

**ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

**15TH Annual Spring Meeting
March 8-9, 2000
Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH**

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**2001 DIRECTORY
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS**

OFFICERS OF CLASSIS

PRESIDENT Rev. Hank Bowen
VICE PRESIDENT Rev. Harvey Opp
STATED CLERK..... Rev. Donald R. Vance
TREASURER..... Elder Don Larson

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

BOWEN, Rev. Hank (952) 467-3872, Church: (952) 467-3878
15470 Co. Rd. 31, Hamburg, MN 55339
rcushank@juno.com

DEBOER, Mr. Jeff..... (641) 923-3060, Church: (Same)
1905 200th St., Garner, IA 50438
JFFDBR@netconx.net

MALL, Rev. George (570) 282-2840
9 Railroad St., Simpson, PA 18407

OPP, Rev. Harvey (419) 599-2266, Church: (419) 599-3106
927 E. Graceway Dr., Napoleon, OH 43545
opp@wcnet.org

PLOEGER, Rev. Chester (641) 923-6026
750 W. Lyon St., Garner, IA 50438-1960

POTTER, Rev. Ronald (570) 785-4012, Church: (570) 282-6400
47 S. Church St., Carbondale, PA 18407
reform@ptd.net

SAAVALAINEN, Rev. Jari..... (301) 805-9564
14803 London Lane, Bowie, MD 20715
JariFinn@aol.com Fax (301) 805-9564

SAWTELLE, Rev. James..... (763) 417-9835
3101 Virginia Ave. N, Crystal, MN 55427
redemerrcus@core.com

VANCE, Rev. Donald (920) 726-4464, Church: (920)726-4940
7411 Center Rd., Manitowoc, WI 54220
trdrvance@lakefield.net

PRIMARIUS ELDERS

- BORGWARDT, Bill (920)758-2240
12626 Newton Rd., Valders, WI 54245
jborg@lsol.net
- HONECK, John (419)256-7870
K528 Rd. 10C, Malinta, OH 43535
- HOXIE, Kenton. (301)912-5577
494 Burletta Ct., Odenton, MD 21113
deafreformed@yahoo.com
- KROESE, Jay (763)383-7653
11325 47th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55442
jaykroese@cargill.com
- KROELLS, Bob (952)467-2786
427 W. Elm St., NYA, MN 55368
- LENZ, Garold (641)587-2271
1895 Hwy. 69, Garner, IA 50438
- MALL, Rev. George (570)282-2840
9 Railroad St., Simpson, PA 18407

SECUNDUS ELDERS

- ARMBRUSTER, Ken (419) 592-1130
14-027 Rd. L, Napoleon, OH 43545
- GOEKE, Leslie (920) 684-0764
1715 S. 35th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220
- KLINGE, Merle (641)357-8730
1622 N. 24th St., Clear Lake, IA 50428
- SCHULZ, David (320)238-2592
3233 110th St., Plato, MN 55370
- SHARP, David (570)472-9919
P.O. Box 42, Bear Creek, PA 18602
DavSharp6@netscape.net
- VELGERSDYK, Kevin (952)897-0039
8621 Chalet Rd., Bloomington, MN 55438
kmljr@juno.com

CLASSIS TREASURER

- LARSON, Donald..... (515) 379-1037
2673 120th St., Livermore, IA 50558
dmlerll@juno.com

CHURCHES

Garner, IA

Peace RCUS, 50438
1905 200th St. (3 miles south of Garner)..... (641) 923-3060
Pastor: Mr. Jeff DeBoer (Wife: Karen)
Worship: 10:30am SS: 9:30am.....

Frederick, MD

Deaf RCUS, 20715
Office: 14803 London Lane, Bowie, MD (301) 805-9564
Pastor: Rev. Jari Saavalainen (Wife: Ramona)
Contact Pastor for location of church meetings
Worship: 1:30pm Bible Study: 3:00pm
Pager: JariFinn@wyndtell.com Fax (301)805-0747

Hamburg, MN

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 55339
15470 Co Road 31 (952) 467-3878
Pastor: Rev. Hank Bowen (Wife: Patty)
Worship: May - October 9:30am SS: 8:25am
November - April 10:00am SS: 8:55am

Napoleon, OH

Peace RCUS, 43545
638 Huddle Rd. (419) 599-3106
Pastor: Rev. Harvey Opp (Wife: Carol)
Worship: *10:00am SS: 9:00am
*(one half hour earlier June - August)

Carbondale, PA

Covenant RCUS, 18407
47 South Church St. (570) 282-6400
Pastor: Rev. Ron Potter (Wife: Sharon)
Worship: 10:00am Bible Classes 9:00am

Minneapolis, MN

Redeemer Reformed Chapel, 55427
Office: 3101 Virginia Ave. N, Crystal, MN (763) 417-9835
Pastor: Rev. James Sawtelle (Wife: Thelma)
Meeting at: Groves Academy,
3200 Hwy 100 South, St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Worship: 10:00am and 5:00pm SS: 9:00am
www.redeemerrcus.org

Manitowoc, WI

Salem-Ebenezer RCUS 54220
6524 County Trunk C (920) 726-4940
Pastor: Rev. Donald Vance (Wife: Joan)
Worship: 10:00am SS 8:45am
www.salemebenezer.org blutze@lakefield.net

**ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

**15TH Annual Spring Meeting
March 8-9, 2000
Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH**

SERVICES

The Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States opened its 15th Annual Spring Meeting at Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH on Wednesday, March 8, 2000 at 1:02 PM. Rev. Robert Grossmann led the assembly with a devotional from 1 Peter 5:1-6.

A worship service was held on the evening of March 8 at 7:00 PM. Rev. Harvey Opp conducted the service. Rev. Jim Sawtelle preached a sermon from I Samuel 5 & 6 entitled, "The Incredible Lightness of Being and the Glory of God".

Morning devotions on Thursday, March 9 were led by Rev. Hank Bowen from 1 Peter 5:1-6.

Each session of Classis began and ended with prayer. Table devotions were conducted by the pastors at mealtime. Appreciation was expressed to those who prepared the meals for the delegates and visitors to the Classis. Closing devotions were led by Rev. Ron Potter from Exodus 34:6, 7 and Psalm 86:1-17.

ORGANIZATION

Classis President, Rev. Robert Grossmann, called the meeting to order following opening devotions on March 8, 2000. The opening roll call showed 8 Ministers and 7 Elders present, a quorum.

Ministers of the Word present for opening roll call were: Hank Bowen, Robert Grossmann, George Mall, Harvey Opp, Ron Potter, Jari Saavalainen, Jim Sawtelle and Donald Vance.

Elders *primarii* present for opening roll call were: John Honeck, Kenton Hoxie, Fred Lobitz, David Sharp and Steven Stuebbe.

