

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

**16TH Annual Spring Meeting
March 14-15, 2001
Covenant Reformed Church, Carbondale, PA**

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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

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

SAVALAINEN, 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

LICENTIATES

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

MEN UNDER CARE OF CLASSIS

HAMILTON, Rev. Kevin(859) 936-1879
917 Rosemont Dr., Danville, KY 40423
deafdiscgolf@yahoo.com Pager: (859) 385-9995
Deaf Reformed Church www.deafreformed.org

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 De Boer (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 Church, 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

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COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

**16TH Annual Spring Meeting
March 14-15, 2001
Covenant Reformed Church, Carbondale, PA**

SERVICES

The Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States opened its 16th Annual Spring Meeting at Covenant Reformed Church, Carbondale, PA on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at 8:30 AM. Rev. Ron Potter led the body with a devotional from Luke 4:14-32.

A worship service was held on the evening of March 14th at 7:00 PM. Rev. Hank Bowen conducted the service. Rev. Kevin Hamilton, pastor of the Deaf Reformed Church, Danville, KY preached a sermon from Romans 4:5 entitled, "The Doctrine of Justification By Faith". Rev. Hamilton is deaf. His sermon was interpreted for the hearing by Rev. Chuck Snyder.

Morning devotions on Thursday, March 15th were led by Rev. Harvey Opp from Hebrews 12:1-11.

Closing devotions were led by Rev. George Mall. He read from Romans 12:1-21.

ORGANIZATION

Classis President, Rev. Hank Bowen, called the meeting to order following opening devotions on March 14, 2001. The opening roll call showed six Ministers and five Elders present, a quorum.

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

Elders *primarii* present for opening roll call were: John Honeck, Kenton Hoxie, Bob Kroells, and Garold Lenz. Rev. George Mall represented the Carbondale congregation as the delegate elder to Classis.

Elders *secundus* present for opening roll call were Leslie Goeke and Kevin Velgersdyk.

The Bar of the House was designated as the first four rows of pews. Elder Kevin Velgersdyk and Rev. George Mall were appointed as tellers.

The Stated Clerk read the Standing Rules of Classis.

The following delegates were elected to serve the 16th Session of Classis:

President	Rev. Hank Bowen
Vice-President	Rev. Harvey Opp
Stated Clerk	Rev. Donald R. Vance
Treasurer	Elder Donald Larson

Jim Sawtelle was appointed Reformed Herald Reporter.

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

FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS

Rev. Donald Duff represented the Philadelphia Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. He was seated within the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor. Rev. Ken Kok was an observer from the Consistory of the American Reformed Church of Blue Bell, PA. Rev. Kok is a minister in the American and Canadian Reformed Churches. Mr. Bob Miller represented an organization called Hope for America. This organization concerns itself with the issue of women in the military. Dr. Joseph Gatis

represented a campus ministry from Harvard College called Harvard Organization Of Professing Evangelicals (H.O.P.E.). Each of these men were given an opportunity to address Classis during the Special Order of the Day, Wednesday, March 14th at 3:40 PM. It was noted that Dr. Gatis and his associate from H.O.P.E., Rev. Russ Kent, were interested in joining with the RCUS.

Mr. Don Larson, an inactive elder from the Peace Reformed Church, Garner, who also is the Classis Treasurer, was seated within the bar of the house. Kevin Velgersdyk, elder secundus from Minneapolis; Garold Lenz, elder primarius from Garner; and Bob Kroells, elder primarius from Hamburg represented their congregations for the first time at this session of Classis. David Sharp, the elder secundus from the Carbondale church was welcomed, seated within the bar of the house, and given the privilege of the floor. Rev. Robert Grossmann was present for most of the Classis meeting. He was seated within the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor.

Mr. Chuck Snyder, Shea Hoxie and Rev. Kevin Hamilton were seated in the bar of the house. Rev. Snyder is well known to the RCUS and frequently interprets for the deaf brothers at Classis and Synod meetings. Shea Hoxie is the son of Kenton Hoxie and helped interpret for the deaf at this meeting. Rev. Kevin Hamilton, pastor of the Deaf Reformed Church in Danville, KY was to undergo a theological examination at this Classis. Rev. Hamilton was ordained with the Southern Baptists.

