

2011
Abstract
of the Minutes



of the
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS
Reformed Church in the United States

Special Fall Meeting
October 4-5, 2010
Redeemer Reformed Church
Golden Valley, Minnesota

26th Annual Session
March 1 - 2, 2011
Northland Reformed Church
Kansas City, Missouri

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

**OFFICERS
of Covenant East Classis**

President	Rev. Randall Klynsma
Vice President	Rev. James Sawtelle
Stated Clerk	Rev. Kyle Sorensen
Treasurer	Elder Jim Drewes

CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING	
General Fund	\$9.00
Missions Fund	\$52.00 *
Benevolence Fund	\$9.00
Student Aid Fund	\$4.00
TOTAL per communicant member	\$74.00

*\$30 per communicant member is set aside for future mission works

CLASSIS TREASURER:

Mr. Jim Drewes
(419) 592-0795
13033 Co. Rd. L2, Napoleon, OH 43545
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PERMANENT CLASSIS COMMITTEES

Executive:	<u>Klynsma</u> , Sorensen, Borgwardt, Potter (only for consult with Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, PA)
Candidates and Credentials:	<u>Brice</u> , Fluck, Potter, Kroese
Interchurch Relations:	<u>Sawtelle</u> , Klynsma, Kron, Wiersma
Missions:	<u>Opp</u> , Schnabel, Altman, Honeck, Kroells, Larson, Stuebbe
Publications:	no committee formed

(underlined serves as chairman)

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CHURCHES AND MISSION WORKS

Bentonville, ARKANSAS

Grace RCUS, 72712 worship at La Quinta Inn,
1001 SE Walton Blvd, Bentonville..... (479) 876-6649
Pastor: Rev. Wesley Brice (Wife: Ginger)
Mail: 15 Kensington Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715
Worship: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:30; Prayer Service: 1pm
www.gracereformednwa.org

Garner, IOWA

Peace RCUS, 50438
1905 200th St. (3 miles south of Garner). (641) 923-3060
Pastor: Rev. Harvey Opp (Wife: Carol)
Worship: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:30 a.m.
www.peacereformedchurch.com

Golden Valley, MINNESOTA

Redeemer RCUS, 55422
1300 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley. (763) 417-9835
Pastor: Rev. James Sawtelle (Wife: Thelma)
Mission Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kron (Wife: Colleen)
Mail: 3101 Virginia Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55427
Worship: 10:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.;
SS: 9:00 a.m. (Sept. - May)
www.redeemerrcus.org ; redeemerrcus@usfamily.net

Hamburg, MINNESOTA

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 55339
15470 Co Road 31. (952) 467-3878
Pastor: Rev. Dan Schnabel (Wife: Marie)
Worship: 9:30 a.m., SS: 8:30 a.m.
www.stpaulsrcus.org ; dm7schnabel@gmail.com

Kansas City, MISSOURI

Northland RCUS, 64164
2901 NW Cookingham Dr (816) 420-9700
(Exit 40, I-435, North one mile) FAX: call 1st
Pastor: Rev. Randall Klynsma (Wife: Julie)
Worship: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; SS: 11:00 a.m.
www.northlandreformed.org ; northlandreformed@gmail.com

Napoleon, OHIO

Peace RCUS, 43545
638 Huddle Rd..... (419) 599-3106
Pastor: Rev. Steven Altman (Wife: Bianca)
Worship: 10:00 a.m.; SS: 9:00 a.m.
www.peacercus.com

Waymart, PENNSYLVANIA

Heritage RCUS, 18472 in Lower Level of Waymart Presbyterian
Church, 200 Belmont St. (570) 785-4012
Pastor: Rev. Ron Potter (Wife: Sharon)
Mail: 136 Grand Ave., Forest City, PA 18421
Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
www.heritagercus.org; reformed@nep.net

Manitowoc, WISCONSIN

Salem Ebenezer RCUS, 54220
6524 Hwy C. (920) 726-4940
Pastor: Rev. Kyle Sorensen (Wife: Donielle)
Worship: 10:00 a.m.; SS 8:45 a.m.
www.salemebenezer.org; salem@lakefield.net

ABSTRACT of the MINUTES

of the

Covenant East Classis

Special Fall Meeting

October 4-5, 2010

Redeemer Reformed Church, Hamburg, Minnesota

Services and Organization

Covenant East Classis began a Special Fall Meeting on Monday, October 4, 2010, when Vice-President Rev. Harvey Opp called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. He read from Mark 10:35-45 regarding the servant nature of the Christian ministry, and then led the body in prayer. The opening roll was called which showed 6 ministers and 6 elders present, *a quorum*. The bar of the house was defined as the first six rows. Before the business began on October 5, Rev. Dan Schnabel led the body in a devotion from Romans 3:9-26 on the importance of understanding our depravity.

Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

No fraternal delegates were present. Several guests and visitors were welcomed, including members of Redeemer Reformed Church, the candidate for Licensure, Rev. Ryan Kron, and also Kron's parents.

Examination of Candidate for Licensure

Elder Jay Kroese, a member of the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee, reported on the process leading to this meeting's licensure exam for Rev. Ryan Kron. Rev. James Sawtelle then explained that since he and Kroese are members of the Consistory which is extending a ministerial call to Kron, they both desire to be excluded from taking a role in supervising the exam. With no other members of the permanent committee able to be in attendance, a motion from the floor was passed to add Sorensen to the committee for the purpose of conducting the exam.

Rev. Kyle Sorensen conducted the licensure exam in all areas of theology for 50 minutes. Questions followed from the floor for about 20 minutes. Classis sustained the exam. The following documents and their actions were then found in order and declared approved by classis: the call to Kron from Redeemer Reformed Church of Golden Valley, MN, to serve as Mission Pastor, his acceptance of that call, and the dismissal of his ministerial credentials from Cloverdale URCNA of Boise, Idaho, to the Covenant East Classis of the RCUS.

Rev. Ryan Kron, after reading aloud the form for licensure and signing his name to it, was licensed by Covenant East Classis and received as a ministerial member on the rolls of Classis. The delegates

extended the right hand of fellowship to Kron. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered to the Lord.

Since Kron was received from another denomination, Classis followed the RCUS protocol and passed a motion which instructed the Stated Clerk to provide Synod with a statement of the actions taken in regard to Rev. Ryan Kron, together with a resume regarding Rev. Kron so that the Synod of the RCUS may properly receive him.

Classis Discussions

A. Procedural Changes

The Executive Committee of classis is seeking the input of the classis regarding any relevant procedural changes for how classis runs its business, in light of the changes made at Synod for the running of the Synod meeting business. The opinions of the classis were given to the Executive Committee as follows.

1. Eliminate the overtures committee from classis meetings.
2. The Executive Committee should bring a recommendation to the Spring meeting on the practice of reading our standing rules.
3. The Executive Committee consider adding a Standing Committee on Minutes of Classis, parallel to the practice which Synod has adopted, so that we may do a test run for future Synod practices.
4. We should handle reception of reports the same way as that passed by Synod.

B. Church Visitation

Based on the report of the Special Committee from Synod 2010, delegates discussed the background of this concept, and the usefulness and pitfalls of implementing such a practice. We were concerned that members, Consistories, and Classes honor Matthew 18 and the rest of Scripture's teachings on how to reconcile problems in a congregation. We were likewise desirous of growing beyond the formality that has evolved in the reciting of answers to questions in Article 81. Classis delegates recommitted themselves to fighting against pride and being honest with one another in seeking counsel and prayer with each other. The perspective of Classis was also that we should create opportunities for this discussion by a Fall classis meeting or other scheduled times for discussions of concern to Consistories.

C. Cultivation of men for the gospel ministry

After reading handouts given in advance of the meeting, the following discussion was held. The conversation included personal, practical, and biblical elements. We were challenged by the thought that

every man ought to consider why they are not in the ministry or pursuing it. This applies to both students as well as those already in a career.

We mentioned several ways to fulfill the role which every congregation has in cultivating new men for the gospel ministry, including the following:

1. Proactive conversation from church officers to young men, at confirmation, high school graduations and in college years.
2. Public prayer in congregation and in consistory rooms.
3. Providing books on the call to the ministry.
4. Funding internships and planning for future internships of seminary students.
5. Including young men in Bible Studies, visitation of the elderly and shut-ins.

Reading of the Minutes and Adjournment

The minutes were read by the stated clerk at the beginning of the second day and at the close of business. They were approved as corrected.

The Special Fall Meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m. on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, until the next stated meeting of classis. The final roll call showed 7 ministers and 5 elders present. The vice-president led the classis in closing prayer.

