

**1999
ABSTRACT
of the
MINUTES**

**SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Spring Meeting
March 22-24, 1999
New Geneva Theological Seminary
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**Including in an Appendix
Special Meetings of
South Central Classis:
Loveland, CO - Aug 7, 1998
Ogallala, NE - Jan 14, 1999**

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1999 DIRECTORY SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

OFFICERS OF CLASSIS

PRESIDENT	Rev. Dorman Savage
VICE-PRESIDENT	Rev. Howard Hart
STATED CLERK	Rev. George Horner
TREASURER	Elder Roger Gallimore

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

BRICE, Wesley (Northland RCUS, Kansas City, MO)
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HORNER, George (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)
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JORGENSEN, Terry (sabbatical)
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SAVAGE, Dorman (Blue Cliffs RCUS, Karval, CO)
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LICENTIATES

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3939 Mason Dr, Lincoln, NE 68521-1260
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PORRAS, Oscar
C/o Powell, C.W. Jr.
6050 Del Paz Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80918

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DeGROOT, Harvey (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
3309 E. 33rd St, Sioux Falls, SD 57103
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STETLER, Richard
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CONGREGATIONS
(LISTED BY STATE BY CITY)

COLORADO

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80918 (719) 590-1477
Trinity Covenant RCUS
3622 East Galley Road (mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr.)
Worship: 11AM
Pastor: C.W. "Bud" Powell, Jr. (wife, Penny)

KARVAL, CO 81063 (719) 446-5215
Blue Cliff Community RCUS
Blue Cliff Community Building (mail: 2600 State Road 71, Ordway, CO 81063)
Worship: 11AM; Sunday School 12:00 noon
Pastor: Dorman Savage (wife, Kay)

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY, MO 64116 (816) 454-1196
Northland RCUS
8002 N. Oak Traffic Way
Worship: 9:30AM; Sunday School 11:00 AM; Evening Service 6:00 PM
Pastor: Wesley Brice (wife, Virginia)

NEBRASKA

LINCOLN, NE 68521 (402) 477-7289
St. John's RCUS
1101 South 26th St.
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM, Wednesday 7:00 PM
Pastor: Clif Loucks

SUTTON, NE 68979 (402) 773-4227
Emmanuel RCUS
110 South Way Ave (mail: PO Box 362)
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: (vacant)

SUTTON, NE 68979 (402) 773-4330
Hope RCUS
311 E. Hickory (mail: PO Box 372)
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:15 AM; Family Bible Study 7:00 PM
Pastor: George Horner (wife, Mary Jo)

SOUTH DAKOTA

MENNO, SD 57045 (605) 387-2816
Zion RCUS
220 South Pine
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: Hans Kalkman (wife, Gerda)

MITCHELL, SD 57301 (605) 996-7439
Grace RCUS
1021 South Davison (mail: PO Box 252)
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor: Ron Morris (wife, Sherrie)

RAPID CITY, SD 57701 (605) 399-1711
Grace RCUS
5626 North Haines Ave (2 ½ miles north of I-90 on Haines)
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: David Fagrey (wife, Bonnie)

SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106

(605) 339-3887

Trinity RCUS

7301 S. Louise Ave (mail: 3309 E. 31st St)

Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM, Bible Study 6:00 PM

Pastor: vacant

WYOMING

ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901

(307) 362-5107

Providence RCUS

1515 Edgar St (First United Methodist Church)

(mail: 1000 Evergreen Way)

Worship: 2:30 PM; Sunday School 1:15 PM

(Daylight Savings Time – Worship 6:30PM, Sunday School 5:15 PM)

Pastor: David Dawn (wife, Coleen)

**ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES
SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Annual Spring Meeting
March 22-24, 1999
New Geneva Seminary, Colorado Springs, CO**

SERVICES

The body met for an evening worship service on March 22, 1999, at 7:00 PM, with the Rev. Mr. David Fagrey conducting and the Rev. Jim Sawtelle preaching from 1 Samuel 5,6, with a sermon entitled "Arkeology 101: Confronted by God's Glory."

The Rev. Mr. Ron Morris lead the body in singing hymn # 139 and in a devotion from Isaiah 9: 6-7 at 9:30 AM, March 23rd, closing with prayer.

Following the reading of the parochial reports, Elder Mr. Roger Gallimore offered prayers for the concerns noted therein. Morning devotions on Wednesday, based on Acts 23: 1-5, were led by the Rev. David Dawn.

Each session of Classis was opened and closed with prayer, including thanksgiving for our meals, and each meal was followed with an expression of appreciation to those who prepared the meals and served us.

Closing devotions on March 24th were led by Elder Mr. Jess Johnson who read Isaiah 64: 5-8 with comment and prayer.

ORGANIZATION

Classis President, the Rev. Dorman Savage, called the body to order on March 22nd, 1999. The opening roll call showed 7 Ministers and 9 Elders present, a quorum. Also present were 2 Licentiates and 3 Students -under- care, and the Rev. Ron Morris, candidate for licensure. Ministers of the Word present at all sessions were: The Reverend Messrs. Wesley Brice, David Dawn, David Fagrey, Howard Hart, George Horner, Terry Jorgensen, C.W. Powell Jr., Dorman Savage, and Jim Sawtelle.

Elders *primarii* present at all sessions were Messrs. Harvey DeGroot, Roger Gallimore, Ardell Griess, Jess Johnson, Myron Koerner, Craig Mehlhaff, John Savage, Richard Stetler, and Eugene Ulmer. Present all but one session and excused were Richard Honaker and Harold Yoder.

Elder *secundus* present was Monte Sedlak.

Not represented at Classis was Peace Reformed Church of Loveland, CO.

Present at the final roll call also was the Rev. Ron Morris who was licensed at this meeting.

Election for officers was held, resulting in the following:

President	The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage
Vice-President	The Rev. Mr. Howard Hart
Stated Clerk	The Rev. Mr. George Horner
Treasurer	Elder Mr. Roger Gallimore

The Reverend Mr. David Fagrey was appointed to the Reformed Herald reporter.

A Special order was set for the examination of Rev. Ron Morris, a candidate for licensure in the RCUS, at 8:45 AM, March 23rd. The Agenda, Order of the Day, and Services were adopted.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The President appointed the following Standing Committees, with the chairman's name underlined:

Benevolence	D. <u>Fagrey</u> , J. Johnson, R. Honaker
Education and Student Aid	W. <u>Brice</u> , H. De Groot, A. Griess
Examination and Licensure	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , J. Sawtelle, W. Brice, D. Kauk, W. Embree, H. Hart
Finances	D. <u>Fagrey</u> , R. Gallimore, H. Yoder
Ministerial Aid	H. <u>Hart</u> , C. Loucks, M. Koerner
Missions	J. <u>Sawtelle</u> , D. Fagrey, R. Gallimore
Nominations	J. <u>Sawtelle</u> , H. Hart, M. Sedlak
Overtures	T. <u>Jorgensen</u> , H. Kalkman, M. Koerner
Publications	D. <u>Dawn</u> , H. DeGroot, M. Sedlak
Services	W. <u>Brice</u> , C. Mehlhaff, R. Stetler
Minutes of Synod	D. <u>Dawn</u> , M. Koerner, E. Ulmer

PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES, REPORTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

All pertinent overtures and materials were given to the Standing Overtures Committee.

PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 1

March 21, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

The Reverend Mr. Steven Schlei has requested that the date of his trial be moved from April 2 to May 18, the Monday Synod *starts*. I have not yet received the Agenda for Synod, but it should be safe to assume that Synod will begin with a worship service that evening. If the complaint this past meeting is any indication, we should give ourselves at least 5 hours to hear the parties and deliberate on the charges.

I have contacted the Reverend Mr. Robert Grossmann, and he has agreed to make arrangement to accommodate the meeting. He will ask the ladies to have some sandwiches ready for us at 11:30 a.m.

If this is the will of Classis, we will begin the proceedings at 12:00 noon, May 18, 1998 at Peace Reformed Church, RCUS, Garner, Iowa.

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 3

April 18, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There are a few matters that need to be attended to.

A. The Closing of the Special Session.

1) The clerk recorded that the minutes were read, but he did not record the actual motion to approve the minutes. If the clerk's memory serves him correctly, the motion was made to "approve the minutes as amended." and the Reverend Mr. David Dawn made the motion, but I am not certain;

2) We did not properly adjourn the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the minutes of the Special Session of Classis, meeting April 2, 1998, at St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, contain the motion "Dawn moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded and carried".

2. That the minutes of the Special Session of Classis, meeting April 2, 1998, at St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE contain the motion "That Classis adjourn to its Spring 1999 Annual Meeting of Classis at a time and place set by the Executive Committee, this motion being approved by common consent via Executive Circular, Volume 13, Number 3."

B. **Call of a Minister.**

The Executive Committee has received a call to the Reverend M., Dorman Savage from Blue Cliff Community Reformed Church, Karval, Colorado, his acceptance of the call, his resignation from Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, South Dakota, and the acceptance of the resignation by the consistory of Grace Reformed Church.

RECOMMENDATION:

3. That the call, acceptance of the call, resignation, and acceptance of the resignation be declared in order and that the pulpit of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, South Dakota be declared vacant as of June 7, 1998.

C. The Committee to oversee The Reverend Mr. Steven Schlei's acknowledgment

Following is the report of the committee assigned to ensure The Reverend Mr. Steven Schlei's compliance to the will of Classis.

Classis Committee to Oversee Steve Schlei
Esteemed Brothers:

Your committee was commissioned to oversee Steve Schlei in the writing of his public

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 5

July 1, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. The Reverend Mr. Steven Schlei.

As those who have been watching the internet know, the Reverend Mr. Steven Schlei has convinced most of the members of Peace Reformed Church, Loveland, Colorado into voting to withdraw from organic union with the Reformed Church in the United States, and he has submitted a request to be erased from the Roll of Ministers of the Word

After careful examination of all the matters, the Executive Committee has determined that both the action of the congregation of Peace Reformed Church and the request of the Reverend Mr. Steven Schlei are not only out of order, but unlawful. As these are serious matters which call for a complete and accurate examination, it is the determination of the President that we should hold a Special Meeting of Classis to properly address the issues.

Furthermore, there has been an accusation received against the Reverend Mr. Schlei, which has been found in order and the appropriate citation has been served on the accused.

Therefore, the President has called a Special Meeting of Classis to held on Friday, the 7th day of August A.D. 1998, beginning at 10:00 a.m. meeting at a conference room of the Coach House Best Western Motel, at the junction of Highway 34 & 1-25, Loveland, Colorado. There will be two matters of business for this meeting: 1) The trial of the Reverend Mr. Steven Schlei and, 2) The consideration of the correspondence.

B. The disqualification of the present Stated Clerk

Because the present Stated Clerk, Warren Embree, is one of the accusers in the accusation brought before the South Central Classis, in the interest of decorum, he has asked to be disqualified from office until the Matter has been settled. The Reverend Mr. George Horner has graciously agreed to act as Stated Clerk *pro temp.*

Enclosed are the Agenda, Order of the Day, and Services.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. George Horner
Stated Clerk *pro temp*

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage
President

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 6

July21, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Resignation of a Minister.

The Executive Committee has received the resignation of the Reverend Mr. Howard Hart, to be effective October 31, 1998, from St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, Nebraska as well as the acceptance of his resignation by the consistory of St. John's Reformed Church.

The consistory of St. John's Reformed Church petitions the South Central Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Mr. Howard Hart and St. John's Reformed Church effective October 31, 1998.

RECOMMENDATION

That the resignation and the acceptance of the resignation be declared in order and that the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Howard Hart and St. John's Reformed Church be declared dissolved effective October 31, 1998 and the pulpit of St. John's Reformed Church be declared vacant as of that date.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Horner
Stated Clerk (pro- tem)

Rev. Dorman Savage
President

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

**EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR
Volume 13 Number 7**

Aug 3, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Resignation of a Minister.

The Executive Committee has received the resignation of the Reverend Mr. Terry Jorgensen, to be effective October 2, 1998, from Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, Nebraska as well as the acceptance of his resignation by the consistory of Emmanuel Reformed Church.

The consistory of Emmanuel Reformed Church petitions the South Central Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Mr. Terry Jorgensen and Emmanuel Reformed Church effective October 21, 1998.