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND NEW CHURCHES

There were no new ministers or churches received in the year 2001.

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Examination and Licensure	Sawtelle, Potter, Hoxie, Saavalainen
Excuses	Honeck, Saavalainen, Mall
Finances	Velgersdyk, Opp, Kroells, Larson
Judicial	Opp, Vance, Lenz, Honeck
Minutes of Synod	Vance, Mall, Kroells
Missions	Potter, Bowen, Velgersdyck, Goeke
Nominations	Mall, Bowen, Hoxie, Goeke
Overtures	Potter, Sawtelle, Lenz, Kroells
Services	Bowen, Hoxie, Lenz

PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES, REPORTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

All pertinent overtures and materials were given to the Standing Overtures Committee. The Stated Clerk read an appeal following Article 165 of the RCUS Constitution. The original parties in this appeal were the Spiritual Council of the Covenant Reformed Church and the appelland, a member of the Carbondale church. The appeal is dealt with in the Standing Judicial Committee Report.

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 15, Number 1 (April 22, 2000)

1. Information on the call extended to Rev. Robert Grossmann by the new RCUS mission work in Vermillion, SD. Rev. Grossmann expressed his desire to accept this call. A Special Classis meeting was necessary to elect a new officer to the Executive Committee. The meeting would be May 9, 2000, at the St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church in Hamburg, MN at 9:00 PM.

Volume 15, Number 2 (August 22, 2000)

1. A Special Classis meeting was called for the purpose on conducting a Licensure Examination for Mr. Jeff De Boer. The Peace Reformed Church of Garner, IA had extended a call to Mr. De Boer. The Classis would meet at the Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, October 10th and 11th to conduct this examination.
2. Matters pertaining to the progress of the work with the Deaf Reformed Churches would be discussed.
3. The Candidates and Credentials Committee requested that Kenton Hoxie be added to their Committee. It was necessary to have Mr. Hoxie on this Committee of Classis so that he could help with the theological examinations of the deaf pastors and other pastoral candidates seeking admission into the RCUS.

Volume 15, Number 3 (January 30, 2001)

1. Information concerning the Spring Meeting of Classis that would convene at the Covenant Reformed Church, Carbondale, PA on March 14, 2001.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Hank Bowen, President, Rev. Donald Vance, Stated Clerk,
Elder Steve Stuebbe

Classis Action: The report was handled on the floor of Classis under Item XIX of the adopted agenda for this Classis. The clerk forgot to include the Executive Committee Report in his report to the Classis earlier in the meeting.

Missions Committee

REPORT OF THE PERMANENT HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

February 27, 2001

The Standing Missions Committee has been in contact primarily through phone and email communications this past year. A visit was made to the Redeemer RCUS in Minneapolis, MN and contact was made with the Deaf Reformed Church in Frederick, MD. A group in northwest Arkansas and a family in Milwaukee, WI inquired about the possibility of an RCUS mission work in those areas. The following is a more detailed account of items discussed within the Missions Committee.

1. **Minneapolis, MN**: On December 12, 2000 Elder Fred Lobitz and Rev. Bowen attended the consistory meeting of the Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis. The consistory gave a good report of their progress and from all indications they are functioning in a very orderly fashion. Both church attendance by visitors, new members and support of the work are ahead of projections for the group. As such, they are requesting an accelerated reduction in their support level again this year. The greatest concern facing the group has to do with a facility to meet in. Currently they are renting the auditorium of the Groves Academy in St. Louis Park on the west side of Minneapolis. This has worked well both in terms of the location which is easily accessible by main highways and the facility itself. However, this summer the Academy will be undergoing extensive remodeling and improvements. This may lead to inconvenience in the group's use of the facility. Moreover, with their added growth they are considering whether the time is coming to look for a more permanent situation.
2. **Deaf RCUS**: The Classis continues to support, in a small way, the work of the Deaf Reformed Church in Maryland. Jari and Kenton have been busy within the deaf community organizing debates and conferences. This has yielded much interest for the Reformed faith within the deaf community. They are asking for continued financial support over the summer months for Jari. The activities to lay the foundation for a future Deaf RCUS Classis continue to occupy a great deal of their attention.