CLERK'S NOTE:

On February 28, 2011, the night before the Spring Classis meeting was to begin, the delegates of classis and members and guests of the host congregation gathered for a discussion. The pre-classis discussion was presented by Attorney Matthew T. Nelson. He is member of an OPC congregation in the Grand Rapids area, where he works at the law firm of Warner, Norcross, & Judd, LLP.

He brought a very helpful multimedia presentation on *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in the Church*. The presentation included information about child abuse and related laws for each state where we have congregations. This discussion was scheduled for 7:00-8:15 p.m., but due to discussion the meeting ran past 9:00 p.m.

ABSTRACT of the MINUTES

of the

Covenant East Classis

26th Annual Session

March 1 - 2, 2011

Northland Reformed Church, Kansas City, Missouri

Services

After the president called the body to order on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, Rev. Ron Potter led the classis in prayer. He then read Mark 10:17-22, and gave a devotion calling us to abandon whatever hinders us from following Christ.

On Tuesday evening at 7 p.m., the classis delegates, along with members and guests of Northland Reformed Church, worshiped our Triune God and Savior. Rev. Steve Altman conducted the service and Rev. Ryan Kron preached a sermon on 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5 titled, "The Word: Above All Earthly Powers".

On Wednesday morning, March 2, Rev. James Sawtelle led a devotion on 2 Timothy 1:3-7, reminding classis of the call to fan into flames the gift of God within you.

In addition, each session of classis was opened and closed with a prayer asking God to grant wisdom and mercy upon the business and decisions of classis. Meals were concluded with a brief Bible reading, appropriate comments, and prayer. After the reading of each pastor's parochial report, another delegate led in prayer for the pastor and his charge. Prayer was also offered to our God at other appropriate times in the meeting, such as for retired ministers, widows, and fraternal churches.

Organization

The 26th annual session of Covenant East Classis was called to order at 8:03 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, by Rev. Ron Potter, President. After the devotions were completed the opening roll was called which showed 9 ministers and 4 elders present, *a quorum*. The bar of the house was defined as the first four rows. Rev. Ryan Kron and Elder Jerry Kropp were appointed tellers by the president. The president then read the Standing Rules of Classis as required by Standing Rule #5.

The following delegates were elected to serve as the officers of classis for the year: Rev. Randall Klynsmas as president, Rev. James Sawtelle as vice-president, Rev. Kyle Sorensen as stated clerk, and Elder Jim Drewes as treasurer.

The Classis expressed appreciation to Rev. Ron Potter for his years of service as President and his wise counsel throughout the year as a member of the Executive Committee.

The president appointed Rev. Steve Altman as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

The following fraternal delegates were present during all or part of the classis meeting. Each brother was given time to address the classis: Rev. Harold Miller, of Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches of North America, and Rev. Wes Bredenhof, of Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Several visitors were present during all or part of the proceedings. Among them was Elder Les Morton of Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Reception of New Ministers and New Churches

There were no new congregations to welcome. Two new ministers were called forward to be officially welcomed by classis. Classis extended the right hand of fellowship to Rev. Steve Altman and Rev. Ryan Kron.

Standing Committees

The President announced the Standing Committee appointments. Chairmen are underlined:

Benevolence/Excuses: Altman, Honeck, Kroells
Examination & Licensure: Brice, Kroese, Potter, Sawtelle
Finances: Kron, Altman, Honeck, (Drewes advise)
Judicial: Brice, Kroese, Potter, Sawtelle
Minutes of Classis/Services: Opp, Kropp, Kroells
Minutes of Synod: Sorensen, Wiersma
Missions/Nominations: Klynsma, Schnabel, Wiersma

Presentation of Overtures and Communications

The items were referred and distributed to the Standing Committees as determined by the Executive Committee, which informed the classis in writing of these referrals before the meeting. The actions taken on these documents are found in the section of this abstract that contains the Standing Committee reports.

Presentation of Permanent Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee Report

Dear Brothers,

During the classical year of 2010 your committee conducted spiritual oversight of congregations and its ministerial members when sought or where appropriate.

A great deal of time and effort was spent this year with individuals and/or groups interested in joining the RCUS or asking about the possibility of starting a mission work. In the fall of 2010 your committee, along with Rev. Sawtelle, participated in a conference call with Jon Orcutt. Mr. Orcutt is a graduate of GPTS and former OPC Elder now fellowshipping in a Southern Baptist Church in the town in which he lives outside of Greenville, SC. He made contact with Rev. Potter earlier in the year and indicated a desire to see an RCUS work planted in his region. Your committee, after meeting with Mr. Orcutt, believed that given distance and resources—and the fact that only one family was interested in the RCUS—that for the present we take no action but maintain contact with Mr. Orcutt which we have done.

In January of 2011 Mr. John Pierce of Kentucky, a former RCUS Elder in Cincinnati, OH, made contact with your committee regarding the interest of a few families south of Lexington, KY, who expressed an interest in the RCUS. Your Committee came to learn that Home Missions of Classis also was contacted by the Clerk of Synod regarding this work and has therefore left further contact with this work in the hands of the HMC.

Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA

Your Committee, augmented by the Rev. Jim Sawtelle, maintained contact with Sovereign Grace Church (SGC) of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, through this past Classical year. Following the 2010 Spring meeting of Classis and with the agreement of the Sovereign Grace Session, the Rev. Vern Pollema and Rev. Maynard Koerner ministered in Gettysburg for three weeks altogether. In June of 2010 Rev. Koerner returned to SGC to preach at a Summer Camp hosted by SGC congregation at their church site. He was joined by Rev. Ron Potter who also preached at this Camp. Both Rev. Koerner and Rev. Potter met with the Session for consultation at this same time. The satellite congregation of SGC in Coopersburg, PA, was also present. Rev. Jay Fluck also preached at SGC in the Fall of 2010 while on vacation.

Communication with SGC continued through the summer and into the Fall. The elders of SGC had concerns about the RCUS view of the Visible Church and how we would handle certain issues that might be raised. We were able to answer them in writing on behalf of Classis. Your Committee also observes that SGC is using our Directory of Worship and has incorporated the Heidelberg Catechism into its Worship Service and is teaching the Heidelberg to covenant youth. It is also presently working on a Constitution that will conform to our model Constitution.

In late 2010, the SGC Session asked your committee to approach Rev. Fluck about preaching a trial sermon with a view to possibly calling

him to the pastoral ministry. Rev. Fluck spent a week in early January 2011 with his wife Loretta at SGC where he preached and taught as well as counseled various members of the congregation, and returned to SGC January 31st through February 3rd to interact with the Session regarding some practical and exegetical questions formulated by the Session. He also taught on the Wednesday evening and on his way back to Philadelphia visited with a member of the congregation in college. At the request of the Session, Rev. Potter provided input on behalf of your committee on the evenings of January 31st and February 1st. On Sunday February 6th the Session recommended Rev. Fluck to the SGC congregation as a candidate for the pastoral ministry. He was elected to that position by an overwhelming majority. Rev. Fluck accepted the call. His resignation from Ebenezer in Shafter was received and the Western Classis advised.

Rev. Fluck will appear at Classis for examination according to our Standing Rule #20 subject to his release from Western Classis. He is expected to be on the field by June 1st at the latest. Documents germane to his call and acceptance will be placed in the hands of the Standing Examination and Licensure Committee. Your Committee examined the terms of the call to Rev. Fluck and found it in order and recommends that permission be given to Rev. Fluck to labor outside the bounds of Classis.

Your Committee observes that SGC understands that Rev. Fluck is taking the call to SGC to assist them as they continue to move toward possible union with the RCUS. If at any time SGC indicates that they do not desire to join with the RCUS, they understand that Rev. Fluck will resign as their Pastor.

Your Executive Committee sought the advice of Classis at our Fall 2010 meeting on how to apply relevant Synod Procedural changes to our Classis Procedures. We greatly appreciate that advice, and concur with it, and have implemented it all. On one point, the advice of Classis was not conclusive, but rather you advised us to bring a recommendation concerning the reading of the Standing Rules. We have considered your advice, and choose not to bring a recommendation. We do not think it healthy as a normal practice to stop reading the Standing Rules. We would rather regularly read them. Any particular year that someone wants to skip their reading, a motion from the floor supported by 2/3 majority will always suspend any Standing Rule, including the reading of the rules.

The Executive Committee also brought before the classis the following two circulars with their information and recommendations (all of which were approved without objection).

Executive Circular - Volume 25, Number 1 - August 26, 2010
A. Special Fall Classis Meeting

Recommendation 1: Covenant East Classis will convene a special meeting on October 4-5, 2010, at Redeemer Reformed Church in Golden Valley, MN. Classis will begin at 6:00 p.m. on October 4, and continue at 8:00 a.m. on October 5, and will go no later than 12 noon.

