Sutton Cemetery, Sutton, NE with Rev. Scott Henry officiating.

### **Roland Schnabel, Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD**

Roland Schnabel, age 83, of Emery, SD, died July 22, 2019. Visitation was from 5-7:00 PM Friday at Bittner Funeral Chapel in Mitchell, with a prayer service at 7:00 PM. Funeral services were held 10:30 AM Saturday, July 27, 2019, at Grace Reformed Church in Mitchell. Burial was in the Zion Reformed Church Cemetery in Menno, SD.

Roland Alvin Schnabel was born on January 9, 1936, to Edna and Reinhold Schnabel in Emery, SD. He was baptized at Hope Reformed Church in rural Emery on February 16, 1936, by Reverend Kurtz. He also gave profession of faith with confirmation by Rev. William Korn at Zion Reformed Church in Menno. His confirmation verse was Psalm 46:1, "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*"

Mature beyond his years, he began his lifelong career of farming at the age of 12 when his father became blind. At age 20, Roland enlisted in the U.S. Army from August 1956 until August 1958, serving our country as a Private First Class.

Besides farming, his passions included hunting, golfing, and baseball. Roland expressed his appreciation for the land by living a life of always giving back to the land more than he took from it. Through his fertilizer business, he continuously researched better ways of maintaining well-balanced soils. Roland's favorite time of year was always calving season as he took great



satisfaction in watching the newborn calves playing in the pasture. He equally enjoyed the harvest, reaping the rewards from the growing season. Operating the combine was one of the most rewarding things he enjoyed. Besides being a sure-shot with his 30-30 and a consistent straight ball-hitter on the golf course, he enjoyed many years of playing baseball—both in the Army as well as for Emery's town team.

On June 10, 1957, he married his sweetheart, Gloria Holzwarth at the Johannesthal Reformed Church in rural Freeman. They shared their love of farming throughout their 62 years of marriage!

Roland was a member of Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD, where he served as Sunday School teacher and elder. Later, Roland and Gloria became members of Grace Reformed Church in Mitchell, SD.

He was a wonderful, loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who left a profound legacy of his character and faith to his family, friends, and business associates.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria of 62 years, children Kevin (Christi) Schnabel of Emery, SD; Dawn (Shawn) Hodges of Rapid City, SD; and Tim (Kim) of Rapid City, SD; Daughter-in-law Diane (Duane) Schnabel Walters of Freeman, SD; 13 grandchildren: Tracey (Brian) Mehlhaff of Scotland, SD; Travis Schnabel and fiancé Nicole of Freeman, SD; Jennifer (Tom) Savage of Lennox, SD; Jeff (Samantha) Schnabel of Volin, SD; Natalie (Luke) Mushitz of Iowa City, IA; Elizabeth (Drew) Waltner of Sioux Falls, SD; Tara (Josiah) Smith of Greenville, SC; Ben Hodges of Rapid City, SD; Kaity (Adam) Couture of Rapid City, SD; Savannah Brown of Rapid City, SD; Halsey Schnabel of Minneapolis, MN; Parker and Preston Schnabel of Rapid City, SD.

He is also survived by 13 dearly loved great grandchildren: Asher, Aiden, Aurora, Jacob, Noah, Aubrie, Zoe, Allison, Kathryn, Huxley, Paityn, Raien & Grayson as well as his sister Laverna (Leroy) Orth of Ames, IA.

He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Corey, his parents Reinhold and Edna Schnabel, brother LeRoy Schnabel, and grandson Richard Schnabel, brother-in-law John Holzwarth, brother-in-law Harris Hofer, sister-in-law Norma Chamberlain and brother-in-law Tom Chamberlain.

### Appendix 3: Standing Resolutions of the South Central Classis

1. The fiscal year of the South Central Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. The Classis guidelines shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid no later than the thirtieth of June of the current fiscal year (1960, '64, '68, '87, 2015).
2. The Parochial Reports and Statistics shall be forwarded two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis; the Parochial Reports to the President of the Executive Committee and the statistics to the Stated Clerk (1976, '77, '87).
3. The writ of certification for delegate elders for the Classical year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis.
4. All congregations shall present an accurate report on confirmation instruction, Sunday School and weekday school. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire Catechism before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include Bible history, Catechism, Bible readings and the study of books and contents of the Bible; also singing, and preferably, Psalm-hymns.
5. The Standing Rules shall be read during the second session of the Spring Meeting (1932, '87).
6. 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 to the parties concerned only in written form and relevant only to the item in question (1933).
7. Delegate travel to Classis meetings shall be paid at the current IRS yearly mileage rate per running mile to each charge, if travel is by automobile. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare (1965, '74, '80, '83, '94, 2006, '12, '15, '17).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at the current IRS yearly mileage rate per running mile, also if several ride together in one car; or if by public transportation, the actual fare (1936, '54, '74, '80, '94, 2006, '15, '17).
9. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Classis whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Classis or have been properly excused by Classis (1937, '67).
10. The President of the Executive Committee of Classis shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and the Treasurer shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the Classical year (1960, '61, '65, '78, '84, '87, '90, 2003, '15).

11. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and designated for which fund and how much for each fund (1957).
12. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to advance the actual fare for public transportation to qualified candidates preaching trial sermons in our vacancies (1958, '87).
13. The Stated Clerk shall prepare for publication an abstract of the Classis minutes. The Spring Abstract shall include a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Classis (1959, '87, '90).
14. The Classis shall have Permanent Committees as follows: Executive, Missions, Christian Education, Candidates and Credentials, Interchurch Relations, and Publications; and the Standing Committee of Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees (1961, '80, '85, '87, '91).
15. 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 no election on the first electing ballot, on each succeeding ballot the two candidates with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped until there is an election. (1962, '80, '87, '88).
16. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the Spring Meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge and sent to the Stated Clerk (1963, '87).
17. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to all the Consistories of all the churches, with two copies to be sent to the Stated Clerk, four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis to which these reports and recommendations are to be presented. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis (1963, '70, '79, '82, '87, '90).
18. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and these proposed services shall be circularized before Classis (1966, '72).
19. Students that are under the care of Classis shall be urged to attend only such seminaries approved by Classis. Only students who attend approved institutions shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian Ministry (1978, '87).
20. Classis shall require candidates for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. The internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least 5 years in the RCUS. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidates and Credentials committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on 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 (1979, '87, '95).

21. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of the Classis meeting shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at anytime (1986, '87).
22. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod and shall start the 4th Monday of March opening with a worship service at 7:00 p.m., but if the 4th Monday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet the 3rd Monday of March (1987, 2001, '02, '09).
23. Members of Classis submitting reports, overtures, and correspondence to Classis which will either be circularized or printed in Classis Minutes and Abstracts and which express personal opinions potentially offensive or slanderous against another brother or sister or to other members of Classis, shall govern themselves by I Peter 4:8 (1991).
24. All requests for reimbursement of expenses be made on the standard reimbursement form. Letters of explanation may be appended but do not substitute for reimbursement forms. Receipts must be attached (1997).

## Appendix 4: Index of Resolutions and Positions

### **(Spring 1986, Abstract p. 110)**

The body voted "South Central Classis" as the official name for Classis.

### **(Spring 1987, Abstract p. 5)**

The following guidelines were adopted by Classis for delegates from the Classis to corresponding bodies:

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Be present at as many of the sessions as possible, register arrival with the Stated Clerk, hold private conversations with as many delegates as possible, and try to establish good relations between the Classis and the church which is being visited.
2. **PREPARATION:** Request reports, agendas, etc. from the Church which is being visited, be prepared to address actions taken by Classis or Synod, and take the current Abstract.
3. **ADDRESSING THE BODY:** Have a prepared address to present, seek to commend the body in the spirit of Philippians 4:8, inform the body of significant developments in the Classis and Synod, keep personal remarks to a minimum, and make clear which remarks are personal, and try to avoid negative criticisms. If a rebuke is needed refer the matter to the Interchurch Relations Committee.
4. **STANDING COMMITTEES:** Attend as many Standing Committee meetings as possible.
5. **DECISIONS:** Get as many copies of reports as possible and report any significant actions taken by the body.
6. **REPORT:** The report is to be sent to the Interchurch Relations Committee within one month of the meeting and is to include all actions taken by the body as well as any comments which the delegate thinks would be helpful to the Committee and Classis.
7. **EXPENSES:** Travel expenses are to be paid by the Classis and should be submitted to the Interchurch Relations Committee and the Classis Treasurer.

### **(Fall 1987, Abstract p. 5)**

That all reports from the Permanent Committee's be on 8 1/2" by 11" paper in order to better fit the Minutes.

### **(Fall 1987, Abstract p.9)**

That as soon as it is conveniently possible after each meeting of the South Central Classis, the Clerk of Classis send an Abstract of the Classis minutes to each Classis delegate. This Abstract does not have to be in a formally published form.

### **(Spring 1988, Abstract p. 23)**

The Classis does not see any theological problem with using one or many cups for communion; in light of the uncertainties concerning the transmission of AIDS, it may be advisable to use individual cups.