RECOMMENDATION

That the resignation and the acceptance of the resignation be declared in order and that, since the Rev. Mr. Terry Jorgensen is no longer willing to serve as the pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church, the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Mr. Terry Jorgensen and Emmanuel Reformed Church be declared dissolved effective October 21, 1998, and that the pulpit of Emmanuel Reformed Church be declared vacant as of that date.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Horner
Stated Clerk (pro- tem)

Rev. Dorman Savage
President

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 8

September 21, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Dismission of The Reverend Mr. Steven Work

The Reverend Mr. Steven Work has sent the following request to the stated clerk:

Dr. Warren Embree
Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis, RCUS
1950 County Road F, Wahoo, NE 68006

Dear Warren,

As a minister on the roll of South Central Classis I request that my credentials be dismissed to the Midwest Presbytery, RPCNA, effective if and when they receive me. The Stated Clerk of Midwest Presbytery, RPCNA is:

Rev. Bruce Parnell bruceparnell@provalue.net
PO Box 531, Stillwater, OK 74076

While the request is formal the decision is not. Eureka Classis took me in 23 years ago having just completed seminary training. God's people endured my weaknesses in three charges over the next 16 years as I served as pastor and another year as ruling elder. The opportunity to supply a RPCNA pulpit was entered as a temporary arrangement with the approval of Classis and Presbytery. For four years I have considered this request for dismission and this seems to be the appropriate time. Not that I desire to leave the RCUS but rather I wish to be fully under the authority where I serve. This request does not express a change of loyalty from one communion or another but rather a change of accountability.

Copies of this request for dismission are being sent to the clerk of Presbytery, to the Committee to Counsel, and to the Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Steven Work

The Executive Committee therefore recommends the following:

Recommendations

1. That the Reverend Mr. Steven Work be dismissed to the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA.
2. That a letter of commendation be sent to the Reverend Mr. Bruce Parnell expressing our appreciation of the years of faithful and diligent service Pastor Work has given to the RCUS, especially as the denomination Stated Clerk, and our conviction that Pastor Work will be a stalwart addition to the RPCNA.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage
President

Warren C. Embree
Stated Clerk

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 9

October 9, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Election of the Reverend Howard Hart as Pastor Emeritus

The Executive Committee has been informed that the congregation of St. John's Reformed Church, RCUS, Lincoln, Nebraska, held a special election on October 4, 1998 at which they voted unanimously to elect the Reverend Mr. Howard Hart as "Pastor Emeritus, without salary."

Recommendation :

That the election of the Reverend Mr. Howard Hart as Pastor Emeritus, without salary, of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, Nebraska be approved and; that he be so designated on the roll of Ministers of the Word upon the dissolution of his pastoral relationship with St. John's and; that the Stated Clerk of Synod be notified of this election.

B. Mr. Sam Powell as Student Under Care.

The Executive Committee has received a letter from the consistory of Trinity Reformed Church, RCUS, Colorado Springs, Colorado, informing the Classis of Mr. Sam Powell's qualifications and requesting that he be taken under care of Classis.

Recommendation 2.

That Mr. Sam Powell be taken under care of Classis.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage
President

Warren C. Embree
Stated Clerk

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 10

October 17, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Dismission of The Reverend Mr. Donald Vance

The Executive Committee has received the resignation of the Reverend Mr. Donald Vance as pastor of Zion Reformed Church, RCUS, Menno, South Dakota, effective December 27, 1998, in order to pastor at Salem-Ebenezer Reformed Church, RCUS, Manitowoc, Wisconsin; the acceptance of the resignation by

the consistory of Zion; and a request to be dismissed to the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States.

The correspondence also indicates that a pulpit supply may be found before the December 27, 1998 effective date, as there is an individual ready to candidate.

These papers are all in order.

The Executive Committee therefore recommends the following:

Recommendations:

1. That the resignation of the Reverend Mr. Donald Vance from Zion Reformed Church, the acceptance of the resignation by the consistory of Zion Reformed Church, and the request for dismissal of the Reverend Mr. Donald Vance to the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States be found in order.
2. That the pulpit of Zion Reformed Church be declared vacant as of December 27, 1998, unless a suitable candidate is found sooner, in which case the pulpit will be vacant upon the Reverend Mr. Donald Vance leaving and the candidate assuming the pulpit as a Stated Supply.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage President	Warren C. Embree Stated Clerk	Elder Roger Gallimore Elder Member
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EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 11

November 25, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A Stated Supply for St John's Reformed Church

St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, has issued a call to Clif Loucks, a student of Sangre de Cristo Seminary, Westcliffe, Colorado graduating on December 11, 1998. As Mr. Loucks is not yet licensed, he cannot officially *receive* the call nor accept it. He has indicated he will accept the call when he can do so constitutionally. Mr. Loucks is one of the founding members of Covenant Reformed Chapel, Grass Valley, California, RCUS and was examined by the Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage and Elders Messrs. Warren Embree and John Savage; they are satisfied as to his orthodoxy and intent.

During the interim between now and his licensure exam, the consistory of St. John's has asked that Mr. Loucks be placed as Student Supply starting December 27, 1998. Mr. Loucks is single, and the Executive Committee is convinced that in the unlikely event he should fail his license exam, there would be no hardship upon Mr. Loucks.

Recommendation:

1. That Mr. Clif Loucks be placed as Student Supply with St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, under the oversight of the Reverend Mr. Jim Sawtelle, beginning December 27, 1998, and that said congregation pay for his move and recompense him at the salary level offered in the call.

B. Information

1. As the move of the Reverend Mr. Donald Vance from Zion Reformed Church to the Covenant East Classis is imminent, the President has appointed the Reverend Mr. Jim Sawtelle to assume the duties of the chairman of the Permanent Home Missions Committee.

2. We have received an invitation to hold our Annual Spring Meeting of Classis from Trinity Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado, to begin Monday, March 22, 1998. As there are still details to work out concerning the possible four licensure exams, a future circular will be forthcoming with details.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage
President

Warren C. Embree
Stated Clerk

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 12

December 7, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Special Meeting of Classis

As there have been two congregations who desire to issue calls, the men to whom the calls will be extended have verbally committed to the congregations, and having 4 licensure examinations during the Annual Spring Meeting of Classis would possibly extend the meeting time beyond a week, it seems prudent to the President of the Executive Committee that the previously mentioned two men be given their examinations as soon as possible.

The President has therefore called a Special Meeting of Classis starting at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 14, 1999 and finishing Friday, January 15, 1999 at such time as the business is complete, to be held at the Ramada Inn in Ogallala, Nebraska. Recesses, eating times, and Thursday end time will be determined according to the need for business.

The purpose of this meeting is to examine Messrs. Hans Kalkman and Clif Loucks for licensure and the calls to each.

Since the theological examination only must be from the floor of Classis (Article 20) and in order to reduce the amount of time needed to meet, the Candidates and Credential Committee should have examined as

much as possible in the other areas.

Also, since the examinations and the calls are the only order of business, at the completion of each examination, the body will meet as a Committee of the Whole to determine whether the examination will be sustained or not.

The cost of lodging will be \$40.00 a night, and each congregation will be asked to pay for their respective delegates' lodging.

B. Student Under Care

The Executive Committee has also received a request from the consistory of Trinity Covenant Church, RCUS, Colorado Springs, Colorado, that Mr. Andrew McIntyre be taken under the care of Classis as a student for the ministry. Mr. McIntyre is currently attending New Geneva Theological Seminary in Colorado Springs. The letter also gives the consistory's recommendation of Mr. McIntyre.

Recommendation:

I. That Mr. Andrew McIntyre be taken under the care of Classis as a student for the Ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage
President

Warren C. Embree
Stated Clerk

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR Volume 13 Number 13

December 19, 1998

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Special Meeting Of Classis

The President has amended the agenda for the Special Meeting of Classis starting at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 14, 1999 and finishing Friday, January 15, 1999. Included with the originally stated purpose - to examine Messrs. Hans Kalkman and Clif Loucks for license and the calls--The Classis will also briefly discuss the report of the Reverend Mr. Maynard Koerner concerning Emmanuel Reformed Church, RCUS, Sutton, Nebraska and consider the request from the Consistory of Blue Cliff Reformed Church, RCUS, Karval, Colorado, to bring Ron Morris under the care of Classis.

B. Information

The Reverend Mr. C.W. Powell has arranged for the examinations as follows:

Examinations to be conducted before Classis and by whom:

The Reverend Mr. C.W. Powell

:Apologetics/Philosophy;
History

The Reverend Messrs. Jim Sawtelle and Wesley Brice

:Exegetical Papers

The ~ Mr. Jim Sawtelle	:Written Sermon
The Reverend Mr. Wesley Brice	:English Bible; Creeds
Elder Warren Embree	:Greek; Hebrew
Elder David Kauk	:Constitution and Catechism

Examinations to be conducted at Classis and by whom:

The Reverend Mr. C.W. Powell	: Theology Proper; Doctrine of God; Aplogetics~Philosophy
The Reverend Mr. Jim Sawtelle	: Man and Christ
The Reverend Mr. Wesley Brice	: Scripture and Ecclesiology
Elder Warren Embree	: Soteriology and Eschatology
Elder Dave Kauk	:Practica

Schedule for examination on the floor of Classis:

Introduction, Piety and Intent	10 Minutes
Theology Proper~	15 Minutes
God	15 Minutes
Scripture	13 Minutes
Man	15 Minutes
Christ	15 Minutes
Soteriology	15 Minutes
Ecclesiology	15 Minutes
Eschatology	15 Minutes
Practica	15 Minutes
Open Questions from the floor	Unlimited.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage	Warren C. Entree	Elder Roger Gallimore
President	Stated Clerk	Elder Member

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR

Volume 13 Number 14

January 30, 1999 Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. Request from Emmanuel Reformed Church

The Executive Committee has received the following petition:

"The consistory of Emmanuel Reformed Church hereby petitions the South Central Classis that Elder Jess Johnson of St. John's Reformed Church be appointed as an advisor to the consistory. We also hereby contract to reimburse Jess Johnson for mileage and a to be determined compensation for his services."

Eugene Ulmer
Clerk, Emmanuel Reformed
Church"

Recommendation:

That Elder Jess Johnson be appointed as an advisor to the consistory of Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, Nebraska, until it has been able to call a new pastor and that Elder Johnson's expenses be paid by Emmanuel.

B. Annual Spring Meeting of Classis (1999)

Trinity Covenant Church, RCUS, Colorado Springs, Colorado has extended an invitation to the Executive Committee to host the 1999 Annual Spring Meeting of Classis. The Executive Committee has therefore set the place of the 1999 Meeting to be New Geneva Seminary, 3622 E. Galley Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 22, 1999.

It is best to come to the seminary from Highway 24. Take Highway 24 to the Academy Blvd. exit, turn right to Galley Road (a long block), turn left on Galley Road for about a block and there is a

sign for New Geneva. The worship service is planned for the Methodist Church Building across the road from the New Geneva Seminary.

C. House Keeping Issues

Enclosed you will find the following documents: Credentials for Elders to Classis Form, Membership Statistics Form, Financial Statistics Form, Proposed Order of Business, Proposed Schedule of Services, Proposed Order of the Day, and Special Orders. The Housing Request should be coming to you from the Reverend Dr. C.W. Powell, Jr.

Please Note: There is a place for the e-mail address and fax number of delegates, and there is a place for a home web page and fax number for the church. If possible, please supply this information.

Please Note: You may e-mail me the credentials and statistics but a hard copy must follow. I truly need these statistics two weeks in advance as I no longer have access to the copy service which would produce on quick notice. Also, as the meeting starts on a Monday, I do not have an extra day for preparation.

Please Remember: If you have a necrology to write, spend some time on it and have it written before the Classis meeting. It would be best if they are received before Classis, but not necessary. It is the duty of the clerk to report the deaths of pastors and elders; it makes sense to have this information before hand.

Parochial Reports are due to the President of the Executive Committee two **weeks** before the meeting of Classis, which means they are due on or before **March 9, 1999**. *Credentials for Elders, Membership Statistics, and Financial Statistics* are due to the Stated Clerk **two weeks before** the meeting of Classis, which is on or before March 9, 1999. *The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees* of Classis are to be mailed to all the Consistories of all the churches, with **two copies** sent to the stated Clerk, four **weeks before** the meeting of Classis, which on or before **February 22, 1999**. Overtures, which are received by the clerk four **weeks** before the meeting of Classis (on or before **February 22, 1999**), will be circularized.