There are two stated purposes for this meeting.

1. Classis will examine Rev. Ryan Kron, a ministerial member of the URCNA, for licensure in the RCUS. (After sustaining such an exam, he is eligible to receive the call which has been offered to him by Redeemer Reformed Church of Golden Valley, MN, to serve as their mission pastor.)

2. Classis will hold three organized discussions after the exam is completed. They will be on

- a) to give input to Executive Committee of Classis, on how Classis might consider adopting any relevant procedure changes which Synod adopted in May 2010
- b) the concept, value, and implementation of a church visitation program by Classis to oversee all its churches, as Synod advised classes to do this year
- c) how to cultivate new men for the gospel ministry

Some brief study material to help guide these discussions will be provided in advance.

Executive Circular - Volume 25, Number 2 - January 21, 2011
A. Time and Place of Spring Classis Meeting

Our annual Spring Classis meeting will be held at Northland Reformed Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Classis will convene at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, March 1, 2010, and continue through the end of business on Wednesday, March 2. Please contact ASAP Elder Mark Fisher (mark@tcdparts.com 816-790-3615) with your housing and transportation needs.

Please note that President Ron Potter will not be standing for re-election this year. Let us come with nominations and a readiness to serve the Lord in any of the offices which Classis has.

B. Pre-classis Fellowship and Discussion

The Executive Committee has again called for an organized discussion time the evening we all arrive. This year we have the distinct privilege of hearing from Attorney Matthew T. Nelson. Mr. Nelson is a member of the OPC in the Grand Rapids area, where he works at the law firm of Warner, Norcross, & Judd, LLP. He will present to us a multimedia presentation on *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in the Church*. He offers his time free of charge, as a ministry to the Lord and His

people. There will be ample time for questions after his presentation, and he welcomes as much discussion as possible. He will only be available on Monday evening, so all delegates and guests (including those from the local congregation) are encouraged to attend this unique opportunity. His presentation will include information about child abuse and related laws for each state where we have congregations. This discussion will run from 7:00-8:15 p.m., on February 28, 2010.

C. Forms for Classis Meeting

The forms necessary for the classis meeting are included with this circular. Please send the clerk the statistical information form, financial record form, and the delegate credential form as soon as possible. In addition to these three forms, please include any pertinent necrologies and overtures.

If your congregation is supervising a mission congregation, please see the declaration on statistical reporting that was approved by Classis (2008 Abstract, 31).

Statistics should be received by FEBRUARY 8 (3 weeks before Classis). Overtures received by that date will be circulated with their supporting grounds so that delegates and their Consistories may consider them before the Classis meets (Standing Rule 14).

Permanent and Special Committee Reports shall be mailed to Consistories by FEBRUARY 8.

Parochial reports shall be sent to President Ron Potter by FEBRUARY 15.

D. Covenant East Classis Youth Camp

Please inform your congregations that camp will run from July 12-15. Brochures to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Ron Potter
Rev. Kyle Sorensen
Elder Bill Borgwardt

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

B. Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Brethren,

Your committee conducted the following business this past year. Pursuant to a request of Redeemer Reformed Church, your committee conducted, by telephone conference, an exam of the Reverend Ryan Kron in Orthodoxy and Intention for the purposes of his being a candidate for an Associate Pastor position pursuant to RCUS Constitution Article 35.

He was examined by the Reverend Ron Potter regarding his family, call, and intent toward the ministry. Reverend Wesley Brice asked questions regarding his orthodoxy (Scriptures, God, Soteriology, eschatology, church government), and invited others to ask questions as well. His exam in orthodoxy and intent exam was sustained and he was thereby approved as a candidate for the Redeemer Reformed Church Associate Pastor.

We remain yours in His service,
Rev. Wesley Brice, Chairman
Rev. Ron Potter
Rev. Jim Sawtelle
Elder Jay Kroese
Rev. Dan Schnabel (ad hoc member)

Classis Action: The report was referred to the
Standing Examination and Licensure Committee.

C. Interchurch Relations

Dear Brothers,

Your committee had a relatively inactive year. We made efforts to maintain our fraternal relationships within the bounds of the classis, but were not able to send delegates to a number of presbytery and classis meetings with fraternal bodies. Letters of greeting were sent to those classes and presbyteries at which we were not able to be present. We received numerous invitations to classis and presbytery meetings this past year, including the CanRC, the OPC presbyteries of Ohio and of the Midwest, the URCNA classis Central and Eastern classis.

However, there were two classis meetings at which delegates from our classis were present. For the first time in many years we were able to get a delegate to our CanRC brothers in Ontario. This was something we wanted to make certain to do and I thank Randy Klynsma for going. As his report indicates, we would do well to continue to attend meetings with the Ontario classes on a regular basis. On a synod level, our Interchurch committees have benefitted from interaction with the CanRC brothers, but many younger ministers in the CanRC do not know us well.

We also delegated Rev. Maynard Koerner to the Classis Eastern US (URCNA) last spring. He was able to bring our greetings and present to them the resolution from our spring meeting regarding the church in Carbondale. These resolutions were well received, praise God, and we are hopeful that progress on a local level in NW PA can now begin to take place. To date we have not heard from Mr. John Arndt Sr. regarding outstanding issues, but we are aware of the efforts of the Carbondale

Consistory to continue to make progress on that front. Your committee would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend our brother Maynard for his efforts to meet with the classis on our behalf.

We also should take note that we had the pleasure of receiving delegates from classis Central US (URCNA) and the Midwest Presbytery of the OPC in 2010.

For the coming year our committee will make every effort to send delegates to classis Central US and the Midwest Presbytery at a minimum. It has been some time since we have had any contact with the presbyteries of the RPCNA. We will make efforts to reestablish communication with them in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James Sawtelle
Rev. Randall Klynsma
Elder Marc Wiersma

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

D. Missions

Dear Brothers:

Since our last report, your Committee conducted a visitation at Bella Vista, AR, and at Waymart, PA. A summary of these and other developments during the year follows:

Bentonville, Arkansas.

Rev. Harvey Opp, Elder Don Larson, from Garner, and Elder Steve Stuebbe, from Manitowoc, met with Rev. Brice and most of the families of Grace Reformed Chapel on January 5-6, 2011. These were individual meetings, rather than a group meeting, as has often been held in the past. Two couples of retirement age are new to the work in the last year. Along with visitors who have been there longer, they are regular in attendance. Also, there are 3 single men who have been attending in the last year. Along with the 3 couples, they are at various stages of learning of the RCUS, and possible membership. Yet, some have hesitancy regarding membership, after having bad experiences in previous denominations. In response, your committee gave assurance that the RCUS does not allow officers to hold exceptions to our creeds, and that we hold to biblical church government, which gives members recourse when theological aberrations or cases of mistreatment are not dealt with properly in any congregation.

All expressed the desire to hear God's word, and that they are pleased with the ministry of Rev. Brice.

The fellowship and prayer time is also a blessing, as they have lunch after each service, and then a time to sing psalms interspersed with prayer time based on God's covenant promises. The most recent couple is a retired RPCNA minister and his wife. They expressed their joy to find a confessional church, where there is oversight of the members. They drive 1½ hours one way to attend! The internet or personal contacts were means by which the new people learned of the chapel.

During the last year, it was determined that the Sunday School time would consider teaching that would be appropriate for a membership class. Church history was considered, and currently the Belgic Confession is being studied. A joy was that 2 children of a member family were the first to be confirmed there, which occurred last summer. Members expressed encouragement in having new regular visitors. This helps to offset the fact that one family moved away in the summer.

It was a great encouragement to your committee, as to the saints in Arkansas, that the Lord answered prayers for Rev. Brice again with his health needs. After several months of chemotherapy, he was declared cancer free. During the treatment time, he only missed being in the pulpit one Lord's Day. He now feels stronger than in the last year, which certainly appears to be the case!

We also met with the steering committee. Elder Bobby Duncan continues to serve the chapel well. One way that was evident is that he led worship when Rev. Brice was weak from cancer treatment. They were also encouraged by those who are new in attendance, and that visitors express gladness in finding a place where false doctrine is not found, and pragmatism will not take precedence over God's word.

The meeting space at the La Quinta Inn, Bentonville, continues to be adequate for the chapel. The management has been very accommodating, and the rent is quite reasonable. Still, to have their own building where their name would be listed 24/7 is, of course, desired. However, they do not have the income to afford a mortgage.

