

THE  
REFORMED CHURCH  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

Abstract of the Minutes  
267<sup>th</sup> Synod

May 20-23, 2013  
Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church  
Manitowoc, WI

“This abstract of the 267<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States is dedicated in thanksgiving to God for His providence in providing the excellent Heidelberg Catechism as a confession of faith for biblical Reformed Churches on this the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first publication. We testify to the whole world that this Catechism has been a peculiar treasure to our Church ever since the founding of its first congregations in 1725.”

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### DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATIONS 2013

#### ARKANSAS

##### **ROGERS, AR (479) 876-6649**

Grace Reformed, Hyatt Place Conference Center, 4610 W. Walnut St., Rogers, AR

Mail: 15 Kensington Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715

Service Times: Worship: 10:00 AM; SS 11:30 AM

Pastor: Wesley Brice /Ginger

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

#### CALIFORNIA

##### **ANDERSON, CA (530) 365-6874**

Faith Reformed, 3291 Rupert Rd.

Mail: P.O. Box 1973, Cottonwood, CA 96022

Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM

Pastor: Hank Bowen / Patty

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

**BAKERSFIELD, CA (661) 587-3723**

Grace Reformed, 420 Columbus St., Bakersfield, CA 93305  
Service Times: Worship 9:30 AM; SS 11:00 AM; Worship 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6:30 PM  
Pastor: Tracy Gruggett / Michelle; Pastor Emeritus: Lloyd Gross / Claire  
[www.bakersfieldreformed.org](http://www.bakersfieldreformed.org)

**CHICO, CA (530) 345-2732**

Covenant Reformed, Meeting at 1877 Hooker Oak Ave.  
Mail: P.O. Box 1612, Chico, CA 95927-1612  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Gary Mancilas / Gloria  
[www.reformedchico.org](http://www.reformedchico.org)

**GRASS VALLEY, CA (530) 273-4673**

Covenant Reformed, 407 W. Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 11:00 AM  
Pastor: Dennis E. Roe / Julie; Assoc. Pastor: Jonathan Merica / Marsha  
[www.crcgv.org](http://www.crcgv.org) Fax: (530) 273-6280

**LA HABRA, CA (626) 820-9390**

Rehoboth Reformed Church, 501 S. Idaho, Suite 120, La Habra  
Mail: 17874 Crimson Crest Dr. Rowland Heights, CA 91748  
Service Times: Worship at 10:00 AM, 1:30 and 6:00 PM; SS 11:45 AM  
Mission Pastor: Michael Voytek / Rebecca  
[www.RehobothReformedChurch.org](http://www.RehobothReformedChurch.org)

**LANCASTER, CA - (Antelope Valley) (661) 940-4669**

Grace Reformed, 121 Carriage Lane, Suite 111, Lancaster, CA 93534  
Service Times: SS 9:45 AM; Worship 10:45 AM  
Pastor: vacant; Emeritus: Neale Riffert / Mary Elizabeth  
[www.gracereformedchurchlancaster.com](http://www.gracereformedchurchlancaster.com)

**LODI, CA (209) 367-0552**

Providence Reformed, 245 E. Vine St., Lodi, CA 95240  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:45 AM; Wed. Bible Study 7:00 PM  
Pastor: Doug Schlegel / Cheryl  
[www.prclodi.com](http://www.prclodi.com)

**MODESTO, CA (209) 523-3220**

Trinity Reformed, 960 El Terino Ave., Modesto, CA 95350  
Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:00 AM; Bible Study (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) 5:30 PM  
Pastor: Thomas Mayville / Carolyn; Pastor Emeritus: Paul Treick / Karen  
[www.trinitymodesto.org](http://www.trinitymodesto.org)

**SACRAMENTO, CA (916) 451-1190**

Covenant Reformed, 2020 16th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95822  
Service Times: SS 9:45 AM; Worship 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM.  
Pastor: Jim West / Elaine; Assoc. Pastor: Frank Walker /Christine  
[www.covenantreformedchurch.org](http://www.covenantreformedchurch.org)

**SAN DIEGO, CA (619) 460-1321**

Covenant Reformed Church, 49 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Chula Vista, CA  
Mail: 757 Maria Ave., Spring Valley, CA 91977  
Service Times: SS 10:00 AM; Worship 11:00 AM; Bible Study /Prayer Wed 6:30 PM  
Pastor: Gil Baloy / Maricar  
[www.CovenantReformedChurchSD.org](http://www.CovenantReformedChurchSD.org)

**SHAFTER, CA (661) 746-6907**

Ebenezer Reformed, 235 James St., Shafter, CA 93263  
Worship Times: Worship 10:00 AM; SS 11:30 AM  
Pastor: Paul Henderson / Tina; Pastor Emeritus: Vernon Pollema / Betty

**STOCKTON, CA (209) 470-7174**

Calvary Reformed Chapel, Clarion Inn, 4219 E. Waterloo Rd., Stockton, CA 96216  
Mail: P.O. Box 692426, Stockton, CA 95269  
Service Times: SS 10:00 AM; Worship 11:00 AM  
Pastor: Jonathan Merica / Marsha  
[www.calvaryreformedchapel.com](http://www.calvaryreformedchapel.com)

**WILLOWS, CA (530) 934-2732**

Grace Reformed, 148 W. Sycamore St.  
Mail: P.O. Box 225, Willows, CA 95988  
Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:00 AM; Sunday Bible Study 6:00 PM  
Pastor: Eric Bristley / Kathleen  
[www.gracercus.org](http://www.gracercus.org)

**YUBA CITY, CA (530) 674-8797**

First Reformed, 9882 Garden Hwy, Yuba City, CA 95991  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 11:00 AM  
Pastor: Sam Powell / Susan; Pastor Emeritus: Gene Sawtelle / Sharon  
[www.reformedyubacity.org](http://www.reformedyubacity.org)

**COLORADO**

**COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (719) 590-1477**

Trinity Covenant Reformed, Grace Presbyterian Church, 2511 N. Logan Ave.  
Mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918.  
Service Times: Worship 11:30 AM; SS 1:35 PM  
Pastor: C.W. "Bud" Powell, Jr. / Penny  
Web page: [www.trinity\\_covenant.com](http://www.trinity_covenant.com)

**GREELEY, CO (970) 336-9927**

Grace Reformed, 1501 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Mail: 1505 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Greeley, CO 80631.  
Service Times: Worship 10:00 AM  
Pastor: Jon Blair / Wendy  
Web page: [www.reformedgreeley.org](http://www.reformedgreeley.org)

**LIMON, CO (719) 775-2791**

Providence Reformed, 725 Michigan Ave.  
Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828.

Service Times: Worship 10:00 AM; SS 11:30 AM  
Pastor: Kevin Carroll / Tammy

## IOWA

### **GARNER, IA (641) 9233060**

Peace Reformed, 1905 200<sup>th</sup> St., Garner, IA 50438 (3 miles south of Garner on US 69)  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship: 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Harvey Opp / Carol  
Web page: [www.peacereformedchurch.com](http://www.peacereformedchurch.com)

## MINNESOTA

### **EDEN PRAIRIE, MN (612) 751-2096**

Emmaus Road Reformed, 12000 Anderson Lakes Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN.  
Mail: 10600 Yosemite Rd., Bloomington, MN 55437  
Service times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Ryan Kron/ Colleen  
Web page: [www.emmausrcus.org](http://www.emmausrcus.org)

### **MINNEAPOLIS, MN (763) 417-9835**

Redeemer Reformed, 1300 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley, MN 55422  
Mail: 3101 Virginia Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55427  
Service Times: Worship: 10:15 AM and 5:00 PM, SS 9:00 AM (Sept. - May)  
Pastor: James Sawtelle / Thelma; Mission Pastor: Ryan Kron /Colleen  
Web page: [www.redeemerrcus.org](http://www.redeemerrcus.org)

### **HAMBURG, MN (952) 4673878**

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 15480 County Road 31, Hamburg, MN 55339  
Service Times: SS 8:30 AM, Worship: 9:30 AM  
Pastor: Rev. Dan Schnabel / Marie  
Web page: [www.stpaulsrcus.org](http://www.stpaulsrcus.org)

## MISSOURI

### **KANSAS CITY, MO (816) 420-9700**

Northland Reformed, 2901 NW Cookingham Dr., Kansas City, MO 64164  
Service Times: Worship: 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM; SS 11:00 AM  
Pastor: Rev. Randall Klynsma / Julie  
Web page: [www.northlandreformed.org](http://www.northlandreformed.org)

## NEBRASKA

### **LINCOLN, NE (402) 476-1827**

St. John's Reformed, 1101 South 26<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE 68502  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Lee Johnson /Jenny Jo; Associate: Scott Henry  
Web page: [www.stjohnsrcus.com](http://www.stjohnsrcus.com)

### **OMAHA, NE (402) 953-9327**

Heritage Reformed, Bellevue, NE  
Meeting for worship at Mission Middle School

2202 Washington St., Bellevue, NE 68005  
Service times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:00 AM  
Missionary Pastor: Scott Henry / Maria  
[www.heritagercus.com](http://www.heritagercus.com)

**SUTTON, NE (402) 773-4218**

Emmanuel Reformed, 110 S. Way Ave  
Mail: P.O. Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Joe Vusich /Gioia

**SUTTON, NE (402) 773-4330**

Hope Reformed, 311 E. Hickory  
Mail: P.O. Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979  
Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Darrell Kingswood / Lori

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**ANAMOOSSE, ND (701) 626-7429**

Kassel Reformed, meeting at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Anamoose, ND 58710  
Mail: 542 20<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Butte, ND 58723  
Service Times: Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: vacant.

**ASHLEY, ND (701) 288-3265; fax: call first**

Salem Reformed, 209 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. SW, Ashley, ND  
Mail: P.O. Box 345, Ashley, ND 58413  
Service Times: Worship 9 AM  
Pastor: James Grossmann / Michelle

**DICKINSON, ND (701) 974-4199**

First Reformed Chapel (under oversight of Salem Reformed in Ashley)  
Meeting at Dickinson Holiday Inn Express, 104 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
Mail: P.O. Box 60, Taylor, ND 58413  
Service times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: L. Dale Clark / Sandra  
[www.frdickinson.com](http://www.frdickinson.com)

**MINOT, ND (701) 838-6050**

Harvest RCUS.  
Mail: P.O. Box 804. Minot, ND 58701  
Service Times: Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Phil Poe / Karen

**OHIO**

**NAPOLEON, OH (419) 599-3106**

Peace Reformed, 638 Huddle Rd., Napoleon, OH, 43545  
Service Times: SS 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. Steven Altman / Bianca  
[www.peacercus.com](http://www.peacercus.com)

## PENNSYLVANIA

### WAYMART, PA (570) 7854012

Heritage Reformed, meeting at Waymart Presbyterian, 200 Belmont St., Waymart, PA 18472  
Mail: 136 Grand Ave., Forest City, PA 18421  
Service Times: Bible study: 9:30 AM, Worship: 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Rev. Ron Potter / Sharon  
[www.heritagercus.org](http://www.heritagercus.org)

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### ABERDEEN, SD (605) 225-6120

First Reformed, 818 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Mail: 1002 Diamond St., Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Service Times: Worship 9 AM  
Pastor: David Dawn / Colleen  
[www.aberdeencus.org](http://www.aberdeencus.org)

### EUREKA, SD (605) 284-2396; fax: 605-284-2296

Eureka Reformed, 310 F Ave.  
Mail: P.O. Box 456, Eureka, SD 57437  
Service Times: Worship 9 AM; SS: 10:15 AM  
Pastor: Richard Stetler / Heidi.

### HERRIED, SD (605) 437-2418

First Reformed, 601 Main St.  
Mail: P.O. Box 212, Herreid, SD 57632  
Service Times: Worship 10 AM; SS 11:15 AM; Wed. Bib. Stu. 7:00 PM  
Pastor: Jimmy Hall / Stefanie

### HOSMER, SD (701) 288-3265

Hosmer Reformed, 202 West 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mail: P.O. Box 136, Hosmer, SD 57448  
Service Times: Worship 11 AM  
Pastor: stated supply: James Grossmann / Michelle

### MENNO, SD (605) 387-5536

Zion Reformed, 220 South Pine St. Menno, SD 57045  
Service Times: Worship 10:30 AM  
Pastor: Travis Grassmid / Charity

### MITCHELL, SD (605) 996-2803

Grace Reformed, 1021 S. Davison  
Mail: P.O. Box 252, Mitchell, SD 57301  
Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:00 AM; evening study 5:00 PM  
Pastor: Ron Morris / Sheri  
[www.gracereformed.com](http://www.gracereformed.com)

### PIERRE, SD (605) 224-7846

Hope Reformed, 317 S. Garfield; Pierre, SD 57501

Service Times: Worship 9:30 AM  
Pastor: J.P. Mosley / Francesca

**RAPID CITY, SD (605) 399-1711**

Grace Reformed, 5626 Haines Ave., Rapid City, SD 57701  
Service Times: SS 9:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM; Bible Study 6:00 PM  
Pastor: David Fagrey / Bonnie  
[www.gracereformedrapidcity.com](http://www.gracereformedrapidcity.com)

**SIOUX FALLS, SD (605) 271-0754**

Trinity Reformed, 7301 S. Louise Ave; Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
Service Times: Worship 10:00 AM  
Pastor: vacant; Assoc. Pastor: Maynard Koerner (605) 595-5850 / Marcia  
[www.trinityrcus.org](http://www.trinityrcus.org)

**VERMILLION, SD (605) 624-4337**

Providence Reformed, 830 E. Madison, Vermillion, SD 57069  
Service Times: SS 9:30 AM; Worship 10:30 AM; Wed. Bible Study 7:30 PM  
Pastor: Robert Grossmann / Polly  
[www.providencereformed.com](http://www.providencereformed.com)

**WATERTOWN, SD (605) 882-9704 [www.watertown.org](http://www.watertown.org)**

Covenant Reformed, 15 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Watertown, SD  
Mail: 434 30<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Watertown, SD 57201  
Service Times: Worship 10 AM; SS 11:20 AM  
Pastor: George Syms / Debbie

**TEXAS**

**SHERMAN, TX (903) 624-2547**

Christ the King Reformed Chapel, Taxoma Room, Hampton Inn  
Mail: 122 Willow Ridge Dr., Sherman, TX 75092  
Service Times: Worship 10:00 AM; SS 11:45 AM  
Mission Pastor: Rev. Neal Riffert / Elizabeth

**WISCONSIN**

**MANITOWOC, WI (920) 726-4940; *email: salem@lakefield.net***

Salem Ebenezer RCUS, 6524 Hwy C, Manitowoc, WI 54220  
Service Times: SS 8:45 AM, Worship 10:00 AM  
Pastor: Rev. Kyle Sorensen / Donielle  
[www.salemebenezer.org](http://www.salemebenezer.org)

**WYOMING**

**CASPER, WY (307) 277-5901**

Christ Reformed, meeting at Evansville Community Center, 71 Curtis St. Evansville, WY  
Mail: 157 Forget Me Not, Casper, WY 82604  
Service Times: Worship 9:30 AM; SS 11:30 AM  
Pastor: Matthew Powell / Andrea  
[www.christreformedrcus.org](http://www.christreformedrcus.org)

**ROCK SPRINGS, WY (307) 362-5107**

Providence Reformed, 1007 9th St., Rock Springs, WY 82901.

Service Times: Worship 10 AM; SS 11:45 AM

Pastor George Horner / Mary Jo

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

## DIRECTORY OF DELEGATES

### Ministers

**Steve Altman (419) 356-2095**

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**Board of Trustees:** D. Clark, T. Rott, J. Snyder.

**Christian Education:** L. Johnson, J. Fluck, D. Weilersbacher, D. Kingswood (1yr); J. Grossmann, J. Blair, M. Reyna (2yr); K. Sorensen, T. Grugget, C.W. Powell, A. White.

**Diaconal Ministries:** T. Savage, B. Davis, P. Poe (1yr); J. Berg, D. Benz (2yr); S. Altman, K. Armbruster, S. Henry, J. West (3yr).

**Editorial Advice:** R. Morris, J. Connelly (1yr); D. Dawn, G. Van Holland (2yr); G. Horner (3yr).

**Executive:** J. Sawtelle, D. Fagrey, F. Walker, T. Griess, R. Gallimore, K. Bowen;

**Foreign Ministries:** M. Voytek, B. Borgwardt, T. Mayville (1yr); D. Roe, G. Baloy, W. Johnson, A. Haller (2yr). D. Schnabel, R. Grossmann, D. Schlegel (3yr).

**Sub Committee- Radio Liaisons:** P. Treick, N. Riffert, D. Schnabel, B. Borgwardt;

**Home Missions:** D. Helseth (WC), L. Goehring (NP) (1yr); H. Opp (CE), H. Hart (SC), M. Willemsen (CE), H. Bowen (WC) (2yr); R. Stetler (NP), Dan Mettler (SC) (3yr).

**Interchurch Relations:** R. Potter, V. Pollema, R. Kron, (1yr); M. Koerner, E. VanHouten (2yr); M. McGee, W. Brice, F. Hofmann, G. Syms, M. Wiersma, J. Merica (3yr).

**Ministerial Relief (MAF):** M. Fisher, S. Gross, R. Goehring, R. Schnabel.

**Sub Committee MAF (Bequests):** W. Johnson, J. Morton.

**Publication and Promotion:** B Tjeerdsma, S. Powell (1yr); J. Hall, T. Grassmid, K. Carroll, P. Henderson, J. Vusich (2yr); A. Gillman, R. Mettler, R. Klymsa, D. Yeager (3yr).

**Subcommittee – Website:** M. Powell, F. Walker, R. DeJong, R. Mettler.

**Special Judicial Committee:** R. Morris, V. Pollema, N. Riffert, M. Powell, R. Stetler, D. Schlegel, S. Kooistra.

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<b>Total Per Communicant Member</b>	<b>\$199.00</b>
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**Abstract of the Minutes of the 267<sup>th</sup> Synod**

**I. Services**

The 267th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States was hosted by the congregation of Salem Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI.

The Synod convened on Monday, May 20, 2013, with a 7:00 p.m. worship service conducted by Rev. Jim Sawtelle. Rev. C.W. Powell preached the sermon entitled “The Abiding Love of God for the Church,” from John 14.

On Wednesday evening a 7:00 p.m. worship service was conducted by Rev. Frank Walker. Rev. Paul Treick preached the sermon entitled “” from .

Morning devotions were held at 10 a.m. The Tuesday morning devotion was conducted by Rev. Phil Poe who spoke from Acts 9:31. On Wednesday Rev. Joe Vusich gave a devotion from Matthew 7:1-5. On Thursday Rev. Sam Powell preached on Proverbs 30:24-28.

The closing devotion was conducted by Elder Daniel Dill.

The assembly paused for special prayer many times during the meeting for specific matters and needs of individuals during the meeting

## **II. Organization**

Following the opening worship service on May 20, the President of the Executive Committee, Rev. Jim Sawtelle, called the meeting to order. The Stated Clerk, Rev. David Fagrey read the roll which showed 49 ministers and 32 elder delegates present, a total of 81. The roll was called each morning. The closing roll call showed 48 ministers and 32 elders present.

The Bar of the House was set as the first 10 rows on either side of the aisle.

Tellers appointed were: Elder Daniel Yeager, Elder Brent Tjeerdsma, Rev. Steve Altman, and Rev. Jimmy Hall.

The President appointed Rev. Sam Powell as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

Elections by ballot were held for men to serve in the following capacities, as follows:

President:	Rev. James Sawtelle
Vice President:	Rev. Frank Walker
Stated Clerk:	Rev. David Fagrey
Treasurer:	Elder Ted Griess
Reformed Herald Editor:	Rev. Paul Treick

## **III. Adoption of the Agenda, Order of the Day and Special Orders**

The Agenda and the Order of the Day were adopted.

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

The President welcomed fraternal delegates, observers, representatives of institutions, visiting elders, and others as they arrived. Fraternal delegates and visiting elders were seated within the Bar of the House and given the privilege of the floor. Delegate elders who were attending their first meeting were introduced and welcomed.

The one fraternal delegate present was Rev. Chuck Muether from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. This delegate addressed the body as a Special Order of the Day on Tuesday May 21. (See **XII**)

Institutional representatives were welcomed and later addressed the body. (See **XII**).

## **V. Welcome of New Ministers**

The President welcomed one new minister: Rev. Kevin Carroll, pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO. The body extended the right hand of fellowship to this man and prayer was offered for God’s blessing upon his ministry.

## **VI. Welcome of New Churches**

The President welcomed four new churches: Heritage Reformed Church, Waymart, PA; Emmaus Road Reformed Church, Eden Prairie, MN; Covenant Reformed Church, San Diego, CA; Rehoboth Reformed Church, La Habra, CA. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered.

## **VII. Announcement of Standing Committees (appointed by the President)**

The President announced the appointments to Standing Committees for this Synod.

## **VIII. Presentation and Referral of Overtures, Permanent Committee Reports and Communications**

The Permanent Committee Reports were sent out prior to the meeting. They were forwarded to their respective Standing Committees as per the Agenda. Overtures and communications previously sent to the Synod were given to the President and Stated Clerk who referred most of them to the relevant Standing Committees. Some reports (i.e. Archives, Board of Trustees, and Executive) were dealt with by direct presentation from the floor. The Permanent Committee reports are printed below and their recommendations are handled by the Standing Committee they are referred to.

### **A. Archives Committee [Direct Presentation]**

This past year has focused on integrating the building of a permanent Archives with an overall plan to develop the facilities of Grace Reformed Church in Willows, California. To this end the architectural firm of Griffith Architects in Chico, California has been employed. They are developing an overall plan for building use and will also be drawing up specific plans for various areas including the RCUS Archives. The plans are being developed now and we hope to have an overall plan completed in July with some specific plans by September. One member of the architectural firm is also an engineer, which will help with meeting building codes. The Archives continue to be maintained in an area which has even temperatures throughout the year.

In Christ, Eric D. Bristley, Chairman; G. VanHolland, R. Wegis, H. Van Stedum, J.P. Mosley

### **B. Board of Trustees**

Your committee met by phone in January to fill out the North Dakota Secretary of States form to keep our Incorporation current. We then sent the form to the treasurer to attach the fee as per his request. We had no other business and make no recommendations.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dale Clark, Elder Jim Snyder, Elder Tim Rott

### **C. Christian Education Committee (and Sub-Committees)**

Your committee received one mandate from the 266<sup>th</sup> synod of the RCUS, *That in light of the report of the Permanent Christian Education Committee's Subcommittee to Reexamine Heidelberg Theological Seminary, that HTS be visited again next year.* Our committee has had on its mind since the 266<sup>th</sup> synod *That each seminary approved by the RCUS be visited and evaluated at least once every three years by the Permanent Christian Education Committee.* (RCUS Abstract 2001:65) In order to get fully back on track with seminary evaluations, that would have meant that we would need to visit all of our approved seminaries this year.

It was noted immediately at Synod that we would need to get going to visit as many seminaries as possible this year. It was also noted that Mid-America had been visited most recently (2010) and could probably be put off for another year, there were seminaries which were most recently visited much longer ago.

Considering that we still had a number of visits to do this year, our chairman asked that we follow two ground rules:

1. That where possible, we use those in visits who do not have a direct connection to the seminaries.
2. That where we have churches nearby, it would seem to be fiscally responsible to use men who are nearby (lead by men on the committee) instead of flying men across the country.

Seminary Visits: We have two subcommittees with visits planned in the coming weeks to HTS and Greenville; we also have two subcommittees which have been asked to visit City Seminary and New Geneva. At the time of 'mailing', their reports and recommendations have not yet reached your committee's hands. We will send them out when we receive them.

Last Years of Review: Heidelberg Theological Seminary, 2012; Mid-America Reformed Seminary, 2010; City Seminary of Sacramento, 2008; Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 2007 and New Geneva Theological Seminary, 2006. Guidelines for Seminary visits – RCUS Abstract 2002:30ff

**Recommendation:** That the Heidelberg Theological Seminary Guideline remain at \$2.00 per communicant member for 2013-2014.

Respectfully Submitted, Elder D. DeGroot, Elder J. Jones, Rev. H. Hart, Rev. C.W. Powell, Rev. L. Johnson, Rev. J. Fluck, Rev. D. Kingswood, Elder D. Weilersbacher, Rev. J. Blair, Rev. J. Grossmann, Elder M. Reyna.

#### **Report of the Subcommittee to visit Heidelberg Theological Seminary**

Your Committee met via e-mail before the April 15, 2013 meeting with Professor Koerner and Administrator Ray Schnabel. The official meeting was set up for 9 Am on that date. Before the meeting Rev. Grassmid visited the Christology class taught by Rev. Koerner, Elder De Groot visited the Apologetics class taught by Rev. Spencer Aalsberg. All visits showed a strong Reformed influence with the use of Berkhof Systematic Theology used in Christology and Van Til and Bahnsen in Apologetics. Participation by students in both classes was enthusiastic and appropriate to subject matter and Professor Interaction was timely and effective. Interaction with students was also friendly and open and all seemed to be enjoying the classes and instructors.

It can again be said the Seminary went out of their way to accommodate the committee even after having to reschedule because of weather conditions in Sioux Falls on Thursday 4/11/13. The committee met with Professor Koerner and administrator Ray Schnabel on Monday 4/15/13 because of the date change the committee was unable to meet with Rev. Meuther as had been planned.

The committee used the same process as was used last year for the evaluation by using the 17 question SEG form and found the information in questions 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,15,16,and 17 to be in order with what was found last year.

Because of the concerns expressed last year special attention was given to questions 4, 12, and 14. Rather lengthy discussion about all three items followed and this committee found progress had been made in all areas.

#### Question 4.

- A. Does the Seminary meet acceptable academic standards? The Seminary has laid out its four year curriculum which is available on its web site, the committee believes this answers the concerns expressed last year. (Curriculum available on line) The total credit hours needed to receive M.Div. degree is now at 107 hours.
- B. Do all faculty members submit to a theological exam before the board? As of the annual meeting last June this practice has been implemented. Rev. Aalsberg, URC, Rev. Ken

Honken OPC being the first candidates interviewed, additional interviews for adjunct professors are being scheduled.

Question 12. Is it expected the Seminary will undergo any major changes in affiliation, faculty, or mission within the next few years?

- A. Heidelberg believes the changes in faculty and staff has for the most part been settled and acknowledges the loss of excellent men who had great gifts who will be missed much. They also point to additional RCVS pastors who are becoming involved in the teaching at the Seminary.
- B. The use of intensive modules has also been limited to one per semester.
- C. Rev Koerner is working to finish his D. Min and has the rough draft nearly finished, additional professors are also working towards higher degrees the conclusion is this is actively being addressed.

Question 14. What recommendations and academic achievements are necessary for the student applying for admission?

- A. As was noted last year the "Admission to the Program policy is traditional and sound", work is still being done to help students achieve necessary academic credentials before starting and encouraging continued study in areas of need. The conclusion from Heidelberg is the program is being followed as laid out.