Elders *secundus* present for opening roll call were Robert Anderson and Jay Kroese.

Rev. Alexander David and Licentiate Samuel David were absent. Their status with Classis is reported on later in the Abstract.

The Bar of the House was designated as the first 6 rows of pews. Elders Jay Kroese and Steve Stuebbe were appointed as tellers.

The President read the Standing Rules of Classis.

The following delegates were elected to serve the 15th Session of Classis:

President	Rev. Robert Grossmann
Vice-President	Rev. Hank Bowen
Stated Clerk	Rev. Donald R. Vance
Treasurer	Elder Donald Larson

Harvey Opp was appointed Reformed Herald Reporter.

The Agenda, Order of the Day, and Services were adopted.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS

Rev. Phil Pockras, pastor of the Belle Center Reformed Presbyterian Church, Belle Center, Ohio, was the fraternal delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, North America (RPCNA). He was seated within the bar of the house. Mr. Don Larson, an inactive elder from the Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA was seated within the bar of the house. Mr. Chuck Snyder was seated in the bar of the house. He interpreted for the deaf brothers present at Classis. Several deaf pastors and layman were present: Rev. Samuel Marsh, a pastor from Houston, TX; Rev. Brad Schaff, a pastor from Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Kevin Hamilton, a pastor from Danville, KY; Mr. Kevin Kreutzer, from Danville, KY; Mr. Eric Greene, a member of the deaf church from Indianapolis; Mr. James Cline, from Kentucky.

Three men represented their congregations for the first time as this session of Classis: Mr. Jay Kroese, elder delegate from Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis, MN; Mr. Robert Anderson, elder delegate from Peace Reformed Church in Garner, IA; and Mr. Fred Lobitz, elder delegate from St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church, Hamburg, MN.

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND NEW CHURCHES

There were no new ministers or churches received in the year 2000.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The President appointed the following Standing Committees. Chairmen are listed first:

Examination and Licensure:	Bowen, Grossmann, Stuebbe, Hoxie
Excuses:	Mall, Bowen, Sharp
Finances:	Potter, Saavalainen, Stuebbe, Lobitz
Judicial:	Grossmann, Sawtelle, Honeck, Kroese
Minutes of Synod:	Vance, Potter, Stuebbe
Missions:	Opp, Bowen, Anderson, Kroese
Nominations:	Saavalainen, Vance, Honeck, Sharp
Overtures:	Sawtelle, Mall, Anderson, Lobitz
Services:	Opp, Grossmann, Hoxie

PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES, REPORTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

All pertinent overtures and materials were given to the Standing Overtures Committee. It was also decided that travel mileage would be granted to the deaf brothers attending this Classis meeting according to Standing Rule # 7.

PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

In the past Classical year, the following information was brought before the Classis, and the actions were approved by these Executive Circulars:

Volume 14, Number 1 (March 31, 1999)

1. Information on the call to Rev. Jim Sawtelle from the Garner Consistory on behalf of Redeemer Reformed Chapel and his acceptance of the call.
2. Information on a parsonage loan request from the Synodical Building Fund for Home Missions on behalf of Redeemer Reformed Chapel. The Garner charge made the request to expedite matters, and Classis approval was sought, to be added to the request.
3. That a Special Meeting of Classis be held on May 18, 1999, 9:00 PM at Grace Reformed Church, Bakersfield, CA to examine Rev. Sawtelle and consider his call to Redeemer Reformed Chapel.
4. That Classis add its approval to the request being made by the Consistory of Peace RCUS, Garner, IA for a \$30,000 loan to Redeemer Reformed Chapel, Minneapolis, MN from the Synodical Building Fund.

Volume 14, Number 2 (July 23, 1999)

1. Information on an error in the Synod Home Missions guideline for funding the Redeemer mission work, including a request that Classis continue to provide the amount needed, then being over 50% of the denominational support.
2. That Classis provide \$1,271.00 per month for the support of Redeemer Reformed Chapel, Minneapolis, MN.
3. Information that Rev. Sawtelle was installed as an associate pastor of Peace RCUS, Garner, IA for the Minneapolis mission work on June 27, 1999.
4. Clerk's request for any Directory information changes for the Abstract.

Volume 14, Number 3 (October 26, 1999)

1. Clarification regarding Executive Circular 14:2 on the funding error at Synod for Redeemer Chapel.
2. Information on a Memorial for the establishment of Redeemer Reformed Church and their proposed Constitution.
3. That the Memorial for Establishment of Redeemer Reformed Church of Minneapolis, MN be granted; that the Constitution of Redeemer Reformed Church be approved and that the Executive Committee's recommendations for its wording be forwarded; that the church be organized under the leadership of the elders of Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA who shall conduct elections for the first Elders and Deacons of the new congregation; and that when these new officers have been ordained and installed, the mother-daughter church relationship shall be dissolved, although Peace Reformed Church shall be ready to advise the new congregation and shall continue to carry the property title and loan until the Bank is ready to have it assumed by Redeemer Church.

Volume 14, Number 4 (January 17, 2000)

1. Information regarding the time, place, and business of the 2000 Spring Classis Meeting.
2. Notification that the Constitution for Redeemer Reformed Church was adopted and Elders and Deacons were elected on Jan. 8, 2000. Their ordination and installation with full organization of the church was set for Jan. 30, 2000.

The Executive Circulars will be included as an attachment to this Report placed in the documents of the Minutes for this Classis Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Robert Grossmann, President, Rev. Harvey Opp, Stated Clerk,
Elder Merle Klinge

Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Overtures Committee. (See pg. 26.)

Missions Committee

COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE
Report to Classis

March 8, 2000

Fathers and Brethren:

The work of Home Missions in the Covenant East Classis is at this time limited to the Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Deaf Reformed Church of Bowie, Maryland.

Redeemer Reformed Church: The Classis Missions Committee chairman has been in regular contact with Rev. Jim Sawtelle and attended functions there on occasion. Elder Rich Kroells has likewise attended functions there and aided in the serving of communion on at least one occasion. The Chairman was also in attendance at the organizational meeting.

The work continues to progress encouragingly and while there is great room for rejoicing we do so cautiously, giving God the praise with every new visitor. Since this was a year of start up for Redeemer there was some confusion that occurred over the budgeting estimates. As a result there was a short fall in the amount Synod allocated for the work due to a math error. Rather than going through a long process of circulars to correct the problem, the Classis President and Missions chairman decided it would be better to ask Classis to make up the difference if additional funding became necessary.