In the last year, some expenditures were reduced, such as cutting back on their Reformed Conference costs, and the special yellow page ad, noting that most of the new contacts come through their web site. Yet, the Lord's blessing is seen in that offerings have been very good, and tithing is common. With increased giving in the last months, they only had a \$600 deficit over the year, since the Garner congregation paid half of the work's Synod guideline for 2010. They have made good effort to become self-supporting, as soon as they are able. The offerings from the 8 families on the roll, and the visitors totaled just under \$45,000. Also, the work received a \$5,000 anonymous gift which they were able to add to their building fund.

The care from the Garner congregation is appreciated by the people, as was the visitation. The time there was one of good fellowship

again. Many thanks were expressed to the Classis and Synod – for the support in prayers and finances. Your committee reviewed the oversight report from the Garner consistory, and we seek continued support for the Arkansas work. The steering committee and consistory agreed to a reduction of 5% of original support from both Classis and Synod.

Waymart, PA.

On November 30 - December 1, 2010, committee members Rev. Harvey Opp and Napoleon Elder Ken Armbruster met with the members of Heritage Reformed Chapel in Waymart. Rev. Steve Altman also visited as representative of the overseeing congregation, Peace RCUS of Napoleon. Rev. Opp met with one family, which could only do so before the other visitors arrived. All but two families were available thereafter, and were interviewed, inquiring about various issues in the state of the church, and in their lives. Two members of the steering committee were met with individually. Health and/or work issues hindered the two families from meeting with us. (One member who has recently moved to England was also not available for a visit.)

In the various meetings, it is again clear that the members have a love for the Lord and His word. All expressed an appreciation for the teaching and preaching of Rev. Potter. Questions raised are answered well, and the teaching was described as “thorough”. Continuing hunger for God’s word was expressed, as well as a growing appreciation for the RCUS, as the doctrines of the Biblical Reformed faith are taught. Catechetical studies for the whole church continue on Sunday morning, which all see as beneficial. On alternate Sunday evenings the men continue to study Calvin’s Institutes, and review the morning sermons. At those times, the Ladies Fellowship studies J. I. Good’s *Famous Women of the Reformed Church*. The Wednesday evening church study has followed apologetics with a study on the cults. There are also monthly church fellowship meals, after services in which the Lord’s Supper is observed. We encouraged communication between the various families at those meal times. The common expression is that the congregation has good fellowship, and no problems were seen. Reports were given of good hospitality in the congregation. This was said to be a means of inviting new people. Tasks taken on by various members were mentioned, when we inquired of such. Meeting in the lower level of the PCUSA church, in Waymart, has continued to be adequate, and the kitchen has enabled meals there.

Tammy Johnson, who began the local CareNet, was married this summer, and moved to England. However, she may be returning to the U. S., if her husband enters seminary here. Rhonda Wright said she has been blessed by the pastoral ministry of Rev. Potter, since her first husband, Steve, died almost 2 years ago. This summer, she also married

Dan Wright, the brother of Steve. Dan is one of three adults who became members in 2010. He has been a blessing as a husband, as a stepfather to Daniel, and as a church member. Dave and Sharon Smith are a couple who joined early in 2010. A son, Nat Capwell, has joined in the last month. One issue for the members is that a number have gone through job changes, and need greater income stability. Several of the husbands do handyman work.

Rev. Potter also gave his assessment of the congregation, which has been a chapel of Classis since 2003. He states that it has all worked well, especially since the people are hungry for the word of God. Those who have joined in the last 2 years have helped the congregation to have a more outward look, even to invite people door-to-door, as some have done in Waymart. Currently, there are 21 communicants (an increase of 4 since a year ago) and 7 covenant children. Oversight of the work continues to come from the Napoleon Consistory, to which Rev. Potter gives monthly reports, including an internet meeting via Skype. He did enjoy longer vacation time at one stretch, this year, as was advised by the committee in the past. Rev. Potter reports no “burn out”. He and wife, Sharon, both express much contentment there in northeast PA. They desire to see the RCUS expand along the eastern coast of the country.

Rev. Potter continues to supplement his income with fine furniture repair and restoration. He also received a very helpful salary increase, as urged by the committee last year. Also, the congregation has paid most of their guidelines to the denomination. Lower rent in the current building has helped with this. Last year’s three year budget was reviewed with Rev. Potter. The new budget has been forwarded to the committee. Our overall conclusion is that the Lord has blessed the work in Waymart in a number of ways in the past year! And the time with Rev. Potter and Sharon was an occasion to enjoy wonderful hospitality. Your committee recommends continued support for the work at Waymart.

Coopersburg, PA.

A preliminary assessment of the work in the Coopersburg area was done in the afternoon and evening of Dec. 1st. This involved the missions visitors to Waymart, as listed above, along with Rev. Ron Potter. We were first welcomed to the home of a previous elder of the work, Mr. Steve Corsello. Mr. Don Buysee, an elder of the overseeing congregation, in Gettysburg, was also present. Questions as for overseeing elders were asked of these men, and the following history was described.

The Coopersburg work was begun in July 2000, with preaching supplied by the former pastor of Sovereign Grace Church, Gettysburg. In time, 3 elders were on the scene. Yet, the training of those Coopersburg

elders was lacking regarding church government and dealing with sin in the congregation. The result was that “basics of the Christian faith” were not manifested as ought to have been, as in lack of teaching regarding sanctification, and living it out. Authority of elders in confronting sin was not uniformly respected, and there was disunity among the officers. Family visitation was pleaded for, yet only one occurred. Thereafter, along with the leaving of most of the families several years ago, the elders resigned. Two of these men and their families remain in the work, along with 2 other adults. There was some disagreement among them with the Gettysburg session’s discipline of those who left. Thankfully, since our meeting, communication by the session has led to repentance and reconciliation.

In the evening, we met with the remaining people, at the Passer Community Center, the location for their services. It is an older structure, that seemed rather remote. In any case, some history of the various members was obtained, church background, etc. Missions visitation questions, including those derived from our missions manual, had been sent beforehand to these members. We reviewed such, asking for any questions, and explained RCUS positions. They were familiar with most of this, since the Gettysburg congregation supplies the elders who have exhorted at Coopersburg for several years. Also, the Gettysburg church has had several of our ministers teach their congregation for some weeks in the spring of 2010, and they are using the Three Forms of Unity in services, etc.

There was extended discussion regarding how we view Arminianism. While agreeing that we do not want to call such “Christian error”, we still maintained that Christians can be under this error, while relying on the atoning work of God, in Christ, though the “free will” falsehood is inconsistent with that faith. How else are we to explain the multitudes believing they made a “free will” choice of Christ, when they felt the persuasion of the gospel, and who appear to be living sincerely for God? In any case, further discussion and clarification, over time, may be helpful.

Although the group meeting in the Coopersburg area is small, it was said there are 50,000 - 100,000 people living with a 20 minute radius. A solidly established reformed church would be a great blessing in that area, which is rife with theological liberalism, Roman Catholicism, and other false religion. Understandably, the members are reluctant at this point to make any commitment to the RCUS, as the Gettysburg church is still in the process of proceeding toward RCUS membership. Overall, it was very good to have fellowship with these brothers and sisters in Christ! May the good Lord guide them and us, as to any future mission work in that area.

Minneapolis Metro Area.

Revs. Harvey Opp and Dan Schnabel and Elder Don Larson met with the Consistory of Redeemer RCUS, on January 24, 2011, to hear of progress in this new mission. In the fall of 2010, a major step forward took place in this long-desired work. That is, Rev. Ryan Kron was licensed by Classis, and he and his family moved to Minneapolis Oct. 31st. He had been serving in the URCNA, in Boise, ID. His call from Redeemer is to serve as an associate pastor to begin the new mission work. The congregation is very much in favor of this work, expressing excitement about it, and offering many prayers.

Rev. Kron and Rev. Jim Sawtelle alternate on conducting and preaching for the morning and evening services of Redeemer. They meet together for prayer each week. Both talk to people in the church as to what is needed for this mission to go forth. The plan is to seek 10 committed and mature families to have a core group “that doesn’t polarize or ostracize”. So, far there are 3 families committed to the work in the south metro area. Therefore, the Eden Prairie area appears to be the locality that will be focused upon. It was also noted that after a recent church closure, there are no other NAPARC churches south of I-494, in the metro area.

A Bible study is just beginning in two locations, in member’s homes. The book, ‘The God Who is There’, by D.A. Carson is to be used, which teaches on the attributes of God, as to new believers or to unchurched people. Friends and unbelievers will be invited. As for other ‘strategies’, the ‘Church Planter Manual’, by Tim Keller, is being studied, as used by the PCA in New York City. Rev. Kron has also been speaking with others in the ministry for input on church planting.