**(Spring 1989, Abstract p. 25)**

That the Classis use a double entry ledger for Classis records.

**(Spring 1989, Abstract pp. 27-28)**

The following procedures be used in calling an organizing pastor to a new mission work:

- a. The Consistory overseeing the mission work shall select a pastoral candidate in consultation with the members of the mission work and the Classis Home Missions Committee.
- b. The members of the proposed mission work, under the supervision of the Consistory, shall vote on calling the candidate.
- c. The Consistory shall extend the call.
- d. The organizing pastor shall work under the oversight of the Consistory as long as the work is unorganized.
- e. The mission work shall be under the oversight of the Classis Home Missions Committee as long as it has the status of a Mission Church.

**(Spring 1990, Abstract p. 27)**

That all congregations – new and old – should see themselves as actively involved in the whole ministry of the church and should strive to meet the annual guidelines for giving.

**(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 20)**

That a congregation requiring voting members to sign the constitution of a local congregation is not contradictory with the Constitution of the RCUS or Scripture.

**(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 21)**

That the Permanent Home Missions Committee of Classis and the Permanent Foreign Missions Committee of Classis be combined into one Permanent Missions Committee, allowing either interest to be addressed by Classis.

**(Fall 1991, Abstract p. 22)**

That no official stance be taken on the matter of fundraising. That no constitutional impediment is found regarding using the word “Presbyterian” in the name of one of our churches.

**(Spring 1992, Abstract p. 41)**

All bills submitted to the Treasurer must be signed by the one submitting the bill. The Treasurer should inform the Finance Committee of those churches that have failed to pay their Classical dues.

**(Spring 1997, Abstract p. 33)**

That the position papers of the Reformed Church in the United States be declared to be pastoral and advisory, giving the present consensus of the RCUS regarding the teaching of Scripture, and

are of lesser authority than the Three Forms of Unity and the Constitution. Recommendations which make judicial decisions in connection with such papers are binding.

**(Spring 2007, Abstract)**

That Classis Nominations Committee regularly consider the workload borne by Classical delegates during the year and refrain from recommending that Executive Committee members be appointed as chairman of a permanent or special committee of Classis.

**(Spring 2015, Abstract, pg. 46)**

That the Consistories of South Central Classis be reminded of the Constitutional requirements regarding the establishment and dissolution of pastoral relations: (Based on Art. 30, 76, 81, 82, 91 of RCUS Constitution)

- a. Classis is vested with the power to constitute and dissolve pastoral relations.
- b. Classis is responsible to take care that the call is in order, for example, “that the temporal contract be adequate.”
- c. This responsibility of Classis may be carried out by Classis either by means of a regular meeting of Classis or by the Executive Committee through the use of a circular letter.
- d. Specific instructions to the Executive Committee of Classis include: to constitute and dissolve pastoral relations, confirm a call, appoint a committee to ordain a licentiate and install a pastor.
- e. The call of a pastor, acceptance of a call, resignation of a pastor, the acceptance of the resignation of a pastor by the Consistory shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of Classis as soon as possible for action.
- f. Implementation of a resignation or call may not begin prior to the approval of said resignation or call, for example, “a pastor shall not leave his charge before his resignation has been approved and the pastoral relation has been dissolved by Classis,” Art. 30.

## **Abstract of The Minutes of the Special Classis Meeting, May 22, 2019 Northland Reformed Church, Kansas City, MO**

The purpose of this meeting was to deliberate and take action on a report submitted by the permanent Missions Committee regarding a potential mission work in Manhattan, MT.

### **Services**

Classis delegates met on May 22, 2019 at Northland Reformed Church, 2901 NW Cookingham Dr., Kansas City, MO. At 7:55 pm, Rev. Travis Grassmid, the President of Classis, presented a devotion, reading from Psalm 46 and praying.

### **Organization**

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Joe Vusich, called the roll. There were 18 ministers and 11 elders present. The President declared a quorum. The President defined the 7 rows as the bar of the house. The Agenda, Services, and Orders of the Day were adopted.

### **Report of the Standing Missions Committee**

The President announced the standing committee appointed to review the findings of the permanent Missions Committee and present a report on a potential mission work in Manhattan, MT. The committee consisted of Rev. Randall Klynsma (chair), Rev. Michael McGee, Rev. Matthew Powell, and Elder Richard Honaker.

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the four Reformed families of the Manhattan Group (Gallatin Valley Region) referenced in the permanent Missions Committee report be identified as the beginnings of a core group.

Recommendation 2: That the permanent Missions Committee commence working with the Manhattan Group (Gallatin Valley Region) by assisting with the arrangements for weekly pulpit supply.