Redeemer Reformed Church has adopted an aggressive plan to pay off their parsonage debt and be completely off of support in under five years. It is our recommendation that the Classis continue to assume half the needed missions support for Redeemer Reformed Church. Following discussions with the SHMC and Rev. Sawtelle the budgeted amount for the Classical years 2000 and 2001 have been slightly adjusted based on a set formula. For the year 2000 the Classis portion should be \$15,880.00 and for the year 2001 it should be \$16,030.00.

Deaf Reformed Church: The work of the Deaf Reformed Church in Frederick, Maryland reported to Rev. Grossmann their consideration of pulling out of the RCUS to form a Deaf Reformed denomination. At this Classis we hope to convince them the better course would be to remain in the RCUS and form their own Classis.

Funding New Works: The Covenant East Classis, being the smallest of the Classes, has undergone major personnel changes in the past five years. Rev. Grossmann is now our Senior minister in his sixth year at Garner. The shakeup however, has been good for nurturing a deep desire to see the work of planting new churches in the bounds of this Classis become a priority. To that end, an additional guideline amount of \$3.75 per member was added last year, in addition to our \$6.25 guideline to fund Redeemer, for the purpose of building up a balance in our Missions Fund to be used to plant new churches. While this is not a great amount, it is a major shift in the past practice of the Covenant East Classis and we would recommend Classis becoming even more aggressive in adding to the Missions Fund.

Contacts: This year there was one contact from a group in Wisconsin that expressed interest in staffing an RCUS church. Rev. Grossmann and I visited with four families to present an initial overview of the RCUS and answer questions. Later we were made aware that this group was at that time involved with staffing a work there under the oversight of the OPC with 53,000.00 being provided by the presbytery for advertising. As such, we backed away from any further contact with this group and asked them to resolve their situation with the OPC. We communicated to them that if their relationship with the OPC comes to an end then we would welcome further inquiry.

Recommendations:

1. That Classis budget \$15,880.00 for the year 2000 to fund half the home missions support needed for the Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis, MN.
2. That Classis budget \$16,030.00 for the year 2001 to fund half the home missions support needed for the Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis, MN.
3. That Classis consider increasing the guideline for Classis home missions to build up the fund in anticipation of staffing new mission churches.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Hank Bowen, Chairman, Rev. Harvey Opp, Elder Bob Kroells

Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Missions Committee. (See pg. 26.)

Candidates and Credentials

REPORT OF THE CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S.
SPRING MEETING 2000

Esteemed Brothers in Christ,

Your Candidates and Credentials Committee conducted one examination during the year. Rev. James Sawtelle of the South Central Classis was examined at a special meeting of Classis held at Bakersfield, CA, on May 18 1999. Rev. Sawtelle sustained this examination and was later installed as Associate Pastor of Peace Reformed Church at Garner, to serve as pastor to the Redeemer

Chapel of Peace Reformed at Minneapolis.

Rev. Alexander David and Licentiate Samuel David have been erased from Covenant Reformed Church at Carbondale, PA. They have had little to do with Covenant Church for several years and have been working with independent works in the Philadelphia area without oversight of Consistory or Classis.

Recommendation 1. That Rev. Alexander David be erased from the roll of the ministers of Classis, and that this be designated a "judicial erasure. "

Ground: It is one thing for a church member to completely neglect his congregational responsibilities, it is more serious for a minister to neglect both congregational duties and classical oversight over a period of at least three years.

Recommendation 2. That Licentiate Samuel David be erased from the roll of Licentiates of Classis, and that this be designated a "judicial erasure. "

Ground: Mr. Samuel David, as a Licentiate of Classis has neglected the duties of church membership at Carbondale, PA, and oversight of Classis in doing ministerial actions in Philadelphia. Classis President has had to contact him personally for any information about what he has been doing during the last three years, and his actions have always been those of an independent minister (he is neither independent, nor a minister of the word).

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Grossmann, Ron Potter, Hank Bowen, David Sharp

Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Licensure and Examination Committee. (See pg. 27.)

Interchurch Relations

Interchurch Relations Committee
Covenant East Classis
Reformed Church in the United States
Spring Meeting, March 8 & 9, 2000

Dear Brethren,

This committee did not meet during the last year but some business was done. Several invitations were sent to other churches informing them of this meeting: Rev. Tim Bero, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario, OPC; Rev. Everett Develde, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Ohio, OPC; Rev. Rodney King, Stated Clerk, Midwest Presbytery, OPC; Rev. Ralph Pontier, Stated Clerk, Classis Midwest, URC; Rev. Wybren Oord, Classis Michigan, URC; Rev. Andrew Schepp from the RPCNA, Columbus, Indiana; and finally to Rev. Ben Short and Rev. Claude DePrine of the OCRC in Ontario, Canada. I personally know some of the men in the OCRC and thought that it might be of benefit if our churches had some contact. To date I have only heard back from our RPCNA and URC brethren. I believe there will be a representative from the RPCNA here. There will be no representative from Classis Midwest, URC here.

I attended the Midwest OPC meeting spring in Menominee Falls, WI. last year. I was given a few minutes to address the body. I was asked but one question from the floor, "Is the RCUS growing?" I informed the brother about the growth of the RCUS in other Classes and in particular about our work in Minneapolis. The Presbytery examined several men during this session. I observed the examination of Rev. Iain Wright (a Scottish minister), Rev. Alan Strange and Mr. Michael Shipma and was well satisfied with the way these examinations were conducted. The Midwest Presbytery planned to divide in half. The New Eastern region would become the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario. (There are two small churches in the London, ON. area that have joined this presbytery.)

The Midwest Presbytery is a growing Presbytery in the OPC. One brother informed me that part of the growth comes from the fact the Presbytery employs a Regional Missionary. I add this to my report as it be worthwhile for our Classis to consider sometime in the future.

I had planned to attend the fall Midwest Presbytery meeting but ended up not going. As I reported in my Pastoral report to Classis, I had a bout with pneumonia that put me out of commission for a while. I did receive the minutes from that meeting. The spring meeting of the Midwest Presbytery will be March 17, 18 in Janesville WI. I also did not attend the URC Classis meeting in Lansing, Illinois in January. The Classis convened to exam one man for the ministry. Rev. George Homer attended this meeting as a

representative of the South Central Classis. George has promised a copy of his report to us.