A separate web site for the metro work is being developed. Advertising is envisioned with internet ads, Facebook, and radio. Newspaper articles, pastoral associations, and police chaplaincy are seen as avenues of outreach, etc. As for an eventual meeting place, a school building may be considered, as that worked out for Redeemer for a number of years.

As for finances, the support from Classis and Synod began at the end of October, \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year respectively, from monies set aside for new works. Redeemer has also contributed \$10,000 for the first year to this work as they had planned. The Lord was provided well with the housing needs of Rev. Kron and family (wife Colleen, and child Isaiah) with a very nice house, rented in south Minneapolis for a very reasonable rent. Also, their home in Idaho is being rented to family members of the pastor whom Ryan had worked with there. The rent is covering the mortgage, while they wait for a future sale of that house.

Your committee was glad to learn of these beginning steps in the new metro work. We also think that the financial support for the work

should continue from existing Classis funds, and that most of that amount can be replenished with a \$30 guideline for new mission work, as was set last year.

Inquiry from people in the Richmond, KY area.

An inquiry has been received as to RCUS interest in starting a new mission work in the Richmond, KY area, just south of Lexington. Mr. John Pierce, who was an elder in our Cincinnati mission work years ago, made contact on behalf of 11 adults, who would like to discuss the possibility of a new RCUS work. There are no other Reformed churches in Richmond, where these people reside, a town of about 30,000 people. Lexington, to the north 20 miles, is close to 300,000 in population.

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Gene Caldwell are to be at our Classis Spring Meeting as representatives of the interested group. Your committee will seek time to meet with them.

Strategic Plan for Missions

In fulfillment of the Synod requirement for each Classis to develop and annually update a 3-5 year plan for its mission endeavors, we offer the following:

1. We look for our Bentonville mission work to be close to self-supporting within that time frame, as it is nearing the 10 year point of support.
2. We look for a solid mission work to be developed in the south end of the Metro Minneapolis area, which could be at half support in that time frame.
3. We look for our Classis work in Waymart, PA to be close to self-supporting within that time frame.
4. We hope to start at least one other mission work in that time frame.

The Missions Committee brings the following recommendations:

1. That Classis provide Grace Reformed Chapel of NW Arkansas with \$780 per month, through March 2012, a total of \$9,360 for 12 months. [This is a reduction of \$720 for 2011, a 5% decrease from 2010.]
2. That Classis overture Synod to provide Grace Reformed Chapel of NW Arkansas, with \$5,040 in fiscal year 2012. [This is a reduction of \$720 for 2012, a 5% decrease from 2011.]

3. That Classis continue to support the Metro Minneapolis work with \$30,000 in 2011, from existing set aside funds, as needed.
4. That Classis overture Synod to provide the Metro Minneapolis work with a total of \$40,000 in fiscal year 2011, and \$40,000 in fiscal year 2012, from existing set aside funds, as needed.
5. That Classis provide Heritage Reformed Chapel of Waymart, PA with \$350 per month from April 2011 through March 2012, a total of \$4,200 for 12 months for rental costs, if needed. [Rev. Potter's request for benevolent aid for life and medical insurance, etc., should be considered by Benevolences.]
6. That Classis designate a \$30 guideline, to help replenish the fund for new mission works.
7. That Classis take note of the Missions Committee's proposed Strategic Plan for 3-5 years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Harvey Opp, chairman
Rev. Dan Schnabel
Elder Ken Armbruster
Elder Don Larson
Elder Steve Stuebbe

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Missions Committee.

E. Publications

No committee was formed for this year.

Reports of Officers

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

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

As I read the parochial reports of our Ministers of Covenant East Classis the words of the apostle John occurred to me as perhaps the most concise way of expressing my initial response to those reports: **3 John 4** "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." In recording this verse in my report to you I by no means want to leave the opinion that the churches of classis are the children of the President of Classis. Rather what I am seeking to emphasize is that the churches of Classis are indeed walking in the truth and that this is an occasion for great joy when it comes time for the annual report to Classis on the State of the Church by the President.

The parochial reports reveal that the churches of Classis are spiritually healthy and growing in grace. This does not mean that they are without their struggles from time to time, especially when it comes to the application of discipline to sinning members, and the fallout from that, or to attempting to reclaim those whose love for Christ has grown cold and who resist the entreaties of family members or their overseers. But it does mean that these disciplinary or reclaiming efforts are engaged in according to the truth of God's Word thus reflecting on the faithfulness of our churches to the third mark of a true church (Belgic 29). That is a ground for great joy! Too often the modern church does not manifest faithfulness to the truth in its responsibilities to the erring, the sinning or the slackers. It is a joy to hear that our Classis churches are indeed walking in the truth in these regards.

According to the reports of the Covenant East Classis Ministers the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed by His called servants both in the formal worship services of the churches, the youth activities, the various gender related bible studies, the Sunday school classes and in various mid-week bible studies and prayer meetings thus evidencing the first mark of a true church. What also characterizes these reports is the joy our Ministers have in ministering the Word in some cases even in the midst of personal struggles with health or the death of a family member or the personal injuries of family members that can so distract a Minister. With rare exception our Ministers have not missed a scheduled Lord's Day in the pulpit even when undergoing some serious health problems. Our Ministers are also faithfully involved in catechetical instruction, in counseling, in the administration of the sacraments. Some are using radio ministry to get the Word of God out. Others are making use of the Internet. Still other pastors are finding prison or police involvement to be a means to further the proclamation of the gospel.

The parochial reports of the Ministers also reveal the faithful administration of the sacraments according to the second mark of the true church. Baptisms have been administered according to our Forms and the Lord's Supper has been regularly served according the schedules of the individual churches.

There is encouraging evidence of more and more participation by office bearers, both Elders and Deacons, in the life of the congregations they serve. This is manifest in the definitive direction given to congregations in support of the Ministry of the Word, as assistance is given to the Minister in visitation, as the Word is ministered from house to house, in hospitals or nursing homes and other venues, and it is manifest in the disciplinary process as Spiritual Councils fulfill their responsibilities to walk in the truth. In addition the ministry to benevolent needs by the diaconate ministry evidences their participation as well.

The reports reveal an earnest prayerful desire to beseech the LORD for the needs of the church but also that He will add to the church such as are being saved. We have not drifted into thinking that we can build the church apart from the grace of God. The dependence of our churches upon the Lord's blessing for their provision and growth and not upon novel pop techniques again illustrates the desire to walk in the truth for without Him we can do nothing.

The reports indicate the mourning of some churches over the loss of senior saints who were called to glory in 2010 and in one case the loss of a young soldier, a member of one of our churches, who was killed in military service in Afghanistan. These recorded deaths remind us of our mortality and of the vital importance of walking in the truth of the gospel if we would be assured that when the Lord calls we will be translated to glory. As Classis we offer our condolences to the families of those who have lost loved ones in 2010.

The parochial reports go on to indicate that the churches of Classis are, for the most part, financially stable. The recession has resulted in a noticeable down turn in the giving to smaller churches, particularly our mission works. An anonymous gift given to existing mission works in our Classis has helped at least one of our mission churches, the hardest hit, weather the economic down turn. Our larger more established churches seem to be weathering the economic crisis well and in fact one reports an increase in giving. For these financial blessings we thank our LORD.

In April of 2010 after sustaining Classis exams for licensure and ordination in March, the ordination and installation of Rev. Steve Altman at Peace RCUS, Napoleon OH took place with a large group of visitors in attendance. In addition the Rev. Ryan Kron, ordained in the URCNA and a former associate Pastor in a URCNA church in Boise, Idaho, sustained classical exams at the Fall meeting of Classis and was installed in December at Redeemer RCUS in Golden Valley MN in preparation for the establishment of a mission work of the RCUS in the south metro area of Minneapolis. We are thankful to our LORD for the addition of these men of God to our Classis (not to mention the fact that it increases the pool from which your President draws the Standing Committees of Classis). The fruits of the labours of these men are already evident in their respective venues of service.

Increasingly over the years Covenant East Classis has developed a healthy home mission's consciousness. This does not appear to be abating any time soon. At present we have home missions works in Bentonville, Arkansas, in Waymart, Pennsylvania and at present, a beginning work in the Minneapolis area.. In addition the Executive Committee of Classis has been in contact with a family in South Carolina and a representative of a small group in Richmond, KY who have shown

interest in the RCUS. Though no fruit has yet been born from these contacts it does illustrate the continuing attempt of the various Ministers and Elders of Classis to leave no inquiry unanswered in the quest for those who would seek to walk in the truth with us.