Please note the following committees and chairman:

Missions: **The Reverend Mr. Jim Sawtelle**
Publications: **The Reverend Mr. George Horner**
Christian Education: **The Reverend Mr. Howard Hart**
Interchurch Relations: **The Reverend Mr. Jim Sawtelle**
Candidates and Credentials: **The Reverend Mr. C. V. Powell,**
Executive Committee: **The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage**
Liaison to Ministerial Aid: **The Reverend Mr. Howard Hart**
Heidelberg Youth Camp: **Elder Roger Gallimore**
Board of Trustees, Reformed Resource Center: **The Reverend Mr. George Horner**

Special instructions to these committees from the 1998 Spring Meeting of Classis:

Candidates and Credentials is to schedule a 4-hour seminar from Ken Sande concerning conflict resolution prior to the 1999 Spring Classis Meeting (Monday afternoon, March 22, 1999).

The Reverend Mr. Howard Hart is to confer with the Reverend R. Scott Clark to ascertain what his intentions are for the future and what he expects from the South Central Classis.

D. Licensure Examinations

As of now, it appears we will have only one examination, the Reverend Mr. Ron Morris, who was taken under care at the Special Classis Meeting in Ogallala, Nebraska.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Dorman Savage
President

Warren Embree
Stated Clerk

Elder Roger Gallimore
Elder Member

Missions

(referred to Standing Missions)

Home Missions Committee Report
South Central Classis

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee has two basic areas to report on for the 1998 year. The first is the Home Mission work in Rapid City, the second is the Missionary -at-Large adventure featuring the Lord's work in the State of Colorado through the labors of Rev. Dorman Savage. Before going any further, I would like to make note of the fact that your committee was chaired by Rev. Don Vance through December of '98. The current chair, me, has had no time to call an actual meeting of the HM committee before classis. However, I have been in regular contact with Rev. David Fagrey in setting forth the contents of this report.

Report on the annual visit to Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.

On October 18, 1998, taking the opportunity of being in Rapid City for Mission Fest, I conducted the annual visit to Grace Reformed Church on behalf of South Central Classis and Synod. The visit cost neither classis nor synod anything; unfortunately, doing it this way meant not taking along anyone else to take part in the visit with me.

I have visited this congregation now for the last three years. I have seen excellent progress in the church's financial situation, some progress in numbers, as well as a change in its leadership with the leaving of Rev. Savage. In this visit I was especially interested to note three main areas.

1. How is the congregation handling the transition of leadership? I found that the elders had especially handled this transition in a mature way. They made sure that Savage was given help in loading his moving trucks (I've seen congregations refuse to do that for a departing minister); they prepared the people for this change in leaders, they have been very good in refusing to allow people to get caught up in the comparison game of "Rev. Savage didn't do it this way..." etc. The people, too, have been very welcoming to the Fagreys, and there has been no defection among the membership due to a change in pastors. This speaks well also of Savage and the elders in that they have not built the church's ministry around the personality of the pastor.

2. How is the congregation handling their reductions from synodical and classical support, which was another 25%? The figures from the treasurer spoke for themselves, showing that by the end of September they had already met their Syn. and Class. guidelines, and their budget was 80% met. This despite losing Savages and one other family--a deacon-- in the month of June. The members of the congregation are giving sacrificially. This is attributable to the Holy Spirit working through His Word. Elder Dave McPhearson led a workshop for the men of the congregation teaching them about the biblical requirements

of Godly stewardship. They have noted a marked improvement in giving among a few of the families since that time. (the consistory is proposing another 25% reduction for the coming year, which would bring their receipts from classis and synod to \$0 after this year.)

3. Is the congregation reaching the community with the gospel? Here the answer is mixed. Last year we discussed that this was an area of weakness in the church. There was an evident slow-down in growth numerically. This is not our focus, however, so much as the fact that there are fewer people from the community who are coming to visit the church. One way the consistory is proposing to address this area is through the beginning of a weekly radio program on Sunday AM at 8:30 time slot on a local Christian radio station. We must pray God's blessing on this endeavor. I have noticed a pattern in a number of our mission works that after the initial enthusiasm about the "newness" of the work wears off, after the community has gone through its typical curiosity-about-a-new-work-in-town-phase, momentum for the work wanes and there is some lack of focus in the work. We ought to be aware of this in our visits with the works.

In conclusion, my assessment of Grace Reformed Church is that it is well on the way to being a fully self-supporting work. Further, the church does show a real evidence of wanting to reach the community with the Gospel and disciple them in Christ We must rejoice in the work the Lord has done in establishing this congregation. We must be in prayer that the Lord would so prosper the membership that they may be able to sustain their final financial reductions. Let us pray also that the Lord would cause the light of His glorious Word to bring many from darkness unto saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Word there.

Report on the Missionary-at-Large, and his labors in Colorado.

As for the accounting of the Missionary-at-Large program we began last Spring, I would like to have Rev. Savage report in his own words:

Report from the Regional Home Missionary (Rev. Savage):

Esteemed Brethren,

The South Central Classis, RCUS, meeting on march 17-18, 1998, approved an overture from the Blue Cliff Reformed Church, Karval, CO to send a "missionary -at-large" to the "front range". I was subsequently called by Blue Cliff to serve as their pastor (part -time) and as regional home missionary to the front range.

I arrived in the field the first of June 1998 and was immediately invited to start a Bible study in Limon, CO. The study centered upon the Book of Romans. During the 6 months of the study I focused upon Reformed Theology, Reformed worship practices as well as RCUS distinctives. By November of 1998 the Limon group was asking for worship services. Early in December they made a formal request to the Blue Cliff Consistory for approval of worship services in Limon. Blue Cliff approved their request and established the first Sunday in January, 1999 as the starting date for Providence Reformed Chapel. On that first Sunday I baptized 8 children and 7 adults professed their faith publicly. All these folk were added to the rolls of Blue Cliff Reformed Church.

There are at present 6 families in regular attendance. Two of these families were past members of Blue Cliff who moved close to Limon than Blue Cliff. We are glad to see that visitors are now attending services. Among the new members in Limon is the family of Rev. Ron Morris. Ron is the pastor of a Southern Baptist mission work in Arriba, CO (25 miles to the east of Limon) Ron has been of great assistance to me with Bible studies, and some preaching in Limon and Greeley. He recently received a call

from Grace RCUS of Mitchell, SD and will be examined at the Spring Classis Meeting.

The Sunday School has two classes. The adult class which includes the children down to those who cannot read, and a class for the small children. Kurt Schimke, who is an active elder on the Consistory of Blue Cliff, has been teaching the Heidelberg Catechism during the Sunday School hour. Marlene Schimke, his wife, teaches the small children.

In August of 1998, Dr. C.W. Powell of the New Geneva Theological Seminary gave me the name Pat Koonce, a young man from Pueblo, CO. I subsequently arranged to have a weekly Bible study in his home. Rev. Ron Morris accompanied me to this Bible Study throughout the fall and early winter months. There on occasion a number of young men in attendance, at other times just Pat. All, or almost all, of the young men in attendance came through the Assembly of God Church at some time in their spiritual pilgrimage. The study is currently on hold due to more pressing matters in Greeley. I am still in contact with Pat and am greatly encouraged by his hunger for the Reformed faith.

Early in October I traveled to Greeley to meet two families there who were very interested in a Reformed Church in that area. Greeley is a city of some 75,000 people located about 70 miles northeast of Denver. Greeley is the home of the University of Northern Colorado, has several manufacturing plants, and is the county seat of Weld County, and because of the rich farm land along the South Platte River is the wealthiest county in Colorado.

After meeting with these families several times I put an ad in the Greeley paper which presented the Reformed faith and the opportunity for those interested to study the Reformed faith. The ad ran for 4 weeks (on the weekly Church page). The ad invited all those interested to call a local Greeley number for more information. As part of the information packet an invitation was extended to all interested parties to attend an informational meeting on January 8 at the Greeley Rec. Center.

At the subsequent meeting on the 8th of Jan, 1999, 16 people showed up. Apart from those who were genuinely interested was an individual from the PCA who, it appears, came to get the names and addresses of those in attendance. At least, it seems passing strange that the very next day another individual from the PCA used information from someone to call and invite all of the others at the meeting to church services at his house. Apparently he has not been able to generate any enthusiasm for a PCA work. Almost everyone who came to the original meeting is still with the group.

Last Sunday, February 21, we held our first worship service in Greeley. We have named the group "Grace Reformed Church", even though we are not nearly ready to organize into a particular congregation yet. We needed to open a bank account and for our identity in the community. This is the name they chose. There were 19 in attendance. There is a pianist in the group and they sang the old Hymns with gusto. The gospel was preached and an offering, in the amount of \$188.45 was received. All in all, it seemed to me that we are off to a good start in Greeley.

I am very enthusiastic about the prospects along the front range. Just today I talked with a Calvinist pastor of a small church west of Colorado Springs. He has not real fellowship and no connections with any Reformed Church. He was very interested in meeting with me and learning about the RCUS.

I have also heard of a situation in an Evangelical Free congregation in Denver which involves a number of young families who have been introduced to Calvinism through home-schooling. Their questions are causing problems with the older members of the congregation. If this situation worsens I may be able to get an introduction to the group.

For right now, however, I have all that I can handle. I will soon be preaching at Limon in the morning and Greeley in the afternoon. Limon and Greeley are 125 miles apart, so this involves quite a bit of driving. For the present, Blue Cliff is having to struggle along with pulpit supply, which they do not seem to resent. I would hope that Blue Cliff might be able to obtain a Seminary student to help with the work this summer. Blue Cliff may, in fact, bring an overture to the Spring Classis in this regard.

With regard to finances, I have had to travel more than I originally anticipated. I have had to buy a newer vehicle which increased my debt load considerably. Travel also means more meals out, motels at times and so on. I am very thankful that at Greeley we have been invited to stay with Mr. Arlin Disselkoen and his wife Emma. These folks have a nice home with private rooms they have shared with us. This has been a great blessing to us.

In any case, some Classis Churches have given generously (through offerings) toward some of the unanticipated expenses (advertising, rent of facilities, material, copying, etc.) The Committee may want to continue to ask Classis Churches to do the same for next year. I would request that the Committee please look into the mileage allowance, and perhaps consider a raise in my remuneration. The move financially has been rough. I also miss God's people in Rapid City, SD. In every other way it has been wonderful!

Please pray for wisdom for me, and that God continue to bless His work in Colorado.

Best regards in Christ,
Rev. Dorman Savage
Regional Home Missionary

Based on the reports on the mission endeavors over the last year, and the requests mentioned therein, your committee recommends the following:

Recommendation # 1: That classis approve the request from Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, for funding in the amount of \$1,500.

Recommendation # 2: That classis offer a prayer of Thanksgiving for God's blessing on the work in Rapid City, and the faithful stewardship of the members in supporting the work.

Recommendation # 3: That classis allocate \$5,000 for the reimbursement of mileage costs (as needed) to Rev. Dorman Savage for his travels on behalf of classis mission work in Colorado.

Recommendation #4. That Rev. Savage make known any needs for materials or advertising he may have during the year to the Classis HMC, notice of said needs would then be sent by e-mail to each classis congregation to be met by "free-will" offerings.

Recommendation # 5. That classis allocate \$25,500 toward the salary of Rev. Savage

Total budget proposal for the Home Missions work of classis for 1999:

MAL Salary	\$25,500
MAL mileage	\$ 5,000
Grace Ref.	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
	\$32,000

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jim Sawtelle. Rev. David Fagrey, Mr. Roland Schnabel, Mr. Dave Maser

Publications

(referred to Standing Publications)

Esteemed Brothers,

The Permanent Publications Committee of South Central Classis had no business officially come before it and therefore your committee did not meet nor conduct any business during this past classical year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. George Horner – chairman

Christian Education

(referred to Standing Education and Student Aid)

Dear Brothers,

The Christian Education Committee of South Central Classis was given no business, therefore, the committee did not meet and only has the above item to report.

Warm regards in Christ,

Rev. Howard Hart, Rev. George Horner, Kevin De Groot, Sam Powell

Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

Your committee is charged with the duties of overseeing candidates for the ministry, conducting examinations for prospective ministers, and other good things like that

We attempted and accomplished the following things this year.

1. We gave an examination to Clif Loucks at a special classis meeting. Mr. Loucks did a good job and passed the examination, and we recommended that he do his internship with the Rev. Jim Sawtelle and be ordained. Rev. Mr. Sawtelle is charged to mentor Mr. Loucks in the areas Of Constitution and Creeds.
2. We gave a similar examination to Hans Kalkman at the same Special meeting. Mr. Kalkman also did a good job and passed the examination. We recommended that he do his internship with the Rev. Howard Hart, and that the Rev. Hart be charged with giving special attention to mentor Mr. Kalkman in the areas of Constitution and Creeds and that Elder Warren Embree mentor Mr. Kalkman in Constitution and the languages.
3. It is recommended that Mr. Kalkman and Mr. Loucks give urgent attention to the study of the Heidelberg Catechism, memorizing at least the following questions: 1,2, 12,21,26,31,32,60, 66,81,83,88-91, 116, 129, and others.