I have just become aware that a new Reformed Church is starting in Port Washington, WI., a town about 40 miles south of Manitowoc. Apparently there is another Reformed Church of that denomination in Milwaukee. To date I have no other information about these works.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Donald R. Vance (Chairman), Rev. Jari Saavalainen, Elder Steve Stuebbe

Classis Action: The report was adopted as a whole. [*Clerk's Note: There was no Standing Ecumenicity Committee formed for this meeting.*]

Publications Committee

No Permanent Publications Committee was formed for the 1999 Classical year. (See 1998 Standing Nominations Committee Report, 1998 Abstract, pg. 22.)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President's Report on the State of the Church

Esteemed Brothers in Christ,

"Whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith" (1 John 5:4). As I read through the parochial reports of our pastors, I realize that God is giving us victory over the world through faith. Every pulpit in our Classis is occupied by a faithful pastor, and each of our pastors reports that he has been enabled to preach the wonderful word of God through another year. This word of God has not returned to Him void, as we see the fruit of the word in spiritual growth among those in the church. We also see the fruit of God's word in reaching out to attract new members into our congregations, in comforting those who suffer pain and sorrow, in providing the basis for sound church discipline, and in solid giving to the financial support of the gospel among us. These fruits are not the result of our great human wisdom or expertise, for all of us are earthen vessels; these fruits are the result of God the Holy Spirit using His own powerful word to build the Church of Jesus Christ. With the apostles of old, we rejoice that God is among us and that His word is at the center of our work both in the church and in the world around us. May He continue to make His holy word the center of our worship, the source of our preaching and our only rule for faith and life.

GOD'S WORD AND WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

Each of our active pastors reports that he can see some of the fruits of the gospel mentioned above in his own congregation. For this we are thankful to God. In this age when church denominations that used to stand firmly on God's word have moved all the way from doctrinal deviation to outright apostasy, we find that God is holding us close to His word. Again we confess that this commitment comes not from within ourselves, but from God's gracious work within the hearts of our pastors, elders, deacons and church members. It is our present prayer, and must be our future prayer, that God will continue to renew a right spirit among us and will provide us with leaders and members who are not ashamed of the teachings of God's word. As we live in an increasingly hostile society, let us labor courageously and pray for each other that God will lead us in the right paths of His word, so that we may not only stand firmly upon the Reformed teachings of the past, but that we may build upon the foundation of our creeds a renewed understanding of Scripture and a modern application of its teachings. The many Bible study and other classes our pastors and elders are teaching should prepare the ground for good harvests in the future. God grant that it may be so.

In our turbulent society it is also good to see that the regular Sabbath worship services continue with decency and order in our congregations. Worship is the chief part of our thankfulness to God for His blessings, and we must not forget that worship truly is a pre-eminent part of our service of Him. Indeed He is the one who has set aside a whole day of rest and worship for His people each week. While constant worship attendance is a problem among a very few of our Church members, the vast majority are most regular in this service of God. I believe that we need to continue to emphasize the necessity of regular worship with God's people in our churches, and to make worship a large emphasis in our evangelistic and church membership efforts. In this day when we also see worship being turned into entertainment among many around us, we must be careful to maintain the regulative principle of worship by not adding to nor subtracting from the elements and principles of worship God has commanded in His word. Worship is above all for the praise of God. Our human benefit comes as a byproduct to rightly honoring God by submitting obediently to the reading and preaching of His word, and then by responding with the biblical elements of prayers, hymns and offerings.

THE WORK OF OUR CONGREGATIONS

The work of our Congregations continues in various fashions, depending upon the local situation and the congregation's membership. Our older churches at Hamburg, Manitowoc, Garner, and to some extent Napoleon, all in rural settings, continue to be our largest congregations even though they suffer most from the continuing movement into the cities of many of our young people. The number of farms and farmers grows smaller each year and the membership of these congregations continues to age. Nevertheless there are bright spots in the picture as these congregations reach out into the community and draw a number of younger families into their memberships. Visitors who are real possibilities for church membership are few in these situations, nevertheless we find people who are tired of liberalism and a social church in their previous connections, happy to find a home in our churches. The Garner congregation, for example, has drawn three new families into membership in the past three years, all of whom drive some distance to attend.

Our smaller and newer congregations in Carbondale, PA, and Fredericksburg, MD (formerly of Bowie, MD), live in rather different situations and so have larger cities in the area in which to labor. Carbondale engages in a number of Bible study outreach meetings in its area with the result that a number of new families have become involved. The special situation of Deaf Reformed Church means that it must draw its members from a large metropolitan area. A larger problem in these churches is not that there is little fertile ground to seed with the gospel, but that because the churches are small a very few men have to carry the burden of eldership for years without relief. We have had some very faithful men approach burnout in these situations. Nevertheless in these smaller churches the work of Christ goes on enthusiastically. As has been true in the past, Deaf pastor Jari Saavalainen and Elder Kenton Hoxie work hard at making connections with the Deaf Christian community all over the United States and even in Europe. Their success in this work brings a special challenge and opportunity to the RCUS which we will outline below.

All in all, we see faithful ministers, consistories and congregations working diligently in their various areas to preach the word and spread Christ's kingdom in their particular location. We will consider the Minneapolis Mission work separately below.

WITH OUR RETIRED PASTORS.

It was an occasion of triumphant sorrow to learn that the Rev. Maurice Riedesel was taken from this life on January 29, 2000. Rev. Riedesel served our RCUS Congregation at Eureka, South Dakota, from 1963-1966 and served as President of Classis at our 1966 session. Rev. Riedesel was born into the RCUS on May 16, 1912, to a pastor's family in Poland, Indiana. Rev. Riedesel served as a Missionary in Honduras from 1941 to 1959, under the Foreign Mission boards of the RCUS and later of the E.& R. churches. After returning to the United States he returned to his roots in the continuing RCUS in 1963 and never left our membership until the Lord called him home. After 1966 Rev. Riedesel served an OPC church with a Spanish mission opportunity, something dear to his heart, and then in 1980 returned to the mission field in Chile for three years. Rev. Riedesel and his second wife, Carolin, were in frequent attendance at Classis meetings during the early years of his retirement. His first wife, Clara, had passed away in 1978. Rev. Riedesel suffered from Alzheimer's disease during the last years of his life and lived at the Quarryville Presbyterian Nursing Home in Pennsylvania at the time of his death. (Note: Carolin died in 1996. Rev. Riedesel also served our Hastings congregation for two years.)

The Rev. Chester Ploeger and his wife Grace of Garner, Iowa continue active in Peace Reformed Church at Garner during their retirement. Rev. Ploeger's health has deteriorated somewhat during the past year and he no longer is active in the pulpits of area churches as he has been in the past years of his retirement beginning in 1991. Rev. Ploeger suffers from tinnitus, a problem involving loud noises in the ear which interfere with hearing and concentration, as well as occasionally with his balance. Rev. Ploeger has had some ups and downs during the year but has been in church almost every Sunday for worship. Grace continues in good health, although she had a skin cancer removed from her face during the past year. A very happy occasion this past year was the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Rev. Ploeger's ordination to the Christian ministry in 1949. A program in honor of this event was held following a morning worship service last June. Rev. Ploeger and retired Elder Eugene Greiman reminisced briefly concerning Rev. Ploeger's term of service at Garner. During this time the struggle for maintaining the separation of Peace Church from the E.& R. merger ended up in the civil courts, with Peace Church winning a clear victory to continue its existence without interference from the E.& R. We all need to remember our dear brother and sister in the Lord with regular prayer as the years of their lives continue to mount up in age. Their own ministry of prayer for the RCUS has been unfailing for many years.