3. **Moorehead, MN:** A request was received from the Northern Plains Classis Home Missions chairman for permission to labor within our Classis boundaries. A work was started in Fargo-Moorehead which straddles the South Dakota-Minnesota border. Rev. Koerner reports that Sunday services have been held in Moorehead, MN over the past year to see what interest may exist, but that at present only two families are involved. However, one of the families will be out of the area for several months and so the Classis is suspending their efforts in the area for the time being.

4. **Northwest Arkansas:** A group in northwest Arkansas led by Mr. Paul Moore contacted the Classis Missions Chairman and the consistory of the Kansas City Church about a year ago. He was holding a Bible study there and doing some advertising to see if there was any interest in the area for the Reformed faith. He discovered the RCUS through the RCUS Web site on the internet and is attracted to the RCUS because of the positions that have been taken on positions like six day creation. Recently, two families who were, at one time, members of the Manitowoc congregation and who moved into the Arkansas area eight years ago have also inquired about the start of an RCUS work there through the Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church. The area is home to Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods and B. Hunt trucking. The group is looking to begin meeting in either Lowell or Springdale which are central communities to the area. Springdale currently has 42,000 residents and expect another 20,000 over the next three years. This is the twelfth fastest growing area in the United States. General population within a 30 mile radius to Springdale is 325,000. Unemployment is currently around two percent. A new major regional airport has been built ten miles into the country outside of these towns.

5. **Milwaukee, WI:** The Manitowoc congregation is organizing an investigative meeting in Milwaukee with families that have relocated there from RCUS congregations to see if there is potential for work in the area.

Recommendation 1: That the Classis budget \$14,000 for the 2001 year for the Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis.

(This is one half support for the work, with Synod providing the other half. This reflects a decrease from \$16,030 that had been budgeted last year for this work for the 2001 fiscal year. Redeemer RCUS is requesting that \$12,225 be budgeted for the 2002 year).

Recommendation 2: That the Deaf Reformed Church receive \$1,000 per month for the months of June, July and August from the General Fund for Rev. Saavalainen's support.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Hank Bowen, chairman, Rev. Harvey Opp, Elder Fred Lobitz

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 2001

Esteemed Brothers in the Lord,

Your committee conducted one Licensure examination during the year. Mr. Jeff De Boer was examined before the Classis at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church in October, 2000. Mr. De Boer sustained his exam and has since begun preparation for his Ordination exam. He is also completing his eight month internship period under Reverends Bowen and Sawtelle. The two ten week summer intern assignments Jeff completed while attending seminary were in RCUS congregations. Therefore, a total of three months of his overall internship requirements have been fulfilled. Bowen and Sawtelle have met with Jeff and corresponded by email and telephone. Jeff shows familiarity with the peculiarities of the RCUS, is diligent in the pastoral duties of study, preaching, teaching and visiting. He displays a love for God's people and a desire to see them grow up in Christ.

As you are all aware, in the providence of God, Jeff and his wife Karen have undergone great suffering and testing due to complications of Karen's pregnancy. In December, the complications led to the loss of one of the babies Karen was carrying. Since that time she is confined to almost total bed rest, and is required to stay near a hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. Karen is living with Jeff's parents, who reside just outside of Sioux Falls. Jeff has worked out an arrangement with the elders in Garner that he would labor in Garner half of each week, and spend the rest of the week with his wife.

Due to the demands of the situation outlined above and the uncertainty of the progress of Karen's pregnancy, Jeff has not been able to concentrate on preparations for the Ordination exam, nor is it prudent for him to be away from his wife during the Classis meeting. Your committee will recommend an alternate date and place for Jeff's Ordination exam.

In addition to working with Mr. De Boer, your committee has been in contact with a number of Deaf Reformed men requesting to be brought into the ministry of the RCUS. Four men initially sought advice as to how to proceed in their respective situations. One man was counseled to seek the status of Student Under Care of Classis. Three men were encouraged to pursue Classis exams at the Spring Classis meeting. However, for good reasons, two have withdrawn their requests for now. The remaining candidate is Mr. Kevin Hamilton. Brother Hamilton is an ordained minister serving Deaf Reformed Church (unorganized) of Danville, KY. Your committee recommends examining Mr. Hamilton in stages. We propose to examine in Piety and Intentions (personal history and testimony, calling, etc.), the six "loci" of Theology, and Practical Theology (pastoral care and practice). In addition, the candidate will be asked to preach a sermon before Classis. The Standing Committee on Licensure and Examination can bring recommendations for proceeding from there. Brother Hamilton is agreeable to this exam proposal.