4. The following students are under care of Classis, and will report on their progress to classis.

Jeff DeBoer, at Mid America Reformed Seminary
Richard Stetler, planning to attend New Geneva
Samuel Powell, has attended New Geneva
Matthew Powell, attending New Geneva
Andrew McIntyre, attending New Geneva

5. Samuel Powell has had to drop out of school. He is uncertain concerning his future as a student for the ministry.

6. It might be useful for Classis to define the status of Oscar Porras. He and his family are members of Trinity Covenant Church in Colorado Springs. They are working and doing well and are faithful in church attendance. Oscar is licensed by the South Central Classis to preach, but he is not active at this time. Your committee makes no recommendation, but simply draws what appears to be an anomaly to your attention.

Recommendations:

1. That Rev. Jim Sawtelle mentor Mr. Loucks in the areas of Constitution and Creeds during his internship.
2. That Rev. Howard Hart, retired, mentor Mr. Kalkman in the areas of Constitution and Creeds and that Elder Warren Embree mentor Mr. Kalkman in Constitution and the Creeds.
3. That both mentors encourage Mr. Loucks and Mr. Kalkman to learn at least the following questions in the Heidelberg Catechism:
1,2, 12,21,26,31, 32,60,66,81, 83, 88-91, 116, 129, among others.

Respectfully Submitted

C. W. Powell, Chairman, Rev. Wes Brice, Rev. Jim Sawtelle, Elder Warren
Embree, Elder Dave Kauk

Interchurch Relations (referred to Standing Overtures)

The committee reports that Rev. Jim Sawtelle, attended the fall meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas, OPC as a fraternal delegate.

This was the only item of business that your committee had before it in this past year. Invitations to the RPCNA, OPC, and perhaps the URCNA will be sent to the appropriate parties for the upcoming Spring Classis meeting in 1999.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jim Sawtelle, Rev. Wes Brice, Mr. Mark Fisher, Mr. Richard Stetler

Reports of Officers

President's Report on the State of the Church

...My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:2-8

The past year was certainly a year in which trials were the order of the day. James, of course, did not have the trial of Steven Schlei in mind when he penned the words just read in your hearing. Nevertheless, the two trials conducted last year indeed provided a time of testing for our Classis. Not only *was* our faith in the biblical process of discipline put to the test, but our resolve to exercise biblical discipline was tested as well. Looking back upon those difficult times, it is my opinion that although we could have done some things differently and perhaps better, in the main we satisfied our biblical responsibilities.

There were adverse reactions from those who ought to have known better, but from this body and from the RCUS at large there was complete agreement with the findings of the church court. Although there were some, myself included, who thought the punishment should have been more severe, we did what we did and we were unified in that decision.

We sorrow for the sheep who have been lost through the actions of this man. May our Sovereign God yet deliver them from his clutches. However, we must move on, and this Classis meeting should bring an end to the whole matter. We must give thanks to our God that the damage was not worse

In addition to losing the congregation at Loveland, sweeping changes have taken place in other congregations of our Classis. Rev. Howard Hart retired after many long and fruitful years in the ministry. Rev. Terry Jorgensen resigned as pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sunon, NE. Rev. Donald Vance took a call to Ebenezer RCUS, Manitowoc, WI. Rev. David Fagrey took a call to Grace RCUS at Rapid City, SD, and Rev. Dorman Savage received a joint call from Blue Cliff RCUS and the South Central Classis to be the pastor of Blue Cliff and also to work as a Regional Home Missionary. Thus, St. Johns of Lincoln, NE, Emmanuel of Sutton, Zion of Menno, Grace RCUS of Rapid City, and Grace RCUS of Mitchell were without pastors.

At our third special Classis meeting of the classical year, meeting at Ogalalla, NE, Mr. Hans Kalkman and Mr. Clif Loucks sustained their licensure examinations. Mr. Kalkman is now serving Zion RCUS, Menno, SD and Mr. Loucks is serving St. Johns, Lincoln, NE pending ordination examination and ordination. Grace RCUS of Rapid City is now being served by Rev. Fagrey and Blue Cliff is no longer vacant. At this time, only Mitchell and Emmanuel remain vacant. At this Classis meeting Rev. Ron Morris, a candidate for Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD, will be examined.

Despite the difficulties our Classis has experienced, our statistical report shows that even with the loss of the Loveland congregation, a 14% increase in the numbers of those lost by erasure, and an 8% increase in the numbers of those who have gone on to be with the Lord, we had a slight increase in total membership over last year. Among the positive statistics were these. The number of members received by confirmation are up significantly, as are the numbers of those received by transfer.

Except for giving to Classis, giving in every other category was up last year. Giving to Classis was lower because the guidelines were lower. Our expenses were also higher due perhaps to the unusual number of Special Classis meetings. Improvement on Church property skyrocketed this year due mostly to Trinity RCUS in Sioux Falls. Church debt was up 56% no doubt influenced by the same building project. However, the payment on church debt was also up 21% over last year for which we should be thankful.

Statistics do not tell all the story. The parochial reports testify that the preaching of the Word of God continues in our congregations. God's Word is also being faithfully taught in catechism classes, Bible studies, Sunday Schools, Heidelberg Youth Camp and elsewhere. Evangelism efforts continue using such diverse tools as the radio, television, and the Regional Home Missionary among others.

Overall, it is my conviction that the Church is healthy and growing. It is plain to me, that most of the office bearers in our Church have been good shepherds of the flock. I would commend the elders and deacons, especially those, who in the absence of a pastor in their charge, have carried out their duties in an exemplary fashion. This, I believe, speaks well of the future of our Church.

That we have problems to solve, questions to answer, and burdens to bear is also quite evident. We therefore must heed the exhortation from James concerning wisdom and our need for it. I quote, ***If any of you lacks wisdom, Let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.***

Let us, by the grace of God, make the decisions we have to make with wisdom and compassion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev Dorman Savage

Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes

(adopted)

March 23, 1999

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The following duties refer to the 1998 Abstract of the Minutes:

1. Recommendation #1 of the Standard Benevolence Committee, page 45, requesting benevolent aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens: A letter dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod

2. Recommendation #2 of the Standing Education and Student Aid Committee, page 46, regarding aid for student Jeff DeBoer: An overture dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod
3. Recommendation #1 of the Standing Judicial Committee, page 48, that the Constitutional amendments regarding public offenses he forwarded to Synod: A letter dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod
4. Recommendation #1 of the Standing Ministerial Aid Committee, page 49, overturning Synod to restore the honoraria historically given retired Ministers and their widows: An overture dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod.
5. Recommendation #2 of the Standing Ministerial Aid Committee, page 49, regarding aid for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger: An overture dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod together with her means questionnaire.
6. Recommendation #3 of the Standing Ministerial Aid Committee, page 49, regarding honorarium for the Reverend Mr. Howard Hart: An overture dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod
7. Recommendation #4 of the Standing Ministerial Aid Committee, page 49, regarding aid for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann: An overture dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod
8. Recommendation #'s 1-4 of the Minutes of Synod page 54, regarding the Classis' votes to ratify the revised Directories of Worship: A copy of the vote dated 4/18/1998 was sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Embree

Executive Committee's Report on Their Minutes

(adopted)

March 22, 1999

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The Executive Circulars Volume 13, Numbers I through 14, constitute the minutes of the Executive Committee and contain certain recommendations that require a report:

- 1) Executive Circular, Volume 13, Number 3, recommending amending the Spring Minutes to reflect a proper closing of the session. The proposed changes were inserted into the minutes.
- 2) Executive Circular, Volume 13, Number 8, concerning the dismissal of the Reverend Mr. Steven Work to the Midwest Presbytery, RPCNA: a letter of dismissal, dated 17 October 1998, was sent to the Stated Clerk of the Midwest Presbytery and a reception of a dismissed minister, dated 10 November, 1998, was received.
- 3) Executive Circular, Volume 13, Number 8, concerning a letter of commendation of the Reverend Mr. Steven Work to the Midwest Presbytery, RPCNA: a letter of commendation, dated 17 October 1998, was sent to the Stated Clerk of the Midwest Presbytery, RPCN.

4) Executive Circular, Volume 13, Number 9, concerning notifying the Stated Clerk of Synod of the Reverend Mr. Howard Hart's election as "Pastor Emeritus" of S. John's Reformed, RCUS: the notification will be included in the credentials to Synod.

5) Executive Circular, Volume 13, Number 10, concerning the dismissal of the Reverend Mr. Donald Vance to the Covenant East Classis, RCUS a letter of dismissal, dated 21 December 1998, was sent to the Stated Clerk of the Covenant East Classis and a reception of a dismissed minister, dated 5 January 1999, was received

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren C. Embree, Stated Clerk

Treasurer's Report and Auditor's opinion

(referred to Standing Finance)

Brethren,

Attached with this report you will find the revenue/expense report, account balances as of February 28, 1999, fiscal year account transactions, and guideline for giving per congregations.

This fiscal year has been a learning experience for your treasurer. According to the report of a year ago, net assets were at \$ 18,067.11. At the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year the net assets were at \$25,368.34. However, the largest contributing factor for this net gain was that the mission activity for Blue Cliff did not begin until June 1998.

Indeed, classical finances are in a good position. Given the present assets it would seem prudent to take a sum into consideration for long-term growth. I would therefore recommend that \$12,000 be invested through a brokerage firm with no more than 30 percent invested in securities. This will leave an operating cash balance of \$13, 368.34.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Gallimore
Treasurer

South Central Classis Fiscal Report March 1, 1998-February 28, 1999

Opening Balance	\$18,067.11
Net Transitional Activity	\$ 5,364.07

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Guidelines	\$36,322.56	\$41,565.00
Interest	673.94	0.00
CO Missions	1,773.00	0.00
Reimbursements	1,786.79	0.00
Total Revenue	\$40,556.29	\$41,565.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Dues		
Missionary	\$2,263.90	\$2,000.00
HYC	0.00	300.00
Executive Committee	1,876.85	1,200.00
Special Committees	456.16	1,240.00
Classis	7,043.03	5,000.00
Clerk	419.14	500.00
Honorarium	450.00	450.00
RRC		
Bookshelves	100.00	100.00
Administration	607.06	300.00
Books	600.00	600.00
Salary	2,000.00	2,000.00
V. Hoeflinger	500.00	500.00
Missions		
Blue Cliff	18,000.00	24,000.00
Rapid City	3,825.00	3,375.00
Special Missions	477.99	0.00
Total Expenses	\$38,619.13	\$41,565.00
Net Revenue less Expense	1,937.16	0.00
<u>Summary</u>		
Opening Balance	\$18,067.11	
Net Transitional Activity	5,364.07	
Total Revenue	40,556.29	
Total Expense	38,619.13	
Net Revenue less Expense	1,937.16	
Closing Balance	25,368.34	

(Note – the auditor’s opinion appears as part of the Standing Finances Report)

Examination of Candidate

Rev. Ron Morris, a candidate for licensure in the RCUS, was examined by members of the Candidates and Credentials Committee in the areas of Intent, Theology Proper, Doctrines of God, Anthropology, Christology, Scripture, Ecclesiology, English Bible, Creeds, Soteriology,

Eschatology, Apologetics, Philosophy, Church History, and Practica. (Part of the exam had been conducted prior to this meeting)

Rev. Morris was also questioned from the floor during the exam.

(The recommendation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee are found in the Report of the Examination and Licensure Committee.)

Rev. Ron Morris read aloud the Oath of Licensure and signed it.

The President of Classis presented Rev. Ron Morris with a Certificate of Licensure.

Parochial Reports of Ministers

The ministers of the Word all read their reports. The reports from the churches whose pulpits are vacant, Emmanuel Reformed in Sutton, NE and Grace Reformed in Mitchell, SD were read by the clerk.

All reports were “take note” with the following exceptions:

Rev. Horner’s report was referred to the Standing Committee on Education and Student Aid.

Rev. Jorgensen’s report – a special committee for reconciliation was appointed to which the report was referred.

Rev. C.W. Powell’s report contained an addendum relating to New Geneva Theological Seminary. The addendum was referred to Overtures.