The Executive Committee of Classis, with the assistance of Rev. Jim Sawtelle, has also been working with Sovereign Grace Church, an independent church in Gettysburg, PA who 4 years ago began to show interest in the RCUS. We have, at our Classis meetings, been visited by either an elder or elders from this congregation and this year is no exception. Elder Les Morton will represent Sovereign Grace. Contact with Sovereign Grace Church was, at their request, ramped up this year as we facilitated the teaching and preaching ministry of several RCUS Ministers in Gettysburg, inclusive of Rev. Pollema, Rev. Koerner, Rev. Clark, Rev. Fluck and Rev. Potter. The recent call of Rev. Fluck to be their pastor and thus to labour outside the bounds of Classis, has taken the possible union of Sovereign Grace Church to the RCUS to a higher level. Our Home Missions Committee also visited the Coopersburg, PA area in December of 2010 to interact with a small group of Reformed people affiliated with Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg. This was at the request of the Gettysburg Session.

An additional item from the reports that stood out was the consciousness of our Ministers and Elders to enable the raising up of students for the ministry. Though one potential candidate as a student to be taken under care withdrew from a desire to pursue ministry the Classis will have one request before it at this session for a student to be taken under care and it is expected that a second request to be taken under care will be forthcoming at Spring Classis 2012. There is also the possibility of a third a year or two down the road. This consciousness determination to prayerfully encourage potential candidates to pursue studies with a view to Ministry in the RCUS is what will ensure that in the generations to follow us (and some of us are aging) there will be able men upon whom the mantle of Ministry in the RCUS will fall, who will continue to facilitate our congregations walk in the truth.

Covenant East Classis has one retired Minister on its rolls, the Rev. Chester Ploeger who faithfully served several churches in the RCUS over the years. Rev. Ploeger remains in the nursing home in Garner, Iowa. He suffers from Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's requiring complete care. His wife, Grace has an apartment in an adjoining assisted living unit. Most of her daytime hours are spent with "Ches." The Ploeger's retirement years have been marked by their regular praying for the churches of the RCUS. Classis churches are reminded to now keep the Ploeger's in their prayers before the throne of grace.

Last but certainly not least, let me acknowledge the great contributions made by the faithful wives of our Ministers, our Elders and

our Deacons to the furtherance of the proclamation of the truth. They are not expressly mentioned in most of the reports but it needs to be publically acknowledged that without their prayers, counsel, co-operation with erratic schedules and participation with us, the labours of office bearers would be much more difficult than it is. The court of this church is thankful to our Lord for them and for their co-labouring alongside us as we labour to walk in the truth.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Ron Potter

Classis Action:

The report was to be spread in the official minutes, printed in the Abstract of the Minutes, and submitted to the *Reformed Herald*.

B. Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Following the 2010 Spring Classis Meeting the minutes of the 25th Annual Meeting of the Covenant East Classis were typed, indexed, and placed in a permanent binder with all reports, overtures, and relevant information. The minor exceptions which Synod took upon reviewing our minutes have been duly amended where possible. The President's Report on the State of the Church was printed in the abstract and sent to the *Reformed Herald*. The 2010 Abstract was prepared and copies were printed and distributed to the churches at Synod in compliance with the synodical standing rule #10. All of the requisite forms and communications were sent to the clerk of Synod along with the overtures from our Classis. I also discovered some old Classis files on disk from Rev. Donald Vance when he was Stated Clerk. They were on a zip-disk and it took some searching but I found someone with a computer that had such a drive, so I could transfer them onto the Classis memory stick.

In addition two Executive Circulars were sent out this year. As Clerk, I also served as the administrator of various papers and communications which the Executive Committee exchanged with the Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA.

Together with the President of Classis, I planned out the discussions and researched study materials to handout in advance of our Fall Classis meeting on October 4-5, 2010. In addition to the paperwork and minutes taken for that meeting, I handled the relevant paperwork on behalf of Classis to receive and license Rev. Ryan Kron from the URCNA into our Classis.

For this meeting, your clerk did receive all of the credential and statistical information, though some of these were received very late. A few errors in addition or division were discovered in the statistics, but the clerk's calculator had no difficulty fixing these. I need to comment on

the way you send the statistics. I need the hard copy by the due date. Scanned and e-mailed documents are NOT acceptable for statistic and credential forms. The pen or pencil simply does not scan in clearly enough. I could barely make out several numbers on the stats which I received only by e-mail. I do think that if I continue to receive reports and statistics in violation of Standing Rules #2 and 14, Classis should consider instructing the Clerk to publicly list the offenders in the Minutes. Gentlemen, it takes time to work through potential errors, and then contact you regarding any discrepancies. Also, the clerk cannot guarantee that he will be able to wait to complete all his reports and statistics until the last day or two before classis. He has other responsibilities in the local church, and must schedule these in the weeks leading up to Classis as well.

I have also put some thought into how we can effectively handle the approval of minutes since we have followed Synod's lead in abolishing the practice of reading minutes during the full session. I don't have any final answers, and appreciate everyone's patience and input as we strive to do things decently and in order.

Two necrologies have been received at this writing. Please submit any more necrologies as soon as possible for publishing in the 2011 Abstract.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kyle Sorensen

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

The President passed out to delegates from each congregation a copy of the official documentation from the Synod Stated Clerk that each congregation is a member of the RCUS, for tax law and legal purposes.

C. Report of the Executive Committee of Synod

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 264th Synod, there are no resolutions that are directed to the various Classes for a vote this year.

There are some items that the classes should take note of:

A. "Because direct contributions to foreign mission works may have unintended consequences, the churches and the members are encouraged to make contributions through the foreign missions committee and keep the committee informed of any direct contributions." (263rd Synod Abstract p. 68, #13)

B. Classes should take note of the corrections that should be made to their minutes as adopted by the Synod. (264th Synod Abstract pp. 95-96)

C. That the stated clerk of each Classis regularly provide the webmaster, in electronic form, an updated roll of ministers, elders, and churches following their spring meeting of Classis.

D. Note the following change to the Synodical fiscal year: "That the fiscal year of the Reformed Church in the United States be changed to begin July 1, and end on June 30, of each year. That the budget authorized by the 264th Synod continue on a monthly pro rata basis from February 1, 2010 until June 30, 2011 in order to adjust to this change." (264th Synod Abstract p. 90)

Notice also the resulting change in the Standing Rules of Synod, #1, which affect "synodical dues" (I believe "guideline" was in mind here): "The synodical dues shall be due on the 1st of June and are to be paid not later than the 30th of June of the current fiscal year."

Also, according to what we passed at Synod, membership statistics remain according to the calendar year, ending on December 31 of the year. (264th Synod Abstract p. 90) I will assume that the financial statistics will also be for the calendar year.

Synod did not recommend that the individual Classes also change their fiscal year to coordinate with the Synodical fiscal year. However, for the sake of meaningful statistics and greater unity in financial matters, it would be well if each of the four classes would consider making this change. Wisdom would dictate that all the classes do the same thing, as it would only increase confusion if some made the change and some did not. It might be well to have a provisional vote on this matter to bring to the next Synod in order to coordinate all the classes.

E. The Classes are reminded that the 265th Annual Session of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States is scheduled to meet May 16-19, 2011, at Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD.

In the Lord's Service,
Rev. Paul Treick, Stated Clerk for the Executive Committee of Synod

Classis Action:

The report was referred to the Standing Minutes of Synod Committee.

D. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Elder Jim Drewes, presented the following report.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

It was also audited by the Standing Finances Committee and found to be in order.