Finally, two men, Mr. G. J. Gatis and Mr. Russ Kent, have initiated contact with Covenant East Classis with the intent of getting to know us and perhaps pursuing a relationship with us. These brothers show every indication of doing a serious, careful, and thorough examination of our history, standards, and doctrinal commitments. This is commendable. Your committee did respond to some of their questions regarding procedures for Licensure. At this point we understand that Mr. Gatis will be attending the Classis meeting, and would like to ask questions of the members of Classis in some forum. We look forward to meeting Mr. Gatis and enjoying his company.

Recommendations:

1. That at a Special Order of the day, designated by the Executive Committee, Mr. Kevin Hamilton be examined in the following areas:

Piety and Intent (or Personal Questions)	15 minutes
Doctrine of the Word of God	15 minutes
Doctrine of God	15 minutes
Doctrine of Man	15 minutes
Person and Work of Christ	15 minutes
The Work of the Holy Spirit	15 minutes
The Doctrine of the Church	15 minutes
Eschatology	15 minutes
Apologetics	15 minutes
Practical Theology	15 minutes

*Following each timed section, we ask that examiners be allowed to ask questions from the floor in case they couldn't get to certain questions deemed especially important.

2. That Mr. Hamilton preach a sermon before Classis, at a time to be designated by the Executive Committee; and that Mr. Hamilton submit a written text of that sermon to the committee.

3. That Mr. Jeff De Boer be given an Ordination Exam on Monday, May 14, 2001 at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.

4. That Classis take note regarding the withdrawal of requests to be received into the ministry of the RCUS by Mr. Kevin Kruetzer and Mr. Sam Marsh.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Sawtelle, Jay Kroese, Hank Bowen, Kenton Hoxie, Ron Potter

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

Interchurch Relations

COVENANT EAST CLASSIS SPRING MEETING 2001 INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Brethren,

Your committee did not meet during the past year, but some business was completed. The chairman was new to this committee, and perhaps for that reason only received notification of four meetings of other denominations. Of course, our Classis boundaries extend over several presbyteries and classes of those with which we seek relationships. These will not all have the practice of inviting a representative of our Classis. Also, the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America does not regularly interact at the presbytery level in fraternal relationships. This was noted in the committee report two years ago. Therefore, having an RPCNA delegate at our spring meeting last year was an unusual circumstance.

At any rate, the chairman was not informed of meetings of the Midwest Presbytery of the OPC, but had received notification of their Michigan and Ontario Presbytery meetings. Notification was also received regarding two meetings of Classis Central U. S. of the United Reformed Churches in North America.

The chairman was an observer to the meeting of Classis Central US, URCNA on January 23, 2001, in South Holland, Illinois. This meeting was of special interest to the RCUS, as an overture regarding "six day creation" was considered. It sought to have their Synod recommend to their churches only the "historically Reformed method of interpretation" for Genesis one and two. Synod would advise against a framework view and against a non-chronological view, and for a literal and historical narrative view of the Genesis days. I was called upon to address the body during a break in the debate on this overture. This I was very glad to do! I stated that the people in their congregations would be encouraged and blessed by having such direction on how to interpret Genesis. I had prefaced my remarks saying I and the RCUS actually would prefer a stronger overture which had been withdrawn before the meeting. It would have called their Synod to declare definitely that the framework hypothesis should not be taught in their churches. (I learned however, that a similar overture was approved by another Classis. Their Synod, by the way, will meet in Escondido!)

The outcome of the debate was that the guidelines overture was defeated by a slight margin. Concerns were expressed that without a specific case requiring adjudication they would be asking Synod to engage in theological activism. This they had rejected in forming the URCNA. Concerns were also raised regarding what authority these "guidelines" would have. I quoted from our "Authority of Position Papers" report, and sought to explain how such position statements were to be used as 'authoritative advice'.

I was assured by several men that their concerns were thus on procedure, not that any were in favor of 'framework'. All in all it was an enjoyable meeting, and a good opportunity to meet these brothers and even visit with a former elder in the RCUS.