Constitutional Questions to Elders (article 81, RCUS constitution)

(These answers were not provided by Peace Reformed Church in Loveland, CO)

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?:*

All answered “Yes”

2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members? :* All answered “Yes”

3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*

a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?* All answered “Yes” except for Johnson, Koerner, Mehlhaff, and Sedlak who answered “needs improvement”

b. *Is Christian discipline exercised according to the constitution?* All answered “Yes” except for Ulmer, who answered “needs improvement”

4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper properly administered in accordance with the constitution? :* All answered “Yes”

5. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:*

a. *Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?* All answered “Yes”

b. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* All answered “Yes”

b. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving?:* All answered “Yes” except for Honaker, Johnson, Ulmer, who answered “No” and Yoder who answered with a qualified “Yes”

c. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer? :* All answered “Yes” except for Honaker and Johnson who answered “No”

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"

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

Reports of Special Committees

Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee

(all recommendations were adopted)

(the report was referred to Standing Finances)

Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee Meeting

February 26, 6:00 PM

Conference Call

Members present: Elder Roger Gallimore, Rev. George Horner, Rev. Robert Davis, and Rev. Darrell Kingswood.

1. Highlights of the 1998 finance report showed a net gain of \$688.89. However, from that amount there is scheduled to be a projected \$250.00 drawn for another 2 issues of HYC Fire. There was a memorial gift of \$1,000.00 received for the purpose of equipment purchases. From this gift \$855.99 was spent for an overhead projector, cart, screen, overheads for contemporary songs, and overheads of hymns from the new Trinity Hymnal.
2. The proposed 1999 budget includes a 5 percent increase in camper fees up to \$98 per camper. The greatest reason for this increase is that Camp Bob Marshall is now required to charge a 6 percent sales tax on outside users of the camp. Hence, facility use projections are up 6 percent. Other items show projected increase of an average of 5 percent. Last year HYC Fire was included in the camp budget. For 1999 it has been taken out and a recommendation that HYC Fire be funded in the amount of \$250.00 from South Central Classis and \$250.00 from Northern Plains Classis. Although camp is still a key part of each issue, the scope of the publication is broadening out to young people who are not part of the camp.
2. The theme for the 1999 camp is *Walk the Talk*. HYC has been emerging as a vehicle that focuses on supporting and teaching a Christian Worldview for our covenant youth. It is the opinion of the camp director and the committee that today's covenant youth in day-to-day activities are not all that different from worldly youth. The theme is designed to help our young people develop an arsenal of which to defend and to live the Christian faith. The lesson topics will be:
 - Thinking the Walk -This is the overview lesson given on the first evening for the purpose of holding our minds captive to Biblical thoughts and that all our actions are an outward display of that which is inward. Living a Christian life is not to be compartmentalized. Rather, it is to be expressed in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.
 - Walking the Talk With Friends -How we interact with friends, the friends we choose, and the activities surrounding our friendships all express our faith. This lesson will challenge the campers to consider the godliness of these relationships.
 - Walking the Talk With Money -It is noted that few of our covenant youth are taught how to handle money. Yet, this is a very real and practical means of demonstrating faith. Do we really believe this is God's money, that we are stewards of that which God has given us, and that this includes giving

back at least 10 percent? This course helps us to put our money where our thoughts ought to be.

- Walking the Talk With Family -The lack of respecting authority is a key issue in our culture today. Humanly speaking, it starts with the family. This lesson deals with what God commands regarding our respect for parents and how that carries forward into society. This lesson will also cover the duties and responsibilities of young men and women as they prepare for marital roles.
- Walking the Talk With Learning -How do we discern the truth in a world that is openly hostile to the truth? The vast majority of our covenant youth are educated in the public school system. To be sure there are many godly teachers in the public schools, yet, it is still a system based on a secular humanistic worldview. This lesson covers identifying different worldviews that are typically presented in the classroom and in the media and how to discern these presentations with the truth of God's Word.
- Walking the Talk With God's Will - A common question of young people is, "How do I know what God wants me to do?" This lesson will distinguish between God's sovereign will and God's revealed will and the importance of following God's commands in all of life's decisions, big or small.
- Walking the Talk With Time I don't have time to.. (fill in the blank). How often have you heard that said from our covenant youth. Time choices are greater today than at any other point in history. How do we choose to spend our time? What are our priorities? Time, like money, is a gift given by God and of which we are to use wisely. This lesson provides practical tools in discerning wise use of time.

4. The worship service was discussed. There will be 10-15 minutes of praise, hymn, and Psalms sung prior to the worship service. The service itself will follow the Order of Worship as suggested in the Directory of Worship and will include the Apostle's Creed in the first service, reading of the Law in the second service, and the Nicene Creed in the final service. Sermon texts will include:

2Corinthians 10:5

Romans 12:1,2

Ephesians 4:17-23

There will be an offering taken at each worship service. It is intended for each year that the offering go to support a missions project. The recipient of the offering this year will be Watertown.

5. There will be a personal devotional booklet put together for the campers that focus on the theme.
6. There will be a counselor's handbook put together to help counselors prepare for the week of camp. The handbook will walk through each component of camp and will include guidelines for activities such as talent night, devotions, etc. A few skit books will also be purchased to help counselors for talent night.
7. The camp will again meet at Camp Bob Marshall. The dates are July 26-30. Camp Bob Marshall has

also been reserved in 2000 for July 24-28.

8. There are only a few minor changes in the camp schedule. The last two years the seniors were given more freedom with no curfew. Late nights proved to be a good time of campfire learning and of tired people in the morning. This year a senior curfew of 1:00 AM will be in effect as a compromise to extended visiting and getting some sleep.

The Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee recommends the following:

1. Classis approve the 1999 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.
2. Classis approve allocating \$250 for the publication of two issues of the quarterly HYC Fire.
3. Classis approve the report of the Heidelberg Youth Camp committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Gallimore
HYC Director

Heidelberg Youth Camp Proposed Budget 1999

Balance Forward	\$1,893.50	
	(122 Campers -31 adults)	(122 Campers - 31 adults)
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Actual 1998</u>	<u>Budget 1999</u>
Camp Fees	\$11,521.00	\$11,960.00
Gifts	\$1,425.00	\$265.00
Interest	\$15.23	\$15.00
T-Shirts Sold	\$133.50	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$13,094.73	\$12,240.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Facility Use	\$8136.00	\$8,650.00
Food	\$1,436.68	\$1,510.00
T-Shirts	\$1,351.15	\$1,420.00
Supplies	\$ 116.92	\$150.00
Promotion	\$250.56	\$260.00
Custer State Park Fees	00.00	110.00
Postage	12.00	20.00
Administration	\$110.38	\$120.00
Equipment	\$855.99	\$0.00
HYC Fire	\$136.16	\$0.00
Total Expense	\$12405.84	\$12,240.00

	<u>Actual 1998</u>	<u>Budget 1999</u>
Revenue - Expense	\$688.89	\$0.00

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Balance Forward	\$1,893.50	\$2,582.39
Total Revenue	\$13,094.73	\$12,240.00
Total Expense	\$12,405.84	\$12,240.00
Ending Balance	\$2,582.39	\$2,582.39

Proposed 1999 fees ~ \$98 per camper. Adult volunteers continue to be free. \$50 per child not attending as campers. Each non-participating congregation in Northern Plains and South Central Classis to set out a plate for contributions to the camp.

Board of Trustees, Reformed Resource Center

Esteemed Brothers,

The trustees of the Reformed Resource Center met on Jan 28,1999, at St John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, NE, site of the Hoeflinger Memorial Library, to review the report of Rev. Howard Hart, the center's administrator, and to make recommendations to Classis South Central of the RCUS regarding effective use of the RRC. Trustees present were the Rev. George Homer and elder Bryan Phillips. Also in attendance was the Administrator of the RRC, Rev. Howard Hart (emeritus) and the Curator of the Hoeflinger library, elder Jess Johnson.

After reviewing the report of the administrator and discussing the ongoing work of the RRC, the following items are noteworthy:

1. The entire Hoeflinger library (book titles) is now on disc and a copy via floppy is available by request from the curator.
2. The entire Hoeflinger Memorial Library is now shelved and available for on-site study.
3. Books belonging to the Hoeflinger Library may be checked out via mail by contacting the curator.
4. Communication with the RRC may soon be possible via e-mail
5. Videos listed in the catalog of the RRC are available for loan or purchase through Rev. Howard Hart
6. The "TRAINING IN MINISTRY" -TIM) program, as proposed (see attached), would be An effective use of the RRC and well serve the Classis both for ministerial training, both Pre- and post-ordination.

The report of the RRC administrator (with additions resulting from the board meeting) is enclosed. We

propose that he be heard on the floor of Classis and that his recommendations be considered for action by the body.

Sincerely,
Rev. George Horner
Chairman

The following is the report of the Administrator of the Reformed Resource Center, whose recommendations were taken up on the floor of classis.

Dear Pastor Homer,

A. ACTIVITIES: Your servant was involved in the following activities this Classical year.

1. The Hoeflinger Memorial Library is shelved. Dr. Jess Johnson, Curator of the Library, spent numerous hours on the library, which included putting together book cases, shelving, cataloging the books and boxing the periodicals and magazines. He also spent multiple hours in producing videos for the RRC. He continues to be a willing and dedicated worker. I believe that Dr. Johnson should receive an honorarium of \$200.00 for his devoted and accurate work. Your servant added 600 books to our library.

The Library, by mid-January 1999, will be available on floppy disks. These discs will be available to members of the denomination. The Library will then be a lending library.

2. I worked on the Library (Somewhat) and made study videos.
3. A program ~Training in Ministry~ was developed.

B. VIDEOS: The following videos are available:

A. •Apologetics - What We Think Before We Think~ This is a four lecture course by Pastor R. Grossmann and Pastor H. Hart. Pastor Hart wrote a workbook to be used with the four lectures. Three copies of the originals are available to the churches and individuals. We sold one copy. The other two are now being used by a church and an individual. Pastor Grossmann's book on this subject is also available.

B. •Hermeneutics - How To Study The Bible by Pastor Hart. This is a five lecture series that shows people what the principles of Biblical interpretation are and how to use them. Pastor Hart produced a workbook to be used with the lectures. Two copies of the original were made and both are in use at this time.

C. •Theological Basis of Confirmation and Catechetical Instruction~ by Rev. R. Grossmann. This is an hour lecture. There is also an audio cassette available. This talk appears in a recent Reformed Herald. (In use.)

D. •Reasons and Methodology of Catechetical Instruction~ by Rev. H. Hart. This is an hour lecture that was given at a minister's retreat. There is a audio cassette available. (In use.)

E. "The Seeker Sensitive Movement" by Rev. G. Horner. This is an hour lecture; given at a minister's retreat. There is an audio cassette available.

F. "Worship" by Rev. D. Fagrey. There is a worksheet accompanying this 35 minute lecture.

G. "Body Modification" by Rev. D. Fagrey. There is a worksheet accompanying this 35 minute lecture.

H. "How To Find God's Will" by Rev. D. Fagrey. There is a worksheet with this 35 minute lecture.

I. "Speaking in Tongues" by Rev. D. Fagrey. There is a worksheet to be used with this 35 minute lecture.

J. "Finding Mr. & Mrs. Right" There is a worksheet for this 35 minute lecture.

K. "Cloning" by Rev. D. Fagrey. This will be available by the time of Classis. There will be a worksheet~with this 35 minute lecture.

L. "History of the Reformed Church in the United States" by Rev. R. Grossmann and Rev. H. E. Hart. This will be available at Classis time. Pastor Grossmann's book on our history is also available.

K. "The Book of Ecclesiastes" sermons by Maynard Koerner.

N. "Studies in the Book of Daniel" by Pastor Hart. This is a twelve lecture series video with a workbook. (Just Completed)

O. "Kohlbrugge" by Rev. N Hoeflinger. This is a lecture given at an October, 3, 1996 minister's retreat. (In use.)

P. "A Conversation with Chester and Grace Ploeger." The Ploegers reflect on their many years in the RCUS. (Taped February 18, 1997)

C. LECTURES : Your servant has the following lectures presentations available for the churches of Classis:

1. "Moses in Egypt." This is a one hour lecture with slides and work sheets for the students.

2. "Jerusalem - City of God/City of Blood/City of Peace." This is a one hour lecture with slides and worksheets for the students

3. "How To Study The Bible." This is a 4 or 5 session seminar that uses slides, overhead outlines and work sheets.

4. "Covenant/Kingdom." This is a 4 or 5 session study with overhead outlines and work sheets.

5. "Teacher Training Course." This is a 3 to 4 sessions study with a work book and outlines.