Your committee recommends HTS as an institution worthy support.

**Recommendation #1** That the guideline for HTS be raised to \$4.00 per communicant member for 2013-2014.

**Recommendation #2** That HTS has implemented and needs to be encouraged to continue to teach the Reformed Faith and the RCUS distinctive principles.

**Recommendation #3** That HTS continue to seek out students that have the necessary academic achievements that are necessary for a student applying for admission to the M.Div. program

**Recommendation #4** That HTS be commended for its continuing years of service to the RCUS and its service to the Church thru its local church conferences and encourages RCUS members to be aware these conferences are available on its web site and can be arraigned for individual congregations.

Respectfully submitted Rev Travis Grassmid, Rev Herman Van Stedum, Elder Harley Melhaf, Elder Dick De Groot/Chairman/recording secretary

#### **Report of the Subcommittee to visit Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Your subcommittee consisting of Rev. James Grossmann, Rev. Robert Grossmann and Rev. Jay Fluck visited Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (GPTS) on April 8, 2013.

Prior to the official visit, the Grossmanns had the opportunity to attend morning and evening services at Covenant Community OPC in Taylors, SC, pastored by Rev. Doodewaard, a graduate of GPTS. We appreciated his ministry and the fellowship of the church. This church is attended by a great number of GPTS students and we had an opportunity to visit with them on various topics, including their perceptions of the education at GPTS which seemed to be quite positive.

For Sunday lunch, the Grossmanns visited with Tim Marinelli, student under care of the South Central Classis, his wife Renita and three children. He had studied via GPTS's distance learning system and has transitioned to studying on campus (as they require for graduation). We discussed a broad variety of things concerning his education among others and it seems that he is being well prepared for the pastorate.

Your committee, in conference with GPTS, decided first to meet with GPTS President Pipa, then with the Faculty and to attend classes in the afternoon and evening. After attending afternoon classes, the committee met to assemble our report.

The Seminary welcomed us with warmth. Dr. Pipa greeted us with a tour of the seminary, a restored High School building which serves them well and provides ample room for future growth. We then had opportunity to meet with him individually and later with the faculty to review the questions of the Seminary Evaluation Guidelines.

A few highlights of that discussion are as follows:

- Through experience, Greenville does not assume that a college education prepares a student for the rigors of seminary education and therefore has a 4 year program instead of 3 years. They include as class requirements propaedeutic classes which other seminaries do not. A properly prepared student should be able to omit many of the 1<sup>st</sup> year classes.
- They reject a dogmatic approach to teaching Systematic Theology preferring an exegetical approach to it. Therefore they require a fair amount of the original languages before their Systematics classes for the purpose of utilizing them in class.
- Some may have heard that they teach "Experiential Preaching," in their Homiletics courses, this amounts to exegeting and proclaiming scripture and applying it to the audience.
- Six-day creation is a required subscription for the faculty.
- With regard to errors of theology, they stopped a professor from teaching for flirting with Federal Vision.
- GPTS applies its registration standards rigorously. GPTS is very concerned that the men they teach and that they graduate are orthodox and academically sound. All prospective faculty members submit to a theological and academic exam through both the board and faculty.
- The Library at GPTS is a broad spectrum of Reformed Theology, they consider themselves to have a small collection, yet they have the opportunity to concentrate on Diverse Reformed sources. The students also have the opportunity to borrow books from the Bob Jones University library nearby.
- Seminary expenses seem to be in line with other Reformed seminaries which we support. There is student aid available, even a tuition waver program available because we support them through our guidelines.
- All of the professors are members either of the OPC or PCA. All of the faculty subscribes to the Three forms of Unity and Westminster Standards, and while they stated that they would use someone who could not subscribe for a conference, that person's topic would be limited to areas in which he could agree.

In the afternoon, Rev. R. Grossmann attended NT 24 - New Testament Introduction, Rev. Fluck attended ST 44 - Eschatology and Rev. J. Grossmann attended AP32 - Cults. Rev. Fluck also had the opportunity to attend HT32 — Modern Church History in the evening.

One area of concern for your committee was the future of GPTS. We commend them for utilizing elder ministers heavily in teaching classes, however, this practice comes with one particular danger, who will follow them as professors? (i.e. Drs. George Knight III and Morton

Smith, both very good men who are pretty much on their last legs in this life.) It was noted that a search committee consisting of the Seminary president in concert with the faculty in each discipline have identified suitable replacements for each area, including Dr. Pipa. Our question is what contact they have with these replacements and what commitment there is from the replacements.

Another area of concern is an effect of having a seminary president. We greatly respect Dr. Pipa, however, GPTS must be careful not to become Dr. Pipa's Seminary. It seems, as just noted concerning faculty search, that he has much control over all aspects of the seminary. For example at MARS, there are (were) faculty ex-officio members on all the board Committees, however they were spread evenly among the faculty.

In Summary, having reviewed the seminary and classes, your committee is very comfortable recommending GPTS to students for the ministry.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That GPTS continue to be considered a seminary worthy of our support.
2. That the guideline for GPTS be continued at \$2.00 per communicant member for the 2013-2014 Synodical year.
3. That GPTS be commended for their years of service to the church. Take note.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. J. Grossmann, Rev. R. Grossmann and Rev. Fluck

### **Sunday school Curriculum Sub-Committee**

Your Committee was given the following mandate in 2011 (which was continued in 2012): “That the Sunday school curriculum sub-committee’s report be recommitted in order to clarify the objectives, method and approach of a new curriculum; to assess feasibility and expected cost versus need and expected use; to re-evaluate materials that RCUS men have produced and are producing; and to develop a policy regarding copyright, royalty and right of revision; and to report to the 266<sup>th</sup> Synod.”

For those interested, the objectives, method, and approach of a new curriculum have been described in detail in the 2010 and 2011 reports of this committee. Our current mandate was to clarify that further in terms of a more specific ‘counting the cost’ before undertaking a multi-year project such as this would involve.

A two page survey was created and distributed to every delegate of Synod to ensure the fullest representation possible. The Consistories/pastors of 31 RCUS churches responded to the survey. Thank you for your thoughtful answers. If anyone would like the full survey results, you may ask the chairman of this committee who will pass on to you this 20 page document. The survey describes the curriculum being used in Sunday Schools by age bracket, and also what is being used in Confirmation School, Summer Bible School, and with high schoolers. The survey provides insight into what makes a good curriculum for a RCUS church. By way of a historical note, 19 of the churches that reported said they had used the previously created curriculum. As of the survey, 4 were still using it in some capacity, and after the survey only 3 are using it.

It is clear to our committee that while around a dozen churches would likely use a new curriculum, there was little enthusiasm or interest in pursuing the creation of a new curriculum, along with the financial costs that would incur. This was the clear conclusion, even though most churches expressed some dissatisfaction with the church education materials they are using now. Most churches are even supplementing the curriculum they are using because of its weaknesses, which is certainly a wise choice.

It is clear from the survey and from conversations over the years that one of the biggest concerns is adequate training for Sunday School teachers. The RCUS could create a program for teachers, but it would be most helpful if the teachers were all teaching the same curriculum. In any case, we wonder how many local Sunday School teachers are actually trained to teach and given suggestions and advice after they have been teaching for a few years. How many teachers

understand how to interpret the Bible? How many have a basic grasp of classroom dynamics, and how to assist students with different learning styles? We have excellent teachers in the RCUS Sunday School classrooms. Yet wherever there is room for growth, whose responsibility is it? Your committee judges that the local Consistory is especially charged with the duty to oversee and equip (by the Spirit) those who teach covenant children. While each Consistory must assess the local situation, your committee thinks that it would be wise to come along side teachers lest they “grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9) We would be pleased if someone came forward with a teacher training program which could be used in our churches. Perhaps a weekend conference for Sunday School teachers and parents would be one way to address this need. A qualified pastor could travel to various parts of the country to present such a conference.

You may remember that twenty years ago the 1993 Synod mandated the Permanent Christian Education Committee to “actively pursue the writing and development of educational materials for the church, including Sunday School and Bible school curricula.” In 1994 a survey to assess the current Sunday School needs of the churches was developed and by 1997 the results of that survey were gathered and published. That year Synod mandated the beginning of the process of the RCUS Promise and Deliverance Sunday School Curriculum. Now, in 2013, after an extensive survey of the churches, we have concluded not to produce anything as a denomination. Before we close this chapter in the saga of the RCUS Sunday School Curriculum, your committee thought it wise to reflect on what we have learned and where we should go from here in the important enterprise of church education. Your committee includes men who have much experience with this process—in writing curriculum, teaching it, using it, and teaching others to teach it. Our collective ‘wisdom’ for your edification follows.

### **What Have We Learned?**

As far as the RCUS curriculum which was produced, five specific weaknesses are mentioned in the 2010 report of this committee (*Abstract* 2010:29-30). We would hasten to add that this many weaknesses and more would be found in some of the other curriculum that is available and even used by some RCUS churches. No curriculum is perfect. The discussion in that 2010 report should help any Consistory in assessing any curriculum they consider.

If and when we do create a new curriculum, it is not the best idea to depend too heavily on another man’s work. We depended too much on S. G. deGraaf’s work and ended up leaving out important Biblical content which he did not cover, for example. Also, the Bible readings for the week’s lessons should normally be smaller texts and not large portions of Scripture. The long portions could be used as background, but explaining a few verses in context is better. Whenever the material we write is produced, it should be published with confidence that it is worthy of being used, and the humility that you know corrections will be made in future editions. We offered the curriculum too tentatively to our congregations by putting it on CD’s instead of in book forms. In hindsight, it gave less of a finished look to the curriculum and made people feel less confident that it was ‘road-worthy.’ ALSO, it is very important to have multiple authors on one project. Iron sharpens iron.

This year’s survey showed that some churches use the Sunday church education time slot for Confirmation Class when students are of age. Thus, such churches would never use a denominational Bible curriculum for the middle-school ages.

We noticed that the educational experience and expertise is quite varied within the RCUS. There are benefits to this. One concern we have is how many pastors and elders really understand how to teach the Bible to children under the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. That younger age bracket has always been the hardest one for which to find adequate materials.

Most Bible curriculum, including those from Reformed perspective (including the *Promise and Deliverance* curriculum), does not handle well the prophetic and wisdom literature portions of the O.T., or the Epistles section of the N.T. There is great opportunity and need here.

All Sunday School materials should be in conformity to the Reformed creeds since we are a confessional church. Everywhere that connections can be made between Bible story, doctrine,

and life, those connections need to be made. Very few if any curriculum really do this. It is something that has been tried in places, and needs to be improved in the future. Children, like all Christians, need theology. They just need it taught at their level of comprehension. Connecting theology to the source of theology in God's Word is the way to accomplish this.

### **Where do We Go From Here?**

Pastors tend to forget that not everyone in the congregation went to seminary. So whatever materials are used need to be trustworthy, Biblically Reformed, and repeatable and teachable by other leaders in the congregation over time. This includes both training new teachers and regularly assisting experienced teachers. We strongly believe that a Teacher Training Program needs to be developed for the use of our churches. It could be developed based on the Gospel of Mark or Luke. The few materials on the market do not approach the teaching enterprise with a proper view of God's Kingdom and Covenant.

Many mentioned that parents need to be proactive in training their kids at home in the Scriptures. This is true. However, the parents' responsibility does not erase the Church's responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission to teach her members and disciple them.

There is one question that was not asked on our survey, but which would be important in the future when/if the RCUS considers again creating a curriculum. Does the RCUS still desire to have a unified curriculum as was attempted with the *Promise and Deliverance* approach.

The Permanent Christian Education Committee should keep the RCUS aware of what is being produced by our pastors/teachers. There should be a frank, open and honest evaluation of that material. Some of it is brilliant, and could really be used by others too with some help. Perhaps the purpose in the future is NOT to write a new curriculum, but to be a clearinghouse which provides feedback to those who are writing curriculum, or to those who are looking for specific kinds of Bible lessons. Congregations, Consistories, and pastors could turn to this Permanent Committee when they want ideas for a Christmas Program for their youth, or for Summer Bible School curriculum, or for a good series of materials that teach middle-schoolers how to actually read the Bible for themselves, etc.

While we spend lots of money as a denomination on missions, we may never forget that we have a "mission" right before us with our covenant youth. This must be a priority. Given the modern methods of producing materials, this does not require a lot of money, but it does require time and work.

### **The Curriculum currently being used in the RCUS Churches**

Your committee has not seen all the curriculum being used across the RCUS, so we cannot comment on it. We simply provide for your information this summary of the survey's findings. The curricula being used are: Materials created by current or former pastors; Great Commissions Publications; Line of Promise Press' *Covenantal Catechism*; RCUS *Promise and Deliverance* Curriculum; Catherine Vos' children's story bible; Church History and Children's Bible knowledge books written by Sinclair Ferguson; and "On the Way" by Christian Focus.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That each church of the RCUS be encouraged to regularly evaluate the materials it uses in church education in light of RCUS Constitution Article 192, "Every pastor shall carefully prepare the youth in his pastoral charge for communicant membership in the Church by diligently instructing them in the doctrines and duties of the Christian religion. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire Heidelberg Catechism before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include catechetical explanation and memorization, Bible history, Bible readings and memorizations, and the study of the books and contents of the Bible, the

Belgic Confession of Faith, the Canons of Dort, church history, also the singing and memorization of Psalms, hymns, and Scripture songs.”

2. That the RCUS encourages its members to write church education materials and to present them to the Permanent Christian Education Committee for comments and advice. The doctrine of the communion of the saints summons us to sharpen one another’s ideas and to share and receive the spiritual gifts God has given to His people. These materials could also be considered for potential publication (if that is mutually desired).
3. That the RCUS encourage those who are willing and able to create a Sunday School Teacher Training Program for the benefit of the churches.
4. That the subcommittee on Sunday School Curriculum be dissolved.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, Rev. Eric Bristley, Rev. Howard Hart, Elder Mark Reyna, Rev. Neale Riffert, Rev. Paul Treick

#### **D. Diaconal Committee**

Over the past year, your committee did not meet and makes no recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted, M. McGee, K. Armbruster, S. Altman, D. Benz, J. Berg, K. Bowen, D. Clark, B. Davis, P. Henderson, S. Henry, P. Poe, T. Savage, J. West.

#### **E. Editorial Advice Committee**

Your committee did not meet and transacted no business.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. George Horner, Rev Dennis Roe, Rev David Dawn, Rev Jonathan Merica, Elder J. Connelly, Elder G. Van Holland.

#### **F. Executive Committee**

Esteemed brothers in Christ,

During the course of this synodical year, your committee conferred by telephone and email. We sent out two circulars. Executive Circular 266.1, dated July 9, 2012, was to fulfill Synod’s mandate to its President to appoint a special Judicial Committee. The President appointed Ron Morris, Vern Pollema, Neil Riffert, Matt Powell, Richard Stetler, Doug Schlegel, Stacy Kooistra, and Richard Honaker. Executive Circular 266.2, dated February 4, 2013, contained a recommendation that the synodical ministerial aid of \$1600 a month and the benevolent aid of \$400 a month for Rev. George Syms now cease.

We were given the task to consider changing the date of Synod. We decided to send out the following e-mail on December 26, 2012:

Dear Brothers,

Since synod has tasked the Executive Committee to consider changing the annual date of Synod and report back to next year’s Synod, we have decided to ask each Consistory/Spiritual Council to discuss and relate back to us what time of year would be optimal for Synod to meet. The Synod currently begins each year on the third Monday of May (unless Ascension Day occurs during that week).

The Executive Committee would like you to answer the following three questions. Please keep in mind that various individuals have expressed concern about the date of Synod

conflicting with graduations, farming, Vacation Bible School, seminary/college schedules and other ministerial duties.

1. Are there any weeks between the last week of April and the third week of June when your delegates would NOT be able to attend Synod on a yearly basis?
2. Which weeks between the last week of April and the third week of June would be OPTIMAL for your delegates to attend Synod on a yearly basis?
3. Is the current date of Synod satisfactory to you?

Please let us know of any other questions and/or concerns that you may have about the date of Synod. We would ask that each Consistory or Spiritual Council discuss these questions and respond to the Executive Committee by February 1st, 2013. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely, Rev. David Fagrey Clerk of the Synod of the RCUS

We received a total of 20 responses; and concluded that the data gave no warrant to change the date of Synod.

On February 27, 2013 the executive committee met via conference call with representatives from Casey Peterson & Associates in Rapid City, SD to review the audit they did for the RCUS. The committee agreed that Casey Peterson & Associates did a good job and would recommend the use of their services again. Ted Griess gives more information about the audit in his Treasurer's Report.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Jim Sawtelle, Pres., Rev. Frank Walker, V. Pres., Elder Roger Gallimore, Elder Ken Bowen, Ted. Griess, Treas. Rev. David Fagrey, Clerk.

### **G. Foreign Ministries Committee**

Your committee met in Sacramento on April 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the work of the RCUS in foreign missions, review the previous year as well as plan for the upcoming year. As always your committee continues to thank God for the prayers and support of the congregations and individuals of the RCUS. Your prayers and support enable us as a denomination to obey Christ's command making disciples of all nations for His glory.

Your committee continues to operate through the year with subcommittees for the Congo (United Reformed Churches of the Congo -URCC) headed by Rev. Robert Grossmann, for Kenya (Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya - RFCK) headed by Rev. Michael Voytek and for the Philippines headed by Rev. Gil Baloy (United Covenant Reformed Church Philippines - UCRCP). Other committees, which report to the FMC, include the Reformed Radio Administration Committee (with Rev. Neil Riffert, Rev. Paul Treick and Rev. Dan Schnabel) and the Congo Economic Development Committee (The officers of the consistory of Providence RCUS, Lodi California).

During our committee meeting we spoke with Rev. Dennis Roe (Field Chairman of W.B.M.) about Westminster Biblical Missions. They are working in the mission fields of Pakistan, Europe, Mexico as well as working along side of Middle East Reformed Fellowship. We discussed their work and their commitment to the Biblical Reformed understanding of Scripture. Their constitution was also brought up, including the changes that they have made which are more in line with the R.C.U.S. By teleconference, we also spoke with Mr. Virgil Tinklenberg as a representative of International Theological Education Ministries, Inc. which sends pastors to teach and train pastors and others in local institutions in the countries of the former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe. In the teleconference with Mr. Tinklinberg we discussed their requirements for the

pastors they send to teach. Their requirements include signing a subscription to the Westminster standards and or the Three Forms of Unity.

## CONGO

The year 2012 was a good year for the United Reformed Churches of the Congo in spite of political unrest about their presidential election, a civil war going on in the Northeast part of the Country and continuing currency inflation. The last problem is pretty well taken care of by the fact that we send funds to them in American dollars which they can then spend as American dollars because there is an underground use of dollars throughout their economy.

In the Congo we are dealing with a mature church denomination that is well-organized and led by mature pastors and elders, with virtually all of the pastors well-versed in the Reformed faith. Several of the pastors were educated in South Africa, a nation with several strong Reformed denominations, and the rest were educated at the Theological College (seminary) operated by the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated) up until about two years ago. The GKN (Liberated) also led much of the organization of the URCC into Classes (called "regional synods" in the URCC) and a General Synod. As in the RCUS, the same men are generally elected from year to year as officers of the Synod because they are capable and do a good job in their offices. Rev. KM Kabongo has been Synod chairman since the founding of the URCC in 2006, and Rev. Abel N'tita as been secretary over the same number of years. Both are well-educated and solidly Reformed, and Rev. N'tita is a skilled church planter.

During the past year the URCC as a denomination, and several of the regional synods have worked hard to upgrade the knowledge of the Reformed faith among their members. They have begun a new seminary to replace the one provided by the Dutch GKN and have started Bible schools to educate the lay members of the Church. We will say more about this below.

The Congo is a very large Country, about 2000 miles from North to South, and about 1500 miles East to West. The URCC Churches are scattered around four large cities. There are a dozen churches and church plants in the Capitol of Kinshasa, which is located in the western part of the Country along the Congo river about two hundred miles upstream from its flowing into the south Atlantic Ocean. The river can accommodate large ships as far as Kinshasa and it was a very busy port during the Belgian colonial period. Kinshasa and surrounding areas are a city of some 8 million inhabitants. Its dozen churches are led by Elders, with two pastors who lead churches and serve all of the churches from time to time.

Mbuji-Mayi is a city in mining country about 750 miles east southeast of Kinshasa with a population of upwards of 2 million people. The URCC got an early start there when Elder Bankina came to Lubumbashi in 1984 to be part of the founding of the Reformed Confessing Church of Zaire (Elder Bankina was later educated at the GKN seminary and ordained as a minister. He recently died in March of 2013). There are a number of URCC churches in the Mbuji-Mayi area, which are connected in service with the churches of Kananga, a city of 500,000 located 150 miles west of Mbuji-Mayi. The churches of these areas are served by ten pastors, supported by the RCUS.

The first city to be a center for the Reformed Confessing Church of Zaire, out of which the URCC was later formed because of an authority dispute, is Lubumbashi, a city of 2 million 1500 miles southeast of Kinshasa, and very close to the border of the Congo with Zambia. There were a dozen churches in Lubumbashi and in the smaller cities of Likasi and Kolwesi which are located some 50 and 100 miles north of Lubumbashi. Some of these churches have stayed with the older Reformed Confessing Church while most of them have joined with the United Reformed Churches of the Congo, which are supported by the RCUS. No churches outside of the Lubumbashi area have stayed with the Reformed Confessing Church.

## REPORTS FROM THE URCC LEADERS

From Rev. Abel N'tita, pastor in Kinshasa. The Kinshasa churches held an all-member Reformation Day celebration that drew 100 families. The Classis in Kinshasa started a "Bible School of Kinshasa" where the following subjects are taught: 1) The Central Message of the Bible, 2) The Three Forms of Unity as a good interpretation of the Bible, 3) The Reformed way of Governing the Church, 4) How to plant a new Reformed church, and , 5) The way of living as a "Reformed Christian." Rev. N'tita has been able to found a new church plant near Kinshasa. Rev. Kabongo has spent two weeks in Lubumbashi to teach the people and help find a property there on which to build a large church building.

From Rev. KM Kabongo, who travels a great deal in the Congo, as well as to other countries, including Europe and the U.S. 1) The URCC is in good condition but is affected by political and social unrest around us. 2) There is a great diaconal need for food in our area, can you help? (This was fulfilled when the Garner RCUS took an offering and we sent \$1000 to provide food for URCC members in the affected area). 3) By action of the URCC Synod we have begun a Theological College (seminary) here in Mbuji-Mayi which we expect to move to Kinshasa. We need funds for everything from textbooks to desks and some kind of pay for the teachers. This school will set aside the need for students to study outside our Country. 4) We have met in Kinshasa to discuss our work, and also to meet with representatives of the GKN (Liberated) from the Netherlands. They said that they would like to help but are quite limited in what they might do. They expect us to depend on other supporting churches for most of the help in theological education.

From Constantin Kanyinda, deacon from Kinshasa to whom we send funds to support the churches there: Our two ministers (in Kinshasa, Rev. N'tita and Rev. N'gandu) work hard to make the Belgic Confession known as the constitution (confession) of our churches. We will also need help with the physical needs for the Bible School (the same one mentioned by Rev. N'tita).

## RCUS SUPPORT DETAILS

The RCUS supplies funds for much of the work of the URCC. We provide \$10,200 a year to help support the ten pastors, including Rev. Kabongo, who labor in Mbuji-Mayi and Kananga areas. We also supply \$3600 a year to support the two pastors in Kinshasa, and \$200 per quarter to support each of the churches themselves in Kinshasa. Since Kinshasa is such a large city many things are available only for cash - our support comes to \$9600 for the twelve churches in Kinshasa. So far we supply a general support of \$800 per year to the URCC churches in Lubumbashi, leaving up to their leadership to decide how it is used.

## KENYA

As you are aware, the RCUS has been working with the Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya (RFCK) for a number of years. There is currently one classis with 6 churches and 3 ordained ministers (The classis has examined and ordained elder John Omoke to the gospel ministry). They also have at least 3 men that are either licentiates or are under the care of Classis). We have been assisting them in the preparation of ministers by supporting their studies at Knox Theological College in Mbale, Uganda. Besides the 3 pastors, every church is represented at Classis by an elder delegate. Our overall assessment is that they are growing in their understanding and practice of Reformed and Presbyterian church polity. They are in the process of dividing into two Classes to facilitate the work due to geographical/travel considerations (the division would be between the northern and the southern churches). They are also considering the establishment of a synod. Furthermore, they are discussing the possibility of planting a church in the largest city in the area.

Concerning church support, they have established a financial accountability system between the individual churches and the Classis. The delegates examine the quarterly Income & Expense Report submitted by each church and then they forward them with the classis support

recommendations to our committee. Then instead of sending RCUS funds to each individual church, we send the total quarterly amount to the Classis treasurer who then distributes the funds to each church treasurer in the amount agreed upon by the church and the Classis. This frees up more resources that can be used for ministry. Our committee budgeted \$6,000 last year for church support and we recommend the same amount this year.

Concerning the support for students at Knox Theological College in Mbale, Uganda, the RFCK has been sending 3 students to the college. We provide funds for transportation to and from school in Uganda as well as a very small onetime fee for 3 years tuition. The Orthodox Presbyterian Uganda Mission (OPUM) provides any books needed. Furthermore, the college has established an agreement with the students that they can earn their room and board by working 2 hours a day on campus. The funds to provide this help come from OPUM as well. The college has experienced a turnover of professors with the OPC Missionary Rev. Eric Tuininga as the only fulltime professor on staff at this time. There is an open request for the RCUS to send qualified men to teach 3 week courses at the college. Our committee discussed this opportunity at length and we will attempt to encourage some of our pastors to serve this vital need. We budgeted \$6,700 last year for student support and we recommend the same amount this year.

The RFCK.

Recently, Mr. Aaron Merz, a member of Ebenezer Reformed church in Shafter, California who is working in Africa helping farmers was able to visit the churches of the RFCK. We asked him to assess the status of the building situation of each of the churches as well as to discuss the possibility of reestablishing a micro financing committee with the leadership of the RFCK. He recently completed his visit and sent us a 7 page report of his travels and assessment of the RFCK. The following is a quote from the conclusion of his report that summarizes his impression of what the Lord is doing among our brethren as well as his recommendation for future ministry there.