As for our spring meeting, email attempts have been made to invite delegates or observers from the OPC, RPCNA, URCNA, and the Canadian and American Reformed Churches. Rev. Donald Duff has indicated he will represent the OPC and will address the Classis. There have been forwards of the invitation by the next two listed. No other communication has been received.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Harvey Opp (Chairman), Rev. Jari Saavalainen, Rev. Jim Sawtelle

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 2001 Classial year. (See 1998 Standing Nominations Committee Report, 1998 Abstract, pg. 22.)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH COVENANT EAST CLASSIS

March 14, 2001

"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:44-47).

Reading through the various parochial reports it becomes evident that our God is working slowly but surely within the churches of our Classis. It was commonly reported that some major improvements to the physical buildings to enhance ministry outreach had been accomplished. Numerous pastors reported various means that were being used to take the gospel outside the doors of the church. Others reported the regular attendance of visitors resulting in the addition of new families to our congregation. In all of the reports there were indications of a deep love for the brethren and commitment existing to the support of the ministry in our churches. For this we can continually raise up our voices in praise to our Lord who is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

That is not to say that there are not difficulties and trials within our congregations. Concern was expressed in several reports concerning a lack of commitment to church attendance and putting God first in the lives of some members. There is also the continued searching for materials that will present the faith in a dynamic and meaningful way to our youth without giving up sound doctrine. Visitation of families on a regular basis still warrants a great commitment by the Consistories of our churches. To vigilantly keep on top of Christian discipline is also an on-going challenge.

However, in all of these areas there is concern and effort being put forth and as a result the sentiment is expressed that the Lord is blessing in the spiritual growth of the people of God. Often this commitment to be faithful has also opened the door for the Lord to bring new families into our congregations. There is a famine with regards to pursuing the marks of the church in the community of churches surrounding us. This has resulted in many Christians searching for a church home where they sense the kind of carefulness and commitment God calls His people to.

In our smaller congregations and missions congregations there has been much movement this year. In Frederick congregation, Rev. Saavalainen reports that distance continues to be a hindrance causing families to come and go. They are contemplating another move to Columbia which would be closer to the majority of members. Rev. Jim Sawtelle reports that the Groves Academy where they meet will undergo extensive renovation this summer and they are not sure how that will effect them. At this time, this facility serves their purpose well both in terms of cost and location.

In our larger congregations there is a common theme of desire to reach out with the gospel to those who are not churched. Licentiate Jeff DeBoer reports that the Garner congregation continues weekly with their radio program. Rev. Opp reports that they have started a bi-weekly radio program entitled, "Doctrines of Grace." Rev. Vance reports the addition of a full time staff person to help them become better known in the community. Rev. Potter cites an increasing presence of visitors in their weekly worship as evidence of Christ's work among them.

We should continue to be mindful of our retired pastors who have served the Lord faithfully. Rev. Ploeger's health continues to prevent him from the ability to preach, but he and Grace remain faithful in their attendance of worship services. They found it necessary this year to move to smaller living accommodations due to financial constraints that we should consider at this Classis. Rev. Mall continues to be active. He was installed as an Elder in Carbondale this year and continues his work of translating books into the Urdu language for use in Pakistan.

The work of forming a Deaf Reformed Classis was taken up this past year. The Synod appointed Rev. Robert Grossmann to act as the liaison along with the Covenant East Classis to do the work of moving our Deaf brothers to the point of being able to form their own Classis. There was a meeting in the Spring of this past year where a number of men interested in a Deaf Reformed Classis met with

Rev. Grossmann and Rev. Bowen to discuss the process. The Classis may want to consider at this Classis whether this should be a work of the Executive Committee or if the erection of a special committee to oversee this particular commission from the Synod would be wise.