6. "Studies on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit." This is a 2 to 5 lecture series with a work book.

7. "Angels" A five lecture series on good and evil angels.

8. "Hallowed be Thy Names" a lecture series on the basic names of God in the old Testament. -

D. FUTURE PLANS

1. Your servant has developed a "Training in Ministry Program" (TIM) Your input will be a great deal of help - TIM is at the end of this report.

2. There is a plan to produce three more video series this year.

I have two more Classical years to serve as your Administrator.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Dr. Jess Johnson be given an honorarium of \$200.00.
2. That \$500.00 be allocated for administration of the RRC.
3. Take note that the treasurer of Classis be aware that Mrs. Hoeflinger is to receive a check of \$500.00 each January until and including the year 2001.
4. Take note that the treasurer of Classis be aware that the Administrator of the RRC is to receive a check of \$500.00 each March, June, September and December of each year until and including the year 2001.
5. That TIM be implemented by Classis South Central.
6. That the Hoeflinger Memorial Library be used as a lending Library for RCUS members.

Warm Regards,
Rev. Howard Hart
Administrator, RRC

Note: Recommendations # 1, 2 were adopted, # 3,4 were "take note", # 5 was referred to the Examination and Licensing Committee, and # 6 was adopted.

**Reformed Resource Center
TRAINING IN MINISTRY (TIM)**

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this program by the Reformed Resource Center (RRC) shall be to assist in maintaining and enhancing the quality of ministerial service in the South Central Classis (SCC) of the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS). This program is to help men to be prepared for an informed ministry that conforms to the standards of the Bible and the standards of the RCUS. To this end, the RRC shall present a constructive view of the RCUS and her doctrine, government, discipline and worship. There shall be an emphasis on the distinctive teachings of the RCUS.

II. GOALS:

The RRC shall seek to offer **SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION** to students already enrolled in existing and approved seminaries, and to licentiates and ministers who have completed their formal seminary program. This will be accomplished by direct oversight of the Candidates and Credential's Committee of SCC and the Board of the RRC. The internship program of the Reformed Church in the United States would be a place for this program.

III SUBJECTS:

Subjects shall include, but not limited to:

1. The Three Forms of Unity

2. Reformed Church Polity, with special emphasis on the Constitution of the RCUS and the Directory of Worship of the RCUS. How our judicatories function shall be explained.
3. The history, character and distinguishing commitments of the RCUS
4. Practical Theology which shall include historic Reformed preaching, poimenics, catachetics and liturgics.
5. Presuppositional Apologetics which shall include the teachings of C. Van Til, as well as historic Christian apologists, with historic philosophy readings and discussion.
6. Reformed hermeneutics.
7. Women voting in congregational meetings.
8. Use of real wine in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
9. The practice of confirmation and catechetical memorization.
10. Management in the ministry, which shall cover church record keeping, personal study habits and time management, personal family time and how to have a day off.
11. Christian education of the church shall include confirmation curriculum, Sunday School curriculum, men's and women's study groups, Wednesday evening family Bible study, Sunday evening worship/Bible study, youth leagues, young adults, camp and overnight youth socials, VBS.
12. Visitation of the elderly, the family, sick and infirm and evangelism.
13. The teachers are to be Ministers or Elders of the RCUS.
14. The "positions" that the RCUS has taken on various issues as stated in papers published in the Synodical abstracts.
15. How to train office-bearers.
16. The sacraments: their proper meaning and administration, also including the issue of guarding the Table of the Lord.

IV. MEANS:

The RRC, in cooperation, with the Candidates and Credentials Committee of South Central Classis, may offer classes by a variety of means, such as lecture classes, videos (The RRC has several), person-to-person mentoring, e-mail, traveling conferences, and other means as shall from time to time be deemed effective in the fulfilling of the purpose of Classis :

V. ADMINISTRATION:

The Reformed Resource Center Administrator shall coordinate the program. His duties shall be:

1. The Administrator will report to the CCC and CSC on a regular basis.
2. Assist the teachers in developing coordinated content, syllabi, examinations and grading. Both teachers and course material shall be approved by the CCC of Classis and the RRC. (Consider with the teachers the means by which, and the venue in which that may best be carried out.)
3. Work with the approved seminaries regarding the possibility of giving credit toward their degree programs with the above mentioned topics. This may include actual course offerings by approved professors at such seminaries.

VI. BUDGET:

1. The RRC Administrator is already being paid for his services. He shall receive travel costs.
2. Remuneration for the teachers shall be determined by the CCC of classis
3. There shall be no tuition for those in or seeking entrance into the RCUS.

This program, with the approval of the Board of the RRC, the CCC of Classis and Classis South Central shall begin in May 1999. The Board of the RRC may set this up as a pilot program in January of 1999.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Howard E. Hart

Special Committee to meet with the Loveland Congregation

Note: Classis adopted a motion to print only the recommendations of the committee in the abstract

Recommendations:

1. That Peace Reformed Church be rebuked for their illegal and schismatic withdrawal from their membership and responsibilities in the RCUS. (adopted)
2. That the elders individually and the Spiritual Council of Peace Reformed Church be exhorted to put the needs of the people of the congregation of Peace Reformed Church above the personal ambitions of the schismatic and deposed minister, Steven Schlei. (adopted)
3. That these be included in a letter from the clerk of classis to the Spiritual Council of Peace Reformed Church. (adopted)
4. That Peace Reformed Church of Loveland be removed from the roll of churches in the RCUS. (adopted)
5. That only these recommendations be printed in the Reformed Herald and in the Abstract. (adopted)

Special Committee to Reconcile with Rev. Jorgensen

Note: Rev. Dawn, chairman of the committee, presented an oral report to the body.

Rev. Dawn reported that reconciliation between the parties involved had been attained.

Action taken: Rev. Jorgensen sought forgiveness from the body for the offense caused by his pastoral report. The President of classis, Rev. Dorman Savage, forgave Rev. Jorgensen on behalf of the body. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered.

Special Committee to meet with Rev. Jorgensen

The Committee chairman recommended that the report not be read orally before the body.

Recommendations:

1. That in the future that when any pastor finds himself in any conflict in his, or the ministry at large, that we as pastors and elders respond with personal contact. **(take note)**
2. That a committee either be formed or this committee be continued to meet with Rev. Jorgensen and continue to give guidance and encouragement. **(by common consent, this Special Committee was dissolved)**
(Note: a special committee, later formed by the Executive Committee, organized and mediated a meeting between Rev. Jorgensen and members of Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE for the purposes of reconciliation.)

Special Committee to Confer with Rev. R. Scott Clark

The body voted to not read the report orally and referred it to the Judicial Committee

Reports of Standing Committees

(All recommendations were adopted unless otherwise noted)

Benevolences

Business committed:

Overture #'s 14 and 17: A request for Benevolent aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens from Grave Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD.

Overture # 26: A request for Benevolent aid in the form of ministerial support from Trinity Covenant Church, Colorado Springs, CO.

Recommendations::

1. That the South Central Classis overture Synod to grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$650. per month to Mrs. Amy Stevens.
2. That benevolent aid in the amount of \$1533.33 per month be granted to Trinity Covenant Church from June through October 1999 to be used on an "as-needed" basis for support of their pastor, the Rev. C.W. Powell; and that this arrangement be reviewed at the Fall Classis meeting.

Education and Student Aid

Business committed:

1. Overture # 1: A request that Mr. Kyle Sorensen be take under care of Classis as a student for the ministry.
2. Overture # 2: A request for student aid from Mr. Kyle Sorensen
3. Overture # 3: A request for student aid for Mr. Jeff DeBoer.
4. Overture #9: A request that Mr. Ted Schiffelin be taken under care of Classis (ministry)
5. Overture # 10: A request that Mr. Kurt Schimke be taken under care of Classis (ministry)
6. Overture # 13: A request for student aid for Mr. Ted Schiffelin.
7. Overture # 25: A request that Mr. Matthew Powell be taken under care of Classis (ministry)
8. Overture # 30: A request for student aid for Mr. Matthew Powell.

9. Overture # 32: A request for student aid for Mr. Andrew McIntyre.
10. The parochial report from Hope Reformed Church.

Recommendations:

1. That Mr. Kyle Sorensen be taken under the care of SC Classis.
2. That South Central Classis overture Synod to aid Mr. Kyle Sorensen as follows at Mid-America Reformed Seminary:
 - A. Provide \$3000. for tuition
 - B. Provide \$600. for books
 - C. Provide \$50 for miscellaneous fees
3. That South Central Classis overture Synod to aid Mr. Jeff DeBoer as follows at MARS:
 - A. Provide \$3000. for tuition
 - B. Provide \$600. for books
 - C. Provide \$50. for miscellaneous fees
4. That Mr. Ted Schieffelin be taken under the care of SC Classis
5. That Mr. Kurt Schimke be taken under the care of SC Classis
6. That SC Classis overture Synod to aid Mr. Ted Schieffelin as follows at New Geneva Seminary:
 - A. Provide \$1400. for tuition
 - B. Provide \$150. for books
7. That Mr. Matthew Powell be taken under the care of SC Classis.
8. That SC Classis overture Synod to aid Mr. Matthew Powell as follows at New Geneva Seminary:
 - A. Provide \$1050 for tuition for the 1998-99 school year
 - B. Provide \$115 for books for the 1998-99 school year
 - C. Provide \$50 for fees for the 1998-99 school year.
 - D. Provide \$2000 for tuition, books, and fees for the 1999-2000 school year
9. That SC Classis overture Synod to aid Mr. Andrew McIntyre as follows at New Geneva Seminary:

Provide \$1925 for tuition for three semesters.
10. Re: Parochial Report from Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE

We believe that Rev. Horner's effort to call the attention of South Central Classis to the need for members of our congregations to spend time and effort in growing in covenant faith as relates to accepting the State as an acceptable authority to teach our covenant youth, is a legitimate exhortation. A commitment to have our covenant youth receive a covenant education would be a strong RCUS distinctive.

Note: the body voted that recommendation # 10 be referred to the Permanent Classical Christian Education Committee and that it present a report with recommendations concerning this issue at the Fall Classis meeting.

Examination and Licensure

Business committed:

1. Report of the Permanent Committee on Candidates and Credentials
2. Overture # 16 concerning a list of standardized questions for licensure examination and minimum standards of orthodoxy.
3. Student reports of Mr. Jeff DeBoer, Mr. Richard Stetler, Mr. Sam Powell, Mr. Matthew Powell, and Mr. Andrew McIntyre.
4. Report of Reformed Resource Center concerning its Training in Ministry (TIM) program.

Recommendations: (all were adopted)

1. That the examination of Rev. Ron Morris be declared sustained.
2. That the ordination of Rev. Ron Morris by a proper judicatory of the Southern Baptist Convention be accepted.
3. That Rev. Ron Morris undertake a course of study which will include the following:
 - A. Christology
 - B. Biblical languages and interpretation
 - C. Catechism and Constitution
4. That the internship of Rev. Ron Morris be served under the Rev. Howard Hart (retired).
5. That Mr. Sam Powell be removed from the roll of students under care.
6. That we take note of the overture concerning a list of standardized licensure examinations and minimum standards of orthodoxy.
7. That we take note of the student reports of Mr. Andrew McIntyre, Mr. Sam Powell, Mr. Matt Powell, Mr. Jeff DeBoer, and Mr. Richard Stetler.
8. That we approve the proposed Ministers-in-Training (TIM) Program.
9. That Mr. Clif Loucks serve his internship under the Rev. Mr. Wes Brice and that the Rev. Mr. Jim Sawtelle update Wes Brice on progress to date.
10. That Dr. Jess Johnson mentor Mr. Clif Loucks in Constitution and Creeds.
11. That Dr. Warren Embree mentor Mr. Hans Kalkman in languages and Constitution.
12. That both mentors encourage Mr. Loucks and Mr. Kalkman to learn at least the following questions in the Heidelberg Catechism: 1, 2, 12, 21, 26, 31, 60, 66, 81, 83, 88-91, 116, 129, among others.

- 13 That consideration of the status of Mr. Oscar Porras as a licentiate be postponed until the fall 1999 meeting of Classis.

Finances

Business Committed:

1. Overture # 11 requesting Classis to overture Synod for aid to the Schimkes to travel to Kenya.
2. Overture # 12 requesting aid for a summer intern for Blue Cliff Community RCUS
3. Overture # 36 requesting funding for a laptop computer for the Stated Clerk.
4. Treasurer's books to audit.