*"...during my time with the brothers there, I experienced a spiritual maturity unlike anything I had witnessed anywhere else in Africa. My typical church experience has always been drums and dancing, a lot of emotions, shouting from the congregation and when the preaching started, though it would often last for over an hour, what was delivered, could have been said in 3 minutes. I've never questioned the faith of my African friends or doubted whether they believe that Jesus is their Savior; I've just always been disappointed in their ability to discuss what any of it means and how it should affect their lives. Oddly, the average Zambian will have more faith in God than you or I when it comes to the goings on of daily life (when my atm card wasn't working, the manager of Barclay's told me to just have faith in God that it would start working soon, she was completely serious). My point is that what the churches of the RFCK have is unique and special within their community. And for those who are already attending there, they're not going to leave because the church has few resources, they know the Truth. At my hotel, I met a missionary couple that was preparing their house in Kenya and Randy was telling me that his primary work was just leading a Bible study with all the pastors in the area teaching them how to dig deeper into the word. He said what I was just saying, that everyone is a Christian and is excited about the Word, can even quote tons of Scripture, but they've never been taught how to study it or what it means to them in their lives. And I realized that our pastors and elders in the RFCK had been taught this, that this was the difference and they had shared these skills with their congregation, that the weekly studying of catechism made everything personal, and when people took the time to stop seeking the drums and music and listened to the Word that was being taught in our churches, they were transformed! Of course, this shouldn't be a surprise to any of us, but it's worth writing and reporting because there is a hunger in Kisii (and I'm sure throughout the rest of Kenya and beyond). We've gone to great lengths to establish the spiritual content and training of the church leaders there and continue to oversee their training in Uganda and so long as that continues, I think the integrity will remain. But now that it is established, I believe that the presence of something like a mission or school or an orphanage would go a long way in growing the church*

*and bringing in new members while still allowing the leadership the opportunity to oversee the spiritual integrity of that growth.*

*I also believe it would benefit our churches in the U.S. to hear the preaching of one or two of the Kenyan pastors along with their first hand stories. I don't know how possible that is, but there is an inclusivity that the RFCK possesses that we often lose in our home churches. While it would be a significant sacrifice for them to give even one of their pastors for a couple weeks when they are so deeply understaffed, I'm sure the long term benefits may be able to justify bringing one of the brothers out. I'm sure they would decide among themselves who is most qualified or suitable for such a calling but I can testify that at least 4 of them have the English skills to confidently give a sermon in front of an RCUS congregation."*

Overall the churches of the RFCK are growing in knowledge and practice of Reformed polity. We are greatly encouraged by the obvious blessing from the Lord.

## **PHILIPPINES**

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20).

The RCUS continues to work with the United Covenant Reformed Church in the Philippines (UCRCP) since 2005. The UCRCP has one Classis with four churches and three ordained ministers. It also has one fledgling mission congregation in Cagayan de Oro under the oversight of the Consistory of Davao UCRCP. It started with a pastor, but is presently without one. The Pangasinan UCRCP church does not have a pastor either and relies heavily upon the two ministers on the same island of Luzon to supply its pulpit. I recall Vern Pollema's statement recorded in last year's report: "...A high priority for the UCRCP and RCUS (as the sponsoring/supporting denomination) has to be the training of men for the ministry, with only three ministers and slightly more elders...that should be utmost in the mind of the Foreign Missions Committee!"

I talked briefly with Rev. Frank Walker to find out if City Seminary has a long-distance learning program. Also, I contacted Rev. Maynard Koerner regarding Heidelberg Theological Seminary last year. According to Ray Schnabel, whom I called very recently, HTS has started a long-distance learning program. But they require that half of the student's time be spent in the classroom. Of course, the cost of sending and supporting a ministerial student from the Philippines would be prohibitive. Another approach Ray suggested is to send a professor who would conduct intensive coursework over a two or three-week time frame. The latter would, of course, be more do-able and more cost-effective. The tuition runs \$200/hr for a Masters Degree and \$50 /hr to audit. Elder Boy Cabugao is one possible candidate for seminary education from the Pangasinan Church. Ernesto Alcantara is another one in the Laguna Church. Another less known potential student is a former CRCP elder, and friend of the brothers, who I met in Osamis City, Mindanao. (I forgot his name.) Mr. Ojie Bicaldo, elder of the Davao Church, just finished his education in a local Evangelical seminary. He may entertain a "4<sup>th</sup> year" at UCRCP-approved seminary. This would be comparable to the 4<sup>th</sup> year some would have to take at Calvin Seminary to get the distinctives of the Christian Reformed Church before ordination. Pastors Nap Narag and Edwin Puzon expressed a keen interest themselves in continuing education. We need additional time to look more closely at HTS and the other options mentioned in Recommendation #3 in the FMC Report of last year's Synod Abstract.

Since the start of our involvement in the Philippines, we sought to follow the missionary principles taught by John Livingston Nevius (1829-1893). He pioneered American Protestant missions in China for 40 years. When American Presbyterians began their work in Korea, they invited Nevius to teach what would be popularized as the "Nevius Plan." The plan was successful to the spread of the Church in Korea, more so than in China. By the way, it is from Nevius that we

get the “Three-Self Principle of Missions” i.e. self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating foreign churches. What are its basic principles?

1. Christians should continue to live in their neighborhoods and pursue their occupations. The mission church should be self-supporting. It should be built in the native style with money and materials given by the church members.
2. Mission churches should call and support their own pastors.
3. Intensive biblical and doctrinal instruction should be provided for church leaders.
4. The mission church should be governed by qualified indigenous leaders without permanent involvement by foreign churches, except for training purposes.
5. Church members should witness to their co-workers, classmates and neighbors in their community.

Application of Principle #1: Like our own churches, the Philippine churches need to continue making strides in becoming self-supporting. It is challenging in a developing nation like the Philippines, though, I imagine, not as difficult as in Kenya and the Congo. Their Classis is not in a financial position to help them like we do here. Nor do they have a well-off congregation in the group, like some of our own larger churches, to assist the needy ones. We have been helping them in the amount of \$2058 for their annual Classis meeting and \$2000 for outreach purposes. To be more precise, both allocations are for travel expenses.

Application of Principle #2: Let us pray that the Pangasinan Church will soon be able to call and support its own pastor.

Application of Principle #3: The RCUS is working toward assisting the UCRCP in the education of its future ministers. The “best” gift we can give to them falls in this category of an educated ministry.

Application of Principle #4: The UCRCP appears to be coming into its own in the area of self-government. In almost every past visit, we waxed warm and long on the topics related to church polity. Perhaps, it can be said that all that effort is beginning to pay off.

Application of Principle #5: Davao Church does quite a bit of outreach thanks to an energetic pastor. Pangasinan Church, which does not have a pastor, has active elders willing to teach the Reformed Faith in different outlying towns. Laguna does it share of outreach with the help of much needed financial assistance from the RCUS. However, the pastor and elders have had their hopes built up, only later to be dashed to the ground, when the future members never arrived. Or if they did enter the church, they did not stay long. Las Pinas Church has been relatively successful in evangelizing Trinidad Subdivision, a much poorer section of town. They draw a sizable portion of their membership from there. An older Filipino elder confidant, who is in the OPC, recently shared with me advice he has given to the brothers: that is, their outreach needs to concentrate on the more established professional “middle class” neighborhoods of the surrounding community. It is important to have a solid core of supportive families to start with, or continue with. This is exactly what one of our own ministers in a previous visit said to a UCRCP pastor. He desired to encourage the brother in a positive direction.

By the way, you may read the highlights of 2012 in the January 2013 Foreign Ministries Committee Newsletter. It is the very First Edition. You will find news of an all-expense-paid trip to Seoul, South Korea, by Revs. Puzon and Narag. It was at the invitation of a Reformed Presbyterian Church for them to attend its annual conference. That church is active in a few countries, including the Philippines. The most recent news item is the return of Pastor Puzon to Seoul on a speaking engagement later this year. [If interested, you may request a copy of the newsletter from Rev. Dan Schnabel.]

**“Direct Contributions to the United Covenant Reformed Church Philippines 2012-2013”**

Here is an important reminder to donors: “Because direct contributions to foreign mission works may have unintended consequences, the churches and the members are encouraged to make contribution through the Foreign Ministries Committee and keep the Committee informed of any direct contributions.” (Standing Missions Committee Recommendation #13, 2009 Synod Abstract, page 68).

1. A gift totaling \$1372 from Covenant RCUS in San Diego, CA, augmented by special Lord’s Supper offerings, remitted by Gil Baloy to the UCRCP Treasurer. It is to provide diaconal assistance for Pastor Anselmo Laid, associate pastor of Davao City UCRCP, over its mission congregation Maranatha Reformed Church in Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao; dated April-September 2012.
2. A love gift totaling \$5,000 from an RCUS family, through the RCUS Treasurer, remitted by Gil Baloy to The UCRCP Treasurer for its general fund; dated July-August 2012.
3. A gift of \$1,000 from Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO, for the sponsorship of scholars at the Christian School operated by the Puzons in Las Pinas, Rizal; reported to Gil Baloy and dated September 2012.
4. A gift of \$900 from Providence RCUS, Limon, CO, sent by Gil Baloy via Western Union to Las Pinas UCRCP. It is for the sponsorship of scholars at the Christian School operated by the Puzons in Las Pinas, Rizal; reported to the UCRCP Treasurer and dated April 2013.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Recommendation 1:** That the budget be adopted as follows:

##### **URCC - Congo:**

Elder/pastor/church support \$12,600 (same as last year)  
Kinshasa aid to churches \$13,200 (same as last year)  
Lubumbashi church aid \$1,000 (same as last year)  
Building and Diaconal aid \$1200 (same as last year)

##### **RFCK - Kenya:**

Church Support \$6,000 (same as last year)  
Building & diaconal aid \$2,000 (same as last year)  
Student/ministry expenses & travel 6,700 (same as last year)

##### **UCRCP - Philippines:**

Classis meeting expenses \$2,058 (same as last year)  
Outreach expenses \$2,000 (same as last year)

**Reformed Faith and Life (French):** \$20,000 (same as last)

##### **Committee Expenses:**

Travel to Africa \$3,000 (same)  
Travel to Europe \$0 (reduced \$1,000)  
Travel in USA \$ 3,000 (same)  
Travel to Philippines \$0 (reduce by 3,000)

**Recommendation 2:** That Synod approve Rev. Dennis Roe for mission trips to Africa to be accompanied by another RCUS co-laborer.

**Recommendation 3:** That the RCUS approve sending 2 men to Congo in the next year or two.

Take Note: The funds for these trips would come from previous funds set aside for missionary support and travel to Africa.

**Recommendation 4:** That the Foreign Ministries Committee draw 50% of the 2013-2014 budget from Foreign Ministries accrued funds.

**Recommendation 5:** That Westminster Biblical Missions be an approved benevolence and that they be added to the guidelines at \$2.

**Recommendation 6:** That ITEM be an approved benevolence.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Schnabel (*Chairman*), Gil Baloy (*Philippines Subcommittee chairman*), Bill Borgwardt, Robert Grossman (*Congo Subcommittee chairman*), Albert Haller, Wayne Johnson, Dennis Roe, Doug Schlegel, and Michael Voytek (*Kenya Subcommittee chairman*)

## **H. Home Missions Committee**

The Synod Home Missions Committee met at First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND on April 4-5, 2013. Committee members present were: Revs. Harvey Opp, Howard Hart, Hank Bowen and Richard Stetler; Elders Don Oliver, Mori Willemsen, Jeff Jones, and Lynn Goehring. Home Missionaries present were Revs. Wesley Brice, Michael Voytek, Dale Clark, and Scott Henry. Ryan Kron was unable to attend due to illness. (As a reminder, Chico, CA was no longer a Synod mission at the end of 2012.)

### **Mission Reports:**

#### **Grace Reformed Church, Northwest AR**

Rev. Wesley Brice reported that the past year has seen unprecedented growth at Grace RCUS, for which all are very thankful. The Lord has also granted him “good health and lots of energy” with which to serve the flock. In 2012, 7 communicants and one baptized child were added to the roll. Of these, two couples had attended for several years. To this point in 2013, 5 other communicants have been added. Most of the contacts have come through the church web site, [gracereformednwa.org](http://gracereformednwa.org) - where Rev. Brice posts all of his sermons. The congregation now consists of 32 communicants and 2 baptized children.

From the Classis report, some who were visitors to the work expressed much gratitude for the church. They had found what they desired: a pastor who was serious about God’s Word, and a congregation with edifying worship, where they could pray together, have fellowship and Bible studies. Another means of outreach is that Rev. Brice has a Bible study and discussion in a local restaurant.

The Lord’s blessing is again evident in that offerings exceeded the 2012 budget by \$15,000, for a total of almost \$88,000, including \$13,000 to the building fund. They were also recipients of the Synod Day of Prayer offering, which increased their building fund. Along with that, they are actively seeking church property of their own, after meeting in rented spaces throughout the church’s history. It appears this will require a meeting place more to the south of the Bentonville area. That will be advantageous, as some of the members do reside farther south yet. The congregation certainly desires the prayers of the denomination for God’s leading in the matter of the building.

Above all, they desire to grow in faith and witness to the Lord, that other souls may be added to Christ’s kingdom, and to the congregation. They continue to have fellowship after lunch each Lord’s Day, in a time to sing psalms and pray as a congregation. They are glad to have seen some amazing answers to their prayers, as with souls converted and some they know healed of most serious diseases.

Covenant East will continue to provide the majority of the mission support for the work, with a 5% reduction to begin in July. Their request to Synod is to provide \$3600 in the next year, which is also a 5% reduction of original support.

### **Emmaus Road Reformed Church, Eden Prairie, MN**

Rev. Ryan Kron's report was read, stating that it has been a great year for Emmaus Road, which has recently been organized as a congregation. (We also had a conference call with him.) At his visitation, the classis missions committee gave information on the procedures for organizing as had been requested. There was good discussion regarding the process, and also the basis of biblical church government. Then, at Classis, a proposed constitution was approved, and Redeemer RCUS was authorized to proceed with the election and installation of officers. A number of men had taken training classes, and two elders and two deacons were installed on March 24. The involvement of Redeemer RCUS, Pastor Sawtelle and its consistory, is greatly appreciated in starting this mission work, and guiding Emmaus Road unto its organization. The Lord's blessing has been very obvious with this effort of an established congregation starting a daughter church. The Redeemer congregation has also been blessed with additional membership and unforeseen offerings, after having 10 of their families join the mission work.

During the year, 19 communicants took membership vows, and along with that, 5 infants, one child, and one adult were baptized. They "continue to pray for conversions and the baptisms of covenant children in 2013." At the time of the visitation, there were 41 communicants and 17 baptized children, in 18 families. Rev. Kron also reports there were 13 others in membership classes in February. The people are excited about the work, and there are several membership classes to accommodate those of various backgrounds. Attendance at services averages above 70. The Lord has brought new people in a variety of ways. Most often it has been through word of mouth, but they have used advertising in newspapers, direct mailing, and flyers in the neighborhood. Some have visited through these various means of outreach, and through a VBS held at Redeemer. They also have a Facebook page linked to a blog and their website, [emmausrcus.org](http://emmausrcus.org).

Services continue to be held at Eden Lake Elementary School, since beginning such in October 2011, which has been a great provision. The current need is to obtain a larger parsonage, where a number of classes are held, and to house Rev. Kron's growing family, as a second son was recently born to him and Colleen. The lease on the current home is for some months yet, and the plan is to purchase a home expected to cost \$300,000 - \$400,000. This should be quite feasible, with the excellent giving of the congregation. They do not want to give too high a projection for 2013, but again foresee offerings of at least \$135,000. They now have savings of about \$125,000 to be used as downpayment. The officers are very concerned to be off of all support. Yet, this is still a new work (supported since Nov. 2010), and the savings will thus be used, and a mortgage will be taken. They will also continue to rent the school for services, but desire their own church building in the future. Therefore, your committee concurs with the Classis that Synod support should continue. This would be reduced however, to the amount requested from Synod of \$2,000 (a 33% reduction of original support). Classis has determined to provide \$13,000. Prayers for this Synod work will also then be maintained.

### **Rehoboth Reformed Church, La Habra, CA**

Rev. Michael Voytek reported that "2012 was a year of milestones for Rehoboth Reformed Church." After the years of being a chapel under the loving oversight of the consistory of Ebenezer RCUS, Shafter, CA the church was organized in September. Rev. Voytek was elected and installed as pastor in November. With several new officers, the consistory now includes 3 elders and 2 deacons.

The Lord has also added to the membership of Rehoboth overall. One family did move out of state, and 3 families transferred from Ebenezer to other churches. Yet, there were 10 new communicants through profession of faith, and 4 children baptized. So, the roll stands now at 34 communicants

and 12 baptized children. There are also new visitors, and some of them are attending a new member's class. Recent visitors have come through the efforts to increase visibility of their website, rehobothreformedchurch.org which has brought them higher on the results of various search engines. The congregation is specifically praying for the addition of 10 new families. They desire "to be found faithful in shepherding God's flock and reach out to the lost in this vast ocean of lost souls in the Los Angeles Basin." They are seeking to establish effective means for outreach, yet report they "are also facing a financial challenge this year to increase the amount of tithes and offerings to offset the reduction of financial support from one RCUS church." The current members faithfully give to support the church, but additional resources through new families are needed. With a budget shortfall foreseen, the Classis missions committee sought an increase in funding for the next year. Western Classis approved this increase of just over \$6,100. Your committee recommends the same increase be granted in Synod support.

Another challenge before the congregation is that their current lease will end in May 2014. Working with several realtors they have visited a number of properties for sale or lease. A different property might reduce their costs and increase visibility. However, they "currently do not have the financial resources to move to a new facility." This was a major topic discussed with the Classis committee and at the Western Classis meeting. A proposal for aid from the Classis building fund may be circularized before next year.

### **First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND**

Rev. Dale Clark has been onsite, as the missionary for this work, since March 2012. Over the past year, a family, two singles, and a married man attended services, along with the original families, while they had work. After some months, work and/or housing situations changed, and there were relocations. Therefore, the original 3 families, and a single man, are the continuing core group along with Rev. and Mrs. Clark. An older man from outside of Dickinson has also attended when able. A few other visitors have come and gone. The consistory of Salem RCUS, Ashley, ND oversees this work, holding the membership of the core group. Two youth were confirmed during the year, and another is in confirmation class now.

The Dickinson area has certainly seen growth in recent years along with the oil boom. Yet, it is somewhat on southeastern edge of that activity, and does not have the greater influx of workers farther north. In touring the town, the highly Roman Catholic population is evident with several of their congregations and schools. For outreach, many invitations have been taken door to door, and advertising of various means is being sought out. Visitors have come through the website: frcdickinson.com, and the invitation of friends.

Preparation of the home, to be used as a parsonage, was a major concern. A mold issue had to be dealt with, meaning new insulation, flooring, duct work, painting, etc. Many hours were volunteered by people of several churches, and about \$16,000 was spent. Some finishing touches are still needed. Mrs. Clark has been able to live in the house since November, after the repairs mentioned. Again, this home is in Taylor, ND, 20 miles to the east, since housing in Dickinson was too costly, and difficult to find.

Your committee recommends that Synod support for the next fiscal year remain at \$38,400 for this new work. It has been funded by Synod since March 2012. We also recommend that Dickinson receive the 2013 Day of Prayer Missions Offering. They do have debt with a building loan for the parsonage.

### **Heritage Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE**

Rev. Scott Henry began as missionary for the Heritage Reformed church plant in February. The consistory of St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE oversees this new work. Last year, Synod approved \$2,500 monthly which commenced with the arrival of Rev. Henry. As he reports: "the core membership consists of four faithful families who are very zealous for the Word of God, the worship of God, and the spread of the Gospel in the greater Omaha area." They come from a variety of reformed backgrounds. A new family has also been attending, and has inquired about membership. And the members have contact with a few other families.

Services are held each Lord's Day at Mission Middle School, in Bellevue, NE, which is in the southeast Omaha area. There are 30-40 in attendance. And a wonderful and faithful provision is that St. John's sends an elder to be there for worship almost each week. They celebrate the Lord's Supper bi-monthly, "meet after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments, and take turns gathering together at each other's homes for a meal on Sunday afternoons." They also plan to meet in homes for Bible Study and prayer on Wednesday evenings. By preaching and teaching they look for growth spiritually and numerically.

Several means of outreach have also been used, such as moveable signs, in the area around the school, which they have permission to keep at those spots. Newspaper ads have been placed, a Facebook page created, and their website is: heritagercus.com. Rev. Henry's sermons are played on one radio station, and Pilgrim Talk Radio is on another. This is a program where several RCUS ministers discuss Biblical issues. Tracts are next to be distributed. Members are also speaking to neighbors, family, friends, and their co-workers about worshiping at Heritage. Your committee recommends continued funding at \$30,000 in the next year, the same amount provided by South Central Classis.

### **Committee Work:**

1. The Classes Missions Committee Reports were reviewed, questions about such were raised with members of the committees present and in meeting with the missionaries, and prayer was offered for each work. Budget items for the works were considered, and any questions raised with the missionaries. The Classis support already approved was reviewed in comparison with the requests for Synod support, and the 3-5 year plans for the mission endeavors of each classis were reviewed.

2. South Central Classis reported on the history of their new mission work at Casper, WY. It was approved as a Classis work, after an onsite assessment conducted October 29, 2012. Rev. Matt Powell was called by Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY to serve as the missionary, and he began the work in January. The Classis requested that the work might be approved as a mission of Synod, as well. We therefore asked for a three year budget, for Rev. Powell's parochial report regarding Casper, and conducted a conference call with him.

Contacts regarding this mission field go back to 2011, initiated by Rev. Powell's in-laws, who have lived there about 12 years, but were previously founding members of our Rock Springs congregation. There are no other confessionally Reformed churches in the Casper metro area of about 75,000 people. The RPCNA had been seeking to establish a work there, and contact was made with them. However, after a year, most of the people gathered indicated they saw no chance they would ever be convinced of the RPCNA distinctives regarding worship, etc. Therefore, the RPCNA encouraged the RCUS to pursue the work. At this point, there are 2 families attending worship and Bible studies, who still desire an RP church. However, there are currently 2 RCUS families, and 3 families of various reformed backgrounds seeking RCUS membership. Rev. Powell is meeting with those families individually, sees good bonding, and reports that: "All of the core families plan on being in Casper for the foreseeable future." There are 3-4 other families who attend at times, for a total of 30-40 at Sunday services. They meet in a community center currently, which is adequate. They have a midweek Bible study with 10-12 attending, and have Sunday School. Materials are being printed for distribution. The work is also promoted on social media, and a web site, [christreformedrcus.org](http://christreformedrcus.org).

Your committee believes the location and the beginning of this work make it a viable mission for Synod to undertake. We also seek approval of the requested funding, which would be \$30,000 for the next fiscal year, the same amount being provided by classis.

South Central Classis also reminded us of their desire to see a mission work in Scottsbluff, NE. Our Rapid City congregation would help support a missionary, but at this point there are only a couple of RCUS families having moved there, and tent-making would be necessary. A proper assessment would, of course, be needed in the future before any Synod funding could be envisioned.

3. We also met with the members of the Dickinson work, and gave a brief overview of our mission procedures. We asked them information about the area, encouraged their fellowship and outreach activities, and answered questions. The families graciously hosted most of the committee and the missionaries in their homes, which is much appreciated. They also benefited in getting to know more about the RCUS, through this meeting, as three families are new to our denomination.

4. From the Classes reports, and information received at our meeting, there are some procedural matters that need to be fulfilled by the mission committees and by overseeing consistories. We realize that these requirements are new to some of the people concerned, and should have been made known by others with past experience in such. After Synod, the Home Missions Manual will be sent to all Synod delegates, which is needed by all to guide our missions.

For instance, the annual visitations of mission works by classis committees, and any assessments, are to include members of the Synod Home Missions Committee, residing within each classis. Both visits are to be done in person, with annual visitations to include a majority of members of the work, in some setting. (Manual section II, par. 2; IV. 1) As for assessment reports, and in the calling of a missionary, care must be taken that any disharmony among the people, or other issues be made fully known. (IV. 4).

Also three year budget forms, to be used, are sent out to the works each year. (V. 3). The Classis committees are to be of help, as “to review the three year budget with the Home Mission work”, (and see that these are available to standing missions at classis, where recommendations are made), and then “forward the budget with recommendations” to the Synod Home Missions Committee. (V. 1. b). As for the budgets, we saw that several have not included IRA funding for the missionary. (VI. 5. d). Since the intention of Synod is that every call to a missionary include some retirement funding, we are proposing an amendment to this article of the manual, to include “or other retirement provision.”

5. Your committee realizes that our new recommendations would increase the Synod Home Missions guideline by approximately \$27. We do not take that lightly. The reason for such an increase is mainly because we have kept the guideline down for a number of years by using accrued funds, for part of the ongoing mission support. In July, accrued funds will stand at approximately \$50,000, which we believe should not be used toward the recommendations. For, we need to have some set aside for future works. In past years, there was an increase by a guideline amount for future works every year. The last year for such was 2009, when the missions guideline was reduced to \$27. Also, we have had several new works in the last year, and missions are obviously essential for us to pursue with all eagerness.

6. The SHMC again commends the procedure that the Lord has greatly blessed in the Eden Prairie mission work, that of an established congregation starting a daughter church. We would urge that our larger congregations consider seriously if they could do likewise, for the advancement of Christ’s kingdom, and the future of our denomination.

#### **Annual Day of Prayer and Missions Offering:**

As a reminder, the Annual Day of Prayer for Missions is the second Sunday of September. The 2012 missions offering, was designated to help support the Arkansas congregation. We believe the 2013 offering should be designated for First Reformed Chapel of Dickinson, ND.

**Recommendations** - The SHMC recommends the following to the 267th Synod of the RCUS:

1. That Rehoboth RCUS, La Habra, CA receive \$2,208 monthly, for a total of \$26,500 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013. [An increase of \$509 monthly, due to their budget shortfall, matching the support from Western Classis.]
2. That Grace RCUS, NW Arkansas receive \$300 monthly, for a total of \$3,600 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013. [A reduction of \$60 monthly, 5% of the original Synod support.]

3. That Emmaus Road RCUS, Eden Prairie, MN receive \$167 monthly, for a total of \$2,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013. [A reduction of \$1,083 monthly, 33% of the original Synod support.]
4. That First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND continue to receive \$3,200 monthly, for a total of \$38,400 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013.
5. That Heritage Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE continue to receive \$2,500 monthly, for a total of \$30,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013.
6. That the Home Missions Manual, Section VI. 5. d, be amended that after “Provision for an IRA” the following be added: “or other retirement provision.”
7. That Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY be approved as a Synod Home Mission work.
8. That Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY receive \$2,500 monthly, for a total of \$30,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013, and that a retirement provision be included in the three year budget.
9. That Northern Plains Classis be hereby encouraged to proceed, as soon as possible, toward parity of funding between the Classis and Synod for Dickinson, as per the Home Missions Manual, V. 1. c.
10. That the 2013 Day of Prayer offering be designated to help with support of First Reformed Chapel of Dickinson, ND.
11. That \$5,000 be budgeted for committee expenses.
12. The 2014 fiscal year Home Missions budget if approved as recommended would be \$135,500. [This will require a 2014 Home Missions guideline of approximately \$45, increased from \$18. Again, accrued funds from Home Missions have been used in previous years, to keep the guideline down. These will be reduced to approximately \$50,000 by July 2013, which we hope will be available to support future works.] Take Note.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Harvey Opp (Chairman), Rev. Richard Stetler, Rev. Howard Hart, Rev. Hank Bowen, Elder Lynn Goehring, Elder Jeff Jones, Elder Don Oliver, Elder Mori Willemsem.

## **I. Interchurch Relations Committee**

Your Committee conducted its business this past synodical year principally by e-mail, and also by telephone and through sub-committee meeting in conjunction with NAPARC.

One item was mandated to the Committee by Synod in 2012: *That the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee continue to monitor developments in the RCN (Reformed Churches in the Netherlands aka GKNv-RP) and report to the 267<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS together with specific recommendations.* (Abstract p.81 Ecumenical Committee #6). There was also one item concerning the RCN which was held over from the 265<sup>th</sup> Synod in 2011 which your Committee acted on that will be evidenced below.

### **Relations with Churches in North America**

#### **◆ Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC):**

The IRC sub-committee delegated to the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) normally meets with counterparts from the Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRC). This year was no exception. At 7:00 AM on the morning of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Dyer, Indiana, the following members of the IRC, Rev. Wes Brice, Rev. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Mike McGee and Rev. Ron Potter met with the CanRC delegates Rev. Pete Holtvlüwer, Mr. Jake Kuik, Mr. Cornelis Poppe and Rev. Doug Vandeburgt. The discussion ranged over previous topics such as

pulpit exchanges, the presence of CanRC youth at the Heidelberg Camp in the Black Hills, the anticipated exchange of articles between *The Reformed Herald* & *The Clarion*, and the subject of travelling families visiting each other's churches and the matter of attestations being required by the CanRC of visitors from sister churches before participating in the Lord's Supper. The CanRC delegation was advised that Rev. Jay Fluck has been, in the absence of a pastor, preaching once a month and administering the sacraments in their church in Blue Bell, PA just outside of Philadelphia

The RCUS IRC delegation inquired as to the bible translation the CanRC is expected to use now that the original NIV is not being reprinted. They were told that the CANRC is expected, at its Synod in May 2013, to recommend the ESV for use in its churches.

A discussion took place on the CanRC practice of women voting for office bearers now that a previous CanRC Synod has left that open to the churches to decide. Your committee was advised that it is "not a wide-spread practice in the CanRC and that in their view the congregational 'right to vote' has greater significance in the RCUS than in the CanRC." The CanRC delegation noted that the congregational vote "is an exercise of authority in the RCUS whereas it is not in the CanRC, although this remains a point of discussion within the CanRC." They also observed that "based on the CanRC description of its practice the RCUS is left wondering if voting in the CanRC is not indeed an exercise of authority and therefore a practice that should not be open to the sisters of the church." (Quotes from Minutes of meeting)

Your committee also inquired as to whether the "Two Kingdom" theology has made inroads into the Can RC and were advised that it had not.

The CanRC, through its Committee for Contact with Churches Abroad, provided your committee with its report to its forthcoming Synod in May concerning the RCN. This has been utilized by our Committee.

We are thankful for our brothers in the CanRC and continue to anticipate annual sub-committee meetings to stay on top of developments in our respective church bodies and to keep channels of communication open. As of this writing plans are being formulated to have our delegation to the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) meeting in Wales in August of 2013, to meet with their counterparts in the CanRC to discuss their Synodical actions relative to the RCN.

Your Committee has delegated the Rev. Maynard Koerner to attend the CanRC Synod meeting which begins May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Carmen, MB.

### **Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)**

The OPC GA met in Wheaton, Ill, June 6-12<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Rev. Maynard Koerner was the delegate from the RCUS to this GA. His remarks to the GA are appended in **Appendix #1**. His report follows:

It was my privilege to be the delegate of the Synod of the RCUS to the OPC for its 79<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, meeting at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois on June 6-12, 2012. This was my first experience as a fraternal delegate to the OPC GA. The RCUS has had a close relationship with the OPC for many years. I have been quite familiar with the OPC in a general way, but was somewhat surprised to find out that I do have a personal familiarity with more of the men of the OPC than I had realized. I was able to be present for the entire assembly which included staying for the weekend and worshiping at a local congregation on the Lord's Day.

I greatly appreciated the fellowship with the brothers. We are truly brothers in the Lord. It is evident to me that they desire to work closely with us and to promote the unity we hold in the fellowship and work of the Lord. Obviously they operate somewhat differently as Presbyterians. Once I gained a greater understanding of the procedures, it became apparent to me that though they get from point A to point B by taking a somewhat different road than we do, we both essentially end up at point B.

From my perspective some of their permanent committees, for example Home and Foreign Missions have a fair amount of leeway by which they operate. It does provide more flexibility in getting the work accomplished, yet there is accountability in that committees of advice do review the work of the permanent committees.

It did occur to me that the emphasis of the reports on the floor of the GA is more on informing the commissioners of what the Lord is doing in the various mission works and how they can be supported by the denomination and less emphasis on the assembly approving in detail all of the work of the committee. Perhaps we also could do more in keeping our members informed what is happening in our mission efforts and encouraging the members to truly support the mission of the church. (For example the new Foreign Missions Newsletter is a great idea.)

Since this was my first experience as a fraternal delegate to the GA, I am not able to make any comparisons in terms of developments within the OPC. However, I will make a couple of observations. It did appear as though this GA was not required to deal with any real controversial issues, at least not with doctrinal implications. Based on my personal conversations it does appear to me that there is a slightly greater amount of differences among the men within the OPC than perhaps we would see in the RCUS. I also got a sense that there are some issues which may need to be dealt with in the future. But then none of us know what the future holds in store.

One of the first items of business was to elect Dr. Anthony Curto as the Moderator of the General Assembly. He very ably guided the assembly in dealing with its business. To some extent I was reminded of our most recent Synod, in that most of the business was the routine business of the church. I will comment on several of the areas which may be of interest.

The Lord has blessed the OPC with the opportunity to pursue considerable mission works in both Foreign and Home Missions. Reports were given regarding this work. From Uganda Rev. Al Tricarico and medical missionary Dr. Jim Knox both addressed the assembly. The OPC currently sends out missionaries to eight fields, China, Ethiopia, Haiti, Japan, Quebec, Uganda, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

Rev. Ross Graham has retired as General Secretary of the Committee on Home Missions. In 2011, twelve new mission works received church-planting pastors and at the time of the GA an additional four works were about to receive organizing pastors.

Four complaints on appeal were considered by the assembly. One was ruled out of order. The other three were connected and dealt with a polity issue. All were denied.

There were numerous fraternal delegates and visitors from other churches. These delegates are given the privilege of the floor and the opportunity to address the assembly. The addresses are heard at different times throughout the course of the meeting arranged by the General Secretary of the committee. I will mention a few of the churches from outside of North America: The Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated), The Presbyterian Church of Brazil, The Reformed Church in Japan, The Reformed Churches of New Zealand, and The Africa Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Kenya. There was an opportunity to meet with all of the delegates and with the members of the Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations.

I was warmly welcomed and given the opportunity to address the assembly. I spoke of our long standing relationship and the many ways we have cooperated in the work of the church, specifically on the Foreign Mission field. I also spoke of how our two denominations have grown and the challenges we face. A copy of my address is attached to this report. (see Appendix #1)

I considered it a privilege to serve as Fraternal Delegate to the 2012 General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. I was among brothers. The 80th General Assembly will be held at St. Mary's College, Moraga, California, from 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 5 with a terminus no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2013.

Respectfully submitted, Maynard Koerner

A sub-committee of the IRC consisting of Rev's Koerner, Brice and McGee met with representatives of the OPC at the fall 2012 meeting of NAPARC to discuss our ecclesiastical relationship.

At this writing a meeting has been initiated by two members of the OPC's Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations (CEIR) and the chairman of your Committee, Rev. Potter. It is apparently the practice of the OPC that when its CEIR meets in the spring of the year in Philadelphia, to have the Chairman and a member of the CEIR meet with a representative of a fraternal church. The meeting is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Your Committee has delegated the Rev. Jonathan Merica to attend the OPC GA in California which begins June 5<sup>th</sup>, of this year.

◆ **Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA)**

The RPCNA met June 27<sup>th</sup> to June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA. This was a shortened Synod and inasmuch as your committee was advised that no time would be allocated for fraternal delegates to speak it was determined that instead of sending a delegate your committee would send a letter of greeting, which it did.

The RPCNA recently published its study paper on Sexual Orientation in a booklet form entitled *The Gospel & Sexual Orientation*. It is available from *Crown and Covenant Publications* and is recommended as a companion volume to our own forthcoming Synodical paper on sexuality.

Your committee has delegated the Rev. Jonathan Merica to represent the RCUS at the forthcoming meeting of the RPCNA Synod in Marion, IN, June 21-28, 2013.

◆ **United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA)**

The Synod of the URCNA met in Nyack, NY, June 27-29, 2012. The Rev. Robert Grossman represented the RCUS. His report follows:

It was my privilege to represent the Synod of the RCUS to the 2012 Synod of the United Reformed Churches in North America from June 11-June 14, 2012. The Synod was held on the campus of Nyack College of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Nyack, New York. This college is of some interest to me since two of my classmates and dear friends from Westminster Seminary were graduates of this college, former RCUS minister Rev. Bill Warren, and Rev. Bob Battles a retired PCUSA pastor. The URC Synod was hosted by nearby Pompton Plains URC, in Pompton plains New Jersey. Pastor Rich Kuiken of Pompton Plains is an old friend from my early days as a professor at Mid-America Reformed Seminary, during which I gave a seminar on worship for pastors and elders from the New York City area. One of the Elders of this church approached me immediately upon my arrival and informed me that the congregation was now requiring their Catechism Classes to memorize the Heidelberg Catechism, a practice from the RCUS that I had recommended to them twenty-five years ago, and which they have found very profitable for their students.

Delegates were housed in the College Dorms and my roommate was Rev. Leo De Vos, a former student during my tenure a Mid-America Seminary and now a pastor in the Reformed Church of New Zealand. Indeed, there were about a dozen former students of mine in attendance at the Synod, along with a number of dear friends from my time at Mid-America when I traveled and spoke extensively among the Christian Reformed Churches before the formation of the URC.

During the time for meetings of pre-advice committees, I attended mostly the meetings of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations and that on Missions. The URC Churches have become more and more involved in foreign missions and have found that not having a synodical oversight Committee on missions has not worked out very well

since one church does not know what the others are doing. On the advice of its pre-advice Committee on Missions the Synod adopted the practice of employing a full-time mission's coordinator for both home and foreign missions. One coordinator will oversee both. As part of my presence with the missions committees, I soon found out that Rev. Kabongo Malebongo had obtained an expense paid trip to visit the URC Synod. While it was good to consult with him about our missions to the Congo, one is moved to wonder how much time he does actually spend in the Congo working.

Another issue that took a good deal of time in Advisory Committee and on the floor of Synod was the application of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America to form fraternal relations with the URC Churches. The issue here was the fact that the RPCNA has the practice of ordaining women as deacons. These women deacons are held to be equal with the male deacons and are derived by strange exegesis from 1 Tim. 3:11, while ignoring that the very next verse which says, "let the deacons be the husbands of one wife." After lengthy debate in both the pre-advice Committee and on the Synod floor, it was voted by both bodies to establish fraternal relations between the RPCNA and the URC.

As the Synod was winding down on Thursday evening, I was able to catch a ride to Newark and make my complicated way back through O'Hare airport and on to Sioux City. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the RCUS at the URC Synod of 2012.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Robert Grossmann

The next Synod meeting of the URCNA is scheduled to meet June 3-6, 2014 in Visalia, CA. Your committee plans to have a delegate from the RCUS present.

### **Relations with other Churches**

#### **◆ North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC).**

The 38<sup>th</sup>, annual meeting of NAPARC took place November 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Mid-America reformed Seminary in Dyer, IN, The host church was the United Reformed Churches in North America. Attending as delegates from the RCUS were the Rev. Wes Brice, Rev. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Mike McGee and Rev. Ron Potter.

The 12 member churches were all represented by their delegations. Observer churches invited and present were the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin); and the Protestant Reformed Church. Total attendance was 37 delegates from member churches and 5 delegates from observer churches. The Bible Presbyterian Church was invited to observe proceedings but did not send a delegate. Numerous churches hold interchurch meetings when NAPARC meets and so the presence of entire IRC committee's swelled attendance to over 60 total.

Elections for officers returned Rev. Maynard Koerner to the office of Treasurer and Rev. Ron Potter to the office of Secretary. Rev. Rob Patrick of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) was elected as Chairman and Rev. Peter Holtvlüwer (CanRC) was elected Vice-Chairman. Rev. Potter also continues to serve as advisory member to the NAPARC Web Site Committee.

The reports of the various churches were read and interacted with. These are available from the Chairman of your committee upon request. Minutes may be downloaded from the NAPARC web site at [www.naparc.org](http://www.naparc.org). Other information such as the committee chairmen of various denominational committees and links to member churches are also available on the web site.

In 2009 a Committee of Review (COR) consisting of representatives of 6 member churches was established by NAPARC and given the mandate of reviewing the Constitution, goals, activities and meetings of NAPARC. The COR was charged with reviewing the purpose and function of NAPARC and to bring recommendations. The Committee was not able to complete its work by either the 2010 or the 2011 meeting and was therefore continued to report in 2012. At the 2012 meeting the COR brought an extended report to the Council floor and an hour was set aside for discussion of this report. The COR invited feed-back from the Interchurch delegations of member churches by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. It is expected that by May 1<sup>st</sup> your committee will have in hand any proposed amendments. The COR plans to bring its final report to NAPARC 2013 and from there,

after any additional tweaking is done on the floor of the Council, its recommendations will come down to the member churches for approval or disapproval.

Your Committee has kept the same NAPARC delegation in place in 2011 and 2012 and at this date plans to do the same for 2013 D.V. This maintains continuity as the COR report develops and will enable us to better inform and discuss with Synod the proposed changes.

Proposed changes will, among other things, consist of tweaking the Constitution and Bylaws of NAPARC to accommodate weaknesses discovered over the years of its use and to improve it. One of the proposed changes is to make a membership application to NAPARC contingent on the recommendation of two churches much as the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) presently does. Another change is a proposal to extend the time of NAPARC to include extra time for interchurch meetings between member churches. NAPARC has proven to be an important venue for such meetings. Still another proposal deals with whether or not to have a local member church conduct a worship service on an evening during NAPARC sessions. There is also a proposal to address the need for the interaction of youth among our NAPARC churches and how this may be accomplished. All of these COR proposed changes will be brought before the Synod at our 2014 meeting.

The Web Site committee reported that updates are regularly made to the NAPARC web site and that information germane to contacting the various committees of member churches are featured there. Both present and past minutes are also accessible through the site. Continued changes will be made to the site to facilitate greater communication between NAPARC churches, their agencies and members of churches seeking to relocate or visit a NAPARC church while travelling.

It was moved from the Council floor that the Web Site Committee be tasked to create and maintain a map featuring all NAPARC churches with links to the individual web sites of the congregations where possible. On referral the matter was given to the Web Site Committee to report back to the 2013 Council meeting.

Reports were brought to the Council by both Foreign Missions and Home Mission consultations between member churches. The RCUS presence has been noticeably absent from these consultations. Your Committee believes that the RCUS could benefit from interacting with Home and Foreign Missions representatives.

**Recommendation #1: That the Synodical Foreign Missions and Home Missions Committees give serious consideration to being represented at the annual NAPARC Home and Foreign Missions consultations.**

A request for membership in NAPARC by a long standing Korean speaking observer church was brought before the Council by the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (KPCA) at the 2011 Council meeting. Documents germane to this request came too late for consideration by the Interchurch Relations Committees of the member churches prior to the 2011 meeting so action on the application was postponed until 2012. After questioning the KPCA delegation at length and after a thorough review of the documents submitted and determining that these were in accord with *The Basis* for membership in NAPARC, the Council voted unanimously to receive the membership and to submit it to the member churches for approval.

In last year's report your Committee observed that it had some outstanding questions relative to the KPCA. These concerned its lack of constitutionally published adherence to the Westminster Standards and its link with the Korean Presbyterian Church (Kosin) in Korea (a member of ICRC) and subsequent historical formation in the United States. These questions were answered to the satisfaction of your delegation and the NAPARC Council as a whole. It was also discovered that the mother church of the KPCA in Korea is a member of the ICRC and in fraternal relationship with two NAPARC member churches. Your Committee reviewed the application and documents submitted to NAPARC by the KPCA and finds them attesting to the eligibility of the KPCA to be a member church of NAPARC.

**Recommendation #2: That the application for membership of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) in the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council be approved.**

The 2013 meeting of NAPARC will be held November 13-14, 2013 at the Bonclarken Assembly grounds of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in East Flat Rock, NC. Your Committee plans to have a full delegation present.

### **Relations with Churches Abroad**

#### **◆ Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated). (RCN / GKNv)**

The 265<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS in the Standing Ecumenicity Committee report (2011 Abstract p. 100) directed your committee to do two things. First to communicate our concerns to the BBK of the RCN and second to draft a letter to be approved by next year's Synod to be sent to the GKNv. The first directive was done while the second was not. The reason for the delay was because though the RCN/GKNv Synod was still in session it was not receiving new communications. Your Committee therefore opted to wait further developments and to draft the required letter to be approved by the Synod of the RCUS and then sent to the Synod of the RCN/GKNv in time for its 2014 meeting.

A sub-committee of the IRC has been monitoring developments in the RCN/GKNv in accordance with the following directive of the 2012 Synod of the RCUS: *That the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee continue to monitor developments in the RCN (Reformed Churches in the Netherlands aka GKNv-RP) and report to the 267<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS together with specific recommendations.* (Abstract p.81 Ecumenical Committee #6) and brings the following:

The RCN/GKNv has not made any decisions concerning the reports presented to the Synod in 2011 which continued into June 2012. On the committee dealing with men and women they appointed new deputies with some specific directions. Technically nothing is different than it has been, even though we see things written and in the reports which are of concern.

In light of this observation your Committee, at this time, is unable to address specific actions taken by the Dutch Synod. That does not alleviate our growing concerns or mean that we have to stand by and await developments. We therefore have written the draft letter authorized in 2011 and herein submit it for Synodical approval. Once approved by Synod we intend to send it directly to the Synod of the RCN/GKNv. That draft letter is appended to this report as **appendix #2**.

**Recommendation #3: That the letter to the Synod of the RCN/GKNv drafted by the Synodical Interchurch Relations Committee be approved.**

Your Committee expects a delegate from the RCN/GKNv to be present at our Synod in Manitowoc and plans a meeting between him and both the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee and the Standing Committee on Ecumenicity. As of this writing an additional meeting between our delegation to the ICRC and the RCN/GKNv in late August in Wales, UK, is approved by this committee and in the planning stage.

Your Committee expects that Rev. Maynard Koerner and Rev. Vern Pollema will represent the RCUS at the 2014 Synod of the RCN/GKNv

#### **◆ United Reformed Churches in the Congo (URCC) [Pending]**

This relationship is pending (2012 Abstract p.48). Contact with the URCC will be maintained by the Permanent Foreign Missions Committee.

◆ **Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya (RFCK).**

Contact with the RFCK is maintained by the Permanent Foreign Missions Committee.

◆ **United Covenant Reformed Church in the Philippines (UCRCP) [Pending]**

This relationship is pending (2012 Abstract p.49). Contact with the UCRPC will be maintained by the Permanent Foreign Missions Committee.

**International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC)**

The next meeting of the ICRC is scheduled this year in Wales, UK, in the latter part of August and first part of September. This meeting will be hosted by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW). As of this writing no agenda has been received though a preliminary report from their Committee of Review (COR) was recently been distributed to member churches. The COR has been tasked with reviewing the Constitution and By-laws of the ICRC and suggesting changes. The work of this committee is similar to that of the NAPARC COR. Once the COR proposals are reviewed by Interchurch Relations Committees of member Churches and discussed on the floor of the ICRC and amendments made, it will be sent down to the Churches for ratification at the next ICRC meeting in 2017. Having just received this draft report your Committee has not had time to review it but plans to do so and advise our delegation accordingly

Your Committee plans to have two delegates present at this year's ICRC meeting, Rev. Jim Sawtelle and Rev. Mike McGee.

**Proposed Budget**

Your Committee proposes the following budget for Synodical year 2013-2014. Please note that this budget includes a provisional amount for a committee meeting which has not been needed for the past several years

1. Delegate to the CanRC Synod, Carman, MB, May 7-21, 2013	\$500
2. Delegate to the OPC GA Moraga, CA, June 5-11, 2013,	\$400
3. Delegate to the RPCNA Synod, Marion, IN, June 2013	\$800
4. Delegation to the ICRC 2013 (previous amounts also set aside)	\$1,000
5. Delegation to NAPARC Nov. 2013, Flat Rock, NC (includes subcommittee meetings with fraternal churches)	\$3,000
6. Interchurch Relations Committee Meeting (if needed)	\$3,000
7. Interchurch Relations Committee misc. expenses	\$200
Total	\$8,900

**Recommendation #4:** That the proposed budget be adopted

*Respectfully Submitted,* Ron Potter (chairman), Vern Pollema, Ryan Kron, Maynard Koerner, Mike McGee, Wes Brice, John Heerema, Fred Hofmann, David Helseth, Earl Van Houten.

**Appendix #1**

Address to the 79th General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
June 2012

Mr. Moderator, Fathers and Brothers, commissioners, and visitors of the General Assembly. I bring you greetings in the name of the great Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ from the Reformed Church in the United States.

It is good to be with you here this week, to observe and to share in the work of the Lord, and to enjoy the fellowship. It is a very special fellowship because it is based on the faith we hold in common.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Ps. 133:1

I am personally acquainted with a number of you, but I feel that I should introduce myself to your assembly. Though I have been a minister in the RCUS for 35 years for some reason this is my first time as our fraternal delegate to the OPC. Somehow I have been denied that great privilege all these years.

I currently serve as Professor of Ministerial Studies at Heidelberg Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. Since I do not serve a congregation I have opportunity to preach in different congregations on the Lord's Day. In the last several years I have had the privilege of preaching on occasion in your Winner and Hammil, SD churches. Also at Bridgewater and Freeman and recently in Des Moines. I have also had occasion to preach in your church in Lincoln, NE and enjoy fellowship with Roy Miller.

I have a little bit of an unusual back ground as a minister in the RCUS. I am one of the rare ministers who was actually born and raised in the RCUS. In fact my family, on both my father's and mother's side have been in the German Reformed Church for as far back as records can be found. They were part of that German's from Russia migration to the Dakota's in the 1880's. I mention this because though the RCUS has not always been very good with producing its own minister's, but we have been blessed with faithful men who have proclaimed the gospel. We owe a great deal to the OPC and to Westminster seminary for that. We give all the praise to God.

Our denominations have a very interesting and not all that dissimilar history. We are remnant churches as a result of the onslaught of liberalism in our midst. There are others like us, though there is one sort of interesting distinction which is this. If you are familiar with our history, the RCUS never did begin a new denomination, but by the grace of God through a small remnant maintained the original German Reformed Church whose roots go back to the early 1700's in Pennsylvania.

Two weeks ago we just had our 266th annual meeting of the Church. Certainly we owe our gratitude to God for sustaining us through these many years. It was a delight to have Rev. Chuck Muether, a former student of mine, in our midst as your delegate.

In the providence of God just last week I became aware of a report written by Cornelius Van Til on a visit he made as a delegate from the OPC to the Eureka Classis meeting at Eureka, SD in May of 1958. For those who may not be aware for many years the RCUS consisted of only one Classis, in fact we were known as the Eureka Classis. I found some very interesting statements in his report which I would like to refer to in my address to you today.

I do that because I think it will help us to understand who both of us are. What is important for both of our assemblies are not the things that many look at, but the message and the task to proclaim that message in and to a hostile world.

If I may I would like to quote from a portion of that report at this time. Dr. Van Til speaks of his experience and the opportunity to address the church.

I spoke on the condition of the Church in general in relation to the modern situation and on the need of all of us who love the Reformed Faith in cooperating to bring the message of God's grace to the world. In the evening there was a large public meeting. Rev. Klautdt, an older minister, preached a sermon in German. It was delightful to listen to him. I was given an opportunity to address this public audience for 15 min. after Mr. Klautdt was through speaking. There were approximately 500 people present.

He goes on to say: they ought to be able to carry forward the Reformed Faith in that Classis. Perhaps they will be able to initiate a positive program of missions and of Christian education. They have every intention of trying to do so. When this happens the Eureka Classis may be of great strength and of great power for the Reformed Faith in this country.

The Classis is very small. It consists of about nine ministers, but I think there are about 17 or 18 churches. Even so their strength is far beyond their numbers.

It really strikes me when he says there were about 500 people present. I don't know if anyone here knows anything about Eureka, SD. Well it is not quite at the end of the world, but you can see it from there. It is truly a rural area. Now I am sure there were members present from other RCUS churches in the area to make up the 500 people. But just to give you a sense of who we are as a church today.

The congregation at Eureka, SD has zero members in its Sunday school, it is a church made up almost exclusively of retired people. In the 3 or 4 RCUS congregations within 50 miles there is perhaps a total 50-60 members.

Yet since that time we have established congregations in Pierre, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Watertown, SD, also in Lincoln, NE, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and just recently a 2nd in Minneapolis. We are a church which has moved from country church. When I began in the ministry there were three congregations in California, there are now 14.

In 1986 the Eureka Classis became 4 Classes under one Synod and the name Eureka Classis was retired. Today we have about 47 congregations including beginning works and about 50 active minister's. In fact according to my math the ratio of ministers to members is about the same as it is in the OPC.

What I think is so important to remember in all of this is that both the RCUS and the OPC are not large, though you are considerably larger than we are. But the way the world looks, and I am sorry to say, also a fair amount of the way those who claim the name of Christ look at things we are quite insignificant. But back in 1958 Van Til was absolutely right: the strength is not in numbers. As he said the strength is in the message, the holding and the proclamation of that message. Today more than ever before there remains the need to make known the truth of God and to understand its true strength and significance. Yes, we desire to reach the numbers, we rejoice with you in missions.

We of course give all the credit to God. My exhortation to you, as I reflect on our histories, is that the way to have that strength is to remain strong as confessional churches. When the confessions are not just words, but live in our ministries and are living confessions for our people then the church has the bases to remain strong.

When we think of strength and the enemy we tend to think of out there in the world. We both know that there is a great need to constantly look to ourselves to remain strong. There are serious issues which face the reformed world. May our strength continue to be the truth of God's word and the uncompromising witness to that word.

I do not have a lot to report concerning our recent Synod, in many ways it was a fairly routine Synod. Two things I do want to mention. After two years of study a special committee presented a 65 page paper on Biblical Sexuality. The paper itself is not available for dissemination until some fine tuning is completed. Based on the paper we did adopt a number of declarations and denials regarding human sexuality.

The 2nd thing is in the area of missions. The synod did approve funding for a new work in Omaha. We have also worked in the past with the OPC there and we trust that the Lord will bless this work in the large city of Omaha.

We work with churches in the Congo, Kenya and the Philippines.

We continue to be very interested in the work in Uganda as it relates to our work in Kenya. We look forward to continuing to work together at NAPARC and ICRC.

Mr. Moderator, I thank you for your time, for your attention and your warm hospitality. May God bless your work and may we all be strengthened through Him.

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. Philippians 4:1

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Maynard Koerner

## Appendix #2

Draft of Synodical Letter to RCN/GKNv

Dear Brothers,

After hearing the reports of the Rev. James Sawtelle and the Rev Maynard Koerner, representatives of the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS) and visitors to “buitenland-week” and to General Synod Harderwijk of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN), March 28—April 2, 2011, the 265th Synod of the RCUS, May 16-19, 2011, directed its Interchurch Relations Committee (IRC) to communicate our concerns to the BBK. This was done via email on March 16, 2012. In addition, (as well as upon the subsequent advice of the BBK) the 265th Synod of the RCUS directed its IRC to draft a letter of concerns to be sent to the 2014 Synod of the GKNv/RCN. This letter was approved by the 267th Synod of the RCUS, May 20-23, at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI.

Briefly stated, those concerns are:

The view of Scripture at the Theological University in Kampen (TUK), i.e., the interpretation of Scripture (hermeneutics) as evidenced in the writings and/or views of Dr. S. Paas, appointing him as lecturer at TUK, and TUK’s approval of Dr. K. van Bekkum’s dissertation. By upholding the appointment of Dr. Paas, who adheres to critical theories that do not do justice to the Scriptures and its divine authority, in spite of objections brought against his scholarly work, the TUK places itself in the very probable position of no longer being able to call anyone to account concerning higher critical views of Scripture in the future. In his dissertation, Dr. van Bekkum asserts the belief that it is methodologically incorrect to accept biblical data at face value, calling into question the principles that are to guide us when we read and interpret the Scriptures. According to his dissertation, the scholar has to decide what is truly historical in Scripture by comparing and giving equal weight to the relevant biblical as well as extra biblical data. The underlying question in all of the above appears to be how the truth of God’s Word can be adjusted in a way that is relevant for the contemporary questions that people are facing in the very secular, post-modern and post-Christian culture of the 21st century. To us, the foregoing shows evidence of a critical shift in hermeneutics and a weakening of the classic Reformed view of Scripture found in Scripture (cf. Jn. 17:17; II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:21) and confessed in the Belgic Confession, Articles 2-7, and does not bode well for the future integrity of the TUK and how it will influence the views of its students and future ministers of the GKNv/RCN. This is also cause for grave concern about a change in how biblical hermeneutics are presently functioning in the GKNv/RCN.

The Work of the Deputies Men/Women in the Church (Why the role of women in the church is being re-visited and what effect present day culture plays in the conclusions.) Here, as well, is the fear of the toleration of a new hermeneutic. Our hope and prayer is that the GKNv/RCN will let the historically tried and tested Reformed interpretation of Scripture determine her direction rather than societal pressures and ensuing re-interpretations, and that the 2014 Synod will determine that the door to a new hermeneutic with respect to the role of women in the church be closed and the authority of the clear and sufficient Word of God be maintained.

Contacts and unity discussions taking place between the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (RCN) and the Netherlands Reformed Churches (NRC) in regard to the differences in binding to and dealing with ongoing deviations from the confessions, as well as the matter of women in office within the NRC, and who is influencing whom. The concern is that the process of growing closer together is not the result of changes in the NRC, but of shifting attitudes and views (hermeneutical, doctrinal, church political) in the RCN. This, too, does not bode well for the Reformed and confessional identity of a sister denomination.

While we understand that Synod Harderwijk 2011 did not come to any final decisions on the above concerns, the reports, views, and perceived developments are, for us, alarming and a red flag, knowing from our own history how a once comparatively large and faithful Reformed denomination became decimated and apostate by the infection of liberalism and modernism. It can begin subtly in the seminary, often under the guise of academic freedom or at the Synod level, where views and teachings are allowed to go unchallenged and exempt from discipline, until it has filtered down to the churches and the damage is irreversible.

We humbly admonish you to be careful and to be watchmen upon the walls and at the gates of Zion (cf. Isa. 62:6-7; Ez. 3:17; 33:7; Ps. 87:2), always alert to the apostle Paul's warning to the Ephesian elders, that "from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:30). As one endowed with wisdom from on High tells us, "In an abundance of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14; cf. 15:22; 24:6).

Respectfully, we remain your brothers in the faith, The 267th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States May 20-23, 2013 Manitowoc, WI.

## J. Ministerial Aid Fund Committee

During the course of the 266th Synod of the RCUS conducted on May 21-24, 2012 at Grace Reformed Church in Rapid City, SD, the Ministerial Relief (MAF) Committee was chartered to conduct a survey of ministers in identifying potential long-term liability confronting the Synod related to ministerial relief aid.

The recommendation read as follows:

Recommendation #6 – That the Permanent Ministerial Relief (MAF) Committee circularize the following questionnaire pertaining to the following questions and report the answers given to the Ministerial Aid Relief Fund Sub-Committee and the 267<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States:

3. When is the minister(s) of your charge planning to retire? a. 1-5 years; b. 6-10 years; c. 11-15 years; d. 16-20 years; e. 20+ years.
4. What provisions, if any, are being made toward the minister's retirement, whether by the minister or the local church?
5. What type of mechanism is in place to ensure that retirement funds which are given are being set aside for the minister?
6. Are you working with a financial advisor?
5. Do you have any insights; suggestions or issues that your Consistory has faced that would be helpful for other congregations as they address matters relating to this matter?

To that end, the committee generated and mailed a survey (attached) to 55 pastors of the denomination. Of those survey requests, 24 or 44% were returned. Feedback on the returned surveys were compiled and organized in a fashion to maintain confidentiality of feedback for use in delineating conclusions and recommendations from the information. A copy of the compiled response listing is also attached for your review and awareness. It should be noted not all of the questions on returned surveys were fully completed.

Since all survey requests were not returned, the committee applied the assumption that data received represents responses for the total population of pastors in the RCUS. With that assumption, a number of observations can be drawn from the data. They include:

- 1) The attrition rate for pastors retiring in the next 20 years is consistent with historical rates of approximately 1 every 2 years.
- 2) The Denomination will experience a bubble of retirements in 20+ years.

- 3) 63% of respondents are or have made some provision for their retirement.
- 4) Accumulated retirement funds vary from \$0.00 to \$230,000 with 37% of pastors working with a financial counselor to address retirement funding needs.
- 5) Of 15 respondents, 20% of the pastors anticipated they would not require retirement funding support.
- 6) Ministerial aid requirements may grow from current of budget of \$249,600 annually to \$709,000 annually in 25 years (Ref Attachment entitled "Projected RCUS Ministerial Aid Calculation Work Sheet)
- 7) Practices vary by church relative to building a personal retirement fund i.e. IRA, etc. 44% of churches responding have some form of mechanism to assure the pastor is building a retirement fund.
- 8) 55% of responses indicate churches provide some form of funding for retirement.
- 9) 43% of pastors own their home with remaining 57% provided parsonages or equivalent by churches.
- 10) Financial investments include IRA's, 401K's, and life insurance. A few responses indicating reliance on Social Security.

**Recommendations:**

Synod/Pastors/Consistories are reminded that the MAF was designed to cover only critical unexpected financial needs of retired ministers and/or their widows and does not serve as a pension plan or fund. With this understanding, the Permanent Ministerial Relief (MAF) Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) While a \$1.2 million dollar fund has been accrued, the synod consider extension of the fund to the \$3 million dollar level.
- 2) Given recommendation for increased MAF funding accrual may be difficult, pastors are advised to give priority in addressing individual retirement funding programs for their retirements.
- 3) Consistories when reviewing a pastor's compensation package are to imbed and modify the compensation plan to include a retirement funding component.
- 4) Pastors and churches should be diligent in assuring a reliable retirement plan for accumulation of equity for retirement i.e. a matching fund arrangement.
- 5) Consistories of churches review retirement funding plans of the pastor minimally on an annual basis.
- 6) Synod consider a financial organization to assist consistories in establishing retirement planning and funding services at an individual pastor level. The MAF committee recommends churches work with the Barber Financial Group to establish individual funding for their pastor as they have already been vetted by the committee and are familiar with our needs.
- 7) Pastors living in parsonages arrange for housing fund availability upon retirement.

Submitted by: Permanent Ministerial Relief (MAF) Committee: Mr. Mark Fisher – Chairman, Mr. Spencer Gross, Mr. Ralph Goehring, Mr. Ray Schnabel.

## **K. Publications and Promotions**

The Committee conducted its business by way of email this past year.

### **1. Reformed Herald**

Foremost among our labors was the change in the printing and distribution of the Reformed Herald, undertaken last summer according to the decisions of the 266<sup>th</sup> annual Synod. We report the following:

- ◆ The format has been changed from monthly to bi-monthly.
- ◆ Printworx printing of Yuba City (Formerly, PIP printing) does all of our printing and distribution.
- ◆ We are now distributing with a non-profit US mail account, rather than bulk mail, at considerable savings. The disclaimer that we used to print yearly is no longer necessary.
- ◆ Olive Tree has quoted \$920.00 per issue for graphic design. The committee has not had time to meet about this to approve it.
- ◆ The cost per issue is approximately \$3573.00 if we approve Olive Tree's quote. This would set the subscription at 15.00 per year.

The publication of the Herald is consistently several weeks late, which is causing a bit of frustration for our printer. They have difficulty scheduling the work when they are not sure when it is arriving. To this end, we would like to remind everyone of the adopted schedule from last year (Abstract 60):

#### **For the July/August issue:**

- ◆ June 1<sup>st</sup> – articles received by the editor
- ◆ June 15<sup>th</sup> – articles edited and forwarded to Olivetree for formatting
- ◆ July 1<sup>st</sup> – issue delivered to Printworx for publication

#### **For the September/October issue:**

- ◆ August 1<sup>st</sup> – articles received by the editor
- ◆ August 15<sup>th</sup> – articles edited and forwarded to Olivetree for formatting
- ◆ August 1<sup>st</sup> – issue delivered to Printworx for publication

**For November/December issue:**

- ◆ October 1<sup>st</sup> – articles received by the editor
- ◆ October 15<sup>th</sup> – articles edited and forwarded to Olivetree for formatting
- ◆ November 1<sup>st</sup> – issue delivered to Printworx for publication

**For the January/February issue:**

- ◆ December 1<sup>st</sup> – articles received by the editor
- ◆ December 15<sup>th</sup> – articles edited and forwarded to Olivetree for formatting
- ◆ January 1<sup>st</sup> – issue delivered to Printworx for publication

**For the March/April issue:**

- ◆ February 1<sup>st</sup> – articles received by the editor
- February 15<sup>th</sup> – articles edited and forwarded to Olivetree for formatting
- ◆ March 1<sup>st</sup> – issue delivered to Printworx for publication

**For the May/June issue:**

- ◆ April 1<sup>st</sup> – articles received by the editor
- ◆ April 15<sup>th</sup> – articles edited and forwarded to Olivetree for formatting
- ◆ May 1<sup>st</sup> – issue delivered to Printworx for publication

**Recommendation 1** – That the subscription rate for the Reformed Herald be set at 15.00.

**Recommendation 2** – That Paul Treick be nominated as Reformed Herald Editor for the upcoming year

**Recommendation 3** – that the editor of the Herald be granted up to \$500.00 per year for expenses, above the amount of \$1500.00 provided for in Standing Rule #7.

**Recommendation 4** – that the Permanent Publications and Promotions Committee be granted permission to examine Olive Tree’s bid for graphic design and make the best use possible of Synodical funds.

## 2. Publications

We announced last year that the Heidelberg 2011 edition is in process and will be published soon (Abstract, page 58). There have been delays, but it has now been received and the committee is in the process of editing it.

The committee is also editing the Traditional Language Catechism, and plans to have both editions available for distribution this summer.

The Three Forms of Unity and the Constitution of the Reformed Church of the United States are now available in Kindle format (Amazon.com) for \$.99.

Titles available on Amazon.com are *The Three Forms of Unity, 2011 edition*; *The Constitution of the Reformed Church of the United States*; and *Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism*.

The royalties for all publications are deposited directly into the RCUS account.

Rev. Bristley has informed the Committee Chairman that he is unable to continue formatting works for publications, with the exception of the Reformed Herald. This means that we will need to find another layout artist. Those services are available both at CreateSpace and at Printworx, which the committee will look at for future works.

The user names and passcodes for all publication accounts have been forwarded to the Clerk and the Treasurer of Synod in case the Chairman of Publications is unavailable.

The following Synodical works are in Word format (docx) and stored on GoogleCloud:

- ◆ Traditional language catechism (1979 edition)
- ◆ Three Forms of Unity (2011 edition)
- ◆ Constitution
- ◆ Rules of Order
- ◆ Model Congregational Constitution

The following works are in PDF format and stored on Google Cloud

- ◆ Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism
- ◆ Position Paper – Women voting in congregational meetings (1976)
- ◆ Position Paper – Divorce and Remarriage (1991)
- ◆ HeidelbergKatechismus-1563
- ◆ All synodical works listed above in docx format.

If there are other Synodical Position papers in electronic format, please forward them to the Chairman of Publications and Promotions to be stored in a central location.

We have no recommendations and no requests for money. It is the opinion of the committee that guidelines for publications are unnecessary at this time, since royalties are sufficient for our current needs.

### 3. **Book Depository**

Due to the Olympics last summer, in which our Depository Manager's daughter was a contestant, the history books and the traditional three forms booklets were not distributed. Do not fear or be alarmed. We are assured that it will still be done (2012 abstract p.59).

Respectfully Submitted, Sam Powell (chairman), Randall Klynsmas, William Haddock, Jess Johnson, Brent Tjeerdsma, Jimmy Hall, Greg Stewart, Donald Weilersbacher, Paul Henderson, Gary Mancilas, Eric Bristley, Andy Gillman.

**Subcommittee to edit the paper “Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality”**

This subcommittee was formed by the chairman of the Permanent Publications Committee for the purpose of editing the paper produced by the Special Committee to Study Biblical Sexual Morality (2012 Abstract, 77, recommendation 2). We offer the following report.

The committee made recommendations concerning the paper, involving a few clarifications, and some expanding of certain ideas. Some stylistic rough patches were re-worked.

The committee thoroughly examined the work for grammatical and spelling errors.

The committee spent a fairly good portion of its time debating accurate terminology. Certain words that we are accustomed to use have meanings or connotations that are different than what we wished to say. We explained our conclusions in the preface of the paper, and edited the paper for consistent terminology.

The section of the paper involving the submission of the wife to an ungodly husband was expanded, clarified and edited to the satisfaction of the whole committee.

In light of recommendation # 3 in last year's Committee report (abstract, 77), we solicited suggestions from the delegates of Synod for improvement to the paper in the summer of 2012.

None were received. However, the committee did consider a suggestion to add a section that would have dealt with various case studies which believers face. The committee thought this to go beyond its mandate to edit the report.

The final copy of the paper was distributed in January, 2013, to the delegates of Synod, with enough time for any suggestions for improvement. None were received.

Recommendation 1 – That this report be adopted.

Recommendation 2 – That the paper "Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality" as corrected, edited and attached, be published and distributed through Amazon.com.

Respectfully Submitted, Sam Powell, Travis Grassmid, Jay Fluck, Tracy Gruggett, Dennie Roe.

### **Web-Site Sub-Committee**

The committee did its business primarily by email. We met briefly at the last Synod meeting to elect a chairman. This year we mostly continued the policies of past years, with the exception of posting news items on the front page. This new policy had some initial difficulty in its implementation, as the committee neglected to put in place a clear policy for protecting people's privacy initially. This issue was raised to the chairman and we discussed it via email. We finally settled on the following policy:

Web Site publication policies

Articles of general interest regarding the activities of classes or the denomination may be published on the front page.

Articles of general interest regarding a specific congregation or individual members (e.g., births, confirmations, weddings, etc.) will be published in a "News" section, with links on the front page.

The names and photographs of ministers may be published without explicit consent. However, the names and photographs of individual members will not be published without their consent. It is the responsibility of those submitting articles and/or photographs, not the webmaster, to secure consent and to notify the webmaster that consent has been granted before publication.

The "Welcome" post, identifying the RCUS, will always be at the top on the front page.

With that policy in place, we have been publishing news items that people have sent in to the website, though this practice would be more useful if more items were sent in. The Website

Subcommittee believes that the website could be a great tool for keeping each other informed of events in the life of our congregation, but it can only be that with the active involvement of the local churches in sending us news items to publish. The news publishing policy is mostly for the benefit of the website subcommittee itself; the only thing that churches need to keep in mind when sending items in is that express written permission must be received to publish names or pictures of members of the churches.

The chairman of the committee, Pastor Matt Powell, is currently handling all of the maintenance and updating of the information on the website. The website subcommittee continues to use Springs Hosting for the hosting and technical maintenance of the website, as well as the Reformed Herald website.

The Reformed Herald website is a matter of some concern. Currently the website is updated to the end of 2011. The website subcommittee has been handling updating that website, but the committee is dependent on files from the Reformed Herald in order to make those updates. There has been delay in receiving those files for reasons which are not clear. If it is not feasible to keep the Reformed Herald website updated, then we probably should not continue the website and save the denomination the cost of hosting and maintaining it.

**Recommendation #1:** That the budget for the website subcommittee be set at \$4000.

**Recommendation #2:** That the delegates of Synod take note of the benefit of sending news items to the website for publication, for the mutual encouragement of the churches, keeping in mind the privacy and publication policy.

**Recommendation #3.** That the Standing Publications Committee consider whether to continue hosting a site dedicated to the Reformed Herald.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Matt Powell, Pastor Frank Walker, Elder Rod DeJong,  
Elder Jim Drewes

## IX. Reports of Officers

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

Esteemed Brothers:

After watching the President of the United States deliver his State of the Union address this past January, it struck me that we might characterize his address as one man's vision for the State of the Union. Such a characterization is not one which I wish to adhere to the present report on the State of the Church. The Lord of lords and King of kings already has revealed to us His vision for the Church. It is our conviction that the Confessions and Constitution of our church summarize the will of Christ in Scripture for the church's doctrine, life and government. By our vows of subscription we agree to be held accountable to these standards of God's revealed will. The questions we must ask ourselves are these: Is our worship, our doctrine, our shepherding, our governance, our obedience, our labor reflective of and conforming to the will of our Chief Shepherd? Are we fulfilling our vows to hold steadfastly to the truth and are we conducting all things in the church decently and in good order?

We begin with a brief survey of the Classis President's reports. From the Western Classis: "This year I anticipated that many of your reports would be filled with doom and gloom. The sickly economy ... the desecrating juggernaut of Gay Marriage, and the spiritual and material struggles of some of our congregations are harbingers of spiritual storms and crestfallen hearts. But surprisingly, most of your reports were upbeat and positive."

"Last year's Classis approved the formation of a committee to study the Two Kingdom theology and to report back this year with recommendations. Because some of the report was written late in the day, the Committee saw fit to ask for additional time to perfect its conclusions."

"Without question the most taxing, difficult, surprising, grievous, heart-wrenching, and incredulous task of the Executive this year was to arbitrate the dispute at Trinity Reformed Church in Modesto ... After two lengthy sessions with the Consistory and ex-Consistory members ... the

complainants saw fit to leave the church, taking with them nearly 50% of the congregation ... The suddenness of what happened, together with a complete change of mind of the once enthusiastic complainants towards their pastor reveals the difficulty of keeping church unity in the bond of peace."

From the Northern Plains Classis: "Once again, the Lord has seen this classis through another year. There have been trials, but there have also been joys. As we consider the ministry of our various churches, let us give thanks to God for faithful service whilst also praying that the Lord will ever make us more zealous in the work of the Church and prosper our labours for him."

We take note of the report regarding a vacancy in the church in Watertown that: "[W]e are thankful both that Rev Syms is returned to the ministry from retirement and that there is renewed enthusiasm for the cause of the Gospel in Watertown."

With regard to the new mission work in Dickinson, ND we read: "Rev Clark continues his work in Dickinson. We thank God for the fact that already there have been additions to the work there, as well as young people for confirmation training. It is a matter of joy that there are Bible study groups for both men and women ... The Dickinson church had a practical trial this past year in that the parsonage they bought proved to be infected either with mold or rodent dung. I'm not sure which, nor am I certain which would be the lesser of the two evils. What was clear is that ... this made the house nearly uninhabitable ... until work was done to clear up the problem." The problem has been resolved "enabling the Clarks to concentrate on the ministry in Dickinson."

"The reports of the ministers have been faithful and optimistic. For the first time for a while, we have not experienced a sharp drop in total classis membership... Now we need to see growth. I say this not only because there are obvious practical reasons for the need to increase our membership, but because this is one of the reasons we exist, that the Gospel be spread. Now, of course, as Calvinists, we know that God gives the increase. Growth is not our responsibility. However, we are responsible to be faithful, in our prayers, our giving, our ministry, our outreach. When we give our account to God, as the Scripture says, may it be with joy and not with sorrow. In the meantime, we need to be concerned about the spiritual growth of Classis, which cannot be measured by statistics."

From Covenant East Classis: "As I've read and assimilated the Parochial Reports of the ministers of Covenant East Classis, I've been encouraged. The work of God's Grace is continuing among our congregations." The report goes on to say later: "From their reports, it is clear that each of our pastors is laboring diligently in the work of the Christian ministry. They are dedicated to the preaching and teaching of the holy Gospel. They are feeding and shepherding their flocks." However, the President observes: "All has not gone well. Things have not always gone as we would have liked." We find an example of that which has "not gone well" in the following anecdote cited from a parochial report: "needless to say the departure in 2012 of well over a third of our church was grievous." The President's report continues: "Oh, there are some shining lights and reports aglow with enthusiasm. But we know too, that with faithfulness and obedience often come opposition and discouragement. Even as we experience "the strengthening in the inner man" and the evidence of "Christ indwelling our hearts," we also see the weakness of the flesh and the deceitfulness of indwelling sin."

The President reports that "our mission work at Waymart, PA was organized into an individual congregation;" and in regards to another mission congregation, "according to Rev. Ryan Kron, the Lord is transforming our mission work, the Emmaus Road Reformed Church, into an organized congregation." In fact Emmaus Road Reformed Church has since been organized, and has called Rev. Kron to be her pastor.

"There remain a healthy number of individuals who are studying for the gospel ministry under the oversight of our classis and congregations. Four of our ministers are presently in mentoring relationships with those preparing for the gospel ministry. As we pray for Christ's Church, we ought also pray for those who will become leaders."

From the South Central Classis: "In my president's report at last year's Classis, I noted a relative peace in the church... and a generally encouraging tone that resonated in all the parochial reports. This past year, however, has been another season with a more mixed report."

"We are grateful for the marks of the true church functioning in the congregations... Several ministers report what might be considered a typical year in the life of their local congregation—births and deaths, blessings and trials, joys and sorrows, gains and losses ... A few ministers report sustained or even significant numerical growth ... Yet other ministers speak of facing some very difficult trials in their congregations, even resulting in significant losses in membership, which have been painful and discouraging and given cause for self-examination."

"Statistically, giving through regular and special offerings increased over 11% from the previous year, which is an indication of good temporal health on the whole. The Classis also had a slight increase in total baptized membership."

"As the Missions Committee Report indicates, there has been much activity this past year. Notable are the two new works now up and running—Heritage Reformed in Omaha, NE, and Christ Reformed in Casper, WY. This gives cause for great encouragement ... On a less encouraging note, the Missions Committee is advising a reevaluation of the mission work in Sherman, TX."

I would like to provide a few more tidbits of information gleaned from the various Presidents' reports scattered throughout, but too numerous to quote. I read excerpts from parochial reports of pastors and churches involved in planning for new mission works, evangelistic outreach plans, ministry in a state prison, and a growing use of internet resources such as Facebook, sermon audio, blogs and web sites to spread the message of the gospel. It is heartening to see in these anecdotes that the churches are not looking inward, but are actively seeking to spread the gospel as our Lord Jesus commands.<sup>7</sup>

There were numerous references to ministers, churches and classes involved in seminary instruction and oversight. Is this not what Christ also commands of the church when he says through the apostle Paul: "Guard what was committed to your trust;" and "the things that you heard from me ... commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"? With thanksgiving we should note that there are six men listed as students under care for the ministry.

Now for a survey of the permanent and special committee reports. The organic nature of our denomination is reflected in the fact that we engage in labors that necessitate the involvement of all our congregations in unison. Time and space does not permit me to touch on every report, so I will mention the following as particularly noteworthy in reflecting upon the State of the Church.

The Special Committee to Study Biblical Sexuality has completed its report. We thank them for their diligent efforts and the timeliness with which they sent out the report. It is hoped that this biblical study will be of use to our members in navigating the increasingly rough waters of the sexually permissive and perverse society in which we live.

The Christian Education report and the Interchurch Relations report raised a question for me. How might Synod be of greater assistance in helping these committees fulfill their respective mandates? These committees are time intensive in nature. Are we providing them with both the manpower and resources necessary to do the job? Since it is the conviction of Synod that Christ calls us to express and maintain the unity we have with faithful Reformed and Presbyterian churches, and to actively engage in the oversight and support of the training of men for the ministry, how can we ensure more faithfulness and greater vigilance in this work?

The Foreign Ministries opportunities continue to be a bright spot. Reading the report, I get the sense that the RCVS is coming to maturity in our grasp on how we should encourage and shepherd the churches on these foreign fields. The committee seems to be managing its resources and focusing its energies in a thoughtful and precise manner. At the same time, it is a great joy to read of the development in each foreign ministry labor. Our Lord has made the labors of his servants fruitful exceedingly and abundantly above what we could ask or think. All glory be to God! The production of the quarterly update on each work and prayer requests is a wonderful contribution to the committee's work and one that I believe will help all our churches understand better both how to pray for and contribute towards the needs of these ministries. I hope the plea for men to answer the call to short term teaching assignments will be heard by the ministers and consistories of the denomination.

As for the Home Mission efforts, it is a great joy to see that in a three year period four new works have emerged. Praise God! But as for the overall state of the work of Home Missions, I

do not sense that we are yet mature as we ought to be in this area. The chairman reports that basic responsibilities and procedures are breaking down in some ways, particularly on the classis level. Broader strategic efforts seem to be somewhat murky, if not non-existent. So I ask myself, where are we lacking? What are the issues? Is it coordination? Has there been a failure in the succession of leadership from one classis chairman to the next? Are we all simply so overwhelmed with our own local responsibilities that our otherwise good intentions are falling to the ground? I do not want to be misunderstood here. These comments and questions are not restricted to, nor personally directed toward individuals. We are one body. Perhaps some conferring can take place at this Synod meeting for necessary improvements.

One final comment on the committee reports. A review of Synod president reports going back at least as far as 2005 reveals that there have been several references to the lateness of reports to be submitted to Synod. A number of reports were late again this year. One special committee did not even meet to begin its mandate. Others report an inability to complete their mandates. Since it is fair to say at this point that we are struggling with a perennial trend of non-compliance to Synod's Standing Rule #13, it seems to me that this Synod ought to consider ways to remedy the situation.

In closing this report on the State of the Church, I would draw your attention to two aspects of the State of the Church important to note, one is positive, one is negative. Positively, the numerical and financial statistics show that we are holding our own. Not a lot of growth in either area, but in these times of economic and social upheaval, our Lord is certainly gathering, defending and preserving His church by his Word and Spirit. Reading the President's reports of each Classis, I was struck by some tremendous blessings the Lord continues to give us: endurance and constancy in faithful worship, in preaching the gospel, in propagating the biblical faith. There is nothing more hopeful to me for the future of the churches than this continuation in the truth because it is in and through the truth that Christ's kingdom comes. In a day in which theological aberration and fragmentation of worship principles is the air we breathe, the oneness we enjoy in these areas is nothing short of a mark of divine mercy and preservation.

Negatively, in the area of Church polity we seem to be struggling. What does it say about the State of the Church when on the one hand we confess that the principles of Reformed and Presbyterian Church government are derived from God's inerrant and infallible Word; and yet on the other hand we find in a number of instances our members and officers failing to be conformed to such principles? The reports indicate that this year in a few congregations, significant numbers of church members simply fled in the face of adversity, rather than "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Where is the confidence in and submission to the Christ appointed process of seeking either affirmation or correction—or both—from the pastoral oversight of the classis? The specter prevalent in the days of the Judges has arisen among us: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." While this may seem to over generalize us, the spirit of individualism is entrenched in our society, and we are not immune to its influence.

In some cases our ministers and elders also have been slow to seek the formal accountability available in the classis for correction, comfort and counsel as provided in the Constitution. Given some of the matters mentioned in this report about some neglect of oversight of Classis and Synod committee work, it seems apparent that we have all grown slack in a fundamental principle of biblical church government: mutual submission and accountability. Brothers, we need one another. The hallmark of Christian communion is that each one of us must feel himself bound to use his gifts readily and cheerfully for the advantage and welfare of other members. At the same time, our union with one another in Christ also means we need to be served and ministered to by means of the gifts of our fellow officers. It is with some trepidation that I write these words, and I have prayerfully struggled to express them in love and in meekness. I trust that wherever I have written inaccurately, you will correct me with charity; and wherever these words have hit the mark they will be for the edification of all. I think these words from the prophet Isaiah are a fitting conclusion to this report: "I have set watchmen on your walls, Oh Jerusalem; they shall

never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth " (Isaiah 62:6,7).

Respectfully submitted, Rev. James Sawtelle

## **B. Stated Clerk's Report (and Necrology)**

In accordance with the requirements of this office, your clerk has preserved the minutes of the 266<sup>th</sup> Synod with all supporting documents. An Abstract of the actions of Synod, including reports was prepared and published in accord with Standing Rule 9. Copies of this Abstract and a Directory of Congregations were distributed to all ministers and congregations of Synod, as well as to all churches with which we maintain fraternal relations. The Index of Positions and Resolutions included in the Abstract was updated.

I will send out the same number of Abstracts as last year unless I hear from you otherwise.

The minutes and all supporting documents of the 2012 Synod were preserved in a post-hole binder.

I sent invitations to all churches with which we have fraternal relations and to institutions that we support, to attend this year's Synod meeting. This year we invited Mid-America Reformed Seminary and City Seminary. I have heard back from both of these institutions that they plan to have a representative attend our Synod meeting. The representative from MARS requested the floor sometime prior to noon on Tuesday. I also invited all the supported institutions to come with displays to be set up at the Synod if they desire.

I updated the guidelines for the Minutes of Classes Committee according to the direction of the 2012 Synod (Abstract, p.86, recommendation 6 of Standing Minutes of Classes).

I would like to ask the Classis clerks to take note of Synodical Standing Rule 15: "Each student receiving student aid must affirm his commitment to pursuing ordination in the RCUS each year before receiving student aid. His affirmation must be signed, dated, witnessed and sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod, who will forward a copy of the same to the chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee of the student's Classis."

All Necrologies that I have received accompany this report.

Thank you all for your cooperation during the past year.

Sincerely in Christ, David Fagrey, *Stated Clerk of the RCUS*

## **NECROLOGY**

### **Calvin Weber – Elder of Salem, Ashley, ND**

Calvin E. Weber died Monday, March 4, 2013 at Sanford Medical Center in Bismarck.

Calvin was born in Java, SD on May 23, 1930 to Jacob and Margaret (Schorzmann) Weber. He was raised on the family farm in the Hosmer, SD area. In July of 1951 he was inducted into the U.S. Army serving in the Korean War. Calvin married Estella Neuhardt on July 14, 1953 within two weeks of returning. He was a devoted husband to his wife for nearly 60 years. Calvin was educated in the McPherson County schools, taught and confirmed in the tradition of the Reformed Church in the U.S. Calvin served in the Salem Reformed Church in various roles as youth leader, Sunday school teacher, deacon and elder. Calvin loved reading his Bible and read it entirely numerous times.

After Calvin's return from the military, he and his new bride moved to Aberdeen S.D., Edgeley and back to Ashley to be near Estella's family. Calvin was blessed with being a very talented mechanic, machinist and inventor. His primary focus was repairing farm machinery and he took those responsibilities very seriously to insure timely, affordable and excellent repairs. Calvin enjoyed owning an independent small business. Calvin never really retired, though he had to close the store, he continued helping out in the community.

Calvin was an elder in Salem Reformed Church for many years, however, since the early 1980's he had been estranged from the church. We are grateful to the LORD to report that in recent years he had reconciled to God's church and was buried as a member in good standing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, and two sisters. Remaining is one sister, Raymona Weron of Aberdeen, SD.

He also leaves his wife Estella of 59 years; his three sons; Steven (Cheryl), Baker, MT, Stanley (Alice), Nashville, TN, and Stewart (Nina), Bismarck, ND; grandchildren: Brian (Laura) Weber, Brooke (Ryan) Werdel, Benjamin, Aaron, Hannah, Jonathan Weber, Ryan, Kyle, and Matthew (Sarah) Weber and great grandchildren, Gage and Sawyer Weber, Macie, Jaden, Graycen and Jake Werdel.

**Eugene F. Greimann**  
Peace Reformed Church of Garner, IA

Eugene Frederick Greimann (1919-2013), the son of Rev. Herman and Caroline (Haberkamp) Greimann, was born July 19, 1919 in Dale, WI. He was baptized at the Reformed Church in Dale where his father was the minister. The family moved to Schaller in 1921 where his father accepted another charge as minister of the Reformed Church. Following the death of both parents, the family moved to Garner in 1927. Eugene was confirmed in the faith at Peace Reformed Church. He graduated from Garner High School in 1936. Following graduation, he worked at the Garner Roller Mills and for several farmers in the community. On November 9, 1941, he married Doris Barz at the Klemme Reformed Church. Following their marriage, they moved to a farm northeast of Klemme. Eugene farmed for 28 years and then worked as a custodian at Klemme Public Schools for 13 years, retiring in 1982. In 1997, they moved to Garner and in 2007 to Cardinal Grove Assisted Living.

Eugene was a member of Peace Reformed Church where he served as Sunday school teacher, superintendent, deacon, and elder. He served as delegate to many Classis meetings, and is said to be our youngest member to be elected as elder. He was on the building committee of the church that was built in 1962, member of the Garner Elevator board for several years, served on the Farmer Home Administration board and the Klemme Centennial planning committee.

Eugene entered glory at the age of 93, on January 20, 2013. One passage he found comfort in was Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Eugene is survived by his children, Lowell (Jennie) Greimann of Ames, Janette (Arthur) Hoffman of Owatonna, MN and Janelle Bremer of Dyer, IN; seven grandchildren, Chad (Chris) Greimann, Amy (Winston) Trotter, Blair (Angie) Greimann, Michelle (Dale) Simon, Kelly (Brian) Schultz, Trent (Paula) Bremer and Janna (Darren) Van Essen; nineteen great-grandchildren; sister, Dorothy Anderson of Mason City; sisters-in-law, Gladys Barz, and Emma (Barz) Palmbly; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step-mother, Anna (Maurer) Greimann; wife, Doris; daughter, Kathleen Ann; daughter-in-law, Jane Renner Greimann; brother, Curtis Greimann; sisters, Adeline Carothers and Charlotte Swanson; brothers-in-law, Norman Anderson, Charles Carothers, Leonard Swanson, Harvey, Marvin, and Ronald Barz, Walt Rosendahl; and sisters-in-law, Ruth Greimann, Ella Rosendahl, and Mabel Barz.

**Kenneth Don Kauk**  
Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE

Sutton, Nebraska, resident Kenneth Don Kauk, age 87, went to be with the Lord on March 20, 2013, at Memorial Hospital in Aurora, Nebraska. Services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2013, at Hope Reformed Church in Sutton with Rev. Darrell Kingswood officiating. Interment was in the Sutton Cemetery.

Kenneth was born August 4, 1925, in rural Clay County, Nebraska, to Reinhold P. and Verna (Ochsner) Kauk. He began his education near his home at the District 29 one-room schoolhouse and later attended Sutton High School graduating in 1942. On December 5, 1948,

Kenneth married Eileen Byrkit at Clay Center, Nebraska. He spent his working years farming with his father and later with his son David.

Kenneth was baptized and confirmed in the Sutton Hope Reformed Church being a lifelong member of that church. He had a great passion for his Lord; he began teaching at Hope when he was in high school and continued teaching into his 70s. He enjoyed high school students and also spent many years teaching catechism classes. He directed the church choir for fifty years and directed choirs at RCVS summer family camps. He sang for many events.

He is remembered for his many years serving the church as a deacon and elder; he spent much time counseling and visiting the sick and elderly. Besides his love for the Lord, he was dedicated to his family and community. He was a 4-H leader and on boards for the Eldorado Coop and the Sutton Community Home.

Kenneth is survived by his wife Eileen; sons David (Ann) of Saronville, Nebraska, and Mark of Orange City, Iowa; daughter Nancy (Dave) Klauschie of Omaha, Nebraska; grandchildren Emily (Nick) Mouw, Nathan (Blaire) Kauk, Sarah Kauk, Nathan Poel, Daniel (Rands) Poel, David (Briana) Poel, Trevor Kauk, Dallas Klauschie and fiance Joe Durick, and Lyndon Klauschie; great-grandchildren Austin and Chase Mouw and Brynnleigh Kauk; and sister-in-law Lenora (Raymond) Kauk. He was preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother Clara (Ehly-Kauk) Rauscher, granddaughter Joanna Kauk, and daughter-in-law JoEllen Kauk.

### **C. Treasurer's Report**

Esteemed Brothers: Enclosed you should find treasurer's reports for the time period from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. This report begins on April 1, 2012, so that it starts where the treasurer's report delivered to the last Synod ended. This report has not been audited, as the audit will eventually be for the 2012/2013 fiscal year. The ending cash balance as of March 31, 2013 is \$437,917.48. As I reported last year the checking account had a large amount of money in it that actually belonged in the Ministerial Aid Fund, so the March 31, 2012 checking account balance is misleading. Realistically the checking account balance is \$80,057.16 less than it was a year earlier, and \$68,500 of that reduction is attributable to the loan made to the Dickinson, North Dakota mission work.

The various church loans are shown on the reports entitled either "Notes" or "Accounts Receivable". Since last year, the amount of outstanding church loans has increased by \$47,277.79 to \$94,975.79.

This year the special day of prayer offering was sent to Grace Reformed in Bentonville, Arkansas. As of this time I have sent them \$16946.92. I recently received an additional \$150, and will be forwarding that to Grace Reformed shortly.

I have attached to my report the updated numbers from the Ministerial Aid Fund as shown on the printout from TD Ameritrade. Last year's report indicated that there was \$1,185,141.20 held in that fund. This year that amount has increased to \$1,257,022.17. All of the funds are now held in this brokerage account that is managed by Barber and Associates of Kansas City, Missouri.

In addition to the other reports I am including a copy of the 2011/2012 financial reports, together with the audit for that fiscal year. It took longer to get the reports done and audited than was the case in the prior year. Synod directed that the reports should be subject to a full audit. When I inquired as to who would perform such an audit and what it would cost, I found that some CPAs were unwilling to take on the work, and others suggested that it would cost \$10,000 or more. Roger Gallimore, was familiar with the CPA firm of Casey Peterson & Associates in Rapid City, South Dakota, and they committed to doing the work for \$1800, but because of the length of time taken to find them, they started later than in prior years. The audit they performed was more detailed and took significantly more time than prior years. They required me to verify receipts and disbursements for one particular month, and also to verify particular items chosen at random.

Recalling details of transactions that in some cases were more than a year earlier was sometimes difficult.

Pursuant to the direction of the Home Missions Committee on March 1, 2013, I began sending \$2,500/month to St. John's Reformed Church for the mission work in Omaha, Nebraska.

I again want to thank Reverend Jim Sawtelle and Clayton Greiman for reviewing my monthly records and you for your patience with me during the last year.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Synod provide to the treasurer direction as to what, if any, additional reports it would like to see.
2. That Synod decide what, if any, changes it wants to make to the Manual of Procedures for the Office of Treasurer of the Reformed Church in the United States.
3. That the treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
4. That Synod determine what sort of detail it wants in an audit of the Treasurer's books.

In Christ's service, Ted S. Griess, Synod Treasurer

		STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	
		3/31/2012	3/31/2013
Cash Basis Current Assets			
	Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$791,696.07*	\$437,917.48
Other Assets			
	Notes	\$47,698.00	\$94,975.79
Total Assets		\$839,394.07	\$532,893.27
Liabilities Fund Balances		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$839,394.07	\$532,893.27

\*This includes \$273,721.43 that was temporarily held in the checking account until it could be transferred to the Ministerial Aid Fund. A more accurate balance would be \$517,974.64.

Beginni

Buildin	\$124,35	
g Fund	9.19	
Deficit		
Reducti		
on	\$426.92	
Diacona		\$10,911
l		
Foreign		
Ministri	\$135,40	
es	9.16	
Benevol		
ence	\$416.61	
Reform		
ed	(\$34.67	
Herald	1.37)	
Publicat	\$116,06	
ions	7.49	
Home		
Mission	\$119,96	
s	2.67	
Hope	\$5,649.	
Haven	28	
MERF		
Minister	\$267,77	
ial Aid	2.43	
Minister		
ial	(\$50.27	
Relief	7.47)	
Seminar	\$16,388	
ies	.20	
Student	\$7,239.	
Aid	77	
		\$66,215
Dues		
Other	\$47,698	
Assets	.13	
Unalloc		
ated	\$1,186.	
Income	50	
		\$839,39

The  
income  
and  
expense  
figures  
on this  
report  
are from

4-1-12  
to 3-31-  
13

The last report given to Synod ended 3-31-

		LOAN S RECE IVAB LE			
	Begin ning Bal	Princi ple	Interes t		Ending Bal
Rock Spring s	\$7,702 .95	3,370. 51	196.14		\$4,332.44
Modes to	\$11,42 6.64	3,567. 29	173.03		\$7,859.35
	\$28,568.0				
Aberdeen Dickinso n	0 \$68,500.0		14,284.00	857.04	\$14,284.00
	0		0	0	\$68,500.00
					\$94,975.79

PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARIES  
(April 2012 through March 2013)

INCOME

Benevolence	\$45,783.50
Building Fund	\$21,549.39
Diaconal	\$2,135.18
Dues	\$47,006.25
Foreign Ministries	\$62,664.17
Home Missions	\$65,297.29
Hope Haven	\$7,185.77
MERF	\$12,801.53
Ministerial Aid	\$157,667.92
Publications	\$24,277.30
Seminaries	\$25,081.42
Student Aid	\$21,808.99
TOTAL	\$723,403.25

EXPENSES

Benevolence	\$47,086.00
Diaconal	\$1,400.00
Dues	\$49,897.75
Foreign Ministries	\$63,271.21
Home Missions	\$121,851.09
Ministerial Relief	\$236,500.00
Publications	\$30,618.55

Student Aid	\$12,670.67
TOTAL	\$1,077,181.84
Net Income	\$-353,778.59

PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARIES  
(July 2011 through June 2012)

INCOME

Benevolence	\$44,768.50
Building Fund	\$34,439.59
Diaconal	\$6,475.90
Dues	\$43,949.11
Foreign Ministries	\$91,352.02
Home Missions	\$70,517.39
Hope Haven	\$6,396.96
MERF	\$10,913.09
Ministerial Aid	\$291,474.89
Publications	\$36,589.51
Seminaries	\$20,591.65
Student Aid	\$5,352.85
Unallocated income	\$-10,000.00
TOTAL	\$884,386.09

EXPENSES

Benevolence	\$46,696.00
Diaconal	\$4,529.00
Dues	\$56,185.94
Foreign Ministries	\$74,703.43
Home Missions	\$105,033.43
Ministerial Relief	\$239,600.00
Publications	\$38,604.85
Student Aid	\$2,540.15
TOTAL	\$908,565.05
Net Income	\$-24,178.96

Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-upon Procedures  
Casey Peterson and Associates, LTD  
CPAs & Financial Advisors  
Rapid City, SD/ Gillette, WY

To the Executive Committee of Synod Reformed Church in the U.S.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

We **have** performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Directors of Reformed Church in the U.S. solely to assist the Board of Directors of Reformed Church in the U.S. in evaluating the internal controls over the cash receipts, cash disbursements, and bank reconciliations of Reformed Church in the U.S. as of the year ended June 30, 2012. Reformed Church in the U.S.'s management is responsible for the design and implementation of controls related to the cash receipts, cash disbursements, and bank reconciliations. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in the report. Accordingly, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below, either for the purpose for

which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

Our procedures and findings are presented within Section I of this report. There were five exceptions identified related to the procedures performed.

**Section I – Procedures and Findings**

1. We selected the January 2012 bank reconciliation for the operating checking account and performed the following procedures:
  - a. We traced the beginning and ending bank balances on the reconciliation to the balances reported on the bank statements.
  - b. We traced the beginning and ending reconciled book balances on the bank reconciliation to the general ledger.
  - c. We traced the January 2012 cash receipts per the bank statement to the general ledger.
  - d. We traced the January 2012 cash disbursements per the bank statement to the general ledger.
  - e. We tested the clerical accuracy of the reconciliation.

There were no exceptions found as a result of these procedures.

2. For the ministry checking account, our planned procedure was to haphazardly select one month during the year ended June 30, 2012 and trace the deposits and withdrawals on the bank statement to the transactions recorded in the general ledger, noting agreement of amount.

We were unable to complete this procedure as intended and agreed upon. Per discussion with Ted Griess, Treasurer, RCVS does not have a separate ministry checking account.

3. We haphazardly selected 25 cash receipts during the year ended June 30, 2012 and performed the following procedures:
  - a. We traced each cash receipt from the general ledger to the supporting documentation including count sheets, Synod remittance forms, receipts, and/or donor letters, noting agreement of amount and recording in the correct fund.
  - b. We traced each cash receipt to a deposit slip, noting agreement of date and amount.
  - c. We traced each deposit to the bank statement, noting agreement of cash receipt with bank deposit.
  - a. For electronic contributions within our sample, our planned procedure was to trace the contribution from the third-party website to the bank statement. However, there were no electronic contributions included within our sample.

There were no exceptions found as a result of these procedures.

4. We haphazardly selected 25 cash disbursements, excluding payroll disbursements, during the year ended June 30, 2012 and performed the following procedures:

- a. We traced each cash disbursement from the general ledger to the supporting documentation including check stubs, invoices, and purchase orders, noting agreement of payee and amount.

One of the checks selected for testing did not have specific supporting documentation. This disbursement was related to travel reimbursements for a Synod delegate. We noted that a total for travel reimbursements was approved in the Synod Board minutes and the payee for this transaction was listed as a delegate. However, documentation of the actual travel expenses could not be located.

One of the checks selected for testing was for an amount that was different than the amount approved in the Synod Board minutes. Check number 5348 was written to Redeemer, RCVS in the amount of \$3,270.60. However the Board approved this organization to receive \$3,333.00 monthly.

- b. We traced the cash disbursements to the cancelled checks or check images, noting agreement of amount and payee.

The check image for check number 5167 did not agree with the payee or amount that was recorded in the general ledger. It appears that check numbers for 5167 and 5168 were transposed in the general ledger. Check number 5168 agreed with the payee and amount that were listed in the general ledger as check number 5167.

- c. We traced the signatures on the cancelled checks to the authorized signature list, noting agreement of name.

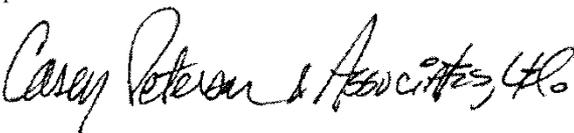
There were no exceptions found as a result of this procedure.

- d. We traced the checks to the bank statements, noting agreement of check disbursements with bank withdrawals.

One of the items selected for testing cleared the bank for an amount different than what was written on the check. The check amount agreed with the supporting documentation. However, the check actually cleared the bank for \$10 less than the check amount. This appears to be a bank error.

We were not engaged to, and did not, conduct an audit, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the internal controls related to the cash receipts, cash disbursements, and bank reconciliations. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Synod of Reformed Church in the U.S. and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than those specified parties.



Casey Peterson & Associates, Ltd.

## X. Membership and Financial Statistics

The report of the Membership and Financial Statistics was adopted and is printed in the appendix of this Abstract.

## XI. Reports from RCUS Fraternal Delegates

Rev. Robert Grossmann gave his report as a delegate to the URCNA Synod.

Rev. Maynard Koerner gave his report as a delegate to the OPC General Assembly (see Inter-Church Relations Committee Report in this Abstract). He also gave his report as a delegate to the Synod of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches. His report is as follows:

### Report by Fraternal Delegate to the Canadian Reformed Churches General Synod meeting at Carmen, Manitoba

Your servant attended the General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches meeting at Carmen, Manitoba as Fraternal Delegate of the RCUS. The Synod began its meeting on May 7 and continues to meet as I write this report. I was warmly received, given the opportunity to sit in on committee meetings, and participate in the deliberations. I was able to attend from noon on Wednesday, May 15 until noon on Friday, May 17.

Items on their agenda include the following:

1. Appeal concerning the decision of their recent Synod (2010) to allow women voting in the congregations
2. Issues dealing with sister churches, specifically the RCN
3. Issues related to NAPARC
4. Final work on the book of praise
5. Appointment of a fifth professor to the seminary
6. Recommendation concerning bible translation

The Canadian Reformed General Synod goes about their work in a very deliberative manner. Their synod is a delegated synod with a total of 24 delegates, 12 ministers and 12 elders. Committees work in preparing detailed reports which are then discussed by the assembly and usually sent back to committee 3 - 4 times until it is finally voted on. It is also important to note that churches may appeal any decision of a previous synod.

Some final decisions were concluded while I was in attendance. The synod did determine that the previous synod erred in its decision to allow women voting. Thus that decision was overturned and the practice of only allowing male confessing members to vote was reaffirmed.

Final action in regard to the RCN had not yet taken place. It was indicated to me that they plan to send a letter of admonition to the General Synod of the RCN.

They appointed a fifth professor to their seminary. The synod also recommended the ESV as a translation for use by the churches. This is due to the changes in the NIV which has been in use.

In regard to the RCUS their list of issues to discuss was updated by removing the issue of confessional church membership and serving communion to shut-ins. I pointed them to our membership vows demonstrating that we do hold to confessional church membership. Regarding serving communion to shut-ins, their own synod has determined that such practice is acceptable.

I was given the opportunity to address the General Synod. I briefly reviewed our history with them. I encouraged them in their work. I assured them that we appreciated our relationship with them and that it is our desire to work closely with them.

Respectfully submitted, Maynard Koerner.

## **XII. Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches, Institutional Representatives**

The following fraternal delegate brought fraternal greetings: Rev. Chuck Muether, from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Mark Vander Hart, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Mid-America Reformed Seminary, addressed the body on behalf of the seminary.

Mr. Wayne Johnson board member of City Seminary of Sacramento addressed the body on behalf of the seminary.

## **XIII. Reports of Board Members and Liaisons**

### **Mid-America Reformed Seminary**

Rev. Jon Blair gave an oral report.

### **Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Rev. Wes Brice gave an oral report.

### **Hope Haven**

Rev. Ron Morris gave an oral report.

### **New Geneva Seminary**

Joshua Berg gave an oral report.

### **Radio Administrative Committee**

The annual meeting of the Reformed Radio Administration Committee which is the North American partner in Reformed Faith and Life - French met at Lynwood URC on Tuesday, September 25, 2012. Representing the Synod of the RCUS were, Rev. Neale Riffert, Rev. Paul Treick, Rev. Dan Schnabel, and Elder Bill Borgwardt. Rev. Eric Kayayan was present as were representatives of the United Reformed Churches of North America.

Rev. Kayayan reported that as of the meeting there were 570 programs of 15 minutes prepared. There is a study on the Book of Acts for children (175 programs thus far). A shorter program for France (3-4 minutes) is also prepared (82 thus far). Some French literature has been reprinted. These include: The Confessions of Faith; Rev. A. R. Kayayan's book on Islam, with a study on demonology which is especially relevant for Africa. The latter reprint is scheduled for April of 2013.

The excellent cooperation with Trans World Radio and FEBA (French radio) has continued and is being supported with RFL funds. These entities supply a broad range of coverage. There are also various local stations that broadcast within their localities – such as in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Kananga, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Timbuktu, Mali. The greatest expansion is possible in Mali which has been torn apart with violence from Islamic fundamentalists. Sadly, the Timbuktu facilities were destroyed. They had been bearing much fruit. A station in the south (Bamako) is now able to broadcast, but needs better equipment and funding. The Canadian Reformed Church has given a one-time gift to buy equipment, but more funds are needed to maintain this broadcast. Churches in South Africa and New Zealand have contributed \$10,000 for installing solar panels which makes the station less dependent on unreliable energy sources. Efforts are underway to send a Christian missionary and a radio consultant to Mali to help in the management. This is extremely important at this crucial point in time.

There are some projects available for support by our local congregations in addition to the funding that is made through our Foreign Ministries budget. If any are interested on a one-time gift or taking on a project with monthly support, please visit the website (Projects) at [www.foi-vie.org](http://www.foi-vie.org). It would be well to contact Rev. Eric Kayayan directly to see which project is most needed at the time. His email is: [ekayayan@iafrica.com](mailto:ekayayan@iafrica.com).

In 2012 Rev. Kayayan traveled to several French-speaking countries and in the United States and Canada. These travels are difficult but essential to open new areas for broadcast, explain the work, and to solicit funding. This year Rev. Kayayan has planned speaking engagements in RCUS churches in Bakersfield/Shafter, Sacramento, and at the URCNA in Phoenix (at this writing still unconfirmed). He will also be meeting with the RRAC on September 24, 2013.

There are no current plans for Rev. Kayayan to move out of South Africa, but it is likely on the horizon in the future. Living conditions in South Africa are constantly deteriorating.

This year's finances have been sufficient to run the basic operation of the French broadcast. We are grateful for the support given through the RCUS (\$18,857.56 from Synod and \$2,005.30 from RCUS congregations). Last year Synod budgeted \$20,000 for this work. The total budget from the U.S. and Canada was set at \$94,500 for the year. The Reformed Churches in South Africa (Rietvallei) supply a substantial support as well. The conversion from Dollars to Rand has been good over the past year.

Since its inception in 1998 the broadcasts of the Reformed gospel in French have been a great blessing to those who are able to hear it in Africa and beyond, as well as a benefit to the congregations in the Congo. Remember to keep this ministry, and Rev. Kayayan in your prayers in addition to the financial support given.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Paul Treick, Rev. Neale Riffert, Rev. Dan Schnabel, Elder Bill Borgwardt

### **Reformed Herald Editor's Report**

Dear Brothers, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as editor of the Reformed Herald for another year. This is also coupled with gratitude to those who have contributed material for publication, as well as Rev. Bristley for the design and setup for the printer.

This year has seen the change from a monthly issue to a bi-monthly issue. There was some consternation over the missing months in the summer, as directed by Synod. To date we have been putting out a 24 page edition, which is double the size of the previous monthly issues. This seems to be a better length than the 20 page suggestion made last year. The problem with the bi-monthly format is that certain time-sensitive announcements which we receive cannot be included. One such was a conference announcement for a Heidelberg 450 Conference to be held by the Protestant Reformed Churches.

In addition to the change from monthly publications, we changed to a printer located in the U. S. This arrangement has worked out well once the initial details were worked out. The only difference in the quality has been in the print, where the printing and graphics are not as clear, and the captions sometimes disappear. It appears that the cost of publication, according to the Publications Committee, can also be reduced by having made these changes (\$18 to \$15 per year).

This year we began with the biographies of our pastors. I believe this has been a good addition, as we are a small denomination, but spread from coast to coast. It should be helpful to the congregations as well, when they consider calling a minister.

I have been including some historical and instructional articles which relate to the Reformed creeds in general, and especially the Heidelberg Catechism – this year celebrating its 450th Anniversary. It is my plan to run more similar material in the remaining months of this year.

For the most part, those who were asked to send materials did so. At times the article I asked for was substituted for another. These are good, but they do not lend well to giving a theme to that particular issue. When one article is late in arriving, it does hold up the entire completion of that issue. Knowing that all of us are very busy, I would just encourage you to make your best effort to reach the deadline.

After making the proofreading corrections, the material is out of my hands until I see the final setup by Rev. Bristley. He has made the publication attractive, even given the two color restriction. A color issue would be more attractive and easier for graphic set-up, but also would increase the cost some.

There are some areas that need attention by everyone. First, be sure to update the subscription addresses in your local congregation (adding and removing). These should be sent to Rev. Frank Walker, not to me. Congregational treasurers should take note of the number for their congregations when sending monies to the synod treasurer.

Secondly, please take out as much of the special formatting as you can when sending articles. It is very difficult sometimes to remove them, as I may use a different word processor than yours. We never use “styles” or underlining, and only rarely italics, and all-caps.

Once again, I am grateful for the work of Rev. Bristley who does a fine job with design and giving advice to the editor. Rev. Frank Walker does a good job of maintaining the subscription lists.

I have indicated to the Publications Committee that I am willing to continue as Editor for the coming year, if that is the will of the Synod.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Paul H. Treick

## **XIV. Special Committee Reports**

### **A. Special Judicial Committee**

Last year our president of Synod contacted Rev. Ron Morris about chairing the Special Judicial Committee regarding certain wording in the constitution. Rev. Morris agreed to chair that committee and did have some conversations with different members of the committee. But because of circumstances that led Rev. Morris to move and change churches, he did not officially convene the committee in time to adequately discuss and produce a report. Your committee apologizes and Rev. Morris takes full responsibility for his failure to convene this committee in time to report to this year’s Synod. Your committee respectfully asks to be given another year to do the job they were tasked to do.

Humbly Submitted, Rev. Ron Morris, Rev. Vern Pollema, Rev. Neil Riffert, Rev. Matt Powell, Rev. Richard Stetler, Rev. Doug Schlegel, Elder Stacy Kooistra, Elder Richard Honaker.

## **XV. Standing Committee Reports**

*[The committee recommendations appear below in their final form, whether amended or not. The recommendations were adopted unless otherwise noted]*

### **A. Benevolence Committee**

1. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$225 per month for the next synodical year for Grace RCUS, Lancaster, CA.
2. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$500 per month for the next synodical year for Faith RCUS, Anderson, CA.
3. That Synod grant benevolent aid to Covenant RCUS, Chico, CA in the amount of \$837 per month beginning January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.
4. That Synod grant benevolent aid in the amount of \$1,425 per month for the next synodical year to Mrs. Amy Stevens.

### **B. Ministerial Aid Committee**

1. That the following requests for Ministerial Aid be approved:

Mrs. Chester Ploeger

\$1,200 per month    \$14,400 for next Synodical year

Mrs. Joan Vance	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Marjorie Duckett	\$1,100 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Gene Sawtelle	\$1,800 per month	\$21,600 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Neale Riffert	\$1,800 per month	\$21,600 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Vern Pollema	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Paul Treick	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Kay Savage	\$1,000 per month	\$12,000 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Howard Hart	\$1,750 per month	\$20,400 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year
Rev. & Mrs. Herman Van Stedum	\$1,500 per month	\$18,000 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger	\$1,400 per month	\$16,800 for next Synodical year
Mrs. Lena Jones	\$1,200 per month	\$14,400 for next Synodical year

2. Take note that the monthly amount distributed for Ministerial Aid is \$17,150 for a yearly total of \$205,800 at a cost per communicant member of \$80. [TAKE NOTE].
3. That \$40,000 be transferred from the Ministerial Aid Fund to help offset the approved Ministerial Aid requests.
4. That the guideline for the Ministerial Aid Fund for the next synodical year be set at \$15.00 per communicant member.
5. That due to the continuing activity of gathering funds from various accounts and the challenges that have occurred through this process, the original intention for the Ministerial Aid Fund (utilizing 80% of the interest for funding Ministerial Relief and reinvesting the remaining 20% of the interest) be not implemented at the 267<sup>th</sup> Synod.
6. That while \$1.2 million has been accrued in the Ministerial Aid Fund, the synod increase the goal for the fund to \$3 million.
7. Given that the Ministerial Aid Fund is not a retirement plan, pastors and consistories are advised to give priority in addressing retirement funding programs for the pastor. [TAKE NOTE]
8. That pursuant to Article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, Classes shall not consider a pastoral call letter as “adequate support” to the temporal needs of the called pastor, unless retirement is addressed and funded in the terms of the call.
9. [From the Floor] That Synod authorize the permanent Diaconal Committee to take care of any funds that may be needed by Virginia Hoeflinger according to their own wisdom.
10. [From the Floor] That the MAF Committee of the RCUS prepare a program addressing planned giving to bring options to the 268<sup>th</sup> Synod.

### **C. Ecumenical Committee**

1. Regarding the Permanent Committee Report recommendation #1, take note that the Synodical Foreign Missions and Home Missions Committees give serious consideration to being represented at the annual NAPARC Home and Foreign Missions consultations. [TAKE NOTE]
2. Regarding the Permanent Committee Report recommendation #2, that the application for membership of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) in the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council be approved.
3. Regarding the Permanent Committee Report recommendation #3,

- a. That the letter to the Synod of the RCN/GKNv drafted by the Synodical Interchurch Relations Committee be approved, and the letter as amended be sent by our clerk on behalf of our synod to their synod.
  - b. That our synod request matter 3a be heard while our representatives are in attendance at their general synod.
4. Regarding the Permanent Committee Report recommendation #4, that the proposed budget be adopted with the amendment to eliminate item #6 in the budget of \$3,000 for committee meetings so the revised budget now recommended is \$5,900.
  5. Take note on overture #44 from Western Classis regarding interchurch fraternal delegates to classis and presbytery meetings. [TAKE NOTE]
  6. Regarding overture #10 from Covenant East Classis regarding six day creation in the OPC, that the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee of Synod interact with the OPC regarding their confessional position of the authority and inspiration of Scripture in the light of their General Assembly's adopted position that there is a multiplicity of acceptable views of Genesis 1-2 on creation, and that the IRC report back to the 268<sup>th</sup> Synod.

#### **D. Education and Student Aid**

1. That Synod provide student aid for the 2013-2014 academic year in the following amounts:
  - c. Mr. Steve Carr (Covenant East Classis) at Mid-America Reformed Seminary: \$5,000 tuition and \$400 books;
  - d. Mr. Chris Campbell (Covenant East Classis) at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary: \$2,100 tuition and \$400 books;
  - e. Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg (Covenant East Classis) at Heidelberg Theological Seminary: \$4,800 tuition and \$400 books;
  - f. Mr. Derrick Merkel (Western Classis) at City Seminary: \$400 books;
  - g. Mr. Tim Marinelli (South Central Classis) at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary: \$6,500 tuition and books.
2. That Heidelberg Theological Seminary continue to be included on the list of seminaries worthy of support.
3. That the guideline for Heidelberg Seminary remain at \$2.00 per communicant member for 2013-2014.
4. That Synod take note that Heidelberg Seminary has implemented and needs to be encouraged to continue to teach the Reformed Faith and the RCUS distinctive principles. [TAKE NOTE]
5. That Heidelberg Seminary continue to seek out students that have the necessary academic achievements that are necessary for a student applying for admission to the M.Div. Program. [TAKE NOTE]
6. That Heidelberg Seminary be commended for its continuing years of service to the RCUS and its service to the Church through its local church conferences, and encourages RCUS members to be aware that these conferences are available on its web site and can be arranged for individual congregations. [TAKE NOTE]
7. That Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary continue to be included on the list of seminaries worthy of support.
8. That the guideline for Greenville Seminary be continued at \$2.00 per communicant member for the 2013-2014 synodical year.

9. That Greenville Seminary be commended for their years of service to the Church. [TAKE NOTE]
10. That each church of the RCUS be encouraged to evaluate regularly the materials it uses in church education in light of RCUS Constitution Article 192. [TAKE NOTE]
11. That RCUS churches be encouraged to train their Sunday school teachers and develop a curriculum around the Heidelberg Catechism, and that the RCUS encourage those who are willing and able to create a Sunday School Teacher Training Program for the benefit of the Churches. [TAKE NOTE]
12. That the subcommittee on Sunday School Curriculum be dissolved.
13. [From the Floor] That the guidelines for Mid America Reformed Seminary and New Geneva be continued at \$2.00 per communicant member. Seconded and carried.

### **E. Judicial Committee**

1. That the overture (8) from Covenant East Classis to erect a committee to review and perhaps revise the form for membership and financial statistics be denied. Baptized unconfirmed members are accounted for in the current form. It is the responsibility of individual consistories to maintain accurate records for all members.
2. That the overture (9) from Covenant East Classis to erect a committee to study Dispensationalism be denied. Although Dispensationalism is a common error in the broadly evangelical world, materials to counter it from a Reformed and covenantal perspective are widely available, starting with the Reformed Confessions.
3. Concerning the overture (53) to change “two weeks” to “four weeks” in Standing Rules 2 and 3, that “two weeks before the session of Synod” be changed to “May 1.” The Stated Clerk reports there is no problem with our current procedures or the time specified; however your committee believes that a fixed date might be more helpful.
4. That the overture (54) to add “Overtures that are circularized shall be sent in their entirety, and not mere summaries of those overtures” to the end of Standing Rule 17 be denied. Your committee believes that the word “overtures” at the beginning of this Standing Rule is correctly interpreted to include the entire text of overtures.
5. That the overture (56) to amend Standing Rule 15 by replacing the words “Chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee” with “Stated Clerk” be granted. For the sake of accurate record keeping, your committee believes that communications to the committees of the Classes should be sent through their respective Clerks.
6. Concerning the last paragraph on page 4 of the President’s Report, your committee does not believe that there is an easy answer to the problem of committees not fulfilling their responsibilities or submitting their reports late. We would, however, remind present and future committee members that it is not only a duty but an honor to serve as officers of the church, and that committee work, which is a necessary part of the overall work of the church, must be taken seriously. Several Biblical principles are involved, not the least of which is the integrity of our vows to submit to one another in the Lord. We would also recommend that the Standing Nominations Committee, as much as possible, try to select men to serve on the committees of Synod who have interest in and willingness to serve on those committees.

### **F. Missions Committee**

1. That Rehoboth Reformed Church, La Habra, CA receive \$2,208 monthly, for a total of \$26,500 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013 [an increase of \$509 monthly due to their budget shortfall, matching the support from Western Classis].

2. That Grace Reformed Church, NW Arkansas receive \$300 monthly, for a total of \$3,600 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013 [a reduction of \$60/month, 5% of the original Synod support].
3. That Emmaus Road Reformed Church, Eden Prairie, MN receive \$167 monthly, for a total of \$2,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013 (a reduction of \$1,083 monthly, 33% of the original Synod support).
4. That First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND continue to receive \$3,200 monthly, for a total of \$38,400 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013.
5. That Heritage Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE continue to receive \$2,500 monthly, for a total of \$30,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013.
6. That the Home Missions Manual, Section VI.5.d., be amended, that after “Provision for an IRA” the following be added: “or other retirement provision.”
7. That Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY be approved as a Synod Home Mission Work.
8. That Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY receive \$2,500 monthly, for a total of \$30,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 1, 2013 and that a retirement provision be included in the three year budget.
9. That the Northern Plain Classis be hereby encouraged to proceed, as soon as possible, toward parity of funding between Classis and Synod for the Dickinson, ND mission work, as per the Home Missions Manual, V.1.c. [TAKE NOTE]
10. That the 2013 Day of Prayer offering be designated to help support First Reformed Chapel of Dickinson, ND.
11. That \$5000 be budgeted for Permanent Home Missions Committee expenses in fiscal year 2014.
12. The 2014 fiscal year Home Missions budget if approved as recommended would be \$135,500. [TAKE NOTE]
13. The advice requested by Rehoboth Reformed Church regarding the purchase or lease of a church building has been answered by the Synod Treasurer. [TAKE NOTE]
14. That the following budget be adopted for the 2013-14 synodical year:

URCC – Congo

Elder/pastor/church support \$12,600 (same as last year)  
 Kinshasa aid to churches \$13,200 (same as last year)  
 Lubumbashi church aid \$1,000 (same as last year)  
 Building and Diaconal aid \$1,200 (same as last year)

RFCK – Kenya

Church Support \$6,000 (same as last year)  
 Building & diaconal aid \$2,000 (same as last year)  
 Student/ministry expenses & travel \$6,700 (same as last year)

UCRCP – Philippines

Classis meeting expenses \$2,058 (same as last year)  
 Outreach expenses \$2,000 (same as last year)

Reformed Faith and Life (French): \$20,000 (same as last year)  
 Committee Expenses

Travel to Africa \$3,000 (same as last year)  
 Travel to Europe \$0 (reduced \$1,000)  
 Travel to USA \$3,000 (same as last year)  
 Travel to Philippines \$0 (reduced \$3,000)

15. That Synod approve Rev. Dennis Roe for mission trip to Africa, to be accompanied by another RCUS co-laborer.
16. That the RCUS approve sending 2 men to Congo in the next year or two. Note that the funds for these trips would come from previous funds set aside for missionary support and travel to Africa.
17. That the Foreign Ministries Committee draw 50% of the 1013-14 budget from Foreign Ministries accrued funds. This is recommended in part to encourage congregations to more fully support other synodical funds that have been underfunded in recent years.
18. That Westminster Biblical Missions be an approved benevolence.
19. That Westminster Biblical Missions be added to the Synodical Guideline at \$2 per communicant member for 2013-14.
20. That the recommendation to add ITEM as an approved benevolence be referred to the Permanent Home Missions Committee.
21. [From the Floor] That the Foreign Missions Committee investigate why MERF has not responded to our requests for representation on their board nor sent representatives to our Synod meetings, and report back to Synod next year.
22. [From the Floor] That the Clerk be instructed to send a letter to the widow of Pastor Bankina expressing our condolences and in recognition of his work in the Congo.

### **G. Minutes of Classis Committee**

1. That the South Central Classis minutes be approved with the following changes to their minutes:
  - h. Inconsistent use of titles and full names in various places. (e.g. p.9, line 429, etc).
  - i. The word “the” is missing in various places (e.g. p.6, line 282, etc.)
  - j. Correct p.2, line 53 “The President moved...”
  - k. Inconsistent capitalization of “Bar of the House” throughout.
  - l. P.2, line 4, capitalize “Elder.”
  - m. The majority of Permanent and Standing Committee Reports are not signed by the majority of committee members
  - n. Correct “The President resumed the meeting.”
  - o. P.3, line 157, change “bound” to “bounds.”
  - p. P.3, line 161, change “McGee” to “McGee’s.”
  - q. P.3, lines 168-175, question marks are missing.
  - r. P.3, line 184, use a complete sentence.
  - s. P.5, line 235, under Article 81 questions, there is no #2 part c.
  - t. P.6, lines 266, 281, 286, there are no supporting document numbers in the minutes.
  - u. P.7, lines 331 and 333 and p.8, line 413, change “moves” to “moved.”
  - v. Supporting document pages 47, 49, 50, and 51 are not on 8 ½ x 11 paper.
  - w. No opening statement which identifies the classis, type of meeting, place of meeting, date and time of meeting, and those who preside and preach at the opening service.
  - x. The names and addresses of the President, Clerk, and the Treasurer are not listed.
  - y. Approval of the minutes should be by the President (p.9, line 454).
  - z. The licensure form for Rev. Kevin Carroll is missing.

2. That the Western Classis minutes be approved with the following changes to their minutes:
  - a. Inconsistent references in answers to Article 81 questions (some N and some No).
  - b. P.4, Heidelberg Youth Camp guideline was amended but it was not adopted as the main motion.
  - c. P.13, Overtures Recommendation #4 is mentioned but in the Appendix it is recorded as Recommendation IV.
  - d. It is recorded that the Vice President closed the meeting in prayer and confession, but it never states that he assumes the chair or where he went.
  
3. That the Covenant East Classis minutes be approved with the following changes to their minutes:
  - a. No Table of Contents for the minutes.
  - b. On page 1, II, D.3 and II, D.4 have a motion without a second.
  
4. That the Northern Plains Classis minutes be approved with the following changes to their minutes:
  - a. No Table of Contents for the minutes proper, but an excellent Table of Contents for the supporting documents.
  - b. No tab divider and Table of Contents between the minutes proper and the supporting documents.
  - c. The minutes are not signed by the President and the Treasurer, nor are the addresses of the Clerk, President or Treasurer provided under their signatures.
  - d. Rev. Stetler is not listed as a minister on page 1.
  - e. Rev. Syms was received as a minister of Classis on page 2.
  - f. Page 2, Standing Committees were amended by adoption and common consent.
  - g. Page 3, moved to commit a recommendation.
  - h. Page 4, the minutes record that the Consistory from Minot answered “yes” to Article 81, Q.3a, but the Consistory’s signed written answer was “No.”
  - i. Page 4, the Order of the Day was not actually called, nor did the President call the body back to order on the top of page 5.
  - j. Pages 6, 7, and 8, the Classis was not called to order.
  - k. Page 113 in supporting documents, the credentials for the First Reformed Church, Herried, SD, delegate was not signed by the clerk.

#### **H. Publications Committee**

1. That the Reformed Herald subscription rate be set at \$15.
2. That Paul Treick be nominated as editor of the Reformed Herald.
3. That the editor of the Herald be granted up to \$500 per year for expenses (above the amount of \$1500 provided for in Standing Rule 7).
4. That the permanent Publications Committee be directed to examine the subscription model currently used to fund the Herald, considering whether it would be better to move to a guideline based model, where a set number is sent to each congregation, based on reported number of families, and the expense is paid out of guidelines.

5. That the Permanent Publications and Promotions Committee be granted permission to examine Olive Tree's bid for graphic design for the Reformed Herald and make the best use possible of Synodical funds.

#### WEB-SITE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

6. That the budget for the website committee be set at \$4000.
7. That the delegates of the Synod take note of the benefit of sending news items to the website for publication, for mutual encouragement of the churches, keeping in mind the privacy and publication policy (i.e. Articles of general interest regarding the activities of classes or the denomination may be published on the front page. Articles of general interest regarding a specific congregation or individual members (e.g., births, confirmations, weddings, etc.) will be published in a "News" section, with links on the front page. The names and photographs of ministers may be published without explicit consent. However, the names and photographs of individual members will not be published without their consent. It is the responsibility of those submitting articles and/or photographs, not the webmaster, to secure consent and to notify the webmaster that consent has been granted before publication. The "Welcome" post, identifying the RCUS, will always be at the top on the front page). [TAKE NOTE]
8. That the Synod take note that the Reformed Herald editor and graphic designer have agreed to promptly send the website committee the files needed to keep the Reformed Herald website up to date. [TAKE NOTE]
9. That the report of the Website Subcommittee be adopted.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE TO EDIT "BIBLICAL SEXUALITY" REPORT

10. That the report of the subcommittee to edit the paper "Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality" be adopted.
11. That the paper "Promoting a Biblical Sexual Morality" be published at the discretion of the Permanent Publications Committee, and that the Publications Committee decide what appears on the title page.
12. That the report of the Editorial Advice Committee be adopted.
13. [From the floor] That the Editorial Advice Committee be permitted to approve what appears on the RCUS Website.

#### I. Finances Committee

1. That overture 33 be referred to Standing Home Missions.
2. Regarding overture 40 that Synod grant a \$77,000 loan at 3% per annum over 15 years.
3. Regarding recommendation #1 of the Treasurer's Report, that the Treasurer include a year over year comparison with the annual Treasurer's Report.
4. Regarding recommendation #2 of the Treasurer's Report, that delegates to the 268<sup>th</sup> Synod be encouraged to review the Manual of Procedures for the Office of Treasurer of the RCUS as found on page 71 in the 2010 Synodical Abstract.
5. Regarding recommendation #3 of the Treasurer's Report, Take Note. [TAKE NOTE]
6. Regarding recommendation #4 of the Treasurer's Report, that the Executive Committee engage a Certified Public Accountant to evaluate the internal controls over the cash receipts, cash disbursements and bank reconciliations of the RCUS on an annual basis following each fiscal year and to report the findings by February 1 of the following year.

7. That Trinity Reformed Church of Modesto, CA be allowed to reduce the repayment of the building fund loan from \$1,000 per month to \$250 per month.
8. That an accounting transfer be made from the Publications fund balance in the amount of \$41,979.43 to the Reformed Herald Fund and in the amount of \$56,632.93 to the Ministerial Relief fund.
9. That an elder from Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, NE be added to the RCUS account signatory and that two signatures be required for all expenditures over \$10,000.
10. That reimbursement for travel to the 2013 Synod be paid in the total amount of \$38,565.62 according to the 2013 Synod delegate expenses.
11. That Guidelines for the 2013-14 fiscal year be adopted as follows:
  - Synodical Dues: \$15.00
  - Building Fund: \$5.00
  - Home Missions: \$46.00
  - Foreign Missions: \$9.00
  - Ministerial Relief: \$70.00
  - Student Aid: \$7.00
  - General Benevolence: \$19.00
  - Ministerial Aid Fund: \$15.00
  - Hope Haven: \$2.00
  - Greenville Seminary: \$2.00
  - Heidelberg Seminary: \$2.00
  - Mid-America Seminary: \$2.00
  - New Geneva Seminary: \$2.00
  - Westminster Biblical Missions: \$2.00
  - MERF: \$1.00
  - TOTAL: \$199.00**
  - Reformed Herald (per subscription): \$15.00
12. That Wireless Access Point be paid \$204 per invoice for providing wireless internet access for the 2013 Synod.
13. Regarding recommendation #4 of the Permanent Foreign Ministries Report, that delegates to Synod and permanent committee members take note that RCUS operating monies are in one bank account and are managed through fund accounting. Each fund balance may or may not be available depending upon cumulative cash flow needs and the performance of each of the individual funds. [TAKE NOTE]

#### J. Excuses Committee

1. Take note that the Kassel Reformed Church of Anamoose, ND did not send delegates or excuses. [TAKE NOTE]
2. That the excuses from all sessions of Synod be granted to Rev. Paul Henderson, and the following elder delegates: Lynn Goehring, Matthew Fickbohm, Jim Synder, Joe Gross, Ray Jung, Lee Roy Neifer, Steve Sapp, Rod De Jong, Michael Perry, Justin Goehring, Teddy Steinbach, Ken Bowen, Derrick Merkel, and Mark Reyna.
3. That the excuses for part of the sessions of Synod be granted to the following delegates: Rev. Richard Stetler, Elder Darrell Bentz, Rev. Jonathan Merica, Rev. Tracy Gruggett, Elder Ryan Spitzer, and Rev. Mike McGee.
4. That Synod be reminded regarding unexcused absences: that when an elder is ordained he is under the oversight of his Consistory. When an elder misses a consistory meeting he needs to give an excuse for his absence. Hence it is implied if an elder is to be absent

from Classis or Synod (if feasible) he will need a written excuse signed by his consistory. [TAKE NOTE]

5. [From the Floor] That the Clerk be instructed to write a letter of encouragement and gentle admonishment to the Consistories who have not had elder delegates at Synod for the last two years.

## K. Nominations Committee

1. That the Permanent Synodical committees be as follows:

**Archives:** Pastor of Willows (E. Bristley), R. Wegis, J.P. Mosely, G. Mancilas.

**Board of Trustees:** D. Clark, T. Rott, J. Snyder.

**Christian Education:** L. Johnson, J. Fluck, D. Weilersbacher, D. Kingswood (1yr); J. Grossmann, J. Blair, M. Reyna (2yr); K. Sorensen, T. Grugget, C.W. Powell, A. White.

**Diaconal Ministries:** T. Savage, B. Davis, P. Poe (1yr); J. Berg, D. Benz (2yr); S. Altman, K. Armbruster, S. Henry, J. West (3yr).

**Editorial Advice:** R. Morris, J. Connelly (1yr); D. Dawn, G. Van Holland (2yr); G. Horner (3yr).

**Executive:** J. Sawtelle, D. Fagrey, F. Walker, T. Griess, R. Gallimore, K. Bowen;

**Foreign Ministries:** M. Voytek, B. Borgwardt, T. Mayville (1yr); D. Roe, G. Baloy, W. Johnson, A. Haller (2yr). D. Schnabel, R. Grossmann, D. Schlegel (3yr).

**Sub Committee- Radio Liaisons:** P. Treick, N. Riffert, D. Schnabel, B. Borgwardt;

**Home Missions:** D. Helseth (WC), L. Goehring (NP) (1yr); H. Opp (CE), H. Hart (SC), M. Willemsen (CE), H. Bowen (WC) (2yr); R. Stetler (NP), Dan Mettler (SC) (3yr).

**Interchurch Relations:** R. Potter, V. Pollema, R. Kron, (1yr); M. Koerner, E. VanHouten (2yr); M. McGee, W. Brice, F. Hofmann, G. Syms, M. Wiersma, J. Merica (3yr).

**Ministerial Relief (MAF):** M. Fisher, S. Gross, R. Goehring, R. Schnabel.

**Sub Committee MAF (Bequests):** W. Johnson, J. Morton.

**Publication and Promotion:** S. Powell, B Tjeerdsma (1yr); J. Hall, T. Grassmid, D. Weilersbacher, K. Carrol, P. Henderson, J. Vusich (2yr); A. Gillman, R. Mettler, R. Klyisma, D. Yeager (3yr).

**Subcommittee – Website:** M. Powell, F. Walker, R. DeJong, R. Mettler.

**Special Judicial Committee:** R. Morris, V. Pollema, N. Riffert, M. Powell, R. Stetler, D. Schlegel, S. Kooistra.

## L. Minutes of Synod Committee

The committee received the draft minutes from the stated clerk, made revisions and returned them to the clerk, who distributed the revised minutes to the body, and were approved.

## XVI. Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

### A. Expression of Appreciation

The following expression of gratitude was given to Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church: “The 267th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States hereby expresses its gratitude to the members of this congregation for hosting this year's meeting of Synod. Your hospitality, fellowship and many kindnesses have refreshed us and satisfied all our needs, and we are especially thankful for the numerous delicious meals that nourished us throughout our time with you. Your works of faith and labors of love have not gone unnoticed. May our gracious Lord continue to bless your service to one another and others.”

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

Both these reports were adopted.

## XVII. Adjournment

### A. Minutes of Synod Report

The President declared the minutes approved as corrected.

### B. Roll Call

The closing roll showed 48 ministers and 32 elders.

### C. Motion to Adjourn

The 267<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS adjourn to the 268<sup>th</sup> Synod to begin on May 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE.

### D. Closing Service

#### 1. Devotions

Elder from Salem-Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI.  
Elder Daniel Dill led in the closing devotion.

2. **Apostles Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Doxology.** The President led the assembly in the recitation of the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. He pronounced the Benediction and led in the singing of the Doxology.

The meeting of Synod was concluded at 2:48 p.m. on Thursday, May 23 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rev. David P. Fagrey*, Stated Clerk

**APPENDIX**  
Standing Rules of Synod  
Index of positions and Resolutions  
Membership and Financial Statistics  
General Information

**Standing Rules**

[The Standing Rules of Synod were adopted in 1986 and amended in the bracketed years.]

1. The fiscal year of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. The synodical dues shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid not later than the thirtieth of June of the current fiscal year. [1991, 2010, 2011]
2. The statistics of the Classes for the calendar year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod May 1. [2011, 2013]
3. The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk May 1 [2013].
4. Any member may move to have the Standing Rules read at the second session of Synod. Passage of the motion shall require a second and a simple majority vote.
5. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel on behalf of Synod at forty-five cents (\$0.45) per mile per vehicle. Public transportation costs and rental car fees for the delegate shall be reimbursed at full cost. (Delegates are exhorted to exercise good stewardship in the use of Synod's funds and to not abuse this provision). [2005, 2008, 2011]
6. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Synod whose congregations have paid the synodical dues in full to the Synod Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Synod or have been properly excused by Synod. [2008, 2011]
7. The President of Synod shall receive four hundred fifty dollars (\$450), the Stated Clerk shall receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and the Treasurer one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the synodical year. An amount equal to 10 percent of the Stated Clerk's honorarium will be available for the Stated Clerk to use for secretarial help. The Editor of the Reformed Herald shall receive one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), the Book Depository Manager shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300), and the Subscription Manager shall receive five hundred dollars (\$500) for the fiscal year of Synod. [1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2007]
8. The monies sent to the Synod Treasurer shall be made out in check form to the REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.
9. The Stated Clerk of Synod shall prepare an abstract of the synodical minutes, including a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Synod, and shall publish the same. Each Stated Clerk of Classic shall prepare an abstract of classical minutes and shall send one copy to each minister, elder delegate and congregation of Synod. [1987, 1989, 1990]
10. The Synod shall have Permanent Committees as follows [and the Standing Nomination Committee each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees. [1989, 1992, 1996, 1999, 2007]
  - A. Archives
  - B. Board of Trustees
  - C. Christian Education
  - D. Home Missions
  - E. Diaconal Ministries
  - F. Interchurch Relations
  - G. Editorial Advice
  - H. Ministerial Relief

I. Executive

J. Publications & Promotions

K. Foreign Ministries

11. The complete Synod statistics shall be duplicated by the Stated Clerk each year at the Synod's expense.
12. Nominations for all officers of Synod and the editor of the Reformed Herald shall be made by secret ballot. All names appearing on the nominating ballot shall be candidates, and if there is not an election on the first ballot, only the names with the two highest totals of votes shall be candidates until there is an election. [1997]
13. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Synod shall be completed and submitted to the Consistories of all the churches and the Treasurer of Synod no later than April 1. Reports may be emailed to consistories with known email addresses; otherwise, they must be mailed by regular mail. The only committee exempt from this requirement is Home Missions, which shall submit its report at least three weeks in advance of Synod. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Synod by the chairman of the committee involved by April 1. All reports, overtures and correspondence must be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper, and all reports must be signed by a majority of the committee members. [1992, 2000, 2004]
14. The services of Synod shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circularized before Synod.
15. Students for the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States shall be urged by Synod to attend only such seminaries which are listed as institutions worthy of receiving benevolent monies from the Reformed Church in the United States. Only students who attend institutions so listed shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian ministry. Each student receiving student aid must affirm his commitment to pursuing ordination in the RCUS each year before receiving student aid. His affirmation must be signed, dated, witnessed and sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod, who will forward a copy of the same to the Stated Clerk of the student's Classis. [2001, 2013]
16. It shall be the practice of the Reformed Church in the United States to require each candidate for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. This internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least five years in the Reformed Church in the United States. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidate and Credentials Committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the Reformed Church in the United States. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed. [1995]
17. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod four weeks in advance of Synod shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Synod at any time. [1998, 2004, 2010]
18. The spring meeting of the Classes shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod. [1987]
19. The annual session of Synod shall begin each year on the evening of the third Monday of May unless Ascension Day occurs in that week, in which case it shall begin on the evening of the second Monday in May, and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. The Order of the Day of Synod shall provide for a service of worship on Monday evening and for committee work on Tuesday evening. [1992, 1998]
20. The Executive Committee of Synod is charged with overseeing contact with groups expressing interest in the RCUS, and with developing materials that will facilitate uniform presentations to such groups. [1997, 2000]

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**Membership and Financial Statistics 2012**

		No. of elders	No. of deacons	comm. memb. last Yr.	Rec'd by confirm	Rec'd by letter	Rec'd by Prof.	Total Rec'd	Tot. old/new Memb.	Lost by dismissal
<b>COVENANT EAST CLASSIS</b>										
Northwest, AR	Grace	2	2	19	0	2	7	9	28	0
Garner, IA	Peace	3	3	91	0	0	0	0	91	1
Minneapolis, MN	Redeemer/ Eden	4	4	118	5	2	13	20	138	6
Eden Prairie, MN	(w/Redeemer)	0	0	22	2	0	13	15	37	0
Hamburg, MN	St Paul's	3	3	209	4	0	5	9	218	0
Waymart, PA	Heritage	2	1	21	0	2	1	3	24	4
Kansas City, MO	Northland	3	4	51	3	3	0	6	57	2
Manitowoc, WI	Salem Ebenezer	4	3	169	2	0	0	2	171	0
Napoleon, OH	Peace	3	3	84	2	0	4	6	90	21
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS</b>										
Aberdeen, SD	First	3	3	103	0	1	1	2	105	4
Anamoose, ND	Kassle	2	1	22	0	0	0	0	22	3
Ashley, ND	Salem/inc. Dickinson	3	3	41	0	3	6	9	50	0
Dickinson, ND	First Ref/w.Ashley	0	0	0	0	3	5	8	8	0
Eureka, SD	Eureka	3	3	156	2	0	0	2	158	2
Herried, SD	First	2	2	44	0	0	2	2	46	0
Hosmer, SD	Hosmer	2	2	20	0	0	0	0	20	0
Minot, ND	Harvest	1	1	21	0	2	9	11	32	0
Pierre, SD	Hope	2	0	20	2	2	3	7	27	1
Watertown, SD	Covenant	2	0	19	0	6	0	6	25	4
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS</b>										
Col Spr., CO	Trinity Cov.	4	3	43	3	5	0	8	51	2
Greeley, CO	Grace	2	3	58	0	2	1	3	61	7
Limon, CO	Providence	3	2	41	3	0	0	3	44	1
Lincoln, NE	St. John's	4	4	85	1	2	1	5	90	0
Menno, SD	Zion	4	4	155	0	0	0	0	155	0
Mitchell, SD	Grace	3	2	74	3	1	0	4	78	2
Omaha, NE	Heritage	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	12	0
Rapid City, SD	Grace	3	2	76	1	2	2	5	81	11
Rock Spr., WY	Providence	3	2	38	1	0	2	3	41	0
Sherman, TX	Christ the King	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	12	2
Sioux Falls, SD	Trinity	5	5	151	5	2	9	16	167	8
Sutton, NE	Emmanuel	3	3	121	4	3	4	11	132	0
Sutton, NE	Hope	4	4	184	2	2	0	4	188	4
Vermillion, SD	Providence	2	1	22	2	0	2	4	26	0
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1138</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>WESTERN CLASSIS</b>										
Anderson, CA	Faith	1	1	23	0	0	0	0	23	3
Bakersfield, CA	Grace	4	4	131	2	2	0	4	135	0
Chico, CA	Covenant	2	1	19	0	0	0	0	19	0
Grass Valley, CA	Covenant w.Stkn	3	0	50	0	2	6	8	58	17
La Habra, CA	Rehoboth	3	1	0	0	34	0	34	34	0
Lancaster, CA	Grace	2	3	34	4	4	1	9	43	3
Lodi, CA	Providence	3	3	35	0	3	3	6	31	1

Modesto, CA	Trinity	2	2	67	0	2	1	3	70	14
Sacramento, CA	Cov.	5	6	162	1	4	9	14	176	36
S. Diego, CA	Covenant	1	1	0	0	22	2	24	24	0
Stockton, CA	Calvary w/G.Valley	1	0	11	0	2	4	6	17	2
Shafter, CA	Ebenezer	3	6	101	0	0	11	11	112	44
Willows, CA	Grace	2	3	32	0	0	3	3	35	0
Yuba City, CA	First	3	2	52	2	1	0	3	55	0
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>TOTALS THIS YEAR</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2,974</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>203</b>

Lost erase/ dis	Lost by death	Total Lost	Com mem this Yr.	unco mfir med mem b.	total bapt mem b	# famil ies	# childr en in SS	adult Bapt	infant bapt.	Total baptis ms	# Rec. Lord' s Sup	x Lds Sup serv
0	0	0	28	5	33	17	6	1	1	2	25	6
3	1	5	86	21	107	50	14	0	1	1	80	5
0	0	6	132	70	202	61	65	1	6	7	132	18
0	0	0	37	17	54	18	15	1	4	5	41	12
2	8	10	208	29	237	127	18	0	2	2	185	9
0	0	4	20	9	29	12	8	0	0	0	19	12
4	0	6	51	17	68	21	15	0	1	1	55	6
9	4	13	158	20	178	95	10	0	1	1	163	4
0	1	22	68	15	83	33	13	0	2	2	61	6
<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>66</b>

0	7	11	94	17	111	49	15	0	0	0	87	4
0	0	3	19	1	20	11	1	0	0	0	0	3
0	1	1	49	10	59	31	9	0	1	1	29	4
0	0	0	8	9	17	4	9	0	1	1	0	0
5	7	14	144	6	150	85	4	0	0	0	118	4
4	0	4	42	11	53	24	11	0	1	1	29	4
1	0	1	19	0	19	15	0	0	0	0	11	3
0	0	0	32	12	44	15	9	4	3	7	32	12
0	1	2	25	9	34	14	3	0	2	2	26	4
0	0	4	21	6	27	9	5	0	0	0	19	6
<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>44</b>

0	0	2	49	28	77	25	47	0	6	6	38	12
2	2	9	52	24	76	29	8	0	2	2	53	5
0	0	1	43	18	61	18	18	0	0	0	44	12
4	0	4	86	28	114	45	27	0	0	0	79	6
0	2	2	153	22	175	96	18	0	2	2	154	4
0	0	2	76	15	91	35	18	0	1	1	68	6
0	0	0	12	18	30	4	18	0	2	2	9	3
5	0	16	65	31	96	33	21	0	0	0	65	6
1	0	1	40	23	63	23	10	0	4	4	30	12
2	0	4	8	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	10	2
0	1	9	158	71	229	76	64	0	6	6	150	6
2	5	7	125	20	145	75	17	0	1	1	114	6
5	3	12	176	51	227	85	36	0	2	2	145	6
2	0	2	26	15	41	13	12	0	4	4	26	4
<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>1433</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>90</b>

0	0	2	20	2	22	12	3	0	0	0	24	12
5	1	6	129	45	174	55	36	0	2	2	112	4
4	0	4	15	8	23	8	0	0	1	1	15	12
0	0	17	41	13	54	17	9	0	1	1	48	12
0	0	0	34	12	46	19	11	1	4	5	34	6
4	0	7	36	7	43	17	7	0	0	0	34	4
4	0	5	26	5	31	15	0	0	0	0	28	11
0	0	14	56	12	68	28	11	1	2	3	66	4
3	0	39	137	61	198	67	48	0	3	3	137	12
0	0	0	24	3	27	13	7	0	2	2	24	11
0	0	2	15	2	17	9	3	0	0	0	14	8
2	1	47	66	9	75	37	9	0	0	0	65	4
0	0	0	35	14	49	15	8	0	0	0	35	12
1	0	1	54	13	67	29	11	0	1	1	54	12
<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>74</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>316</b>

**Membership and Financial Statistics 2012**

		Receipts from Reg. Offerings	Receipts from Spec. Offerings	Receipts from other Sources	Total Receipts	Giving to Synod Guideline	Giving to Classis Guideline	Giving to Non- Guidelin e Causes
<b>COVENANT EAST CLASSIS</b>								
Northwest, AR	Grace	73,489	13,390	12,635	99,514	3,520	1,330	0
Garner, IA	Peace	126,073	8,980	3,228	138,281	23,598	6,279	4,182
Minneapolis, MN	Redeemer/ Eden	357,610	17,535	43,624	418,769	21,962	7,897	15,636
Eden Prairie, MN	(w/Redeemer)	144,497	1,041	43,624	189,162	4,763	1,725	0
Hamburg, MN	St Paul's	175,960	0	15,494	191,454	29,551	8,616	3,783
Waymart, PA	Heritage	24,484	0	12,698	37,182	3,700	1,400	0
Kansas City, MO	Northland	154,268	16,849	0	171,117	10,256	3,536	3,463
Manitowoc, WI	Salem Ebenezer	171,740	1,710	4,298	177,748	37,055	12,421	3,885
Napoleon, OH	Peace	141,251	1,104	3,488	145,843	17,023	5,712	562
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1,224,875</b>	<b>59,568</b>	<b>95,465</b>	<b>1,379,908</b>	<b>146,665</b>	<b>47,191</b>	<b>31,511</b>
<b>NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS</b>								
Aberdeen, SD	First	86,151	6,156	21,685	113,992	18,376	7,622	0
Anamoose, ND	Kassle	13,052	0	89	13,141	3,292	1,184	0
Ashley, ND	Salem/Incl. Dickinson	53,507	6,684	56,906	117,097	3,830	1,210	441
Dickinson, ND	First Ref./w. Ashley	21,485	170	48,281	69,936	0	0	170
Eureka, SD	Eureka	95,380	281	17,140	112,801	11,934	11,544	281
Herried, SD	First	53,997	77	12,021	66,095	4,536	3,256	0
Hosmer, SD	Hosmer	4,448	0	14,620	19,068	479	831	0
Minot, ND	Harvest	75,245	4,689	5,520	85,454	4,606	1,554	366
Pierre, SD	Hope	39,436	3,428	0	42,864	1,079	1,480	200
Watertown, SD	Covenant	46,442	10,566	11,196	68,204	5,627	1,406	0
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>467,658</b>	<b>31,881</b>	<b>139,177</b>	<b>638,716</b>	<b>53,759</b>	<b>30,087</b>	<b>1,288</b>
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS</b>								
Col Spr., CO	Trinity Cov.	100,427	3,934	0	104,362	8,667	3,689	3,082
Greeley, CO	Grace	104,982	23,216	0	128,198	11,624	4,439	0
Limon, CO	Providence	70,305	5,212	3,250	78,767	7,626	2,982	1,500
Lincoln, NE	St. John's	88,054	1,242	1,025	90,321	17,680	6,593	0
Meno, SD	Zion	137,157	13,561	800	151,518	30,380	11,276	15,916
Mitchell, SD	Grace	109,497	23,271	34,998	167,766	17,052	5,456	1,700
Omaha, NE	Heritage	30,474	4,000	0	34,474	0	0	0
Rapid City, SD	Grace	180,119	0	0	180,119	14,780	4,909	13,850
Rock Spr., WY	Providence	94,964	4,906	0	99,870	7,527	2,861	406
Sherman, TX	Christ the King	18,553	0	18,025	36,578	2,430	875	0
Sioux Falls, SD	Trinity	192,853	47,584	9,038	249,475	31,148	10,913	2,438
Sutton, NE	Emmanuel	118,227	61,371	0	179,598	24,710	17,539	0
Sutton, NE	Hope	188,595	19,498	31,123	239,216	37,200	14,000	4,000
Vermillion, SD	Providence	69,305	2,745	1,016	73,066	2,499	905	6,440
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1,503,512</b>	<b>210,540</b>	<b>99,275</b>	<b>1,813,328</b>	<b>213,323</b>	<b>86,437</b>	<b>49,332</b>
<b>WESTERN CLASSIS</b>								
Anderson, CA	Faith	49,383	0	12,000	61,383	0	345	0
Bakersfield, CA	Grace	216,392	26,679	14,495	257,566	28,284	15,950	11,708
Chico, CA	Covenant	33,160	1,640	27,750	62,550	938	800	374
Grass Valley, CA	Cov. (Incl Stkn)	116,146	2,268	322	118,736	3,254	2,240	0
La Habra, CA	Rehoboth	91,802	4,303	60,764	156,869	0	3,045	0
Lancaster, CA	Grace	74,040	3,023	9,148	86,211	0	0	0
Lodi, CA	Providence	50,858	1,812	12	52,681	466	681	0
Modesto, CA	Trinity	99,098	399	3,912	103,399	10,913	7,035	399
*Sacramento, CA	Cov./City Sem.	253,216	69,755	94,540	417,511	27,988	14,805	7,573
San Diego, CA	Covenant	52,763	1,761	9,756	64,280	4,156	2,205	1,372
Stockton, CA	Calvary w/Gr Valley	41,886	0	322	42,208	2,721	1,470	0
Shafter, CA	Ebenezer	197,930	11,174	3,779	212,883	14,112	7,560	6,923
Willows, CA	Grace	104,356	1,210	96	105,662	5,992	3,630	0
Yuba City, CA	First	112,355	35,199	0	147,554	8,966	5,720	25,967
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1,451,499</b>	<b>159,223</b>	<b>236,574</b>	<b>1,847,285</b>	<b>105,069</b>	<b>64,016</b>	<b>54,316</b>
<b>TOTALS THIS YEAR</b>		<b>4,647,544</b>	<b>461,212</b>	<b>570,491</b>	<b>5,679,237</b>	<b>518,816</b>	<b>227,731</b>	<b>136,447</b>

Giving to Non-RCUS	Other Expenses	Total Expenses	Value of Church Building	Value of Church Parsonage	Improvements on church property	Present Property Debts	Debt Payments Past Year	Giving to Synod per com.	Giving to classes per com.	Giving to rcus per com.
300	73,675	78,825	0	0	0	0	0	185	70	255
9,198	83,702	126,959	750,000	125,000	0	0	0	259	69	374
1,898	301,130	348,523	850,000	170,000	0	303,733	11,743	186	67	386
1,250	101,545	109,283	0	0	0	0	0	217	78	295
5,261	118,933	166,144	1,000,000	300,000	110,000	0	0	141	41	201
0	32,842	37,942	0	0	0	0	0	176	67	243
8,975	160,345	186,575	1,500,000	0	0	144,084	57,000	201	69	338
2,955	102,994	159,310	800,000	200,000	0	0	0	219	73	316
6,303	97,895	127,495	275,000	0	6,067	0	0	203	68	277
<b>34,890</b>	<b>971,516</b>	<b>1,231,773</b>	<b>5,175,000</b>	<b>795,000</b>	<b>116,067</b>	<b>447,817</b>	<b>68,743</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>296</b>
0	88,376	114,374	350,000	0	0	10,712	14,284	178	74	252
0	6,433	10,909	0	0	0	0	0	150	54	203
225	103,324	108,940	25,000	61,500	7,000	68,500	0	93	30	134
0	60,948	61,118	0	16,500	0	68,500	0	0	0	0
0	81,884	105,643	250,000	100,000	0	0	0	77	74	153
0	45,720	53,512	40,000	42,000	1,619	0	0	112	68	177
0	19,344	20,654	25,000	0	3,744	0	0	24	42	66
0	50,275	56,801	0	265,000	0	0	0	219	74	311
50	41,802	44,611	110,000	90,000	2,573	0	0	54	74	138
0	34,282	41,315	0	150,000	8,010	0	0	296	74	370
<b>275</b>	<b>471,440</b>	<b>556,759</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>708,500</b>	<b>22,946</b>	<b>79,212</b>	<b>14,284</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>191</b>
852	52,184	69,474	0	0	0	0	0	177	63	240
494	86,420	103,420	242,000	158,000	68,411	0	0	200	77	277
1,540	65,910	74,254	40,000	0	0	0	0	186	73	259
0	62,726	86,999	110,000	99,100	0	0	0	208	77	285
0	117,131	174,703	500,000	410,000	358,340	70,000	0	196	73	371
3,563	115,659	143,430	276,983	166,244	26,213	22,116	7,166	196	73	291
0	21,617	21,617	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6,000	140,387	179,926	525,000	189,000	0	0	0	194	65	441
0	81,520	92,368	170,000	incl.	0	4,346	3,547	198	75	284
0	23,245	26,550	0	0	0	0	0	202	73	275
6,285	148,874	199,658	898,859	0	0	205,158	12,607	206	72	295
4,313	83,193	129,755	522,000	157,000	0	0	0	204	145	349
14,666	145,592	215,458	800,000	80,000	36,198	0	0	202	76	300
429	56,732	67,005	305,000	125,000	0	0	0	114	46	447
<b>38,142</b>	<b>1,201,190</b>	<b>1,584,617</b>	<b>4,389,842</b>	<b>1,384,344</b>	<b>489,162</b>	<b>301,620</b>	<b>23,320</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>329</b>
0	61,253	61,598	400,000	0	0	0	0	0	15	15
11,663	158,122	205,537	600,000	0	10,000	0	0	216	121	337
0	55,310	57,442	0	0	0	0	0	55	47	102
7,676	95,710	108,880	219,125	0	0	17,584	3,800	65	45	223
0	145,160	148,205	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	105
0	107,692	113,692	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,219	50,146	52,512	258,544	0	0	0	0	19	27	46
0	85,253	92,687	350,000	0	1,600	7,000	12,600	162	105	267
11,222	361,378	422,966	358,433	0	13,884	0	0	199	105	357
1,062	57,246	66,041	0	0	0	0	0	197	105	368
5,673	23,474	33,338	0	0	0	0	0	247	134	897
0	175,974	204,569	500,000	150,000	24,213	0	0	196	105	397
11,154	94,232	105,385	500,000	0	0	0	0	187	113	300
0	80,860	121,513	305,000	123,000	4,200	0	0	172	110	781
<b>43,996</b>	<b>1,528,336</b>	<b>1,761,027</b>	<b>3,491,102</b>	<b>273,000</b>	<b>53,897</b>	<b>24,584</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>117,303</b>	<b>4,172,482</b>	<b>5,134,176</b>	<b>13,855,944</b>	<b>3,160,844</b>	<b>682,072</b>	<b>853,233</b>	<b>122,747</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>297</b>

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Internal Revenue Service Number for the RCUS**  
51-0202914

### **Publications of the RCUS**

RCUS Book Depository  
RCUS BOOKS c/o Elder Dave McPherson  
E-Mail only: [mcpinc@gwtc.net](mailto:mcpinc@gwtc.net)

*The Reformed Herald* (Monthly magazine)  
Rev. Paul Treick (Editor) (209) 551-2407  
4005 Masterpiece Dr., Modesto, CA 95357  
E-Mail: [TriWheeler@aol.com](mailto:TriWheeler@aol.com)

Rev. Frank Walker (Subscriptions) (916) 320-0548  
6121 Pine Vista Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758  
E-Mail: [DrFHW@comcast.net](mailto:DrFHW@comcast.net)

### **Churches in Fraternal Relationship**

Canadian and American Reformed Churches  
Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated)  
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America  
United Reformed Churches in North America  
Reformed Fellowship of Kenya  
Member: North American Reformed and Presbyterian Council  
Member: International Conference of Reformed Churches

### **Colleges Listed as Worthy of Support**

Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA

### **Seminaries Listed as Worthy of Support**

Mid-America Reformed Seminary, Dyer, IN  
New Geneva Theological Seminary, Colorado Springs, CO  
Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Vermillion, SD  
Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Greenville, NC  
City Seminary of Sacramento, Sacramento, CA

### **Benevolences Listed as Worthy of Support**

Diaconal committee of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
*Faith and Word* Ministries  
Hope Haven, Rock Valley, IA  
Radio Administration Committee (French)  
Middle East Reformed Fellowship  
Westminster Biblical Missions

**Reformed Church in the U. S. Website**  
[www.rcus.org](http://www.rcus.org)  
Reformed Herald Online - [reformedherald.org](http://reformedherald.org)