This year we were contacted by two congregations who had been affiliated with the UCC as a result of the mergers but were now desiring to escape the liberalism that permeates that denomination. The Classis may want to consider the best way to handle these contacts and suggest some kind of guideline. There was also contact from some individuals who were interested in the prospect of starting an RCUS church in their area. The RCUS Synod has been suggesting that all future Home Mission efforts should be begun by either a local congregation or a Classis. Now may also be a good time to consider how we want to nurture these contacts that are not ready to be undertaken as a mission work, but may lead to such with the proper kind of oversight. The Northern Plains Classis has undertaken an investigative attempt to plant a congregation in the Fargo-Moorehead area. There is a request from that Classis to labor in our bounds for that work. The South Central Classis has funded a regional evangelist with great success in the Frontal Range. As Covenant East seeks to become more active in the area of missions, the Classis should clearly set forth how we will choose to proceed in these initial stages when a group is very vulnerable.

I would like to thank the Rev. Robert Grossmann for the years of leadership that God enabled him to provide to our Classis. The evidence of the wonderful way in which God has profoundly used him in shaping the abilities of so many of our men in this Classis is evident. With his departure to another Classis we now find ourselves as a rather young group that will need to labor patiently together with each other in our efforts to do the work before us. Let us therefore, be reminded of Paul's words to Timothy, to let no one despise his youth but to be faithful in exercising the gifts given to him to enable him to carry out his office as an elder in the Church of Christ (I Tim. 4:12-14).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Hank Bowen, 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:

1. Following the 2000 Spring Classis Meeting:
 - a. Preparation, printing and binding of the *Minutes* of the 2000 Spring Classis Meeting, and the Special Classis Meetings of May 9, 2000 and October 10-11, 2000.
2. Preparation of a camera ready copy of the *2000 Abstract of Minutes* for copier service in Manitowoc and the distribution of the *Abstract* to the Churches of Classis and Synod.
3. Preparation and mailing of Executive Circulars Volume 15, Numbers 1-3.
4. A letter of advice dated March 31, 2000 sent from the Covenant East Classis to the Spiritual Council of the Covenant Reformed Church.
5. Letters sent to Rev. David Alexander and Mr. Samuel David informing them that they had been removed from the rolls of Classis by judicial erasure.
6. A letter of dismissal for Rev. Robert Grossmann sent to the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis dated July 26, 2000. (I received a certified copy of the acceptance of Rev. Grossmann's reception into the South Central Classis by their Stated Clerk.)
7. Preparation of the Statistical Report, Executive Committee report, and miscellaneous forms for the 2001 Spring meeting of

Classis.

8. There were no necrologies submitted to the Stated Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Donald R. Vance

Classis Action: 'Take Note.' [Clerk's Note: A necrology for Elder Carl Wigand, who died in April, 2001, is included in this abstract in the Appendix, pg. 35]

Report of the Executive Committee of Synod

The Stated Clerk received the "Report of the Executive Committee of Synod to the Classes" dated February 28, 2001 from the Stated Clerk of the RCUS. There were two items of business in that document. The first item, that Synod urge each Classis to designate an individual or individuals to travel to each congregation in a Classis on behalf of funding options for the Ministerial Aid Fund, was handled by the Standing Finance Committee. The other item, that the Classes recommend to the Synod Nominations Committee possible candidates from the Missions Committee to serve coinciding terms on the Synod Home Missions Committee, was handled by the Standing Missions Committee.

Treasurer's Report

(For the report, see Appendix, pg. 31-33)

Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Finances Committee. (See pg. 23)

PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

Each Minister attending the meeting read his parochial report. Rev. Sawtelle read the report of Mr. Jeff De Boer.

Prayer was offered for each of the congregations after the pastoral reports were read. Prayer was offered for Rev. Chester Ploeger concerning his health problems.

Classis Action: 'Take Note' on each pastoral report.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS

President Bowen 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".

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

a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?* All answered "Yes", with Kroells commenting that it's good for shut-ins and sick, but lacking in visiting families.

b. *Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?* All answered "Yes".

4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution?* All answered "Yes".

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

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

- 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”, except Kroells answered “No”, commenting that giving for missions is going up.
- 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. 34)

The Clerk presented the report.

Classis Action: The report was adopted after corrections were made.

**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. The Classis was very pleased with Rev. Hamilton’s exam.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No Special Committees had been formed.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 2:00 PM, Thursday, the Standing Judicial Committee presented an appeal by a member of the Covenant Reformed Church, Carbondale against the Spiritual Council of the Carbondale church. Time was given for both the appellant and the members of the Spiritual Council to speak. The action of Classis on this matter is presented under the Report of the Standing Judicial Committee.