Recommendations: (all were adopted)

1. That the treasurer's books be declared in order.
2. That Classis overture the 253rd Synod of the RCUS to provide \$3750. For Mr. And Mrs. Kurt Schimke to travel to the Kisii district of western Kenya, in order to investigate and report regarding our brethren who labor there.
3. That Classis provide up to \$1500. To Blue Cliff Community RCUS toward acquiring the services of a summer intern for the summer of 1999.

4. That Classis approve all mileage requests as follows:

Jess Johnson	1128 miles	\$248.16
Myron Koerner	1504 miles	\$330.88
Richard Honaker	800 miles	\$176.00
David Dawn	800 miles	\$176.00
Terry Jorgensen	920 miles	\$202.40
George Horner	920 miles	\$202.40
Roger Gallimore	1004 miles	\$220.88
Wesley Brice	1180 miles	\$259.60
Dorman Savage	160 miles	\$ 35.20
Clif Loucks	1120 miles	\$246.40
Eugene Ulmer	920 miles	<u>\$202.40</u>

Total \$2300.32

5. That Classis budget up to \$1500 to purchase a laptop computer for the Stated Clerk's use.
6. That Classis approve the following guidelines:

Dues

Clerk computer	\$1,500
Executive Committee	\$2,000
Spec. Comm.	\$1,000
Classis	\$5,000
Clerk	\$ 500
Honoraria	500
HYC Fire	<u>250</u>

Total \$10,700.....1090 communicant members=\$ 9.82 per

RRC

Administration	\$ 500	
Salary	\$2,000	
V. Hoeflinger	\$ 500	
Total	\$3,000.....	\$2.75 per

Mission

Blue Cliff	\$22,500	
Rapid City	\$ 1,500	
Missionary	\$ 5,000	
Total	\$32,000.....	\$29.75 per

Benevolence

Blue Cliff intern	\$ 1,500	
Co. Springs Salary	\$ 7,670	
Total	\$ 9,170.....	\$.6.90 per

Grand Total \$54,870.....\$48.84 per

Judicial

Business committed:

1. Rev. Howard Hart's report on his conferring with Dr. Scott Clark.
2. Overture # 22 regarding communication from Rev. Nymeyer, Clerk of Classis Southwest U.S. URC.
3. Overture # 33 regarding the call to Rev. Ron Morris from Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD.
4. Overture # 4 regarding resignation of Rev. Jim Sawtelle from Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD.
5. Overture #6 regarding the acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Jim Sawtelle by the consistory of Tinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD
6. Overture # 5 regarding the acceptance of a call by Rev. Jim Sawtelle to Redeemer Chapel, Minneapolis, MN
7. Overture # 7 regarding the call of Rev. Jim Sawtelle by Peace RCUS, Garner, IA and Redeemer Reformed Chapel, Minneapolis, MN.
8. Overture # 38 regarding acceptance of a call by Rev. Ron Morris from Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD.
9. Overture # 37 regarding the request of Rev. Jim Sawtelle to be dismissed to Covenant East Classis.

Recommendations: (all were adopted)

1. That the resignation of Rev. Jim Sawtelle and the acceptance of his resignation from Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD be approved and the pulpit of Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD be declared vacant as of May 30, 1999.
2. That Rev. Jim Sawtelle be dismissed to Covenant East Classis, RCUS
3. That the call of Ron Morris and the acceptance of his call to Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD be

approved pending reception of his resignation by Arriba Baptist Church (CO)

4. That Ron Morris be installed (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD) on a date to be decided by an Installation Committee made up of Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Rev. Howard Hart, and the elders of Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD.
5. That the Rev. Scott Clark be dismissed to the Classis Southwest US of the Federation of the United Reformed Churches in North America.

Ministerial Aid

Business Committed:

1. Overture # 15 – a request for ministerial aid for Mrs.. Phyllis Grossmann in the amount of \$800 per month.
2. Overture # 20 – a request for ministerial aid for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger in the amount of \$800 per month.
3. Overture # 21 – a request for ministerial aid for Rev. Howard Hart (retired) in the amount of \$1200 per month.

Recommendations: (all were adopted)

1. That Classis South Central overture the 253rd Synod of the RCUS to support Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann in the amount of \$800 per month from Ministerial Aid.
2. That Classis SC overture the 253rd Synod of the RCUS to support Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger in the amount of \$800 per month from Ministerial Aid.
3. That Classis SC overture the 253rd Synod of the RCUS to support Rev. Howard Hart (retired) in the amount of \$1200 per month from Ministerial Aid.

Missions

Business committed:

1. The report of the Permanent Home Missions Committee.
2. A letter from a group of Christians, having been associated with the Christian Reformed Church, in Vermillion SD, interested in working with the RCUS to establish a church in their city

Recommendations: (all were adopted)

1. That the report of the Permanent Home Missions Committee not be read orally on the floor.
2. That the Classis approve the request of Grace RCUS, Rapid City, SD for funding in the amount of \$1,500.

3. That Classis offer a prayer of Thanksgiving for God's blessing on the work in Rapid City, and the faithful stewardship of the members in supporting the work.
4. That classis allocate \$5,000 for the reimbursement of mileage costs (as needed) to Rev. Dorman Savage due to his travels on behalf of Classis mission work on Colorado.
5. That Rev. Savage make known any needs for materials or advertising he may have during the year to the Classis Home Missions Committee, notice of said needs would then be sent by e-mail to each classis congregation to be met by "free-will" offerings.
6. That Classis allocate \$25,000 toward the salary of Rev. Dorman Savage.
7. That the letter from the group in Vermillion SD be referred to the permanent Classis Mission Committee for action.

Nominations

The name in **bold** is to be the convening chairman

Missions:	David Fagrey , David Dawn, Roland Schnabel, Monte Sedlak, Ron Morris
Publications:	David Dawn , Eugene Ulmer, Hans Kalkman
Christian Education:	Howard Hart , Harvey De Groot, Ardell Griess, Hans Kalkman
Interchurch Relations:	Terry Jorgensen , Wesley Brice, Craig Mehlhaff
Candidates and Credentials	Warren Embree , C.W. Powell, Howard Hart, Wesley Brice, Richard Honaker, Roger Gallimore, Harvey DeGroot
Executive Committee:	Dorman Savage , George Horner, Harold Yoder
Heidelberge Youth Camp	Roger Gallimore , Ron Morris, Clif Loucks
Reformed Resource Center:	
Administrator:	Howard Hart (2yrs)
Curator	Jess Johnson
Board of Trustees	3yrs Wesley Brice Richard Stetler
	2 yrs George Horner Warren Embree
	1 yr David Fagrey Harry Hieb

Overtures

1. Overture from Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD requesting that Mr. Kyle Sorensen be taken under care of Classis to Education and Student Aid.

2. Overture from Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD, requesting student aid for Mr. Kyle Sorensen, to Education and Student Aid.
3. Overture from Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD, requesting student aid for Mr. Jeff De Boer to Education and Student Aid.
4. Resignation of Rev. Jim Sawtelle, to Judicial
5. Acceptance of call by Rev. Jim Sawtelle from Redeemer Chapel, to Judicial
6. Acceptance of resignation of Rev. Jim Sawtelle by consistory of Trinity RCUS, to judicial.
7. Call of minister by Peace RCUS, Garner IA to Rev. Jim Sawtelle, to judicial.
8. Overture from Rev. Dorman Savage regarding purchase of Hedelberg Catechisms, to publications.
9. Overture from Blue Cliff RCUS to take Mr. Ted Schieffelin under care of Classis, to Education and Student Aid.
10. Overture from Blue Cliff RCUS to take Mr. Kurt Schimke under care of Classis, to Education and Student Aid
11. Overture from Blue Cliff RCUS to fund travel for the Schimke's to Kenya, to Finances.
12. Overture from Blue Cliff RCUS requesting funding for summer intern, to Finances.
13. Overture from Blue Cliff RCUS requesting student aid for Kurt Schieffelin, to Education and Student Aid.
14. Overture from Grace RCUS, Mitchell SD requesting Benevolent aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens, to Benevolences
15. Overture from Grace RCUS, Rapid City,SD, requesting ministerial aid for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, to Ministerial Aid.
16. Overture concerning standardized exam questions and minimum standards for orthodoxy from Rev. David Fagrey and Elder Roger Gallimore to Examination and Licensure.
17. Copy of item # 14 to Benevolences
18. Notification of dismissal of Rev. Scott Clark, to Overtures
19. Report of Installation Committee regarding Rev. David Fagrey , to Overtures
20. Overture from St. John's RCUS requesting financial aid for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, to Ministerial Aid.
21. Overture from St. John's RCUS for ministerial aid for Rev. Howard Hart (retired), to Ministerial Aid.
22. Letter from FURCNA concerning Exam and call of Rev. Scott Clark, to Judicial

23. Excuse from Rev. David Dawn, to Services.
24. Excuse from Harold Yoder, to Services
25. Overture from Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO, to take Mr. Matthew Powell under care of Classis, to Education and Student Aid
26. Overture from Trinity Covenant Church requesting financial aid for their pastor, to Benevolence.
27. Three combined overtures from Trinity Covenant RCUS requesting 1. Classis to instruct Candidates and Credentials Committee to serve as Liaison to the New Geneva Seminary Board, 2. To set up an Institute for Instruction concerning the Professional aspect of the M.Div. program, and 3. Requesting Classis to go into Executive Committee to discuss the rationale of this overture, to Overtures.
28. The addendum of Rev. Powell's parochial report from Candidates and Credentials to Overtures.
29. Annual Report from student Mr. Jeff DeBoer and request for finances, to Education and Student Aid.
30. Expense report for Mr. Matthew Powell for 1998-1999 and a request for financial support, to Education and Student Aid.
31. Statement of account for Mr. Matthew Powell, to Education and Student Aid
32. Report from student Mr. Andrew McIntyre and a request for Student Aid to Education and Student Aid.

Take note concerning items # 18, 19.

33. Call to Rev. Ron Morris, to Judicial
34. Letter from group in Vermillion, SD, to Missions
35. Excuse from Richard Honaker, to Services
36. Request from the Stated Clerk for budgeting for a laptop computer, to Finances.
37. Request from Rev. Jim Sawtelle for dismissal to Covenant East Classis (RCUS), to Judicial.
38. Acceptance of call by Rev. Ron Morris from Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD, to Judicial.

Publications

Business Committed:

1. Overture # 8 form Rev. Dorman Savage requesting purchase of 1000 copies of the modern language Heidelberg Catechism.

2. Report of the Permanent Publications Committee.

Recommendations:

1. That the South Central Classis purchase 1000 copies of the modern language softbound Heidelberg Catechisms @ 1.02 per copy for the use of the Home Missionary. **(defeated)**
2. Regarding the Permanent Publications Committee Report **(Take note)**

Services

Business committed:

1. Overture # 23- an excuse from Rev. David Dawn due to travel.
2. Overture # 24- an excuse from Elder Harold Yoder due to work commitment.
3. Overture # 35 – an excuse from Elder Richard Honaker due to work commitment

Recommendations: (all were adopted)

1. That Rev. David Dawn be excused.
2. That Elder Harold Yoder be excused.
3. That Elder Richard Honaker be excused.
4. That the Classis adopt the following resolution and that the host pastor, Rev. C.W. Powell, print it in the bulletin on the following Lord's Day: " On behalf of the 1999 South Central Classis of the RCUS we express our warmest thanks to the congregation of the Trinity Covenant RCUS of Colorado Springs, Colorado. You have outdone yourselves in providing for all of our needs; providing housing, and all of the wonderful meals. It is deeply appreciated."

Minutes of Synod

Business Committed:

Your committee reviewed the 1998 Abstract of the Minutes of the 252nd Synod of the RCUS. The following, from pages 49-50, Ecumenical Committee, was pertinent to our Classis: "That Synod encourage the various Classes to initiate the exchanging of observers with the United Reformed Churches of North America."

Recommendation: (adopted)

Take note.

Addresses by Delegates and Visitors

Rev. Jim Sawtelle read a letter from Rev. Paul McCracken of the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA.

Dr. Fowler, Dean of Faculty of New Geneva Theological Seminary, addressed the body.

Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

That Classis adjourn to a Fall meeting to be held at Providence RCUS in Rock Springs, WY at a date and time to designated by the Executive Committee.

Reading of the Minutes

The minutes were read at the close of each business day, and, on each occasion, were approved as corrected.

Roll Call

The final roll call showed 10 ministers and 10 elders present; a quorum.

Devotions

Elder Jess Johnson read Isaiah 64: 5-8 and gave a closing devotion followed by prayer

Closing

The body confessed the Apostle's Creed in unison

The body prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The President pronounced the apostolic benediction upon the body.