The Rev. George Mall and his wife continue to live as members of Covenant Reformed Church in Carbondale, Pennsylvania. Rev. Mall has had some health problems but continues to minister to folks in a nearby retirement home and to work on translating Reformed books into Urdu, the language of his native Pakistan. He and his wife were able to travel to Pakistan during 1999, and to minister to a number of Christians there. Because of the great Muslim persecution of Christians in Pakistan, Rev. Mall feels a great burden to help as much as possible. In Pakistan, dishonoring "Allah" in any way or proselyting among Muslims are capital crimes, as these things are in other Muslim countries. Meanwhile the American government turns its back on such gross violations of basic human freedom, preferring to drop bombs on Christians in Serbia.

The Rev. Alexander David and his son Licentiate Samuel David have been working with an independent church in the Philadelphia area for several years. As a result their connection with the RCUS has become quite tenuous and they have been erased as members of Covenant Reformed Church at Carbondale, Pennsylvania. Our Classis should take action concerning these brothers since they are no longer members of one of our congregations.

OUR HOME MISSION IN MINNEAPOLIS

Last spring the Garner Congregation along with Hamburg and the Classis Home Missions Committee, worked diligently to bring organization to the mission work in Minneapolis that had been started with a summer student in 1998. The membership of the group in Minneapolis had grown to include nine families that were all anxious to move toward organization as a particular congregation. With the financial and governmental oversight of Peace Reformed, a parsonage was purchased and a minister was called to serve the chapel in Minneapolis. In the grace of God, a more than adequate rented area in a local private school became available and the group has met there since early 1999.

Since the coming of Rev. James Sawtelle in June 1999, almost all of the steps have been taken under the oversight of Classis, and the Minneapolis Congregation, Redeemer Reformed Church, is now an organized reality. Its Constitution was approved by classical circular letter, elders and deacons were elected and installed, and our newest church will have a delegate elder at our Classis meeting, the Lord willing. Giving has been excellent in Minneapolis, and there has been substantial growth so that there are now 19 families in the membership of the Congregation. The only step remaining for Redeemer Church is to have Classis agree to the transfer of Rev. Sawtelle from being an associate pastor of Garner to being the pastor of Redeemer. Thus at this Classis meeting we will put the finishing touches on a truly blessed two years of work. May God richly bless our brothers and sisters in our newest congregation, and may she serve as a beacon light of the gospel in the Twin Cities of Minnesota!

A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY THROUGH OUR DEAF CHURCH

Over the years, Deaf Reformed Church of the RCUS in Maryland has been a central meeting and rallying point for Deaf Reformed groups around the United States. God has been blessing the efforts of Deaf Reformed Church, often supported by us, to gather such churches into an organized whole. During the past year the representatives of several of these Deaf Churches agreed together to found a new Deaf Reformed Denomination. This decision presents to us both a challenge and an opportunity. As president of Classis, I invited Rev. Saavalainen and his group of churches to consider becoming a Classis of the RCUS, thus forgoing the difficult organizational and financial matters of operating a complete denomination by themselves. He further challenged this group of churches to continue in closest contact with the RCUS on the basis that language alone was not a strong enough reason for having separate denominations. The RCUS in previous years has had English, German and Hungarian speaking Classes in one Synod. Indeed, the old Eureka Classis was founded for theological reasons but found its justification for existence in being a German-speaking Classis. Finally, the undersigned invited the deaf ministers and elders to attend our Classis meeting so that we might have a full discussion of the issues and possibilities involved in this development (he also promised them that Classis would pay their travel expenses).

Thus we have before us at this Classis meeting a unique and historic opportunity. Can we work out a way to continue our relationship with our beloved deaf brothers and sisters, and at the same time facilitate their justified desire to operate in close conjunction with each other as deaf Reformed churches? It seems to me that the route of forming a Deaf Reformed Classis in the RCUS would allow and indeed foster just the proper balance between our being the Deaf Churches' witness in the speaking world, and their Classis being our witness in the non-hearing world. It is my confidence that our Synod will lend a very sympathetic ear to just such an arrangement. May God bless our deliberations on this important subject with our invited brethren.

I would like express my thanks to Classis for allowing me to serve as your President for another year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Grossmann, President

Classis Action: The report was to be spread in the Abstract, and submitted to the *Reformed Herald*.

Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

The following is a summary of the activities of your Clerk during the past Classical year

1. Following the 1999 Spring Classis Meeting:
 - A. Preparation, printing and binding of the *Minutes* of the 1999 Spring Classis Meeting, and of the Special Meeting, May 18, 1999.
 - B. The preparation and mailing of all requisite forms, overtures and correspondence to the Stated Clerk of Synod.
2. Preparation of a camera ready copy of the *1999 Abstract of the Minutes* for the copier service and subsequent distribution of the Abstract to the Churches of Classis and Synod as required.
3. Preparation and mailing of Executive Circulars Volume 14, Numbers 1-4.
4. Preparation and mailing of a Reception of a Minister form on June 8, 1999, on behalf of Rev. James Sawtelle, receiving him from the South Central Classis, RCUS.
5. Preparation of the Statistical Report, Executive Committee Report, and miscellaneous forms for the 2000 Spring Meeting of Classis.

No necrologies were submitted to the Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Harvey Opp

Classis Action: Take Note. [*Clerk's Note: Necrologies for Rev. Maurice Riedesel and Elder Elmer Huenemann were submitted and read at the Classis meeting. Necrologies are included the Appendix, pg. 36-37.*]

Report of the Executive Committee of Synod

There was no current business reported from Synod for Classis consideration.

Treasurer's Report

(For the report, see Appendix, pg. 32-34.)

Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Finances Committee. (See pg. 24.)

PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

Each Minister attending the meeting read his parochial report. Rev. Grossmann read the report of Rev. Chester Ploeger.

Prayer was offered for each of the congregations when the pastoral reports were heard.

Classis Action: Rev. Ploeger's report was referred to the Standing Excuses Committee. (see pg. 24). Rev. Sawtelle's report was referred to the Standing Missions Committee. (See pg. 26) 'Take Note' was the action on the other reports.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS

President Grossmann asked the Elder delegates the Constitutional Questions (Art. 81, RCUS Constitution). The Elders answered as follows:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?* All answered "Yes."
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?* All answered "Yes," except Hoxie answered "No." Hoxie reported that new members were

carefully instructed and that members of the congregation were nurtured. The Classis encouraged the brothers from the Deaf Reformed Church to have regular Confirmation classes for the children of the congregation.