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. 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	<u>316.25</u>
	.....	.....	.....	TOTAL	3,433.26

4. That Chuck Snyder be paid \$450 as an honorarium for his deaf interpretation work for the Classis Meeting.
5. That Shea Hoxie be paid \$150 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 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 2:00 pm on March 15, 2001 by considering our Recommendation #2.
2. 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."
3. 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.
4. That the Executive Committee appoint a "reconciliation committee" to meet with the Spiritual Council of the Covenant Reformed Church 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 De Boer be referred to Standing 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 the Deaf Reformed Church be referred to Standing 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

Classis handled two of the items of business in the "The Report Of The Executive Committee Of Synod To The Classes" by referring item #1 of the report to the Standing Finance Committee (See Finance # 7) and item # 2 of the report to the Standing

Missions Committee (See Missions # 7).

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 the URDU language.
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 Standing Services Committee, item #2.
2. The Stated Clerk forgot to include the three Executive Circulars when he presented his report earlier in the meeting. These reports were read and adopted under Miscellaneous Business.

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 16th Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

The final roll call showed six Ministers and five Elders present. Closing devotions were held by Rev. George Mall.

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.

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	Mission Fund
1182 Rev. D. Vance .....80.00	1181 Redeemer 1,271.00
1183 Robert Anderson.....240.00	1199 Redeemer 1,323.33
1184 Rev. R. Grossmann.....150.00	1200 Redeemer 1,323.33
1185 Rev. J. Saavalainen.....624.00	1201 Redeemer 1,323.34
1186 Rev. H. Bowen .....392.60	1202 Redeemer 1,323.33
1187 Erik Green .....42.20	1204 Redeemer 1,323.33
1188 S. Marsh .....239.00	1206 Redeemer 1,323.34
1189 K. Hamilton .....172.00	1208 Redeemer 1,323.33
1190 K. Kreutzer .....68.80	1209 Redeemer 1,323.33
1191 J. Cline.....68.80	1217 Redeemer 1,323.34
1192 B. Schaaf .....105.50	1218 Redeemer 1,323.33
1193 Rev. Snyder .....64.00	1222 Redeemer 1,323.33
1194 D. Sharp.....297.00	
1195 Rev. G. Mall .....78.80	Total .....15,827.66
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	

Student Aid No Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSE24,381.13

2000 Covenant East Statistical Report

NECROLOGY

Elder Carl H. Wigand

Carl H. Wigand, age 96, went to be with his Lord on April 3, 2001. Carl was born September 6, 1904 in Sheyboygan, son of the late Peter and Lydia Bierhaus Wigand. Carl married the former Florence Bruckschen on October 15, 1932 in the town of Centerville, WI. She preceded him in death in 1993. Carl and his wife were dairy farmers for 35 years until they moved to Manitowoc, WI in

1967. The Wigand's owned the farm immediately north of the old Salem Ebenezer Church. In 1965 he donated a strip of land to the cemetery. Due to failing health, Carl became a resident of the Manitowoc Health Care Center on December 1, 2000. Carl also worked at the Schuette Bros. Department Store, Anheuser-Busch, and Mirro Aluminum Company in Manitowoc.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Victor and Jane Wigand, town of Newton; four daughters and sons-in-law, Eunice and Merlin Waack, town of Newton, Janice and Gerald Borgwardt, town of Newton, Marilyn and Rev. Gordon Wooland, Blacksburg, VA (Rev. Wooland is a pastor in the Presbyterian Church in America in that community), Sue Wigand and her husband, Jim Hawk, Atascadero, CA; 14 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; one brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Helene Wigand, Camas, WA; two sisters, Martha Kruetzmann, Iowa Falls, IA, and Elsie Mattfield, Milwaukee; special friend, Bernice Marken, Manitowoc. Besides his parents and wife Florence, Carl was preceded in death by one infant brother; three sisters, Esther, Clara, and Lydia.