The body sang the Doxology in unison.

APPENDICES

1. STANDING RULES OF SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

1. Classical dues shall be due on the first of December and are to be paid not later than the Thirty-First of December of the current year (1960, '64, '68,'87).
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 rate of twenty-two cents (.22) 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).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at twenty cents (.20) per running mile, also if several ride together in one car; or if by public transportation, the actual fare (1936, '54, '74, '80, '94).
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 fifty dollars (\$50.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), and the Treasurer shall receive fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the Classical year (1960, '61, '65, '78, '84, '87, '90).
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 (1987).

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).

2. INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

(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.

3. 1998 NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

		1	2	3	4
		Number of Elders	Number of Deacons	Communica- nt Members Last Year	Rec'd by Confir- mation
1	Col. Spr., CO Trinity Covenant	3	0	21	0
2	Karval, CO Blue Cliff Commun.	3	2	23	0
3	Loveland, CO Peace	0	0	34	0
4	Kansas City,MO Northland	3	3	34	1
5	Lincoln, NE St. John's	4	4	86	6
6	Sutton, NE Emmanuel	4	4	188	0
7	Sutton, NE Hope	4	4	208	7
8	Menno, SD Zion	4	4	218	7
9	Mitchell, SD Grace	3	2	70	5
10	Rapid City, SD Grace	2	3	47	0
11	Sioux Falls, SD Trinity	4	4	96	4
12	Rock Springs,WY Providence	2	1	31	1
Totals 1998		36	31	1056	31
Totals 1997		34	30	1031	22
Percent Change		6%	3%	2%	41%.0

		23	24	25	26
		Receipts from Regular Offering	Receipts from Special Offering	Receipts from Other Sources	TOTAL RECEIPT S
1	Col. Spr., Co Trinity Covenant	31267	0	1535	32812
2	Karval, CO Blue Cliff Commun.	21228	801	16492	38521
3	Loveland, CO Peace	0	0	0	0
4	Kansas City,MO Northland	100000	5000	0	100500
5	Lincoln, NE St. John's	56477	1402	10119	67990
6	Sutton, NE Emmanuel	84234	4024	20782	109040
7	Sutton, NE Hope	99917	27687	1460	129064
8	Menno, SD Zion	81489	2004	22187	105680
9	Mitchell, SD Grace	41264	11855	17027	70146
10	Rapid City, SD Grace	51882	2479	18034	72395
11	Sioux Falls, SD Trinity	79429	112253	5870	197552
12	Rock Springs,WY Providence	39501	7804	204	47509
Totals 1998		686688	175309	113720	975717
Totals 1997		666071	122542	86839	865452
Percent Change		3%	43%	41%	13%

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by Profession	Total Members Received	Total Old/New Members	Lost by Dismissal	Lost by Erasure & Discipline	Lost by Death
8	1	9	30	1	0	0
5	2	7	30	2	0	1
0	0	0	34	0	0	0
0	6	7	41	1	0	0
2	3	11	97	5	3	0
2	10	12	200	3	2	6
3	2	12	220	1	3	2
1	2	10	228	2	5	2
0	0	5	75	2	1	2
3	2	5	52	5	0	0
6	2	12	108	4	1	0
0	0	1	32	2	1	0
30	30	91	1147	28	16	13
25	32	78	1109	26	14	12
25%	-6%	17%	3%	8%	14%	8%

27	28	29	30	31	32	33
Giving to Synod	Giving to Classis	Giving to NonBdgt	Giving to Non-RCUS	Other Expenses RCUS	TOTAL EXPENSES	Value of Church Building
Guidelines	Guidelines	RCUS Causes	Benev'nt Causes			
1500	865	0	700	19493	22558	0
2538	968	0	120	28956	32582	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5372	1336	1200	0	68517	76425	0
0	3264	3066	0	50479	56809	90000
26164	7392	915	2974	47997	85442	452000
33842	8179	1561	14807	67241	125630	400000
35387	8572	911	830	56837	102537	500000
11060	2752	0	0	52861	66673	180540
5907	1848	1758	0	59473	68986	98800
13856	3887	4845	2426	340549	365563	530000
272	1502	1110	1794	51133	55811	0
135898	40565	15366	23651	843536	1059016	2251340
126786	44454	12779	18116	580237	78237279 1970	2161340
7%	-9%	20%	31%	45%	35%	4%

12	13	14	15	16	17
Total Members Lost	Communicant Members This Year	Unconfirmed Members	Total Baptized Members	Number of Families	Number of Child'n in Sunday Sch
1	29	7	36	20	21
3	27	17	44	14	16
0	34	0	34	0	0
1	40	25	65	24	30
8	89	32	121	48	25
11	189	79	268	104	49
6	214	74	288	120	59
9	219	41	260	109	49
5	70	20	90	33	17
5	47	38	85	25	28
5	103	59	162	46	47
3	29	13	42	12	13
57	1090	405	1495	555	354
52	1057	426	1483	572	388
10%	3%	-5%	1%	-3%	-9%

34	35	36	37	38	39
Value of Church Home	Improvements on Church Property	Present Property Debt	Debts Paid in Past Year	Giving to Synod Per Communicant Col 27/3	Giving to Classis Per Communicant Col 28/3
0	0	0	0	71	41
0	0	0	0	110	42
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	158	39
75000	6651	15125	3949	0	38
130000	917	0	0	139	39
60000	0	13522	15908	163	39
75000	1630	0	0	162	39
46865	16890	0	0	158	39
122700	0	75490	17664	126	39
110000	400000	216266	160475	144	40
110000	2882	75744	0	9	48
729565	428970	396147	197996	129	38
908896	15910	254209	164044	123	43
-20%	2596%	56%	21%	5%	-11%

18	19	20	21	22	
Number of Adults Baptized	Number of Infants Baptized	Total Number of Baptism	Number Rec'd Lord's Supper	Times Lord's Supper Served	Church Numbers
1	1	2	29	12	1
0	3	3	10	4	2
0	0	0	0	0	3
0	4	4	41	6	4
0	2	2	74	6	5
0	4	4	185	6	6
0	7	7	201	6	7
0	2	2	198	4	8
0	3	3	65	3	9
0	1	1	47	6	10
0	4	4	106	6	11
0	0	0	30	12	12
1	31	32	986	74	71
2	32	34	1021	76	74
-50%	-3%	3%	-3%	-3%	-4%
40					
TOTAL					
GIVING to RCUS	Church Numbers				
113	1				
152	2				
0	3				
233	4				
74	5				
183	6				
210	7				
206	8				
197	9				
202	10				
235	11				
93	12				
182					
178					
2%					

Note: The Statistics for Peace Reformed Church were not properly submitted.

4. SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS
Aug 7, 1998
Best Western Inn, Loveland, CO

A Special Meeting of South Central Classis was convened at 10:00 AM on Aug 7, 1998, at the Best Western Inn, Loveland, CO. The purpose of the meeting was to hold the trial of Steven Schlei, then an ordained minister in the RCUS, on the charges brought against him by the accuser, Elder Warren Embree.

Call to Order:

The President, Rev. Dorman Savage, presented a devotion based on Col 3: 1-17 and prayer, and called the meeting to order. The clerk (pro-tem), Rev. George Horner, called the roll which showed 11 ministers and 9 elders present, a quorum. Ministers of Classis present were: The Rev Messrs. Wesley Brice, David Dawn, David Fagrey, Howard Hart, George Horner, Terry Jorgensen, C.W. Powell, Dorman Savage, Jim Sawtelle, Donald Vance, and Steven Work. Elders present were Mssrs. Donald Monteath III, Sam Powell, Roland Schnabel, Eugene Ulmer, Roger Gallimore, Ardell Griess, and Harold Yoder.

Present also as a co- accuser (Rev. Robert Grossmann being the other accuser, but not present due to weather conditions) in the action before Classis was Elder Warren Embree. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Steven Schlei who willfully ignored the Classis' citation to appear before this Special Meeting of Classis.

Trial:

The accusation against Steven Schlei, consisting of the following charges, was presented:

- A. That he, Mr. Steven Schlei, is guilty of malicious and willful lying.
- B. That he, Mr. Steven Schlei, is guilty of schism in the Church.
- C. That he, Mr. Steven Schlei, is guilty of contumacy.

There were no objections relating to jurisdiction, regularity of the Organization, or the sufficiency of the charges. There was no motion to dismiss the charges. The body voted to put the accused, Mr. Steven Schlei, on the Defense for the purpose of trying him on the charges presented.

Rev. Wesley Brice was appointed as counsel for the defense.

The specifications for the charges were presented as evidence to sustain the charges. Since the Defendant was willfully absent, no presentation of the Defense and Evidence was provided. Witnesses cited to appear before this trial were heard.

Vote on the charges:

Charge A: Sustained
Charge B: Sustained
Charge C: Sustained

Sentencing:

The following sentence was imposed by the body:

That Mr. Steven Schlei be deposed, that is, his ordination credentials, granted him by the RCUS, be taken from him.

Elder Don Monteath from Peace Reformed Church in Loveland, CO was instructed to convey to Mr. Schlei that he has thirty days to appeal this decision of Classis, and that he be admonished to do so.

Associated business:

The Classis considered the request from Peace Reformed Church, Loveland, CO, to be removed from the roll of churches of the South Central Classis, RCUS.

The Classis denied this request and declared the pulpit of Peace Reformed Church vacant and that the Executive Committee appoint a committee to serve as a liaison with Peace Reformed Church.

Other business:

The treasurer's report was adopted

Reading of the Minutes:

The clerk read the minutes, and after corrections were made, the minutes were declared approved.

Adjournment:

The Special Meeting of Classis was adjourned until the next meeting called by the Executive Committee. Rev. Fagrey offered closing prayer. The body recited the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer in unison. Rev. Savage pronounced the benediction and the body sang the Doxology.

5. SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**January 14, 1999****Ramada Inn, Ogallala, NE**

A Special Meeting of the South Central Classis, RCUS, was convened at 10:00 AM, January 14, 1999, at the Ramada Inn, Ogallala, NE, for the primary purpose of examining for licensure Messrs. Clif Loucks and Hans Kalkman.

Call to Order and Services:

The President, Rev. Dorman Savage, called the body to order at 10:01 AM. The clerk read the roll. There were 6 ministers and 7 elders present, a quorum.

Candidate for licensure, Mr. Clif Loucks, gave a devotion from III John 4 and led in singing and prayer. During the afternoon session, Mr. Hans Kalkman, candidate for licensure, presented a

devotion based on I Cor 15: 35-58 and led in prayer.

Examination of Candidates:

Mr. Loucks was examined, by the members of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, in the areas of Piety and Intent, Theology proper, Doctrine of God, Scriptures, Man, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology and Practica .(Some portions of the exam had been conducted previous to this meeting.)

Questions were asked from the floor.

The body voted to declare the examination sustained and also voted to declare the call to Mr. Clif Loucks from St. John's RUCS, Lincoln, NE, approved.

Mr. Loucks read aloud the Oath of Licensure, signed the oath and was presented with a Certificate of Licensure by the President of Classis.

Mr. Hans Kalkman was examined, by members of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, in the areas of Piety and Intent, Theology proper, Doctrine of God, Scriptures, Man, Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology and Practica, as well as in Greek and Hebrew, Philosophy and Apologetics. (Some portions of the exam had been conducted previous to this meeting.)

Questions were asked from the floor.

The body voted to declare the examination sustained and also voted to declare the call to Mr. Hans Kalkman from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, approved.

Mr. Kalkman read aloud the Oath of Licensure, signed the oath, and was presented with a Certificate of Licensure by the President of Classis.

The body approved the recommendation that Mr. Loucks serve his internship under Rev. Jim Sawtelle, that Mr. Kalkman serve his internship under Rev. Howard Hart.

Other business:

The President presented a letter from the Rev. Mr. Maynard Koerner regarding his visit with the consistory and members of Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE.

The President appointed a committee to consult with and counsel Rev. Terry Jorgensen concerning his current status following his resignation from Emmanuel RCUS.

The body voted to take Rev. Ron Morris, then serving as Minister in the Southern Baptist Conference, under the care of Classis as a student of the ministry.

Adjournment:

The body moved to adjourn to the Spring Classis meeting. The clerk read the minutes and they were approved. Elder Dave Kauk offered closing prayer. The Body recited the Apostle's Creed in unison. The President pronounced the Apostolic Benediction, and the body sang the Doxology in unison.

Rev. George Horner
Stated Clerk, South Central Classis, RCUS