3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation:*

a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?* All answered "Yes;" Lobitz answered "yes" to this question but still "Needs improvement." (This question did not apply to the Redeemer congregation.)

b. *Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?* All answered "Yes." (This question did not apply to the Redeemer congregation.)

4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution?* All answered "Yes." (The question did not apply to the Redeemer congregation.)

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

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

b. *Are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* All answered "Yes."

c. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?* All answered "Yes."

d. *Are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered "Yes."

6. *Are the Church records properly kept?* All answered "Yes."

7. a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?* All answered "Yes."

7. b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?* All answered "Yes," except Hoxie answered "No."

REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

(This Report appears in the Appendix of this Abstract, pg.)

The Clerk presented the report.

Classis Action: The report was adopted as presented.

REPORTS FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES

Rev. Donald Vance read his report of his visit to the 1999 Fall Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest, of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Classis Action: 'Take Note' of the report.

ADDRESSES AND/OR REPORTS OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS

Rev. Donald Duff, fraternal delegate from the Philadelphia Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church addressed the body. He answered several questions from the delegates. Rev. Potter responded to the delegate.

Rev. Ken Kok, an observer from the Blue Bell American Reformed Church, addressed the body.

Mr. Bob Miller addressed the body on behalf of Hope for America, an organization addressing the question of women in the military.

Dr. Joseph Gatis, representing Harvard Organization of Professing Evangelicals (H.O.P.E.), Cambridge, Mass., introduced the work of H.O.P.E..

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Rev. Kevin Hamilton was examined in the area of Piety and Intent, the Doctrine of the Word of God, the Doctrine of God, the Doctrine of Man, the Doctrine of Christ, the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the Doctrine of the Church, in Eschatology, an abbreviated exam in Apologetics, in Practical Theology

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No Special Committees had been formed.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 4:40 PM on Tuesday, March 8, and again at 10:56 AM on Wednesday, March 9, the Classis entered into a quasi committee of the whole to meet with several deaf visitors to the Classis. Kenton Hoxie introduced Rev. Samuel Marsh, a pastor from Houston, Texas; Mr. Kevin Kreutzer from Danville, Kentucky; Rev. Brad Schaff, a pastor from Indianapolis, Indiana; Rev. Kevin Hamilton a pastor from Danville, Kentucky; Mr. Eric Greene a member of the deaf church from Indianapolis; and Mr. James Cline from Kentucky. These men had come to an understanding of the Reformed Faith. Most of the men were from the Southern Baptist Church. They came to our Classis meeting to learn more about the RCUS. They had considered forming their own deaf and Reformed denomination. Rev. Robert Grossmann challenged the men to consider organizing as a deaf Classis of the RCUS. The deaf brothers expressed an openness to consider this idea. They planned to discuss this idea at a meeting they had planned to have in June, 2000. A good time of fellowship was enjoyed with these men.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

[The following motions and their dispositions appear in their final form, including all amendments made to the committee's recommendations and any additional motions made from the floor relative to the committee's report. Unless otherwise noted, the motions were adopted by Classis.]

Ecumenicity

No Ecumenicity Committee was formed for this Classis meeting. The Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee report was adopted by Classis. (See pg. 14-15)

Excuses

1. That Licentiate Jeff DeBoer be excused from all sessions of the Spring 2001 Meeting of the Covenant East Classis.
2. That Elder Kenton Hoxie and Pastor Jari Saavalainen be excused from the Wednesday, March 14th 8:30am to Noon session of the Spring 2001 meeting of the Covenant East Classis.
3. That Elder Kevin Velgersdyk and Pastor Jim Sawtelle be excused from the March 15th afternoon and following sessions of the Spring 2001 meeting of the Covenant East Classis.

Finances

1. That the Treasurer's Report be pronounced audited.
2. That Don Larson be commended for his work as Treasurer.
3. That travel expenses be paid in the following amounts:

	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Airfare</u>	<u>Rental Car</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gary Lenz	.....	271.00.....	132.27.....	.....	403.27
Don Larson	..... 300@.20	.....	.....	.....	60.00
Jari Saavalainen	..... 560@.10	.....	.....	.....	56.00
Kenton Hoxie	..... 560@.25	130.50(Kevin Hamilton)	.....	.....	270.50
Hank Bowen	.....	.....	203.96.....	37.00.....	240.96
St. Paul Evang RCUS	.....	238.00(x2)	.....	.....	476.00
John Honeck	..... 1,020@.25	.....	.....	.....	255.00
Harvey Opp	..... 1,020@.10	.....	.....	.....	102.00
David E. Sharp	..... 180@.25	.....	.....	.....	45.00
Kevin Velgersdyk	.....	269.50(x2)	174.28.....	.....	713.28
Donald Vance	..... 1,900@.25	.....	.....	20.00.....	495.00
Leslie Goeke	..... 175@.25	248.50.....	.....	24.00.....	316.25
	.....	.....	.....	TOTAL	3,433.26

4. That Chuck Snyder be paid \$450.00 as an honorarium for his deaf interpretation work for the Classis Meeting.
5. That Shea Hoxie be paid \$150.00 as an honorarium for his deaf interpretation work for the Classis Meeting.

6. That Covenant East Classis provide financial assistance in the sum of \$600.00 to the Deaf Reformed Church for the reprinting of the DRC's advertising page in the deaf's telephone directory for the MD, VA and Washington, DC areas.
7. That the Covenant East Classis overture Synod to have the Ministerial Aid Committee:
 - a. Provide each congregation with a pamphlet outlining the needs of the Ministerial Aid Fund and guidelines for contributions.
 - b. Encourage individual congregations to contact qualified financial planners in their area to explain the benefits and mechanics of estate planning.
8. That Classis adopt the following guideline:

General Fund	7.00
Mission Fund	28.00
Student Aid Fund.	<u>.00</u>
TOTAL..	35.00

Judicial

1. That Classis hear this appeal at 2:00pm on March 15, 2001 by considering our Recommendation #2.
- 2.
- 3.
4. That the Stated Clerk of Classis report only the following in the Abstract: "That Classis finds in favor of the appellant, removes the suspension retroactively to the date of the suspension, and instructs the Spiritual Council involved that it may proceed in a regular way with this matter only when it is convinced that there is evidence available to demonstrate the truth of the allegations. In the meantime the appellant is to be considered innocent."
5. That Northern Plains Classis be given permission to labor within our bounds at Moorehead, MN, and that bi-annual reports on this work be forwarded to Covenant East Classis.
6. That the Executive Committee appoint a "reconciliation committee" to meet with the Spiritual Council and the various parties aggrieved in matters relating to Rec. #2 and #3, and that transportation costs be covered by the congregation.