Carl served as an elder of the Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church from 1958 to 1964 and from 1970 to 1976. He enthusiastically supported the ministry of his church and denomination with his talents, his time and his worldly resources.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
May 14, 2001
Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD**

A Special Meeting of the Covenant East Classis met from 3:00 - 6:45 PM on May 14, 2001 at the Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD. The purpose of this meeting was to finish the ministerial examination for Mr. Jeff De Boer, pastor-elect of the Peace Reformed Church of Garner, IA; to hear a report of the Home Missions Committee of Classis concerning the new mission work in northwest Arkansas; to consider a request from the Northland Reformed Church of Kansas City, MO to labor within our Classical boundaries to exercise oversight of the mission work in Arkansas; and to consider how to pay for the traveling expenses of Dr. Joseph Gatis and Rev. Russ Kent so that they could attend the 255th Synod of the RCUS held in Menno from May 14-17, 2001.

Call to Order

The President, Rev. Hank Bowen, brought devotions from Psalm 96. He opened the meeting with prayer. The Clerk, Rev. Donald R. Vance, called the roll. Six ministers and five elders were present, a quorum. Ministers present were: Rev. Hank Bowen, Rev. George Mall, Rev. Harvey Opp, Rev. Ron Potter, Rev. Jim Sawtelle, and Rev. Don Vance. Elders present were Jay Kroese, Ken Armbruster, Leslie Goeke, Merle Klinge and Reno Stuedeman. Classis approved to seat Reno Stuedeman as the elder delegate from the Hamburg church. Neither the elder primarius nor the secundus from the Hamburg church could attend this meeting.

Examination and Licensure - Ordination Exam of Mr. Jeff De Boer

The Candidates and Credentials Committee conducted an Ordination examination of Mr. Jeff De Boer by telephone. Mr. De Boer could not be personally present for the exam due to the health of his wife. Mr. De Boer's examination was arrested after being examined in Apologetics, Eschatology and Worship.

Rev. Jim Sawtelle gave a report about Mr. De Boer's internship. It was noted how Mr. De Boer served in the RCUS during his seminary years at Mid America Reformed Seminary. Testimonials were presented from Mid America Reformed Seminary and from Mr. Merle Klinge, the elder from the Garner congregation. The Classis was well satisfied with the examination of Mr. De Boer and the reports about him.

Classis Action: (motions are in their final form)

1. That the ordination exam of Mr. Jeff De Boer be declared satisfactory.
2. That Classis declared the call of Peace Reformed Church to Mr. Jeff De Boer approved.
3. That Classis appoint an Ordination and Installation Committee to ordain and install Mr. Jeff De Boer. (By common consent, Bowen, Sawtelle and the elders of the Garner Church would be the committee members.)
4. That Classis appoint Jay Kroese to replace Kevin Velgersdyk to the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee. The president ruled recommendation #4 out of order.

Missions

Classis heard a Report of Assessment on Springdale, AR from the Home Missions Committee (HMC).

Classis action: (motions are in their final form)

1. That Covenant East Classis pursue developing the mission work in the Springdale, AR area in cooperation with the Northland Reformed Church.
2. That Classis budget \$1,200 per month for the remainder of 2001 to pursue the development of the mission work in Springdale, AR beginning in June 2001.
3. That Classis overture the RCUS for \$1,200 per month for the support of a minister to work in the Springdale, AR area. - TAKE NOTE.
4. That Classis overture the RCUS to budget \$14,000 for the work in Springdale, AR for the year 2002. - TAKE NOTE.
5. That Classis appoint the Northland Reformed Church to be the oversight consistory for the work in Springdale, AR. This would include permission to labor within our bounds as long as they remain members of the South Central Classis.
6. That Covenant East Classis respectfully overture the RCUS Synod to include the whole of Missouri within the Covenant East Classis boundaries effective in the Synodical year 2002.

Finances

Classis action: (motion in final form)

1. That Classis consider funding up to \$600 either out of the General Fund or by setting up a Diaconal Fund for contributions from churches to go into this fund so that Dr. Joseph Gatis and Rev. Russ Kent can be reimbursed for travel to Synod. (It was noted that money had already been received from a few churches for this expense.)

Excuses

Classis action: (motion in final form)

1. That excuses be granted for Licentiate Jeff De Boer, Elders Bob Kroells and David Schulz; that Rev. Harvey Opp and Elder Ken Armbruster be excused for arriving 40 minutes late; and that Rev. Jari Saavalainen and Kenton Hoxie be excused from this session of Classis.