2010 Fund Balances

<u>Balance 2/1/10</u>			<u>\$ 86,269.39</u>
General Fund	Balance 2/1/10	\$ 7,501.37	
Receipts		\$ 6,994.30	
Expenses		\$ 8,254.85	
Balance 1/31/11		\$ 6,240.82	
*Missions Fund	Balance 2/1/10	\$ 77,607.82	
Receipts		\$ 39,260.00	
Expenses		\$ 27,321.81	
Balance 1/31/11		\$ 89,546.01	
*NOTE: This fund includes \$54,930 available for future CEC mission works:			
<u>INCOME</u> in 2006 (\$8,360), 2007 (\$15,520), 2008(\$15,240), 2009 (\$23,160), 2010 (\$22,650) = \$84,930			
<u>EXPENSE</u> in 2010 for metro-Minneapolis: \$30,000			
Benevolence Fund	Balance 2/1/10	\$ 1,160.20	
Receipts		\$ 6,795.00	
Expenses		\$ 2,880.00	
Balance 1/31/11		\$ 5,075.20	
Student Aid Fund	Balance 2/1/10	\$ 0.00	
Receipts		\$ 0.00	
Expenses		\$ 0.00	
Balance 1/31/11		\$ 0.00	
<u>Balance 1/31/11</u>			<u>\$ 100,862.03</u>

2010 Detailed Income Report

	<u>Guideline</u>	\$9.00	\$52.00	\$9.00		
	<u>Members</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Bentonville, AR	17	\$252.17	\$884.00	\$153.00	\$1,190.00	\$1,289.17
Garner, IA	101	\$909.00	\$5,252.00	\$909.00	\$7,070.00	\$7,070.00
Golden Valley,	100	\$900.00	\$5,200.00	\$900.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Hamburg, MN	211	\$1,899.00	\$10,972.00	\$1,899.00	\$14,770.00	\$14,770.00
Kansas City,	52	\$468.00	\$2,704.00	\$468.00	\$3,640.00	\$3,640.00
Manitowoc, WI	204	\$1,836.00	\$10,608.00	\$1,836.00	\$14,280.00	\$14,280.00
Napoleon, OH	<u>70</u>	<u>\$630.00</u>	<u>\$3,640.00</u>	<u>\$630.00</u>	<u>\$4,900.00</u>	\$4,900.00
Totals	755	\$ 6,894.17	\$39,260.00	\$ 6,795.00	\$2,850.00	\$2,949.17
Other income and interest						\$100.13
Income Total						\$ 53,049.30

2010 Detailed Expense Report

General Fund Expense

Spring Classis Meeting	\$2,808.75
Clerk/Printing & supplies	\$1,125.39
Travel	\$3,772.37
Honorarium	\$500.00
Postage/Phone/Conf Calls	\$48.34
Total	\$8,254.85

Mission Fund Expense

Grace Reformed Chapel	\$10,080.00
Heritage Reformed Chapel	\$4,200.00
Redeemer Mission (\$18,750 owed from CEC missions set aside fund)	\$11,250.00
Travel	\$1,791.81
Total	\$27,321.81

Benevolence

Mr. Jimmy Hall (student under care)	\$2,880.00
Total	\$2,880.00

Expense Total **\$38,456.66**

Total Classis Income vs Expense 2010 **\$ 14,592.64**

Respectfully submitted, Jim Drewes, Treasurer

Parochial Reports of Ministers

Each minister read his parochial report. Opportunity was given for delegates to ask questions about any report. Prayer was then offered for each of the pastors, elders, and their charges after their report was read.

Classis Action: The classis took note of each report.

Constitutional Questions to the Elders

The President addressed the questions found in article 81 of the RCUS Constitution to the elder delegates of each congregation. A brief time of further questions for the elders followed the official answers found below:

1. Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?
All answered "Yes."
2. Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?
All answered "Yes."
3. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation:
 - a. Is visitation faithfully performed?
All answered "Yes," except Kansas City answered "Partially."
 - 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."
 - d. Are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?
All answered "Yes."
6. Are the Church records properly kept?
All answered "Yes."

7a. Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?

All answered "Yes."

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

All answered "Yes."

Membership and Financial Statistics

The Stated Clerk provided a table of statistics based on information submitted by the churches of classis (see Appendix #2, pages 45-46 of this abstract).

Reports from Classis Delegates to Fraternal Bodies

The Classis Eastern U.S. of the URCNA was visited in March 2010 by Rev. Maynard Koerner on behalf of our classis. The Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches was visited in March 2010 by Rev. Randall Klynsmas.

Classis Eastern US of the URCNA

Meeting at West Sayville, NY, March 3, 2010.

I was well received by the Classis and the Interchurch Relations committee. I delivered the letter from Covenant East Classis to the members present from the Consistory of Covenant Reformed Church, Carbondale, PA. They were very pleased and thankful to receive it.

The Classis adopted the following recommendation of their Interchurch Relations Committee.

In an effort to honor our fraternal relations with the RCUS, Classis Eastern US urges the Council of Covenant Reformed Church and Mr. John Arendt Sr. to acknowledge error in failing to properly respond to the discipline taken by Covenant East Classis RCUS as requested in their correspondence dated May 19, 2009. Furthermore, Classis Eastern US commends the Covenant Reformed congregation for their willingness to resolve past issues with the Covenant East Classis RCUS and encourages them and Mr. John Arendt Sr. to continue pursuing and working out greater resolution.

Following the adoption of the above recommendation I was given an opportunity to address the assembly. I brought greetings and read from Matthew 16:13-20. I commented on the importance of denominations recognizing each other's discipline. I also read the letter which the Interchurch Relations Committee of Covenant East Classis, RCUS instructed me to read. I also personally handed the letter to the clerk. I informed the assembly of the exchange of letters which had taken place between the Consistory of Covenant Reformed Church of Carbondale, PA, and the Covenant East Classis, RCUS, and that there was no longer an impediment to the congregation being received into the URCNA.

This was received with great joy and relief. The body assured me that they were very pleased that this had occurred and looked forward to working more closely with the Covenant East Classis in the future. They genuinely seemed quite pleased to receive the information which I delivered to them.

I was able to observe as they dealt with several overtures. There was some discussion concerning guidelines for responding to churches who inquire about the URCNA as well as guidelines for church planting.

I trust that I was faithful in carrying out the assignment which was given to me by the Covenant East Classis.

Respectfully submitted,
Maynard Koerner

Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I attended meeting of Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches on Wednesday March 24, 2010, held at the Grace Can Reformed Church in Kerwood, ONT.

I was warmly received and both extended and received fraternal greetings. They were most appreciative of my presence and interested to hear about our history and labors. I was struck at the large number of young ministers in the classis, several of which indicated I was their first direct contact with the RCUS.

As part of the business conducted there were four third year seminary students seeking permission "to speak an edifying word." As part of this trial they were to write and then deliver a sermon on an assigned passage, and then if their sermon was judged satisfactory be questioned on an assigned head of doctrine and related confessional standards. Of the four students three were given permission to speak an edifying word to the churches. For those who might be curious, this is the first of three trials or examinations for ordination.

In the course of my visit I sensed our common commitment to the Reformed faith and the desire to see the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ become more manifest. Among the notable distinctions is their practice of holding four classis and one regional synod per year and a general synod once every three years. Also as business would be transacted, it was not by motions, seconds and votes, but by common consent. The president would often say prior to concluding a matter, does anyone object? It was also interesting to note that they accomplish most if not all of their work without committees.

I am grateful that I was able to make this trip and enjoy the fellowship with these brothers.

Your Brother and fellow servant in Christ,
Rev. Randall Klynsma

Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Bodies and Visitors

Rev. Harold Miller, of Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches of North America, brought fraternal greetings. A time for questions from the delegates followed.

Rev. Wes Bredenhof, of Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches, brought fraternal greetings. A time for questions from the delegates followed. Sawtelle led the body in prayer for both of the fraternal delegates and their respective churches.

The clerk read a letter of fraternal greetings which had been received from the Fraternal Relations Committee of the Classis Eastern US of the URCNA.

Ray Schnabel give an update on Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Examination of Candidates for the Ministry

The president introduced Rev. Jay Fluck, candidate for examination in accordance with Classis Standing Rule #20. After reading the rule, Rev. Wes Brice, Chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, conducted the exam. Questions were asked from the floor. The exam was sustained by a motion from the floor.

Reports of Special Committees

A. Special Committee to Install Rev. Steven Altman

Please be advised that the ordination and installation of Licentiate Steve Altman took place at 6:00 PM April 18th, 2010 at Peace RCUS, Napoleon, Ohio. Rev. Ron Potter led the service. Rev. Wesley Brice gave the charge to the congregation. Rev. Ron Potter gave the charge to Mr. Altman. The ordination and installation was conducted by Rev. Potter with the laying on of hands by Rev. Brice, Rev. Potter and the active and inactive elders of the Napoleon church. ARPC Pastor Benjamin Wilford, who has been serving the sacraments to the church was present and also participated in the laying on of hands.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Ron Potter, chairman
Rev. Wes Brice
Elder Mark Honeck

B. Special Committee to Install Rev. Ryan Kron

The best laid plans of mice and men go oft' awry. This saying is attributed to the good old Scottish poet Bobby Burns. But it was borrowed recently by the good old Dutch preacher Reverend Herman Van Stedum at the December 5, 2010 installation service of Rev. Ryan Kron in Minneapolis, MN.

Rev. Kron has been called by Redeemer Reformed Church (RCUS) in Minneapolis to lead the effort of starting a mission work in the Twin Cities. A committee of classis made up of the elders of Redeemer, Rev. Dan Schnabel and Rev. Herman Van Stedum were appointed to oversee and conduct the installation service. It was to be a festive Sunday, on which the church would hold its regular Sunday School period and morning worship service, followed by a potluck lunch, and a 1 pm installation service. These were the best laid plans...