Nominations

(First named and in **bold** are chairmen.)

Executive:	H. Bowen , D. Vance, J. Honeck
Candidates and Credentials:	J. Sawtell , K. Hoxie, R. Potter, K. Velgersdyk
Interchurch Relations:	H. Opp , L. Goeke, D. Sharp, J. Sawtelle
Missions:	R. Potter , H. Bowen, B. Borgwardt, B. Kroells
Deaf Reformed Church:	J. Saavalainen , K. Hoxie, G. Mall.....

(Publications was not needed)

Overtures

(The following items were received by Overtures, and then referred to the Standing Committees underlined, unless otherwise indicated.)

- #1. That Classis overture Synod regarding the request of \$900 per month ministerial aid on behalf of C. Ploeger.
- #2. That the request for an excuse from Licentiate Jeff DeBoer be referred to Excuses.
- #3. That the request for permission by Northern Plains Classis to church plant within the bounds of Covenant East Classis be referred to Standing Judicial.
- #4. That the request for money for advertising by Deaf Reformed Church be referred to Finances.

#5. That the request for mission support for Rev. Jari Saavalainen for June, July, and August, 2001 be referred to Standing Missions.

#6. Duplicate of Item #3 - 'Take Note'.

Services

1. That Classis 'Take Note' of the fact that all services took place in accordance with the schedule adopted with the proposed agenda of Classis.

2. That Classis move the following note of appreciation: "On behalf of Covenant East Classis, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Covenant Reformed Congregation and Rev. Potter for your loving hospitality and care for us during our 2001 Spring Classis Meeting. May God richly bless you in return for your loving service."

Minutes of Synod

This Committee received no business and took no actions.

Missions

1. That the Classis budget \$14,000 for the 2001 year for the Redeemer RCUS in Minneapolis.

2. That Jari Saavalainen receive the amount of \$1,300 per month for June, July, and August, 2001.

3. That a special committee be established to facilitate the establishment of a Deaf Reformed Classis.

4. That the Executive Committee of Classis is the proper Committee to respond to inquiries from existing congregations seeking information concerning the RCUS and that any meetings for the exchange of information be accomplished by a minimum of two members of classis.

5. That contacts regarding the starting of an RCUS work be handled by the HMC.

6. That Classis overture Synod to provide \$1,000 to assist Rev. George Mall in the translation and publication of Reformed books and tracts into URDU.

7. That the Nominations Committee appoint either Rev. Hank Bowen or Elder Bill Borgwardt to the Classis Home Missions Committee.

Examination and Licensure

1. That the Covenant East Classis conduct an Ordination Exam for Mr. Jeff DeBoer at a special Classis Meeting to be held on May 14, 2001 at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.

2. That the examination of Rev. Kevin Hamilton in Orthodoxy and Intent be declared satisfactory in the areas covered.

3. That the permanent Candidate and Credentials Committee continue to work with Rev. Hamilton in designated areas with the goal of being able to complete all the requirements of Article 35 of the RCUS Constitution.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

1. The expression of appreciation to the host congregation was handled by the Overtures Committee, item #4. The Executive Committee's Report on their Minutes and the Overtures Committee Report were previously adopted.

2. Elector Publications was to be reimbursed \$100.00 for books distributed at Classis the RCUS Synod reimbursed \$30.00 for two copies of You Shall Be My People.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes were read by the Stated Clerk at the close of the session. Corrections were made and the Minutes were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The 15th Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States was adjourned to the 16th Annual Session to be held at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI. convening on March 14, 2001.

The final roll call showed 8 Ministers and 7 Elders present. Closing devotions were held.

The body confessed the Apostles' Creed and prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison. The President pronounced the Benediction and the body sang the Doxology. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM, Thursday, March 9, 2000.

Rev. Donald R. Vance
Stated Clerk
Covenant East Classis, RCUS

Appendix to the Minutes
2001 Spring Meeting, Covenant East Classis

Standing Rules of Classis

1. The fiscal year of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the U.S. shall run from February 1st to January 31st of the following year. The Classical Dues shall be due on the first of January and are to be paid not later than the thirty-first of January of the current fiscal year.
2. The parochial reports shall be forwarded to the President and the Statistics to the Stated Clerk of Classis two weeks before the Spring Session of Classis.
3. The writ of certification of delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring session of Classis.
4. All congregations shall present an annual report on confirmation instruction, Sunday School and weekday school at the Spring Meeting of Classis. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire *Heidelberg Catechism* before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include Bible history, Bible survey, Bible reading, Catechism, and also singing of "Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs".
5. The Standing Rules shall be read immediately after defining the bar of the house.
6. If pastors, elders, or members of congregations request information from the Executive of Classis concerning Constitutional matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented to the parties concerned in written form and pertain only to the item in question. This correspondence shall be part of the official minutes of the Executive Committee.
7. A pastor and his elder delegate to Classis shall be paid a maximum of forty cents per running mile; when an elder or pastor drives his own car, he shall be paid twenty-five cents per mile; when a pastor or elder rides with another person he shall be paid ten cents per mile. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare.
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at twenty-five cents per running mile, or, if several ride together in one car or travel by public transportation, the actual fare. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Classis whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Classis or have been properly excused by Classis.
9. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.
10. The Classis shall designate the following Permanent Committees when needed as follows: Executive, Missions, Candidates and Credentials, Inter-Church Relations, Publications. The Standing Committee on Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees.
11. The complete Classis statistics shall be made part of the minutes at the Spring Meeting of Classis.
12. 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.
13. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the Spring Meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the Constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge, and sent to the Stated Clerk.
14. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to the Consistories of all the Churches at least three weeks prior to the meeting in which these recommendations are being made to Classis.
15. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circulated before Classis.
16. Students for the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States shall be urged by Classis to attend seminaries which are listed as institutions receiving benevolent monies from the Reformed Church in the United States. Only students who attend institutions so listed shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian ministry.

17. It shall be the practice of Classis before ordaining candidates for the ministry to require an internship of eight months for them to be spent with a pastor who has served in the RCUS for at least five years. During this internship, particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the Reformed Church in the United States. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed.

18. The Stated Clerk shall be paid an honorarium of \$200.00 annually.

19. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall begin on the second Wednesday of March, and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed.

20. It shall be the practice of Covenant East Classis to examine Ministers coming to it from other Classes of the RCUS to ensure that they have not departed from Reformed teaching or have developed major objections to the peculiar practices of the RCUS. Such examinations shall be completed before these candidates shall enter into a charge in Covenant East Classis and shall be conducted in such a way that each Minister and delegate shall have opportunity to hear the examination and put questions to the candidate.