Recommendation 3: That up to \$10,000 be utilized from existing monies in the Classis treasury in order to assist with the cost for pulpit supply for the Manhattan Group.

Recommendation 4: That the permanent Missions Committee bring an update on the progress of the Manhattan Group to the 2020 Annual Spring Meeting of Classis, as well as seek to identify consistories to oversee this potential work.

Recommendation 5: That an overture be sent to Synod requesting that the work with the Manhattan Group be identified as a proper endeavor of the South Central Classis, and that Classis boundaries be adjusted accordingly.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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## Adjournment

The Stated Clerk read aloud the minutes. Upon correction from the floor, the President asked, “Shall the amended minutes now be approved as presented?” Hearing no objections, he declared the minutes approved.

The Stated Clerk called the roll. There were 18 ministers and 11 elders present.

McGee closed with a devotion from Matthew 28:17-20 and prayer.

The President led the body in confessing the Apostles’ Creed and praying the Lord’s Prayer. After the President pronounced the Benediction, the body sang the Doxology.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joe Vusich, Stated Clerk

## **Abstract of The Minutes of the Special Classis Meeting, May 12, 2020 Held Over Zoom**

The purpose of this meeting was to have a licensure exam for Mr. Carl Gobelman, who has accepted a call from Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, NE.

### **Services**

Classis delegates met over Zoom on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. At 10:00 AM, the President, Rev. Travis Grassmid, opened with prayer. Gobelman presented a devotional on Micah 6:1-8 and ended with prayer.

### **Organization**

The President called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM.

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll, called the roll. There were 15 Ministers of the Word and 8 Elders present. The President determined that a quorum was present.

The President announced the Orders of the Day would be noon for lunch and 3:00 PM for an afternoon break.

The President announced the following Standing Committees:

Examination and Licensure: Rev. Jon Blair, Elder James Rydell, Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner, Elder John Savage, Rev. Joe Vusich, Rev. Chris Moulton, Carroll.

Finance: McGee, Elder Scott Velgersdyk, Elder Fred Hofmann.

Excuses: Rev. Dr. J.P. Mosley, Jr., Rev. Dr. Lee Johnson, Elder Darrell Mehlhaf.

### **Licensure Exam of Mr. Carl Gobelman**

Gobelman, under care in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, was examined for licensure in the South Central Classis. He seeks to serve Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE. The Candidates and Credentials Committee had previously examined him as to his orthodoxy and intent examination, focusing on key points of each major head of doctrine and as to his knowledge of Greek and Hebrew.

At this meeting of classis, Gobelman was examined before the body by members of the Standing Examination and Licensure Committee in: Piety and Intent, English Bible, History of Philosophy, Church and RCUS History, Apologetics, Hermeneutics, Doctrine of Scripture, Theology Proper, Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, Creeds the RCUS Constitution, and Practica. After each section of the exam, questions were taken from the floor.

## Reports of the Standing Committees

### **Examination and Licensure**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the examination be found satisfactory.

Recommendation 2: That Gobelman's ordination exam be over: Doctrine of Scripture; Hermeneutics; RCUS Constitution/Polity; Creeds/Heidelberg Catechism, and 15 minutes of Systematic Theology.

Recommendation 3: That Carl Gobelman be approved for stated supply for Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE having received a call from the congregation which cannot be acted upon until his ordination exam.

Recommendation 4: That Carl Gobelman complete an 8-month internship, under the oversight of Rev. Dr. Lee Johnson, per standing rule #16.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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Upon his successful licensure exam, Gobelman publicly read and signed the Form of Licensure, whereupon the President, on behalf of classis, extended to him the right hand of fellowship.

### **Excuses**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That Elder Warren Nuss be excused.

Recommendation 2: That the elders of Grace RCUS (Mitchell, SD) be excused.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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### **Finance**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That Classis pay the submitted travel expense for Rev. Travis Grassmid in the amount of \$69.

Recommendation 2: That Classis reimburse the travel expenses for Mr. Carl Gobelman in the amount of \$540.56.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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## Adjournment

The Stated Clerk read aloud the minutes. Upon correction from the floor, the President asked, “Shall the amended minutes now be approved as presented?” Hearing no objections, he declared the minutes approved.

The Stated Clerk called the roll. There were 16 Ministers of the Word and 8 Elders present.

The President closed with a devotion from Psalm 121 and prayer. He then led the body in confessing the Apostles’ Creed and praying the Lord’s Prayer. After the President pronounced the Benediction, Carroll led the body in singing the Doxology.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll

Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis