

The Northern Plains Classis

2015 Abstract of the Minutes



Special Meeting
February 7th, A.D. 2015
Salem Reformed Church
Ashley, North Dakota

Spring Meeting
March 9th & 10th, A.D. 2015
First Reformed Church
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Classical Guideline for Giving

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Classical Dues: | \$13.00 |
| Missions: | \$55.00 |
| Total: | \$68.00 |

Officers of Classis

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>President:</i> | <i>Rev. David Dawn</i> |
| <i>Vice President:</i> | <i>Rev. George Syms</i> |
| <i>Stated Clerk:</i> | <i>Rev. James Grossmann</i> |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | <i>Elder Matthew Fickbohm</i> |

Permanent Committees of Classis

(Underline indicates Chairman)

Auditing

J.P. Mosley, W. Haddock, N. Arbach

Camp

J.P. Mosley, J. Grossmann, M. Fickbohm, C. Mehlhaff,
(T. Walters)

Candidates and Credentials

G. Syms, D. Clark, P. Poe, T. Rott, J. Snyder

Christian Education and Publications

G. Syms, G. Opp, R. Meidinger

Diaconal

D. Clark, S. Sapp, P. Poe, R. Jung

Executive

D. Dawn, J. Grossmann, M. Fickbohm

Home Missions

P. Poe, D. Dawn, D. Haak, R. DeJong

Interchurch Relations

J. Grossmann, D. Clark, D. VanderVleit, E. Mehlhaff,
C. Mehlhaff

Assistant to the Clerk

D. Haak

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Email: slsapp@svwireless.com

Churches in North Dakota

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

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

Worship: 9 AM

Pastor: Lic. Thomas Walters (Wife, Esther)

Anamoose, ND 58710.....(701) 626-7429

Kassel RCUS, meeting at St. Martin Lutheran Church in Anamoose
(Mail: 540 20th St NE, Butte, ND 58723)

Worship: 10:30 AM

Minot, ND 58701.....(701) 838-6050

Harvest RCUS, meeting at Grand International Hotel, Norse Room
(Mail: PO Box 804, Minot, ND 58702-0804)

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

Pastor: Phil Poe (wife, Karen)

Chapels in North Dakota

Dickinson, ND 58601.....(701) 974-4491

First RCUS, Meeting at Dickinson Holiday Inn Express
(Mail: PO Box 60, Taylor, ND 58656-0060)

Worship: 10:30 AM; SS: 9:30 am; Bible Study: 6:30 pm

Website: www.FRCofD.com

Pastor: L. Dale Clark (wife, Sandra)

Churches in South Dakota

Aberdeen, SD 57401.....(605) 229-5953

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

Worship: 9:00 AM

Website: www.aberdeenrcus.org

Pastor: David Dawn (wife, Colleen)

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

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

Worship: 9:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:15 AM

Pastor: James Grossmann (wife, Michelle)

Herreid, SD 57632.....(605) 437-2481

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

Worship: 11AM

Hosmer, SD 57448

Hosmer RCUS, 202 West 5th St (Mail: PO Box 136)
Worship: 11:00 AM

Pierre, SD 57501.....(605) 224-7846

Hope RCUS, 317 S. Garfield
Worship:9:30 AM; SS 10:30AM; Bible Study: Wed 7:30pm
Pastor: J.P. Mosley, Jr (wife, Francesca)

Watertown, SD 57201.....(605) 878-4567

Covenant RCUS, 15 12th Ave NE (Mail: 434 30th St. NW)
Website: www.watertownrcus.org
Worship 10AM; Sunday School: 11:20AM
Pastor: George Syms (wife, Deborah)

Radio Programs of the Northern Plains Classis

| Church | Radio Station | Time |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Aberdeen – Pause for Thought | KGIM – 1420 AM | Sundays, 8:30 AM |
| Salem – Start the Week | KSJB – 600 AM | Sundays, 7:45 AM |
| Eureka – Rev. James Grossmann | KOLY – 99.5 FM | Sundays, 9:00 AM |

Church Websites

- First RCUS – Aberdeen, SD.....aberdeenrcus.org
- Covenant RCUS – Watertown, SD.....watertownrcus.org
- First Reformed Chapel – Dickinson, ND.....www.FRCofD.com
- SermonAudio.....www.SermonAudio.com/npcrcus

Northern Plains Classis
Reformed Church in the United States
Special Meeting – February 7th, A.D. 2015
 Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, North Dakota

I. Services

David Dawn opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. Thomas Walters led the Assembly in a devotion, using Matthew 13:44-46 as his text, opening and closing with prayer.

II. Organization

The Special Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis convened at 9:06am on Saturday, February 7th, A.D. 2015, at Salem Reformed Church of Ashley, North Dakota.

Following the devotion, President David Dawn called the Assembly to order at 10:10am. The roll was called and there were 5 ministers and 4 elders present, a quorum.

The President defined the Bar of the House as the first 6 pews of the church and appointed Elder Earl Mehlhaff and Rev. J.P. Mosley as tellers for the meeting. Rev. George Syms was appointed to be the *Reformed Herald* reporter.

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

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

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

The President welcomed Elder Lynn Goehring, Elder Ron Meidigner, Elder Vern Moos, and Elder Milbert Kappas. These men were all seated in the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor.

V. Announcement of Standing Committees

Examinations and Licensure G. Syms; D. Clark; J.P. Mosley; D. Dawn; D. Haak

Overtures and Excuses J. Grossmann; N. Arbach

Finances M. Fickbohm; J. Grossmann; E. Mehlhaff

VI. Presentation of Overtures, Permanent Committee Reports & Communications

The Stated Clerk presented the overtures and communications to the Standing Overture committee. The Permanent Candidates & Credentials committee report was distributed to the Standing Committee on Examinations & Licensure.

Candidates and Credentials Committee

October 25, 2014

Esteemed brethren,

Your committee examined Mr. Thomas Walters of Westcliffe, CO, in Orthodoxy and Intention on Thursday, October 21, 2014, at 7:30p CST.

The Committee Examined in all of the loci of theology as well as Intention. The examination via conference call lasted approximately two hours.

The conference call was begun with prayer offered by Rev. G. Syms. When the examination was concluded Mr. Walters was dismissed from the call and the Committee voted on whether to sustain the examination or not. Rev. Dale Clark moved that the examination be sustained. Motion was seconded, and by a unanimous roll call vote, Mr. Walter's examination was sustained. (The reason we voted by roll call was that we were meeting via telephone.)

The committee chairman than telephoned Mr. Walters to inform him of this action. Mr. Walters will graduate from Sangre De Cristo Seminary in December 2014, God willing. The Salem RCUS at Ashley has indicated their desire to meet Mr. Walters and interview him soon.

Yours in Christ our Lord,

(Rev.) George Syms, Chairman

Special Order

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

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

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

1. Examinations and Licensure

Recommendation #1 Mr. Walters having passed his licensure exam, we move that his exam be sustained.

Recommendation #2 That the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee assign to submit a written sermon, write theological papers (topics assigned by the committee) and prepare for ordination exam in the areas of Three Forms of Unity and Philosophy.

Recommendation #3 That Rev. J. Grossmann be assigned as Mr. Walter's Supervising Pastor for his internship.

George Syms, J.P. Mosley, Doug Haak, David Dawn, Dale Clark

The President informed Mr. Walters of the decision of the Classis. Mr. Walters read the Oath of Licensure and signed and dated the form. Rev. Syms offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Following the prayer, the right hand of fellowship was extended to Mr. Walters.

2. Overtures and Excuses

Your committee has received the following documents: Items 1-3, excuses from Rev. Phil Poe, Elder Jim Snyder, Elder Rod DeJong, and Elder Steve Sapp.

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 That the excuses from Rev. Phil Poe, Elder Jim Snyder, Elder Rod DeJong, and Elder Steve Sapp be granted.

Recommendation #2 That it be noted that we did not receive excuses from the elders from

Anamoose or Hosmer. That the clerk be instructed to write letters of encouragement to these congregations that their elders attend classis or send proper excuses in their absence.

James Grossmann, Nathan Arbach

3. Finances

7 Feb 15

Your committee received the following requests for mileage reimbursement for the Special Meeting of the Classis:

1. Elder Fickbohm: \$117.95
2. Elder Mehlhaff \$22.40
3. Elder Arbach \$33.60
4. Rev. Clark \$138.60
5. Mr. Walters \$457.10
6. Rev. Syms \$105.00

Total \$874.65

Recommendation #1 That mileage be paid according to the above schedule.

Matthew Fickbohm, James Grossmann, Earl Mehlhaff

VII. Reading of the Minutes

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

IX. Adjournment

The NPC Special meeting of Classis expressed its gratitude to the saints of Salem Reformed Church by the following resolution:

The Northern Plains Classis wishes to thank the Salem Reformed Church for hosting their special meeting. Our every need was met, we were particularly well fed, for which we are grateful.

We are also grateful to God for Thomas Walter's successful licensure exam. We pray that God will forge a lasting bond between him and you in the months and years ahead. May God bless your congregation for your faithfulness to the Gospel.

The Northern Plains Classis adjourned at 5:39pm to the 30th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis, to be held at First Reformed Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota on March 9, A.D. 2015

The Final roll call showed 5 ministers, 5 elders and 1 licentiate present. Elder Rott lead the Assembly in a devotion, reading from Isaiah.

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

30th Annual Spring Meeting – March 9-10, AD 2015

Eureka, South Dakota

I. Services

For the opening devotion, Rev. David Dawn opened in prayer, spending some time reflecting on the 30 years of the Northern Plains Classis, and lead the assembly in a devotion entitled, “The Day of Small Things”. He concluded with prayer.

On Monday evening at 7:30pm, the Classis met for a worship service with the congregation of First Reformed Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota. Rev. L. Dale Clark conducted the worship service and Rev. J.P. Mosley preached a sermon entitled “*Bethel and the Stairway to Heaven*” using Genesis 28:10-22 as his text.

The Northern Plains Classis opened its session on Tuesday, March 10th, A.D. 2015 with a devotion lead by Rev. Phil Poe from I Corinthians 16:13-14, entitled “A Bible Gem for Leaders in the Lord’s Church”. The devotion was concluded with prayer.

II. Organization

The 30th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis convened at 1:16pm on Monday, March 9th, A.D. 2015, at First Reformed Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota..

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

The President defined the Bar of the House as the center left section, the first 6 pews of the church. The President appointed Elder Tim Rott, Rev. J.P. Mosley and Elder Matthew Fickbohm as tellers and Rev. Poe as the *Reformed Herald* reporter.

Election of Officers: Election by ballot was held for men to serve in the following capacities: President: Rev. David Dawn; Vice-President: Rev. George Syms; Stated Clerk: Rev. James Grossmann; and Treasurer: Elder Matthew Fickbohm.

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

The Agenda, Services, and Orders of the Day were adopted as presented by Classis President Dawn.

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

Rev. Clark welcomed Licentiate Thomas Walters; Elder Rott welcomed Elder Ron Meidinger; and Elder Doug Haak welcomed Elder John Bender. These men were seated in the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor.

Rev. Grossmann welcomed Rev. Maynard Koerner of Heidelberg Theological Seminary and Cody Schwichtenberg, student under care of the Covenant East Classis. Rev. Koerner was seated in the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor.

Elder Haak welcomed Elder Craig Mehlhaff from the First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, SD.

V. Reception of New Churches

There were no new congregations to be received.

VI. Reception of New Ministers

There were no new ministers to be received

VII. Announcement of Standing Committees

The chairman of the committee is underlined.

Education, Publications, Student Aid, Services & Interchurch: Clark, Dawn, Snyder, Fickbohm

Examinations and Licensure: Syms, Clark, Rott, Snyder

Excuses: Clark, Syms, DeJong, Opp, Ray Jung

Finances, Benevolences, and Ministerial Aid: Mosley, Poe, Fickbohm, Rott

Judicial: Dawn, Mosley, Haak, DeJong

Missions: Mosley, Poe, Haak, Opp, Jung

Overtures: Grossmann, Syms, Snyder, DeJong

Nominations: Grossmann, Poe, Rott, Haak

VIII. Presentation of Overtures, Permanent Committee Reports & Communications

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

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Esteemed Brethren:

The Auditing Committee audited the financial books of the Northern Plains Classis as they were kept by the treasurer, Elder Matt Fickbohm. Your committee met with Elder Fickbohm on January 21, 2015. Your Committee found the books to be in order. We make the following recommendation:

1. That the Northern Plains Classis commend Elder Matt Fickbohm for his work as Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. J.P. Mosley, Jr., Rev. William Haddock, Elder Lynn Goehring

CAMP COMMITTEE

Esteemed Brothers,

A joint telephonic meeting of the Northern Plains and South Central Classis Heidelberg Youth Camp Meeting was held on January 31st. Revs. Lee Johnson, J.P. Mosley, Scott Henry, James Grossmann, and David Fagrey and elders Matthew Fickbohm, and John Frey were present. Rev. Mosley opened the meeting with prayer.

The evaluations of camp were reviewed and discussed with several written comments concerning dress code, timing of the pictures, the bathrooms, and other areas of concern were addressed. Elder Fickbohm is looking into the possibility of switching the bathrooms for girls and boys to aid privacy concerns. Some slight changes were made to the schedule. The picture was moved up on Friday to be before breakfast, and the HYC Cup was moved to the afternoon on Tuesday rather than at night.

Elder Fickbohm laid before the committee a budget and fees for 2015 based on 105 campers and 40 adults. We did come in under budget this past year and made \$582.03. This year's budget includes money for the purchase of a needed items including a projector for the end of camp slide show. The

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balance of HYC camp is \$8391.87 as of the end of 2014. Fees remain the same from last year \$159 per camper if the fee is paid prior to June 1st, and \$189 if after June 1st.

It was agreed that the 2015 HYC offering would go to Save the Storks, a non-profit group dedicated to lowering abortions by providing sonograms at abortion clinics around the country.

Pastors are again asked to submit electronic copies of handouts for their lectures by July 1st. If they do not, then they are responsible for bringing copies for each camper.

Again the committee wishes to thank all those who donated food and other items for camp. These donations help keep the cost of camp down, and are greatly appreciated.

The them for HYC 2015 is "Jesus the Great I Am". Each lecture will examine Jesus as the I AM or one of his "I am" statements from the Gospel of John. Rev. Henry will be calling and recruiting various speakers.

Rev. Fagrey closed the meeting in prayer.

The following dates of camp are provided for your planning purposes.

2015: July 27 -31

2016: July 18 – 22

2017: July 24 – 28

2018: July 23 – 27

2019: July 22-26

Recommendation #1 - That Classis approve the HYC report as a whole.

Recommendation #2 - That Classis approve the HYC 2015 budget and camper fees.

Recommendation #3 - TAKE NOTE That Classis take note of the need for pastors go over the dress code with campers before camp.

Recommendation #4 - TAKE NOTE - That Classis take note registration forms for campers and counselors be submitted in a timely manner.

Recommendation #5 - TAKE NOTE - That Classis take note donations of food, supplies, and other items are appreciated and needed.

J.P. Mosley, J. Grossmann, M. Fickbohm, C. Mehlhaff

Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 2015

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Balance Forward | | \$7,809.84 | | |
| Revenue | Budget 2014 | Actual 2014 | Difference | Budget 2015 |
| Camp Fees | \$19,080.00 | \$16,601.00 | -\$2,479.00 | \$17,000.00 |
| Gifts | | 1980 | \$1,980.00 | |
| Worship Offering | \$1,200.00 | \$848.77 | -\$351.23 | \$1,200.00 |
| Interest | | \$0.84 | \$0.84 | |
| Camp Store Sales | \$1,000.00 | \$578.06 | -\$421.94 | \$900.00 |
| Total Revenue | \$21,280.00 | \$20,008.67 | | \$19,100.00 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Facility Use | \$11,000.00 | \$11,377.00 | \$377.00 | \$11,000.00 |
| Food | \$3,800.00 | \$2,879.52 | -\$920.48 | \$3,800.00 |
| T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts | \$2,600.00 | \$2,960.46 | \$360.46 | \$3,000.00 |
| Crafts | \$250.00 | \$247.83 | -\$2.17 | \$200.00 |
| Supplies & Equipment | \$600.00 | \$447.33 | -\$152.67 | \$1,000.00 |
| Promotion | \$200.00 | \$170.33 | -\$29.67 | \$200.00 |
| Custer State Park Fees | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | -\$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Administration | \$150.00 | \$9.95 | -\$140.05 | \$100.00 |
| Camp Store Supplies | \$900.00 | \$485.33 | -\$414.67 | \$800.00 |
| Worship Offering | \$1,200.00 | \$848.77 | -\$351.23 | \$1,200.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$20,800.00 | \$19,426.52 | | \$21,400.00 |
| Revenue Less Expenses | | \$582.15 | | |
| Ending Balance | | \$8,391.99 | | |

Proposed 2015 fees: \$159 per camper if registration and fee are received by June 1. After June 1, \$189 per camper if received June 1 or after (no change) No fee for adult volunteers. Proposed budget is based upon 105 campers and 40 adults.

CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

March 3rd, 2015

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

Your committee has, in the providence of God, enjoyed a rather busy year in corresponding with and examining men who have been interested in filling pulpits in our churches. The process has again proven to be a useful one, especially as we function to ensure that only sound men are candidates for pastoral ministry in the NPC.

There were a total of five men who had either had been contacted by or were interested in serving congregations whose pulpits were vacant.

The men were, in order of contact, Mr. Michael Lassley of Garrison, ND, Mr. Brandon Haan of Parker, SD, Mr. Robert Van Der Woerd of Sioux Falls, SD, and Mr. Thomas Walters of Westcliffe, Colorado.

On June 12th, 2014, the NPC Candidates and Credentials Committee examined Mr. Michael Lassley in Orthodoxy and Intention. After the exam was arrested, the committee was ready to take action on this examination. Rev. D. Clark moved that the examination be sustained. Motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Lassley and his family were members of the Minot Congregation and thus he knew

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something about the RCUS and its practices. Mr. Lassley has a large family and was somewhat concerned about the financial support he needed. He was an engineer and had been working for AT & T, was offered a position in Jackson, MS, and accepted the offer. This ended his pursuit of ministry in the RCUS.

On September 4th, 2014, your committee conducted an examination of Mr. Brandon Haan in Orthodoxy and Intention. The Herreid congregation had shown some interest in Mr. Haan. It was determined by the committee by a unanimous vote that this examination was not sustained. Mr. Haan was a member of the PCA and was supply for a pulpit in Parker, SD. Your chairman extended his willingness to assist Mr. Haan, and he came to Watertown for a two hour session and review. Subsequently, Mr. Haan requested that he submit to examination again, but he withdrew from the process by announcing that he could not in good conscience subscribe to the RCUS positions on doctrine, etc. Your chairman asked for specifics but received no response.

In the meantime, the names of Mr. Robert Vander Woerd, and Mr. Thomas Walters were given to the chairman for follow-up. Mr. Walters had met Dr. C.W. Powell, and Bud had forwarded his name to NPC President David Dawn. Rev. Dawn contacted the chairman with a view toward further contact with Mr. Walters.

Mr. Robert Vander Woerd was recommended to your chairman by the Rev. Mr. J. P. Mosely as a possible candidate. The three men, B. Haan, R. Vander Woerd, and T. Walters, were sent three volumes by the chairman for assistance in their study and increased familiarity with the RCUS. The volumes sent were a hard copy of the RCUS Constitution, An Outline of RCUS History by the Rev. Dr. R. Grossmann, and the Covenantal Approach to Pastoral Ministry by the Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner.

Mr. Vander Woerd contacted your chairman and withdrew from the process by stating that he was seeking the advice of the consistory of the URCNA Congregation to which he belonged.

Your committee examined Mr. Thomas Walters of Westcliffe, CO, in Orthodoxy and Intention on Thursday, October 21, 2014, at 7:30p CST. The Committee Examined in theology as well as Intention. The examination *via* conference call lasted approximately two hours. In this case, upon a roll call vote, Mr. Walters' examination was unanimously sustained.

Having expressed a sincere desire to enter the pastoral ministry of the Reformed Church, Mr. Walters name was forwarded to the Salem, RCUS elders for consideration. The Salem congregation asked him to preach a trial sermon, he did that and a strong interest in calling him was communicated.

At a special meeting of the Northern Plains Classis, called for the purpose of an examination for licensure of Mr. Thomas Walters was held February 7th, 2015. Mr. Walters was examined in all the loci of theology and practica, and the examination was sustained. We also had the assistance of Elder Doug Haak of Aberdeen with the licensure exam, who examined in the Three Forms of Unity.

Mr. Walters signed the oath and was received by the Classis and extended the right hand of fellowship.

A hearty thanks to all of the Committee members who showed diligence in their assignments for the examinations. Members of the C & C Committee are: Rev. Phil Poe, Rev. Dale Clark, Rev. G. Syms, Elder Jim Snyder, Elder Tim Rott, and our newest member Rev. J. P. Mosely.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. G. Syms, chairman; Rev. D. Clark; Rev. P. Poe; Rev. J. P. Mosely; Elder T. Rott; Elder J. Snyder

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

March 7th, 2015

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

The undersigned as the convener of this committee must begin by asking the forgiveness of Classis, as events of December 2014 until the present have been distracting at best. Without belaboring you with stories of misery and illness, suffice it to say that I was hospitalized with a serious illness in December of 2014, my mother suffered a heart attack in the middle of January 2015 and died on the 14th of February.

Prior to hearing from my fellow committee member Rev. William Haddock, I had no remembrance that I was the convener of this committee. The extent of the business conducted was in the conversation with Rev. Haddock, who was extremely helpful, and for which I am very grateful.

The committee does make some recommendations in connection with this late report:

1. That the Rev. Mr. William Haddock continue to serve as editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles, a position in which he is willing to serve again.
2. With regard to the Northern Plains Classis Video Library which is comprised of over 100 VHS tapes on various topics, it is recommended that Classis offer this collection to anyone who still possesses the equipment to view the VHS tapes and make use of them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. George Syms, convener; Rev. William Haddock; Elder Earl Mehlhaff; Elder Steve Sapp

DIACONAL

Brothers and Fathers in Christ,

Your committee this past year has received no business. As a result we have not met. We bring no recommendations.

Respectfully in Christ,

Dale Clark; Phil Poe; Vern Moos; Raymond Jung

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Esteemed Brothers,

(This report was late due to circumstances beyond our control. Our committee had asked and received permission from the executive committee not to be held to the deadlines given in the standing rules.)

This past year, the concerns of your committee has centred around First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, ND. The status of this work has changed this past year. At the beginning of 2014, this chapel was under the oversight of the Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, ND. After Rev James Grossmann left the pastorate of that church early in the year, the consistory asked to be relieved of its duties towards the Dickinson work. As a result, an offer by the First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, SD, to take over supervision of the Dickinson chapel was accepted by the classis. This transition took place in September.

At this time, there are three families that comprise the core of this work, in addition to Rev Dale Clark and his wife, Sandra. The consistory at Aberdeen has kept in close touch with these families, as well as the Clarks. In this effort, they were aided by the fact that one of their elders, Elder Craig Mehlhaff, is frequently in the area, working as a salesman for Truss Pros, a building supplies company. He has attended services and Bible studies as frequently as possible and has met with the families of the congregation

In January, the Committee received a report from a sub-committee they asked to visit the work. This committee was made up of Rev David A Dawn, pastor at Aberdeen, and Elder Mehlhaff.

The church remains committed to the Reformed faith. However, there has been little sustained interest from visitors to the functions of the congregation. The most interest has actually come from an unexpected quarter. Rev Clark lives in Taylor, ND, about 40 miles from Dickinson. Whilst Rev. Clark has never been able to develop contacts in Dickinson, he has been able to lead a Bible study in Taylor.

To give a little background, there are two churches in Taylor. One is an independent church that used to be German Reformed. It is referred to as the Immanuel Church. The other is a Lutheran Church. These two churches worship together on Sunday mornings and share the same church government. At this time, they do not have a pastor. Both churches, however, maintain their own church building. They have a rather unique arrangement in which every month or two they move their place of meeting from one of the church buildings to the other.

As noted, Rev. Clark does lead a Bible study with members of this congregation. One faction of this group is concerned that a closer relationship with Rev. Clark might lead to “sheep stealing.” Others, with a mildly Reformed bent, seem favourable.

As of now, there is perplexity as to what the work should do next. There is some feeling that, perhaps, the work would concentrate on Taylor rather than Dickinson. The sub-committee was told that, with the exception of one family, those supporting the Dickinson chapel live much closer to Taylor than Dickinson. It was suggested that they might investigate the possibility of renting one of the church buildings in Taylor and hold churches there. It is possible that some of the members of the existing Taylor churches might join in. On the other hand, Taylor is a small town, really a village. One of the reasons for starting a work in Dickinson was the fact that it was a booming oil town with a growing congregation. The opportunities for growth in the longer term would seem to lie there. Your committee would ask that classis consider this issue and provide direction to the mission work and its committee

In speaking to members of the congregation, Elder Mehlhaff and Rev Dawn were told that there were concerns within the group concerning the length and nature of the services and Bible studies. Your committee would rather leave that matter for the time being, as the Aberdeen overseeing consistory is dealing with Rev Clark and the various families on this delicate matter. We should, however, point out that no one believes the content of the ministry in Dickinson is anything but Reformed. Also, there is unity within the group.

Another issue was brought up by the Aberdeen consistory. Due to the long distance between Aberdeen and Dickinson, travel expenses are very high. Therefore, your committee will recommend that an amount of money be budgeted for travel between Dickinson and the supervising consistory.

Also attached to this report, is Rev. Clark’s proposed three-year budget. We did wonder why the house insurance was as high as it was. We recommend that classis approve this budget and send it on to Synod.

We thank God for this mission work he has entrusted to our care. We commend it to the classis, and ask that our congregations continue to remember it in their prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A Dawn, Chairman; Rev. Phil Poe; Elder Lynn Goehring; Elder Rod DeJong

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

Esteemed Brothers,

Your committee has received invitations to:

The Midwest Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America

November 4-6, 2014 in Perry, Kansas

Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches

September 19, 2014 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Central Classis U.S. of the United Reformed Churches in North America

September 15-16, 2014 in Orange City, Iowa

Classis Manitoba of the Canadian Reformed Churches

March 28, 2014 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches in North America

March 3, 2014 in Pella, Iowa

While we are not in fraternal relations with them, we also were informed of the meeting of the Siouxland Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America on the following dates and places: January 24-25, 2014, Watertown, South Dakota; April 24-25, Chancellor, South Dakota; and September 25-26, Hinckley, Minnesota.

Unfortunately, your committee was unable to send delegates to any of these meetings. It is our prayer that with a few more hands on deck, we will be able to do a better job of interacting with our fraternal churches.

Invitations for fraternal delegates to our special meeting in February and our stated March meeting have been emailed to Central Classis of the URCNA, Classis Manitoba of the CANRC, the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC, and the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA. An invitation has also been sent to the Siouxland Presbytery of the PCA for a visitor to attend our upcoming meeting. As of the writing of this report no response has been received.

Recommendation:

That the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee of the Northern Plains Classis be augmented by two members.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann; Dale Clark; David Vander Vliet

IX. Reports of Officers

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

Esteemed Brothers,

The time has come again to consider the state of the Northern Plains Classis. This is our 30th annual spring meeting. Our classis first met in Minot South Dakota on 6 May 1986. Many things have changed since that day. However, the mission of the church remains the same. So how has the work of our classis developed in this past year? As with every other year, we can see progress and growth. We also see trials as well. The one thing that has not changed is the faithfulness of our God. With this in mind, let us consider the state of the classis.

My attention is always drawn first to the parochial reports of the ministers. Here we learn what is going on in our local churches. Each congregation has different needs, has different ministries, but has the same Lord watching over them.

Rev Dale Clark continues to minister in Dickinson. He preaches every Lord's Day at the Holiday Inn express in Dickinson Sunday evenings. He also speaks at an assisted living home in Dickinson and involves himself in other activities as he has opportunity. He also has a men's Bible study in Taylor. It will be interesting to see what comes of that. One concern, which will be discussed at the classis meeting, will be the location of the services. On the one hand, Dickinson is the population centre. It is there that visitors are most likely to come. It is the place with the most people who need to be reached by the gospel. On the other hand, with one exception, the families of the congregation live closer to Taylor than they do Dickinson. It is also possible that something might develop from the Bible studies he holds there. The Classis, Aberdeen consistory, and the Dickinson congregation will need great wisdom from the Lord as to how to proceed.

My own church in Aberdeen has seen great changes this year. For the first time, we are overseeing a mission work. We have also called our first associate pastor, Rev. Clark. As we seek to oversee the mission work, we are greatly blessed that one of our elders, Elder Craig Mehlhaff, is a salesman for Truss Pro's, which supplies rafters to the building industry. His route takes him through Dickinson quite frequently. Therefore, he is able to visit the congregation, attend Bible studies, and consult with Rev. Clark. Locally, we have had a slight gain in membership. Our radio ministry is now 10 years old. God has blessed us richly.

Rev. James Grossmann continues with his busy ministry in Eureka. He is frequently in Hosmer and Herreid, occasionally in Ashley and on occasion doing pastoral work for Anamoose seeking to minister to these congregations without ministers. He also spends a lot of time on his duties as classis stated clerk. Locally, he organised the first vacation Bible school in Eureka for many years. He had 18 children attend. He spends as much time as possible out and about amongst the people of Eureka. God has prospered his ministry greatly, and the classis is thankful for it.

In Pierre, Rev J.P Mosley has begun his third year in the ministry. Coincidentally, it is also the 50th anniversary of the Hope Reformed Church. Rev. Mosley has been hard at work preaching and teaching in his congregation. One interesting experience he has had is the opportunity to give the opening prayer at a city commission meeting and also the South Dakota state Senate and House of Representatives. He also conducts various Bible studies and is even teaching New Testament Greek.

Rev Phil Poe is the pastor of the Harvest Reformed Church in Minot, North Dakota. Numerous members have recently moved away for job-related reasons. At the same time, there are prospective members to fill those places. The Harvest Reformed Church continues to walk by faith. The church has committed itself to donating \$250 to mission organizations each month. The church's philosophy is that "you cannot out give the Lord." One concern the church has is the need to purchase a building in which to worship. We understand how important a building can be when it comes to attracting visitors to our services. We must pray that the Lord provides their need in his good time.

Rev George Syms is our pastor in Watertown, SD. His parochial reports, through the years, reflect a real gift for promoting Christian Fellowship. He engages in Bible studies and classes and also organises opportunities for social gatherings as well. He has also chaired the candidates and credentials committee in a year when there was much work to do. His patient and pastoral attitude towards the young men inquiring about ministry in our classis has been a real asset to us all. Rev Syms has been hospitalised this past year. We thank God he is feeling better.

Turning to our committee reports, the candidates and credentials committee, as I just mentioned, has been very busy. They dealt with five gentlemen who expressed an interest in the Reformed ministry. This is a time-consuming business, and, more often than not, most contacts fall through. Therefore, you could sense the joy in the committee report as it described the progress of Thomas Walters. The latest chapter of his story, the report states, was his successful licensure examination in February. Mr. Walters is now in Ashley where he is preparing for his ordination exam. We thank God for providing a pastor for our church in Ashley. We also hope that he will be able to take some of the pressure off of Rev. Grossmann with regards to working with other Classis churches without a minister.

The home missions committee was almost exclusively concerned with our mission work in

Dickinson North Dakota. When Rev Grossmann left Ashley, the consistory there did not feel able to continue to provide oversight for that congregation. In the Providence of God, the Aberdeen congregation volunteered to assume that role. As I stated earlier, the regular travels of Aberdeen Elder Craig Mehlhaff has been an immense help in providing closer supervision than our Dickinson chapel had previously enjoyed. Challenges lie ahead for this mission work. These issues will have to be faced by the committee this coming year.

Most of the other committees were not terribly active this last year. The Heidelberg camp committee is an exception. We are very thankful to Elder Matt Fickbohm of Pierre for his work as camp director. The committee report noted the theme of the 2015 camp will be the “I Am” statements of Christ in the Gospel of John. The committee has also been concerned about the need for privacy and modesty at camp. Presently, the committee is working on a dress code for the campers. This is not to say that discipline has been lax at Heidelberg camp. Maintaining Christian standards at a youth camp is a job that is never really completed. Experience teaches the need to fine tune camp arrangements.

So what is the bottom line? Is our classis a dinosaur headed for the tar pits or do we still have a role to play in the kingdom of God? I believe the Bible clearly indicates that the size of the body of Christ in any particular location is no indication of its significance. After all, the apostles whom Christ chose to organize the Christian church were few in number and had been very slow to learn from his teaching. We think of our own denomination, and marvel how, with only 4,000 members, the Lord has used us to proclaim the gospel of sovereign grace in a way disproportionate to our size. This being the case, can we really doubt that God is moving in our midst?

In Zachariah 4.10, we are asked, “For who hath despised the day of the small things?” Not us, I trust. As we read a few verses earlier in Zachariah 4.6, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David A Dawn
President, Northern Plains Classis

B. Stated Clerk's Report

Esteemed Brethren,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Stated Clerk over the course of the past year. I will be reporting on my labors since our 29th Annual Spring Meeting of Classis.

Duties Performed:

1. Completed the Minutes from the 29th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis and presented them to the 268th Synod of the Reformed Church of the United States. (There were a few exceptions noted by the Committee on the Minutes of Classis, they are being corrected.)
2. Prepared the Abstract of the 29th Annual Spring Meeting of Classis and delivered copies of them to the churches of the RCUS at the Synod meeting held in Sutton, Nebraska.
3. Prepared the Statistical Report, Stated Clerk's Report, as well as any items needed for this meeting.

Correspondence Sent and Received:

1. An email to Anamoose requesting their answer to question 5b of the Article 81 Constitutional Questions.
2. A letter from the Stated Clerk of Synod regarding the documents to be submitted to the churches prior to the next session of Synod.

3. Five items to the Stated Clerk of Synod:
 1. Statistical & Membership Report for the NPC
 2. Writ of Certification for Classis Delegates to the 268th Synod of the RCUS
 3. Addresses of the Churches and Delegates of the NPC
 4. Report of Changes
 5. An Overture from the NPC to the Synod of the RCUS
4. Forms for Membership and Financial Statistics, as well as the Form for the Credentials of Elders to Classis to the churches of the NPC to be completed prior to our 30th Annual Meeting.
5. Four Executive Circulars to the Delegates of Classis sent via email and the US Postal Service.
6. Communication to the elders of Hosmer and Anamoose who were not properly excused from our Special Classis Meeting.
7. Emails and correspondence to denominations with which we have fraternal relations, inviting them to our special and stated meetings.
8. A number of emails and phone calls requesting missing statistics, credentials and elders' reports.

Items for your consideration:

Timeliness of Reports: I have mentioned this every year that I have served as stated clerk except last year and that was not because it went well. We have agreed to bind ourselves in our standing rules that certain documents are to be sent out by February 1st and others by February 15th. I understand that a couple of you had crises near these dates, and we should give some leeway, however, we know that these reports are necessary. I would recommend getting them prepared before they are required instead of waiting until the last moment (I thank those who are proactive on this! I am not speaking to you, in fact I praise a number of our churches for being ahead instead of behind.)

This does lead to another request: Some churches are sending me as many as 3 different pieces of mail: membership statistics, financial statistics and delegate certifications. It is the duty of the consistory to see that these documents have been sent, not the individual elder or even deacon. I would request that the statistical and delegate certifications be sent together at one time from the consistory's clerk.

I would also mention permanent committee reports here. Our standing rule #7 requires that these "shall be completed and mailed or emailed to the Consistories of all the Churches by February 15th". I only note two things here: They are required to be mailed or emailed to the churches (not some particular member of the executive committee) and that this is to be accomplished by February 15th. Again, proactive work would be appreciated here... we know that these are going to have to be done.

I also note an issue on the Membership Statistics form: The form directs "Return these completed forms to the Stated Clerk of your Classis **four weeks** before the Spring Meeting of Classis." This is in conflict with our standing rule #6 which requires them by February 1st. I am thankful for that difference from the form requirement because I have twice in the last 3 years had two funerals in the week leading up to Classis.

I therefore have one recommendation:

That the Northern Plains Classis overture the 269th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States to amend the Membership Statistics form by adding the words, "at least" before the words "four weeks" and the words, "or earlier if required by Classical Standing Rule" after the words

“Spring Meeting of Classis”. It would then read, “Return these completed forms to the Stated Clerk of your Classis at least *four weeks* before the Spring Meeting of Classis or earlier if required by Classical Standing Rule.”

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann

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

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 268th Synod, there are some items that the Classes should take note of:

1. Classes should take note of the corrections that should be made to their minutes as adopted by the Synod (268th Abstract, pp. 95-96).
2. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the calendar year.
3. Standing rules #2 and #3 which respectively read: “The statistics of the Classes for the calendar year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod May 1”; “The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk May 1.”
4. That the Stated Clerk of each Classis regularly provide the webmaster, in electronic form, an updated roll of ministers, elders, and churches following their spring Classis meeting.
5. Standing Ministerial Aid recommendation 8 (2013 Abstract page 76), that pursuant to Article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, Classes shall not consider a pastoral call letter as “adequate support” to the temporal needs of the called pastor, unless retirement is addressed and funded in the terms of the call.
6. The Treasurer’s request that the treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with Synod standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
7. Concerning recommendation #1 of Standing Judicial (268th Abstract, page 92), that paragraph 49 of the Rules of Order be amended by inserting the sentence, “Moving the question requires two-thirds of the votes cast in the affirmative to be sustained,” I made the recommended change to the Rules of Order. I am sending you the amended Rules in a pdf file.
8. The Classes are reminded that the 269th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 18-21, 2015, at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD

Respectfully submitted,

David Fagrey, Stated Clerk, RCUS

D. Executive Committee's Report on the Minutes

Esteemed Brethren,

Four (4) circulars were sent out this past year and the following is a summary of that business. Because no objections were received to the circulars, all the recommendations brought by the Executive Committee became actions of the Classis.

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Volume 29, Number 1

That the offer from the First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota to take over oversight of the First Reformed Chapel, Dickinson, North Dakota be accepted.

That the transfer of the oversight of our Dickinson work be effective as of the date on which the Dickinson members are received as members of the First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, SD and classis installs a minister as associate pastor at Aberdeen for the Dickinson work.

Take Note concerning the RCUS Constitution Article 81 Answers submitted by the elders from Kassel Reformed Church, Anamoose, North Dakota.

Volume 29, Number 2

The resignation of Rev. L. Dale Clark from the charge of Salem Reformed Church and the acceptance of the resignation by the Salem Reformed Church consistory was declared in order.

The Call of Rev. L. Dale Clark to be Associate Pastor of First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota was approved.

That the installation service for Rev. L. Dale Clark as Associate Pastor of First Reformed Church was to be held on September 28th, 2014 at 11:00 am at the First Reformed Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota. The installation committee: Rev. David Dawn (chairman), Rev. James Grossmann, and the elders of the First Reformed Church. Rev. David Dawn gave the charge to the congregation, Rev. James Grossmann gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. David Dawn lead the service.

Volume 29, Number 3

The Northern Plains Classis approved a special meeting on Saturday, February 7th at 9:00 AM, at Salem Reformed Church of Ashley, North Dakota, in order to administer a licensure exam to Mr. Thomas Walters according to the manner prescribed in Article 20 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States.

Volume 29, Number 4

Announcement to convene the Northern Plains 30th Annual Spring Meeting, to be held at 1:00pm on March 9th, A.D. 2015 at First Reformed Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Executive Committee

E. Treasurer's Report and Auditing Committee Report

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

X. Parochial Reports of Ministers

Parochial Report of Rev. J.P. Mosley

My Dear Fathers and Brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ,

As I stepped into my third year of official pastoral ministry, one passage continued to be brought to my mind, 1 Corinthians 3:6-9: ***6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.***

Sometimes these words are missed in our modern day. This past year Hope Reformed celebrated the church's 50th anniversary, which brings this passage up again. Rev. Robert Grossmann, with many others, planted this church, others (Revs. Roger Gibbons, Peter Grossmann as stated supply, Herman Van Stedum, Norman Jones, and William Haddock) watered the church. But it is God who has faithfully caused the church to grow.

While many churches are so concerned with church growth, and many consider a minister's worth, not with his preaching but with how many are sitting in the pews, we must be reminded that God causes the growth, not the method or program. In this passage, a minister finds encouragement and humility. The encouragement comes from the reality that God causes the growth, blessing the preaching (watering) of the minister. Also, we see the Apostle Paul and Minister Apollos being called God's fellow workers. They are in service to God by serving His church. Then, we uncover this reality of the minister being out in the field, which is the church, the building.

The humbling words are that no matter how hard I try, no matter how much I struggle, if the Lord does not bless this ministry, my service, it will not grow; it is still up to God. He brings the growth, not me! One also sees the humility with the reality that God is everything. When compared to God's work, the planter (Apostle Paul) and the one who waters (Minister Apollos) are nothing. At the end of the day, they are replaceable; only Christ is irreplaceable, which is why Paul says, he preaches only Christ.

With celebrating 50 years of God's faithfulness to a church that many would have just simply closed the doors saying it is too hard to have a church there (like Bismark and Fargo) Hope Reformed Church and the Northern Plains Classis must keep in mind we serve a faithful God who causes the growth. It has been the desire to place our focus upon the Word of God and the Confessions of our Faith.

With the preaching and teaching of the Word, I have preached through most of Genesis. This past year, we made it through the life and work of Abraham up to the marrying off of Isaac. I preached through II Thessalonians. I also preached through Matthew 8 and 9. Shortly after Thanksgiving, I delivered on a promise and preached through Matthew 1:1-17 focusing on the women who are mentioned as the grandmothers of Jesus the Messiah.

In the Adult Bible Studies meeting on Wednesday, we covered the letters to the seven churches in Revelation, some of the Psalms, and picked up a study of the Covenants. I made the point there that a synonym for Reformed Theology is Covenant Theology, and using O. Palmer Robertson's *The Christ of the Covenants*, the study brought the class to a fuller appreciation of God's faithfulness in keeping covenant with us through Jesus Christ.

The plan for Sunday School was to walk through the Heidelberg Catechism Sunday by Sunday and with the help of Rev. Haddock, our class was able to study that amazing little catechism. With this taking place in Sunday School, the Belgic Confession and the Nicene Creed were our chief forms of confessing our faith in morning worship. This was helpful considering we rarely look to the priceless confessions.

Towards the end of the year, we began a look at the Canons of Dort. With this, we will have walked through not only the covenants, but also the Three Forms of Unity in less than two years. This watering of the congregation is bringing growth already, as many are beginning to grasp a fuller appreciation of the Reformed Faith.

The work of gospel ministry has reached out further than expected. I have continued to work in the jail, both adult and juvenile wings of the jail, write in the local paper, but I have also had the opportunity to pray in our local city, Pierre, commission meetings, as well as, praying for the State Senate and House of Representatives. These ministries have been a growing experience for me, as I see what is expected on a cultural level of a minister, and I begin to show what ought to be expected. Some have reacting with bitterness and hate toward a Minister of Christ praying in Jesus Christ's name, but what can I say, He is Lord, not them.

The church has seen some other changes in growth. About one-third of our congregation is younger than nine, and take into account that that one-third has parents, it is safe to say we are once again a young church. With this, there has been a need for care of these little ones. We notice as we studied the Covenants, that God indeed cares for these little ones, and we should too. In our family visitations this year, we read Paul's words to Titus which gave instruction to the older women in the congregation to teach the younger woman how to love their children and husbands. This is happening, but it could be better. Right now there is still an unhealthy divide between our young and our old, one that does not favor a Covenant Community, but God is at work and His grace is sufficient. Many have already stepped up to volunteer in the nursery so that these younger mothers can also be fed by the Word of God. We still need more. Pray for our mothers and our more experienced mothers that they would see the need and step up here to meet this need.

This past year has seen tremendous growth and change in one family, the Musers. Just this past year, one daughter finally married and the other graduated from high school, started college, and got engaged. What change and what blessing to see God at work in their lives! Another great change is seen with one member taking up the study of the New Testament Greek language. Linda Bentz has been meeting with me regularly for class and is beginning to see the beautiful texture of God's Word.

At the same time, we have seen great loss in our church. Over the past year it has been the greatest encouragement to serve through teaching and preaching Randy Thiry, and this past August, the Lord decided it was time to bring our brother home into His glorious care and rest. This sting hit me hard for several reasons: first, I am still grieving for the loss of my only grandfather, who died a year ago January 19, and second, we as a congregation now have one more precious widow and a little child who will forever miss her Papa. This is sad and as I write I tear up, but thanks be to the grace of God for His mercy endures forever. I was able to see great growth in Randy over the past year as he grew more in an understanding of God's grace.

I continue to pray for all our widows, and now that we total four in our congregation, and with the sabbatical that Elder Lynn Goehring is taking, Elder Matt Fickbohm and I are going to be busy this year. Pray this year that God will bring up in our midst a Deacon to help us or we will be facing an over worked Elder and an over worked Minister.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. J.P. Mosley, Jr.

Parochial Report of Rev. James Grossmann

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

It has been a privilege and a joy to take up God's ministry at Eureka Reformed Church. I have had the opportunity to preach in 49 regular services as well as for the Easter Cantata, Good Friday, Ascension day, Thanksgiving, our Christmas Program, and Christmas Day services. My sermons have largely been in series format from Mark, Exodus, I Peter, the Psalms, Romans and Luke. Our worship services are broadcast weekly on KOLY, 99.5 fm radio. I receive regular comments from people tuning in to hear our worship services.

We have celebrated the Lord's Supper four times this year, on each occasion, Shut-in Communion was offered to our shut-ins in the Eureka Health Care Center, the Assisted Living, and to those in their own homes.

We held Vacation Bible School this summer for the first time in a number of years. It was well attended, with 18 children attending! Praise the LORD! I am very thankful for those who labored for this purpose. Please pray that we can build on this success with a VBS this summer.

Paul states in 2 Corinthians 11:8, "I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you." I thank you that you have allowed me to minister to our brothers and sisters in need in Herreid, Hosmer, Ashley, and Anamoose throughout this year. In some ways my helping to fill their

needs has robbed Eureka of my time. While I regret that it has taken time from the Eureka Reformed Church, I believe it would have been wrong to have ignored their need. May God bless ERC for their ministry in allowing me to serve them. I have filled the pulpit in one of the three churches on virtually every Sunday (as well as dealing with some pastoral counseling) since moving. I have preached on Ashley's Start the Week broadcast 31 weeks after taking up the call in Eureka and am thankful that Rev. Dawn has now taken up that labor. I have five students in Catechism class, three of which come from our First Reformed, Herreid, congregation. I have also done a fair amount of pastoral work for our Kassel congregation. I must say that these labors have taken their toll on me physically. I rejoice that Ashley has Licentiate Walters serving them and Hosmer, and I pray that God would provide a pastor for Herreid in the very near future.

My duties as Stated Clerk of Classis continue, and have been on a par in magnitude with previous years. I pray that I have accomplished an acceptable job for the Glory of our Savior and for the help of His Church. On both of these items I request your prayers that I may balance my labors for Classis and Synod with faithfully ministering to God's Church locally.

Finally, I believe that every church, no matter how established, is a mission field. I thank the LORD for the broadcast of our services on the the radio. I thank God for the VBS. We must seek, as we go forward together, how we may reach out into our community with the word of God and call with His Gospel to those around us.

May God richly bless His Church here in Eureka in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Grossmann

Parochial Report of Rev. Phil Poe

Esteemed Brethren,

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

It is hard to believe that we have been with you only about six weeks short of five years! Where has the time gone? The only thing I remember from high school Latin class is the phrase, “tempus fugit” (time flies). And it certainly does! James 5:14 says, “For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” But thank God for “the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 6:23)

The past year was a good year in many ways. The Lord has continued to bless this congregation with “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:3) Our fellowship has been sweet and we thank the Lord for this. The financial giving during 2014 continued strong despite the fact that we lost some families due to job moves. The Consistory is thankful for the financial commitment that continues. Also, the Grand Hotel has continued to be a hospitable location for our Lord's Day worship services, and we should thank our Sovereign God for His providence in this matter.

During 2014 we had to say good-bye and God-speed to several of our committed families. The Ritenours and the Arndts moved away for God-given job opportunities. Thankfully, they both were able to find reformed fellowship in OPC congregations. The Lassley family ended up in Mississippi when Michael was offered a good job to support his large family. Officially, they are still members of HRC because Mike hopes to receive a pastoral call this summer with one of our RCUS congregations. In the meantime they are attending a conservative PCA church. These families alone (Ritenours, Arndts and Lassleys) make a loss of seventeen souls from our worship attendance, including 11 children. Quite a loss for our small church! Our losses also include Thomas Clark and Laura Clark, both of whom have joined a PCA church in Anchorage, AK. Ryan Synder has joined the RPCNA congregation at Geneva College in PA. Alex Snyder is now living in Texas due to a job move with the oil industry. He is still a member here but that status may change in the next year. Alex is attending an OPC church in San Antonio. Jonathan Bartlett has transferred membership to

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Chalcedon Presbyterian Church in Cumming, GA. Add these to the above 17 for a total of 22, about the same attendance we started out with upon our arrival in 2010.

The good news is that we have some prospective new members we are hoping the Lord will bring aboard with us. The Lord graciously added the following new members in 2014 who are still with us: Arne Moilan, the Paul Fuchs family, Alice Dockter and the Tom Davis family for a total of 10. A great blessing for the church family was seeing Jeremy Dockter and Rachel Dockter confirmed as full communing members.

Last year we announced our support of Westminster Biblical Mission for \$200.00 per month on the premise that “we can't out-give God”. The past year certainly proved that to be true! Now the Consistory has committed \$50.00 more per month to the work of Reverend Nap Narag and the Covenant Reformed Church in the Philippine Islands. (see the December Reformed Herald). One thing we can be sure of is that our giving to world evangelism and spreading the reformed faith is pleasing to our Lord!

Gaining our own property continues to be a concern about which we need to be much in prayer. You will hear more about this from Elder Snyder under item D, for new business.

Elder Jim Snyder and Deacon Elton Dockter have been a sheer joy for me to work with during the past 5 years, and I sincerely thank them for their faithful labor on behalf of the congregation. I am grateful for Jim's ability and willingness to fill in for me when I have needed to be gone. This is a great blessing for us all. Elton fulfills a big job as treasurer with a humble servant's heart.

Diana Dockter and Cherise Dockter deserve thanks from all of us for their music accompaniment for our Lord's Day worship. Elton Dockter and Karen Poe are also to be thanked for teaching our children and youth on Sunday night.

Thank you to the Friends of Phoebe and all those who helped with 2014 Mission Fest. We were blessed by the ministry of Rev. Dennis Roe. Thank you to Nathan Poe for preparing the pulled pork that we all enjoyed.

The one thing I would like to see improve is the involvement of more men in our Men's study on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Men, the women are really out-shining us here! They easily double our numbers at each meeting. I will gladly entertain suggestions for improvement to see more men in attendance.

Let us all continue in the faith and pray earnestly for God's blessing upon Harvest Reformed Church.

Your brother in Christ and fellow-servant in the gospel,

Phillip E. Poe, Pastor

Parochial Report of Rev. David Dawn

Esteemed Brothers,

We read in Psalm 46:1-5, “God is our hope and strength, and help in troubles, ready to be found. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains fall into the midst of the sea. Though the waters thereof rage and be troubled, and the mountains shake at the surges of the same. Yet there is a River, whose streams shall make glad the city of God: even the Sanctuary of the Tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of it: therefore shall it not be moved: God shall help it very early.”

Once again, our church looks back with thankfulness to the Lord's blessing during 2014. This was a year of change for the congregation as we took over the supervision of the mission work in Dickinson, ND. We have to confess that God is good. We began 2014 with a communicant membership of 89. Filtering out the statistics from Dickinson, our church grew by six communicant member. We gained ten new members. Five students were confirmed, three were transferred from

Eureka, and two were received by profession of faith. On the other hand, we lost two members through death and two through erasure. This brings our local membership in Aberdeen to 95. If you count the 13 members we transferred in from Ashley (our Dickinson members), then our membership stands at 108. We had no baptisms. We do thank the Lord for prospering our congregation numerically, as well as spiritually.

The most significant development in our church life was bringing our mission chapel in Dickinson under the supervision of our consistory. The congregation voted to inform classis of our willingness to do this on 4 May. On 10 August, Rev Dale Clark candidate in Aberdeen for the position of associate pastor, responsible for our Dickinson work. He was installed on September.

We have been able to give close supervision to our Dickinson Chapel. Providentially, one of our elders, Craig Mehlhaff, visits Dickinson regularly for his job as a salesman for Truss Pro's. He has been able to meet with all the families in the church, as well as attending Bible studies and at least one church service.

Our choir once again joined with the choirs of Eureka and Ashley to present an Easter cantata. The Cantata was performed in Ashley, Eureka, as well as Aberdeen. As in other years, this was a great time of worship and fellowship.

On 3 August, our radio programme, Pause For Thought, celebrated its 10th anniversary on the air. Later in the autumn, I was asked to resume my role as host of our classis radio broadcast, Start The Week. This was a pleasant task to undertake, as I had originally begun this broadcast in the late 1980s. I anticipate continuing to speak on Start The Week until Thomas Walters, our licentiate in Ashley, is prepared to take it on.

Sadly, I have one problem I wish to report. Our confirmation class is not going well. We have three students in the second year of a three-year programme, and one in the first year. After extensive testing, it has become obvious that these students show little familiarity with the Heidelberg catechism or the most commonly known Bible stories. Progressively, over the years, we have had to simplify our confirmation training because our students simply were not digesting the material. The choice was between teaching a comprehensive confirmation curriculum, of which only a fraction would be retained, and teaching less in the hope that what was taught would be remembered.

When, in a few minutes, we proceed to the questions to the elders, our delegate is going to say yes to question two: "is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members and to the church, and the Christian nurture of the members?" This will be a truthful answer. We have paid careful attention to the instruction of the youth for confirmation. Those of us involved in this training have, I believe, laboured long and hard. However, although careful attention has been paid, this does not mean we have been as successful as we would have liked. Had we been asked whether we have fulfilled the requirements of the RCUS Constitution, section 4, article 192, I am afraid the answer would have had to be no. I personally would appreciate any counsel the brothers might have for us.

Given what I have just said, there is a certain irony that, over the past year, the Lord has prospered another project of mine in Christian education. Last year, the superintendent of our Sunday school asked me if I could prepare Sunday school lessons for our youngest two classes. Since then, I have been preparing lessons on the New Testament at the rate of one a week. To my surprise, these have gone quite well, and I am seriously considering sending the material prepared thus far to the synodical Christian education committee, in case it should prove useful to the wider church. Thus far I have completed 31 lessons. I would be prepared to devote more of my time to this project if it would be profitable.

I have been deeply grateful to God for allowing me another year in the Christian ministry of the RCUS. Apart from walking difficulties, I am in good health. The ministry of our church has been prospered by the Lord, and I am humbled to have a part in this.

Respectfully submitted, Rev David A Dawn Pastor, First Reformed Church Aberdeen, SD

Parochial Report of Rev. George Syms

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

The undersigned has made an effort to preach each Lord's Day since Classis 2014, and has continued to conduct bi-weekly Bible Studies on the Canons of Dort, hold bi-weekly catechism classes for three covenant youth as well as give instruction to three families who desired membership in the congregation. On January 4th, 2015, we marked the second anniversary of my installation as pastor of the Covenant Reformed Congregation of Watertown. The instruction given for membership was completed in about 4-5 weeks at about 1.5-2 hours per session. The new people in our midst had been worshipping with us several months before their actual reception and we were blessed by their commitment and consistency. It has been a blessing to enjoy their fellowship and encouragement along the way. The families that had begun to worship with us are the Gary Wurgler family of Sioux Falls, SD; the Josh Wurgler family of Mitchell, SD; and the Brian Ardry family of Brookings, SD. The Ardrys had been members of the congregation during previous years and had relocated. The three families were received into membership on the Lord's Day, January 25th, 2015. It was truly a day of rejoicing for us all, and the fellowship was a delight. On that date, I also had the blessed responsibility of baptizing three covenant children. The addition of eleven baptized members brought our total baptized membership to thirty-seven. The congregation holds a fellowship meal after each celebration of the Lord's Supper, normally six times per year, and also at least once during months when it is not celebrated. The congregation has also maintained a monthly Friday fellowship evening for the opportunity it affords for coming together.

There have been occasions when due to personal injury or illness, the elders of the congregation have led the worship and read a sermon that I have prepared. It is often difficult to secure pulpit supply on short notice in this region, so the elders' willingness to serve in this capacity has proven a blessing to us. The undersigned became extremely ill in December of 2014 and spent five days in the Prairie Lakes Hospital here in Watertown. Once again, the elders DeJong and Sapp handled the ongoing work of the congregation with diligence and efficiency.

The pastor has preached a series of sermons from the book of Ephesians, the Pastoral Epistles, the Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation, and various other texts; he has preached on the redemptive events from the Gospels, such as Christmas, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost. The services of worship are well attended, and the giving continues to be strong and proportionate. One of the unexpected blessings over the last couple of years are the significant contributions made to our building fund from outside the congregation. There is renewed hope that, God willing, we may be able to acquire our own property/facility in the near future.

We have reason to be thankful that the economics of the region appear strong and growing, so that in the congregation everyone desiring employment actually has it. The outreach of our congregation is largely by personal invitation, and there is still a strong desire to begin a radio program for the Watertown vicinity. At present your servant is putting together the equipment needed for recording programs that may be produced in advance for airing on a local station.

The congregation continues to grow in the understanding of Holy Scripture and the faith which we confess. Our Bible studies are well attended and the members make time to be in attendance even with busy schedules. A Consistory meeting is held at least once a month unless something unforeseen prevents it. The Spiritual Council meets immediately after Consistory and each family of the congregation is remembered before the throne of grace. We have made it a special concern to pray for believers who are suffering persecution in the world and to be aware of their plight. It has also been a concern to be informed of the rise of militant Islam in the world and the USA specifically. We have need to be well grounded in God's Word and the doctrines of grace that are revealed through it. We have been blessed by the keen interest that some of our youth have in maintaining and developing our website into a very useful tool for promoting the Gospel. Our number may be small by worldly standards, but the congregation has a heart for the things that matter, namely, proclamation of the truth and the pursuit of godliness in our lives. Our worship of God has been enriched by the instruction we have enjoyed through the Ligonier Ministries' video

lecture series on the Attributes of God. An RCUS tradition that we enjoy promoting is the holding of MissionFest services in the fall of the year. We have had some edifying preaching in recent years from the Rev. Dr. Robert Grossmann and the Rev. Mr. Scott Henry. We try to hold a conference in connection with MissionFest under the auspices of Heidelberg Theological Seminary of Sioux Falls, SD. The Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner has been a speaker at our conferences along with others. The Sunday School has consisted of an Adult Class, which under the oversight of Elder Rod DeJong, has systematically viewed the lectures of Dr. Steven Lawson of Ligonier Ministries. The pastor sometimes leads the Q/A sessions for these lectures. The very young children are taught by Mrs. Paula DeJong, and the older youth have a class being led by Mrs. Lori Sapp. We cannot fail to mention the blessing we have in several talented musician/pianists who accompany the hymn singing in the worship services: Mrs. Roxanne Towles, Mrs. Lori Sapp, and Mrs. Deborah Syms have established a rotation schedule for the Lord's Days of the year. One of our young women, Miss Andrea Sapp, is a violinist and often provides prelude music for the worship services. The women of the congregation are constantly providing for the congregations' fellowship meals and conduct some activities for women's fellowship. Except for a few instances, illnesses and hospitalizations have been rare in the congregation. Visitation of the families has been pursued in an informal manner thus far, and we can foresee a more formal system of family visitation developing in the next Classical year. Your servant has served as Vice-president of Northern Plains Classis (not a taxing job), and as chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, a bit more difficult but nonetheless delightful, especially in working with candidates for the pulpits of the NPC. I find this an important activity because of the seriousness of our calling to care for the churches. The committee has been tremendous to work with and a great encouragement as we examine the men who are being sought for ministry in the RCUS.

It was my privilege to be invited to preach for the MissionFest services at the Eureka RCUS where the Rev. James Grossmann is Pastor. I also had opportunity to preach and administer the Lord's Supper in Anamoose to the Kassel Congregation, as well in Ashley to the Salem RCUS there during 2014.

Your servant must note that the care of the Pastor and his wife is exceptional in the congregation. The temporal contract is met well and is not only adequate, but also includes ample provision for health insurance. We have been blessed with the election and installation of our first deacon ever, Mr. Paul Maassen, who serves as the treasurer of the congregation. We are grateful to the Lord, indeed, from whom all blessings flow.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Rev. George J. Syms)

Parochial Report of Rev. Dale Clark

I was reminded recently that patience is more than a virtue. Abram was given a promise that he would have a child by Sarai. He spent 25 years waiting for that to happen. He tried in his own efforts and Ishmael was born to torment the promised one Isaac. Abram was tested in his faith by waiting for the promise to come true. We in Dickinson are in such a test. We have God's promise that His Word will not return to him void and we have been seeing it. We also have the promise that by the confession that Jesus the Son of Man is the Christ the Son of the Living God. This one hasn't been completely fulfilled. We continue to believe and trust that God has more for us here in Dickinson. We have and continue to be a church for the wayfarer. In this we will persevere in the full confidence of the faithfulness of our Great Head of the Church. I will then give an account of what I have done and where our congregation is at and our hope for tomorrow

In the past year I have preached in Dickinson and Aberdeen 49 Sundays. My preaching has been from the Gospel of Mark, a 13 week series on Prayer and a couple of weeks on the Coming of Christ. We continue have our own Study Sunday Evenings. We watch a video o R. C Sproul, "Dust to Glory". We had some visitors at the start. I learned that we will need shorter series the next time.

We continue to have an inter-generational Sunday School. I have two catechumens this year. I have visited the congregation and we have all become close.

Since August I have been preaching once or twice a month in a local Assisted Living Residence. The local parish here in Taylor is without a pastor. I started a Men's Bible Study here this fall and we are continuing this spring. The study has been well received. I hope to start one in Dickinson when some logistical issues are worked out. Please be in prayer for this. I conducted a funeral for a family member of some of these men. I have been trying to be regular in writing a blog and a devotion for our website. I have been trying to alternate them. I have helped out a couple of times at a Men's Shelter. I have tried to make a regular practice of being at a restaurant available to talk.

While we haven't grown numerically, we have grown spiritually. We have had quite a few visit us. One couple has stayed for awhile. They plan to leave us in the spring, but we have been grateful for their presence. All others have come for a Sunday and are gone. Most were reformed, but were passing through. We are thankful to God for these travelers and the encouragement they have given to us. We had Wes Brice and wife Ginger with us in April. The plan was to have a conference on marriage. We had the conference, but because of timing, at least, attendance was poor. The Ladies continue to meet and study. Attendance has been strong for the core families. We have enjoyed the Lord's Supper four times this year.

With the change of overseeing consistory, there has been an renewed sense of let us continue. With other events that have occurred the desire to press on with the work has been enlivened with in the body. We have a better understanding of what we are doing and a confidence in Christ that has been recharged for the work.

With regards to the future, we are planning a conference once again only for the fall. I have been in contact with Heidelberg Seminary and we are planning for November 21. I am thinking about other ways to reach into the community, such as open air/street preaching and Bible studies. We are also looking into a place for ourselves to meet. With this in mind, we would ask for prayer with regards to location. Most people at present live east of Dickinson and Taylor would be more central. We need wisdom and direction from the Head of the church.

We are encouraged. We are also being patient with expectation. Please keep us in your prayers that "the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified" (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Respectfully in Christ,

Dale Clark

Elders' Report from First Reformed Church, Herreid, SD

It has been a busy year for our church. Our minister had moved on to another church in May, but not before confirming 3 young women into our church. We also had 2 baptisms that we celebrated in our church, and also celebrated several Lord's Suppers. We have spent the remainder of the time searching for a replacement minister. We found several potential candidates, but all had backed out for numerous reasons. Currently we are considering Cody Schwichtenberg as a promising candidate with a trial sermon set for April 26th. The congregation is very happy with his sermons and his personal characteristics, and we are very hopeful that he will fill our pulpit and our congregational needs.

To help us continue to hear God's word, Pastor James Grossmann has graciously agreed to fill our pulpit on an alternating weekend schedule. Currently Mr. Schwichtenberg is substituting for Pastor Grossmann once a month. On the off weekend of Pastor Grossmann, we elders carry on the service. We would lead the congregation through the service with Psalter readings, Lord's Days, prayers, songs, and gospel readings when necessary, and ending the sermon with the benediction from Hebrews 13:20-21. We would play sermons from Sermon Audio from the potential candidates or from known ministers when we had no candidate.

The church remains strong through our search for a minister. We are very confident in Cordy and we look forward to growing with him through faith.

Herreid First Reformed Church

Elders Nathan Arbach and Dave Vander Vliet

Elders' Report from Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, ND

As an Elder at Salem RCUS church I am pleased to present this report regarding our activities for the past year. We were without a pastor from February, 2014, when Rev. James Grossmann left until February, 2015 when Licentiate Tom Walters took over the leadership of our pulpit.

During the 12 months we were without a pastor in 2014 and 2015 the elders faithfully conducted reading services, with attendance averaging about 15 people a Sunday. The sermons that were read were based on the Heidelberg Catechism reading for that day. While all members eagerly awaited the day when we would once again get an Undershepherd to preach to us, the reading services were well received and no complaints were expressed. Financially, we continue to be a strong congregation.

We did get both Rev. Syms and Rev. Grossmann up on Sundays when we celebrated Holy Communion as well as having them as guest speakers occasionally. Rev. Dawn was our Mission Fest Speaker.

We were fortunate to have no funerals in 2014, but also we had no weddings or baptisms either.

We learned about Mr. Tom Walters being available for our pulpit through the efforts of Rev. Syms and we voted to call Mr. Walters after he preached a trial sermon at Salem in November. We are grateful that Mr. Walters sustained his Licensure exam in January, 2015 and that he and his wife Esther are now settling into their new life here. We at Salem Praise God for answering our prayers and has provided a man for our pulpit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Salem RCUS Elders

Tim Rott

Ron J. Meidinger

XI. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS

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

1. Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the word of God? All Elder delegates answered Yes.

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

3a. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation, is visitation faithfully performed? All Elder delegates answered Yes, except the written answers from Herreid.

3b. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation, is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution? All Elder delegates answered Yes.

4. Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance

with the constitution? **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**

5a. In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving? **All Elder delegates answered Yes, except the Elders from Ashley and Hosmer.**

5b. In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer? **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**

5c. In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guidelines for Giving? **All Elder delegates answered Yes except the Elders from Ashley, Eureka, Hosmer, and Pierre.**

5d. In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer? **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**

6. Are the church records properly kept? **All Elder delegates answered Yes.**

7a. Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge? **All Elder delegates answered Yes, except that the written answers from Herreid indicated that this question is not applicable.**

7b. Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs? **All Elder delegates answered Yes, except that the written answers from Herreid indicated that this question is not applicable.**

The president instructed the Stated Clerk to communicate with the consistory of Anamoose to provide a signed document containing their answers the Article 81 Questions, to be circularized. Those answers have yet to be received.

XII. REPORT OF NUMERICAL & FINANCIAL STATISTICS

See the Appendix of the Abstract for this Report.

XIII. READING OF THE STANDING RULES

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

XIV. REPORTS FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES

There were no reports from Classis Fraternal Delegates to be presented.

XV. ADDRESS AND/OR REPORTS OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES & VISITORS

Dr. Koerner addressed the body as a representative of Heidelberg Theological Seminary. The body was given the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

XVI. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

XVII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

Your committee received the following items:

Item #4: Heidelberg Youth Camp (Permanent) Committee Report

Item #6: Interchurch (Permanent) Committee Report

Item #15: Christian Education and Publications (Permanent) Committee Report.

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that Classis approve the HYC report as a whole.

Recommendation #2, that Classis approve the HYC 2015 budget and camper fees.

Recommendation #3, take note that pastors go over the dress code with campers before camp.

Recommendation #4, take note that registration forms for campers and counselors be submitted in a timely manner.

Recommendation #5, take note that donations of food, supplies and other items are appreciated and needed.

Recommendation #6, that Rev. William Haddock continue as Northern Plains Chronicles editor and be paid a stipend of \$200 for the year.

Recommendation #7, that the Northern Plains Classis Video Library, which is currently hosted at Hope RCUS and comprised of over 100 VHS tapes on various topics, be offered to anyone who is willing and able to use them.

Recommendation #8, take note that the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee be augmented by two members.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. L. Dale Clark, Rev. David Dawn, Elder Jim Snyder, Elder Matthew Fickbohm

B. Examinations and Licensure

This committee closed out with no actions.

C. Excuses

Your Committee received the following items: 8, Excuse for Aaron Rau; 9, Excuse for Sam Rau; 10, Excuse for LeRoy Neifer; 11, Excuse for Nathan Arbach; and 16, Excuse for Ray Jung.

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That the excuses for A. Rau, S. Rau, L. Neifer, N. Arbach, and R. Jung be granted.
- 2) That David Vander Vleit be informed by the clerk that since both he and the secundus were absent that he also needs to send an excuse.

Dale Clark, George Syms, Glenn Opp, Rod DeJong

D. Finances, Benevolences, and Ministerial Aid

Your committee received the following items:

Item #1: Report of the Auditing (Permanent) Committee.

Item #3: Report of the Diaconal (Permanent) Committee.

Item #7: Overture from Hope RCUS on behalf of Mrs. Norman Jones.

Item #13: Overture for diaconal aid from Harvest RCUS.

The following reimbursement requests:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Salem RCUS (Walters): | \$59:50 |
| Hope RCUS (Fickbohm) | \$112.00 |
| Covenant (DeJong) | \$63.00 |
| Harvest (Poe) | \$215.60 |

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 2) With regards to item #3, take note.
- 3) With regards to item #7, that the NPC Stated Clerk be directed to overture Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid on behalf of Mrs. Norman Jones.
- 4) With regards to item #13, that \$1,200 be granted in one time diaconal aid to Elder Aaron Rau.
- 5) That the Permanent Diaconal Committee be directed to identify the need of the Elder Aaron Rau of Kassel Reformed Church for additional diaconal aid in 2015.
- 6) With regards to the reimbursement requests for the Spring Meeting, that all be granted in the total amount of \$647.50.
- 7) That \$600 be budgeted for the Classical Sermon Audio account for 2015.
- 8) That the dues for 2015 be set at Classical Dues: \$13 (\$5 increase) and Home Missions Dues: \$55 (\$4 decrease).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. J.P. Mosley, Jr., Rev. Philip Poe, Elder Ron Meidinger, Elder Matthew Fickbohm

E. Judicial

Your Committee has received the following: from the Stated Clerk's Report

Recommendation #1: That the Northern Plains Classis overture the 269th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States to amend the Membership Statistics form by adding the words, "at least" before the words "four weeks" and the words, "or earlier if required by Classical Standing Rule" after the words "Spring Meeting of Classis". It would then read, "Return these completed forms to the Stated Clerk of your Classis at least four weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis or earlier if required by Classical Standing Rule."

Recommendation #2: from Item 14 – An Overture: That the Northern Plains Classis abolish the overtures committee after the pattern of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, and that overtures be assigned to the committees by the Stated Clerk.

Recommendation #3, from the Minutes of Synod Report, Paragraph 7, Take Note

David Dawn, J.P. Mosley, Dough Haak, Rod DeJong

F. Missions

Your committee has received the following items: Item #12 from Salem Reformed Church – Ashley, ND and Item #5 from the Permanent Home Missions Report

Recommendation #1: That the amount of \$1,500 be budgeted for travel between Aberdeen and Dickinson for the consistory travel during the classis year.

Recommendation #2: That \$18,000 be budgeted for the support of the Dickinson Mission work for the Calendar year 2015.

Recommendation #3: That \$16,000 be budgeted for the support of the Dickinson Mission work for the calendar year 2016.

Recommendation #4: That \$2,574 be budgeted to fund 75% of the cost of the “Start the Week” ministry of the Salem Reformed Church of Ashley.

Recommendation #5: That the Classis budget \$500.00 for the Permanent Home Missions Committee expenses related to the oversight of the Dickinson Mission Work.

Philip E. Poe, J.P. Mosley, Glenn Opp, Doug Haak

G. Nominations

Your nominations committee makes the following recommendation: (convener is underlined)

Recommendation 1:

Auditing: J.P. Mosley, W. Haddock, Nathan Arbach

Camp: J.P. Mosley, J. Grossmann, M. Fickbohm, C. Mehlhaff, (Lic. Thomas Walters)

Candidates and Credentials: G. Syms, D. Clark, P. Poe, T. Rott, J. Snyder

Christian Education and Publications: G. Syms, G. Opp, R. Meidinger

Diaconal: D. Clark, S. Sapp, P. Poe, R. Jung

Executive: D. Dawn, J. Grossmann, M. Fickbohm

Home Missions: P. Poe, D. Dawn, D. Haak, R. De Jong

Interchurch: J. Grossmann, D. Clark, D. Vander Vliet, E. Mehlhaff, C. Mehlhaff

Assistant to the Clerk: D. Haak

Signed: Philip Poe, James Grossmann, Doug Haak

H. Overtures

Your Committee is in receipt of the following:

Item #7 – Overture for support of Lena Jones

Item #8, 9, 10, & 11 – Excuses

Item #12 – Request for Radio Program support

Item #13 – aid to Aaron Rau

Item #14 – delete overture committee and have Stated Clerk assign overtures to committees directly.

Item #16 – excuse for Ray Jung

Recommendation #1 – refer item #7 to Finances, Benevolences, and Ministerial Aid.

Recommendation #2 – refer items nos. 8, 9, 10, and 11 to Excuses

Recommendation #3 – refer item #12 to Missions.

Recommendation #4 – refer item #13 to Diaconal.

Recommendation #5 – refer item #14 to Judicial.

Recommendation #6 – refer item #16 to Excuses.

Receipt of the following: Minutes of Synod Report

Recommendation #7 – In regards to paragraphs nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 – take note.

Recommendation #8 – refer paragraph no 6 to Judicial.

Signed: George Syms, James Grossmann, Jim Snyder, Rod DeJong

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

A. Expression of Appreciation to the hosting congregation

That the Classis gives our thanks and gratitude to First Reformed Church for hosting the 30th annual Spring Classis meeting. That such gratitude be expressed by printing the following in the Sunday bulletin:

We, the delegates to the 30th Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis, rejoice in our Lord for working faith in you, the First Reformed Church of Aberdeen. We thank you for your hospitality and generosity. May the Lord, our faithful God, Bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you.

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

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

XIX. Reading of the Minutes

On Tuesday morning, March 12th, the minutes on part of the previous session were read and corrected. The President declared the minutes from the previous session to be approved as read and corrected.

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

XX. Adjournment

Rev. Clark moved that the Classis adjourn to the 31st Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis to begin on March 14th, A.D. 2016 at 1:00pm, at a place to be determined and circularized by the Executive Committee of Classis.

The Classis adjourned at 10:40am on March 10, A.D. 2015.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 6 ministers, 6 elders, and 1 licentiate present for a total of 13, a quorum.

B. Devotions

Elder Haak closed the meeting by reading Romans 6:1-14, 23.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. James W. Grossmann, Stated Clerk

APPENDIX

Treasurer's Report

Financial Position – Year Ended December 31st, 2014

| | Unrestricted | 2014 Total | 2013 Total |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Current Assets: | | | |
| Cash | \$ 24,236.57 | \$ 24,236.57 | \$ 23,029.71 |
| Certificates of Deposit | 9,475.88 | 9,475.88 | 9,456.48 |
| Total Assets: | 33,712.45 | 33,712.45 | 32,486.19 |
| Current Liabilities: | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Net Assets | \$ 33,712.45 | \$ 33,712.45 | \$ 32,486.19 |

Statement of Functional Expenses – Year Ended December 31st, 2014

| | Home Missions | Classis Business | 2014 Total | 2013 Total |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dickinson | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Start the Week | 2,574.00 | - | 2,574.00 | 2,574.00 |
| Sermon Audio | 420.40 | - | 420.40 | 462.35 |
| Mileage | 339.92 | 716.70 | 1,056.62 | 1,294.30 |
| Supplies | - | 66.21 | 66.21 | 36.8 |
| Abstracts | - | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200 |
| Stipends | - | 900.00 | 900.00 | 800 |
| NPC Editor | - | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200 |
| Total Functional Expenses | \$ 23,334.32 | \$ 2,082.91 | \$ 25,417.23 | \$ 15,567.45 |

Statement of Activities – Year Ended December 31st, 2014

| | Unrestricted | Donor Restricted | 2014 Total | 2013 Total |
|---|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Dues: | | | | |
| Classical Dues (restated) | \$ 3,987.00 | \$ - | \$ 3,987.00 | \$ 4,961.00 |
| Home Missions Dues | 21,693.50 | - | 21,693.50 | 22,899.25 |
| Total Dues Revenue: | <u>25,680.50</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>\$ 25,680.50</u> | <u>27,860.25</u> |
| Other Income: | | | | |
| Donation from Covenant RCUS | 933.00 | | \$ 933.00 | |
| Interest: Classis | 4.59 | - | \$ 4.59 | 5.04 |
| Interest: Home Missions | 6.00 | | \$ 6.00 | 7.23 |
| Interest: Foundation CD | 19.4 | | \$ 19.40 | 23.29 |
| Other Remittances | - | 264.25 | \$ 264.25 | 1,065.50 |
| Total Other Income: | <u>962.99</u> | <u>264.25</u> | <u>\$ 1,227.24</u> | <u>1,101.06</u> |
| Total Income: | <u>26,643.49</u> | <u>264.25</u> | <u>\$ 26,907.74</u> | <u>28,961.31</u> |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| <i>Home Missions:</i> | | | | |
| First Reformed - Dickinson | 20,000.00 | - | 20,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Covenant Reformed - Watertown | - | | - | 9,600.00 |
| Travel – Dickinson Oversight | 339.92 | | 339.92 | |
| Start the Week Radio | 2,574.00 | - | 2,574.00 | 2,574.00 |
| Sermon Audio | 420.40 | - | 420.40 | 462.35 |
| Total Home Missions: | <u>23,334.32</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>23,334.32</u> | <u>22,636.35</u> |
| <i>Meetings:</i> | | | | |
| Spring Meeting Mileage | 716.70 | - | 716.70 | 1,294.30 |
| Total Meetings: | <u>716.70</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>716.70</u> | <u>1,294.30</u> |
| <i>General Operating:</i> | | | | |
| Abstracts - Printing & Printer | 200.00 | - | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Stipends - Standing Rule 13 | 900.00 | - | 900.00 | 800.00 |
| General | 266.21 | - | 266.21 | 236.80 |
| Total General Operating: | <u>1,366.21</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,366.21</u> | <u>1,236.80</u> |
| Total Expenses: | <u>25,417.23</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>25,417.23</u> | <u>25,167.45</u> |
| Transfer of Funds | | | | |
| Monies designated for Dickinson | | 264.25 | 264.25 | 1,065.50 |
| Total Transfers: | <u>-</u> | <u>264.25</u> | <u>264.25</u> | <u>1,065.50</u> |
| Change in Net Assets: | | | 1,226.26 | 2,728.36 |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year (As of December 31) | | | 32,486.19 | 29,757.83 |
| Net Assets, End of Year | | | <u>\$ 33,712.45</u> | <u>\$ 32,486.19</u> |

Note 1: The Classis operates on a calendar year fiscal year (January 1 - December 31).

Note 2: Beginning in calendar year 2012 the Classis implemented accrual basis accounting. Accrual basis accounting focuses on matching expenditures and revenues of the period to which they pertain. The financial activity of the Classis through January 31st, 2014 was evaluated to determine to which period the transaction applied.

Note 3: The Classis holds three Certificates of Deposit with BankWest of Pierre, SD. The terms of each are as follows:

| Fund | Amount | Date of Issue | Maturity | Renewal | Annual yield | Payment Frequency | Interest Treatment |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| General | \$ 1,000.00 | March 23, 2014 | March 23, 2015 | Automatic | 0.55% | Every 3 months | Deposited to General Fund |
| Home Missions | 2,000.00 | March 23, 2014 | March 23, 2015 | Automatic | 0.55% | Every 3 months | Deposited to General Fund |
| Foundation | 6,406.67 | March 23, 2014 | March 23, 2015 | Automatic | 0.55% | Every 3 months | Deposited to General Fund |

Note 4: Accrual basis accounting includes the recognition of revenue not yet received and an amount determined to be uncollectible. As the Classis requires all dues to be received no later than November 30th, no recognition of dues not received is deemed necessary and has, therefore, not been performed. This represents a deviation from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Note 5: The Classis collects dues from congregations for both Home Missions and Classical Funds. The following schedule reports the dues actually received from congregations for 2014 (Note: designated remittances not included here):

| Congregation | Members | Type of Dues | Remitted | Full Remittance | (Variance) | Received |
|---------------------|---------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| Aberdeen | 89 | Classical | \$ 712 | 712 | \$ - | On-time |
| | 89 | Home Missions | 5,251 | 5,251 | - | On-time |
| Anamoose | 15 | Classical | 120 | 120 | (120) | |
| | 15 | Home Missions | 885 | 885 | (885) | |
| Ashley | 40 | Classical | 336 | 320 | 16 | On-time |
| | 40 | Home Missions | 676 | 2,360 | (1,684) | On-time |
| Dickinson | 12 | Classical | 88 | 96 | (8) | On-time |
| | 12 | Home Missions | 649 | 708 | (59) | On-time |
| Eureka | 130 | Classical | 1,040 | 1,040 | - | On-time |
| | 130 | Home Missions | 7,670 | 7,670 | - | On-time |
| Herried | 49 | Classical | 368 | 392 | (24) | On-time |
| | 49 | Home Missions | 2,714 | 2,891 | (177) | On-time |
| Hosmer | 17 | Classical | 187 | 136 | 51 | On-time |
| | 17 | Home Missions | 935 | 1,003 | (68) | On-time |
| Mnot | 28 | Classical | 224 | 224 | - | On-time |
| | 28 | Home Missions | 1,652 | 1,652 | - | On-time |
| Pierre | 24 | Classical | 192 | 192 | - | On-time |
| | 24 | Home Missions | 1,416 | 1,416 | - | On-time |
| Watertown | 20 | Classical | 840 | 160 | 680 | On-time |
| | 20 | Home Missions | 731 | 1,180 | (449) | On-time |
| Classical Total | | | \$ 3,987.00 | \$ 3,392.00 | \$ 595.00 | |
| Home Missions Total | | | \$ 21,694.00 | \$ 25,016.00 | \$ (3,322.00) | |

Note 6: Due to the simplicity of the financial activity of the Classis, a Statement of Cash Flows has not been presented. This represents a deviation from GAAP.

2014 Membership & Financial Statistics

| | Aberdeen (Includes Dickinson) | Anamoose (2013) | Ashley | Dickinson | Eureka | Herried | Hosmer |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number of Elders | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Number of Deacons | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Communicants Last Year | 89 | 16 | 40 | 12 | 129 | 50 | 17 |
| Received – Confirmation | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Received – Transfer | 16 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Received – Profession | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Received | 23 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Total Old & New | 112 | 16 | 40 | 13 | 131 | 53 | 17 |
| Lost – Dismissal | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Lost – Erasure/Discipline | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Lost – Death | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Total Lost | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Total Communicants This Year | 108 | 15 | 38 | 11 | 124 | 51 | 15 |
| Unconfirmed Members | 16 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| Total Baptized Members | 124 | 16 | 38 | 17 | 130 | 61 | 15 |
| Number of Families | 50 | 10 | 15 | 4 | 82 | 27 | 11 |
| Children in Sunday School | 14 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| Adults Baptized Last Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Infants Baptized | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total Baptisms this Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Members' Lord's Supper | 90 | 7 | 40 | 11 | 105 | 31 | 11 |
| Lord's Supper Observed | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Receipts – Sunday Offerings | \$145,666 | \$11,426 | \$30,580 | \$38,238 | \$110,301 | \$50,091 | \$2,348 |
| Receipts – Special Offerings | \$2,416 | \$0 | \$6,001 | \$2,141 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Receipts – Other Sources | \$52,552 | \$0 | \$4,097 | \$51,373 | \$14,951 | \$0 | \$6,528 |
| Total Receipts | \$200,634 | \$11,426 | \$40,678 | \$91,752 | \$125,252 | \$50,091 | \$8,876 |
| Budgeted Synodical Funds | \$20,169 | \$3,292 | \$4,423 | \$1,463 | \$20,094 | \$4,713 | \$1,110 |
| Budgeted Classical Funds | \$5,963 | \$1,066 | \$1,011 | \$0 | \$8,710 | \$3,082 | \$1,122 |
| Non-Guideline Causes | \$1,045 | \$0 | \$264 | \$1,045 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Non-RCUS Benevolences | \$0 | \$0 | \$200 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 |
| Other General Expenses | \$140,402 | \$2,040 | \$27,458 | \$67,469 | \$80,958 | \$0 | \$12,655 |
| Total Disbursements | \$167,579 | \$6,398 | \$33,356 | \$69,977 | \$109,762 | \$7,795 | \$15,387 |
| Value of Church Buildings | \$350,000 | \$0 | \$25,000 | \$0 | \$250,000 | \$40,000 | \$25,000 |
| Value of Parsonage | \$68,500 | \$0 | \$45,000 | \$68,500 | \$100,000 | \$25,000 | \$0 |
| Property Improvements | \$8,733 | \$0 | \$9,802 | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,100 | \$0 |
| Present Property Debts | \$56,074 | \$0 | \$0 | \$56,074 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Debt Paid Last Year | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Synod Giving per Communicant | \$227 | \$206 | \$111 | \$122 | \$156 | \$94 | \$65 |
| Classis Giving per Communicant | \$67 | \$67 | \$25 | \$0 | \$68 | \$62 | \$66 |
| Total RCUS per Communicant | \$305 | \$272 | \$142 | \$209 | \$223 | \$156 | \$131 |

| | Minot | Pierre | Watertown | Totals 2014 | Totals 2013 | Difference |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of Elders | 1 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 0 |
| Number of Deacons | 1 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 16 | 1 |
| Communicants Last Year | 28 | 24 | 20 | 413 | 446 | -33 |
| Received – Confirmation | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 8 |
| Received – Transfer | 2 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Received – Profession | 9 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 12 |
| Total Received | 13 | 4 | 0 | 45 | 15 | 30 |
| Total Old & New | 41 | 28 | 20 | 458 | 461 | -3 |
| Lost – Dismissal | 5 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 0 |
| Lost – Erasure/Discipline | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 12 | -8 |
| Lost – Death | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 12 | -5 |
| Total Lost | 5 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 37 | -13 |
| Total Communicants This Year | 36 | 27 | 20 | 434 | 424 | 10 |
| Unconfirmed Members | 14 | 11 | 6 | 64 | 74 | -10 |
| Total Baptized Members | 50 | 36 | 26 | 496 | 498 | -2 |
| Number of Families | 18 | 19 | 9 | 241 | 224 | 17 |
| Children in Sunday School | 13 | 5 | 2 | 50 | 63 | -13 |
| Adults Baptized Last Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Infants Baptized | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Baptisms this Year | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Members' Lord's Supper | 40 | 21 | 20 | 86.64% | 85.38% | 1.26% |
| Lord' Supper Observed | 12 | 6 | 5 | 41 | 48 | -7 |
| Receipts – Sunday Offerings | \$84,433 | \$71,862 | \$118,965 | \$625,672 | \$507,466 | \$118,206 |
| Receipts – Special Offerings | \$2,931 | \$3,106 | \$0 | \$14,454 | \$14,859 | -\$405 |
| Receipts – Other Sources | \$11,156 | \$900 | \$0 | \$90,184 | \$160,091 | -\$69,907 |
| Total Receipts | \$98,520 | \$75,868 | \$118,965 | \$730,310 | \$682,416 | \$47,894 |
| Budgeted Synodical Funds | \$5,764 | \$600 | \$3,980 | \$64,145 | \$53,537 | \$10,608 |
| Budgeted Classical Funds | \$1,876 | \$1,608 | \$1,571 | \$26,009 | \$27,145 | -\$1,136 |
| Non-Guideline Causes | \$2,793 | \$0 | \$205 | \$4,307 | \$1,424 | \$2,883 |
| Non-RCUS Benevolences | \$2,945 | \$1,186 | \$0 | \$4,831 | \$1,161 | \$3,670 |
| Other General Expenses | \$59,522 | \$42,873 | \$46,271 | \$412,179 | \$475,592 | -\$63,413 |
| Total Disbursements | \$72,900 | \$46,267 | \$52,027 | \$511,471 | \$558,859 | -\$47,388 |
| Value of Church Buildings | \$0 | \$110,000 | \$0 | \$800,000 | \$800,000 | \$0 |
| Value of Parsonage | \$300,000 | \$90,000 | \$150,000 | \$778,500 | \$769,500 | \$9,000 |
| Property Improvements | \$0 | \$0 | \$778 | \$25,413 | \$12,628 | \$12,785 |
| Present Property Debts | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$56,074 | \$64,817 | -\$8,743 |
| Debt Paid Last Year | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$20,022 | -\$20,022 |
| Synod Giving per Communicant | \$206 | \$25 | \$199 | \$155 | \$120 | \$35 |
| Classis Giving per Communicant | \$67 | \$67 | \$79 | \$63 | \$61 | \$2 |
| Total RCUS per Communicant | \$373 | \$92 | \$288 | \$229 | \$184 | \$45 |

Standing Rules

Organization

1. The Standing rules shall be read during the session of Classis.
2. That the Northern Plains Classis hold its annual meeting on the second Monday in March and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. (2009)
3. The worship services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circulated before Classis.
4. Nominations for all officers of Classis shall be made by secret ballot. All names appearing on the nominating ballot shall be candidates, and if there is not an election on the first ballot, only the names with the two highest totals of votes shall be candidates until there is an election.
5. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the yearly Spring meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send the answers to the questions placed before the elder according to Article 81 of the Constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge, and sent to the Stated Clerk.

Correspondence

6. The statistics, Credentials of Elders to Classis and the Mailing Addresses of Delegates to Classis shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk by February 1st. (2010, 2012)
7. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed or emailed to the Consistories of all the Churches by February 15th before the Spring Meeting of Classis. Parochial reports from all Ministers and Licentiates are to be sent to the President by February 15th before the Spring Meeting of Classis. Excuses for these requirements are to be made by written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis. (2012, 2014)
8. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of Classis shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at any time.
9. If pastors, elders, and members of congregations request information from the Executive Committee of Classis concerning constitutional matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented in written form and relevant only to the item in question.
10. All documents submitted to Classis be written on sheets of white paper measuring 8.5 inches wide and 11 inches long. (2005)

Financial

11. The Classical dues shall be due on the first of November and are to be paid not later than the 30th of November of the current year. (2013)

12. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form to “Northern Plains Classis,” and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.
13. The President of Classis shall receive two hundred dollars (\$200.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and the Treasurer two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the Classical year. (2008, 2013, 2014)
14. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only to those delegates whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions or have been properly excused by Classis.
15. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel to and from Classis, or for Classis business, at 35 cents (\$0.35) per mile per vehicle. When distance and time require public travel on public transportation to and from Classis, or for Classis business, they shall be granted full fare. (2007)

Examinations

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