21. In order to preserve the historic Reformed and Biblical practice of voting in congregation meetings by male heads of households, the Covenant East Classis shall neither start nor receive new congregations in which voting by women is practiced.

Classis Treasurer's Report 2-1-00 to 1-31-01 (Summary)

Balance 2/1/00 15,049.92

General Fund Balance 8,142.60
Receipts 5,896.00
Expenses 8,553.47
Balance 1/31/01 5,485.13

Mission Fund Balance 4,654.32
Receipts 20,457.87
Expenses 15,827.66
Balance 1/31/01 9,284.53

Student Aid Fund Balance 2,253.00
Receipts 90.00
Expenses00
Balance 1/31/01 2,343.00

Ending Balance 1/31/01 17,112.66

Short Term CD (90 Days) \$10,000.00
Checking \$7,112.66

Treasurer's Report - (Detailed Income)

Treasurer's Report - (Detailed Expenses)

EXPENSES:

General Fund

1182 Rev. D. Vance	80.00
1183 Robert Anderson	240.00
1184 Rev. R. Grossmann	150.00
1185 Rev. J. Saavalainen	624.00
1186 Rev. H. Bowen	392.60
1187 Erik Green	42.20
1188 S. Marsh	239.00
1189 K. Hamilton	172.00
1190 K. Kreutzer	68.80
1191 J. Cline	68.80
1192 B. Schaaf	105.50
1193 Rev. Snyder	64.00
1194 D. Sharp	297.00
1195 Rev. G. Mall	78.80
1196 Rev. Snyder	450.00
1197 Rev. R. Grossmann	100.00
1203 Rev. J. Saavalainen ...	1,000.00
1205 Rev. J. Saavalainen ...	1,000.00
1207 Rev. J. Saavalainen ...	1,000.00
1210 Rev. R. Potter	546.10
1211 Rev. G. Mall	32.00
1212 J. DeBoer	80.00
1213 D. Larson	200.00
1214 Rev. H. Bowen	207.50
1215 Rev. H. Opp	75.00
1216 J. Honeck	192.50
1219 Rev. D. Vance	200.00
1221 Rev. D. Vance	673.28
1223 Rev. H. Opp	174.39

Total..... 8,553.47

Mission Fund

1181 Redeemer	1,271.00
1199 Redeemer	1,323.33
1200 Redeemer	1,323.33
1201 Redeemer	1,323.34
1202 Redeemer	1,323.33
1204 Redeemer	1,323.33
1206 Redeemer	1,323.34
1208 Redeemer	1,323.33
1209 Redeemer	1,323.33
1217 Redeemer	1,323.34
1218 Redeemer	1,323.33
1222 Redeemer	1,323.33

Total 15,827.66

Student Aid No Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSE..... 24,381.13

2000 Covenant East Statistical Report

NECROLOGIES

NECROLOGY *REV. MAURICE RIEDESEL*

Rev. Maurice Riedesel, longtime minister in the Reformed Church in the U.S. and member of Covenant East Classis, passed from this life to glory with Christ on January 29, 2000. Rev. Riedesel had been retired since 1991 and was a resident of the Quarryville Presbyterian Nursing Home in Quarryville, Pennsylvania, at the time of his death. He had suffered from Alzheimers' Disease for a number of years.

Maurice Riedesel was born to Rev. and Mrs. Charles Riedesel on May 16, 1912 in Poland, Indiana, where his father was serving a Reformed Church in the U.S. congregation. Rev. Riedesel received his college education at Mission House College in Plymouth, Wisconsin, and Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. He graduated from Eden Seminary in St. Louis in 1939 and that summer was joined in marriage to Clara Iris Ulrich. The Riedesels had four children, Clement, Marjorie, Carolyn and Charles.

After his ordination Rev. Riedesel served the Reformed Church of Fairview, Kansas, before beginning service as a missionary in Honduras for eighteen years, until 1959. He then served an Evangelical and Reformed Congregation at Wausau, Wisconsin, until accepting a call in 1963 to serve the Eureka Reformed Church at Eureka, South Dakota. At this time Rev. Riedesel was examined for the ministry of the RCUS and was a member of our denomination until his death.

In 1966 Rev. Riedesel was elected President of the Eureka Classis and served in that office until later in the year when he accepted a call to an Orthodox Presbyterian Church in New Jersey, where he would work among Hispanic immigrants. In 1980 Rev. Riedesel accepted a call to serve as a missionary in Chili under Mission to the World of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Having lost his first wife, Clara, in 1978, Rev. Riedesel married Carolin, who also preceded him in death in 1996. His daughter Carolyn also died in the same year.

Rev. Riedesel and Carolin would often attend Classis and Synod meetings during the early years of his retirement, beginning in 1991. However he was soon more and more debilitated by the effects of Alzheimer's and was forced to live in a nursing home the last several years of his life. We remember our brother as a kind and gentle man, who nevertheless held strongly to the historic Reformed faith. He was highly respected by his fellow ministers of the RCUS.

NECROLOGY *ELDER ELMER JACOB HUENEMANN*

Elmer Jacob Huenemann was bor on September 6, 1917 at Curtis, Wisconsin, to Rev. William and Mary (Hansmeier) Huenemann. He was baptized as an infant and made profession of faith through Confirmation at Menno, South Dakota, where he father was serving at the time. After Elmer graduated from high school, the family moved to Garner, Iowa, where his father served Peace Reformed Church. On June 21, 1941, Elmer was united in marriage to Lois Lenz at Peace Reformed Church. Elmer and Lois farmed southwest of Garner for about 15 years, and then Elmer worked as Finance Manager for the Klemme Coop in Klemme, Iowa. Elmer then served as Manager for the Garner Farmer's Cooperative for ten years, and followed this work by becoming a private consultant to cooperatives all over Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. Elmer was clearly a man of excellent organizational and financial skills.

Elmer Huenemann's skills were also very useful to his Lord and Savior in the Church. Mr. Huenemann served not only as Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, but also a number of terms as Deacon and Elder. As Elder, Elmer Huenemann often represented the Garner Church at Classis and Synod meetings and served on a number of Classical and Synodical Committees, including Home Missions and the Committee for Contact with Dordt College. Indeed Elder Huenemann was on the latter Committee up until less than five years before his death at the age of 82 years.

Elder Elmer Huenemann was called home to be with His Lord on his 82nd birthday, September 6, 1999. He was truly a faithful servant in and for God's Church. Elmer is survived by his wife, Lois, two daughters, Joyce Vogt and husband Dean of Cedar Rapids, IA, and Nancy Witter of Santa Fe, NM, and one son, Kent of Garner.