Things went awry when the Lord in His providence sent a snow storm that began December 3 at around 11 pm and continued until around 11 pm December 4, leaving anywhere from 13 to 20 inches of snow in the metro area. The problem was not that Rev. Van Stedum couldn't make the trip from his home in Harrisburg, SD to Minneapolis. A veteran of many a Midwest winter snow storm, Herman and his wife Phyllis wisely decided to travel to the Twin Cities Friday night to get ahead of the

storm. After staying the night in a cheap (this is Herman Van Stedum we are talking about after all) hotel room near their destination, the Van Stedum's drove the last few miles to the home of Redeemer's pastor and wife, Jim and Thelma Sawtelle. A block from the parsonage the Van Stedum's got stuck in the rising snow drifts. Forty five minutes later we got them safely parked in the garage. I must say we might never have made it without Herman's wise and encouraging words of advice to Sawtelle on how to shovel and when to push the van, all the while smoking his pipe in a snow storm.

No, the problem was that the snow plows could not keep up with the snow around the city streets and neighborhoods, and wind chills were in the 25 degrees below zero range. The elders called off the morning services at Redeemer, and called a 2 pm service of worship and the installation of Rev. Kron. Thankfully, many of Redeemer's members were able to shovel out their driveways and make it through their neighborhoods to attend the worship service. Rev. Schnabel was able to make the drive from Hamburg, MN. So we were all ready and waiting at the church. But where was Rev. Kron? He couldn't get out of his south Minneapolis neighborhood. He and his wife Colleen had to walk two blocks through the snow with their three month old baby Isaiah (barefoot and uphill no doubt) to get to a plowed road near their home. The Krons were to get a ride with Ryan's parents. But where were they? It seems they had gotten into a minor accident trying to get to Ryan and Colleen. Meanwhile back at the church, Pastor Sawtelle was asking the organist to play another round of "We Shall Overcome."

Thankfully, the Krons made it safely to an installation service we will never forget. Rev. Schnabel led the service, Rev. Van Stedum preached a charge to both the congregation and the new pastor from John 21:15-25, using the question of our Lord from the text: "*Do You Love Me?*" The message was both convicting and wonderfully edifying. The congregation of Redeemer followed the installation with a day of fasting and prayer for God's blessing upon Rev. Kron and this effort to start a new congregation in which the gospel might be proclaimed, God would be worshiped in Spirit and in Truth, disciples might be made, and God's kingdom come in the hearts of many.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. James Sawtelle, chairman

Reports of Standing Committees

The following reports with their motions appear in the final form in which classis adopted them, unless otherwise noted. Thus, the reports listed here include any amendments and additional motions made from the floor to the standing committee's report. The first name listed is the chairman of the standing committee.

A. Benevolences

1. That Covenant East Classis overture the RCUS Synod for benevolent aid in the amount of \$450 per month for Synodical year 2011 to assist with life insurance, medical insurance, and medical costs for Rev. Ron Potter.

2. That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month for Synodical Year 2011.
3. That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Rev. and Mrs. Chester Ploeger in the amount of \$1,400 per month for Synodical Year 2011.

Altman, Honeck, Kroells

B. Examination and Licensure

1. That Classis establish a \$4.00 per communicant member guideline for student aid in anticipation of future students for the ministry being taken under care of classis.

Brice, Kroese, Potter, Sawtelle

C. Excuses

1. That both elders from Salem Ebenezer RCUS in Manitowoc, WI, be excused from all sessions.

Altman, Honeck, Kroells

D. Finances

1. We have audited the Treasurer's reports and find them in order.
2. That travel reimbursement for this classis meeting be as follows:

Brice	\$225.00
Altman	\$744.00
Schnabel	\$470.00
Sorensen	\$440.16
Fluck	\$338.50
Potter	\$344.80
Kron	\$20.00
Sawtelle	\$20.00
Opp	<u>\$85.00</u>

TOTAL **\$2,687.46**

3. That the classis adopt the following guidelines:
GENERAL Fund \$ 9.00

MISSIONS Fund	\$52.00
<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>	<u>\$ 9.00</u>
TOTAL GUIDELINE	\$70.00

Standing Rule #1 by replacing “February” with “July” and the three occurrences of “January” with “June.”

Kron, Altman, Honeck

A motion from the floor was passed that the Treasurer of Classis send a letter to all the Consistories explaining the change to the new fiscal year.

E. Judicial

1. That the Classis find the call in order [from Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA to Rev. Jay Fluck] and approve the terms of the call, and that Rev. Jay Fluck be added to the roll of Covenant East Classis.
2. That the Rev. Jay Fluck be granted permission to labor outside the bounds of Classis.
3. That Classis overture the Synod to establish a committee to receive proposals for amending the *RCUS Constitution* and *The Directory of Worship*, to consider those proposals, and to report back to the Synod with its findings and any recommendations.

Grounds: After using these specific forms and Constitutional articles in the life of the congregations since the last significant revision in 1997, a variety of areas of improvement have been noted privately and sometimes in public on the floor of Synod and Classes.

However, no actions have been taken to improve them.

4. That classis take Cody Schwichtenberg as a Student-under-care for the ministry.
5. That Classis Overture Synod for \$4,800 for tuition and \$400 for books at Heidelberg Theological Seminary for Cody Schwichtenberg for the 2011-2012 academic year.
6. That Communication #6, a letter from Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA, dated February 24, 2011, be referred to the Committee of Contact with Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA.

Brice, Kroese, Potter, Sawtelle

F. Minutes of Classis

1. Your committee received the draft minutes from the Stated Clerk, made revisions and returned such to the Clerk, who distributed the revised minutes to the body. [Classis Action was Take Note.]

Opp, Kroells, Kropp

G. Minutes of Synod

1. After reading the report of the Executive Committee of Synod, we make the following recommendation: That Covenant East Classis match its fiscal year to that of Synod, which is July 1 to June 30. To accomplish this, we amend

Sorensen, Wiersma

H. Missions

1. That Classis provide Grace Reformed Chapel of NW Arkansas with \$780 per month through March 2012, a total of \$9,360 for 12 months. [This is a reduction of \$720 for 2011, a 5% decrease from 2010.]
2. That Classis overture Synod to provide Grace Reformed Chapel of NW Arkansas, with \$5,040 in fiscal year 2012. [This is a reduction of \$720 for 2011, a 5% decrease from 2010.]
3. That Classis continue to support the Metro Minneapolis work with \$30,000 in 2011, from existing set aside funds, as needed.
4. That Classis overture Synod to provide the Metro Minneapolis work with a total of \$40,000 in fiscal year 2011, and \$40,000 in fiscal year 2012, from existing set aside funds, as needed.
5. That Classis provide Heritage Reformed Chapel of Waymart, PA, with \$350 per month from April 2011 through March 2012, a total of \$4,200 for 12 months for rental costs, if needed.
6. That Classis designate \$30 of the Missions guideline to help replenish the fund for new mission works.
7. That Classis take note of the Missions Committee’s proposed Strategic Plan for 3-5 years. [Classis action was Take Note]

Klynsma, Schnabel, Wiersma

I. Nominations

The committee’s recommendations for the permanent committees are as follows (underlined serves as the chairman).

Executive: Klynsma, Sorensen, Borgwardt, Potter (only for consult with Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, PA)

Candidates and Credentials: Brice, Fluck, Potter, Kroese

Interchurch Relations: Sawtelle, Klynsma, Kron, Wiersma

Missions: Opp, Altman, Schnabel, Honeck, Kroells, Larson, Stuebbe

Klynsma, Schnabel, Wiersma

J. Services

1. That the invitation from Heritage Reformed Chapel, Waymart, PA, be accepted. [to host the 2012 Spring Classis meeting]
2. [The following statement is to be read in the worship and published in the bulletin this coming Sunday]
“To the congregation and Consistory of Northland RCUS, the Covenant East Classis extends our heartfelt appreciation for your wonderful hospitality, your

labor of love, and for providing some of the best barbeque on earth, to serve us at this classis meeting. May our God richly bless you for your generosity.”

Opp, Kroells, Kropp

Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

A. Expression of Appreciation to Hosting Congregation

This was done through the Standing Committee on Services report.

B. Adoption of the Stated Clerk’s and Executive Committee’s Reports

Each of these reports was adopted by the classis.

Reading of the Minutes and their approval

The “Draft Minutes” were reviewed by the Standing Committee on Minutes of Classis and returned to the stated clerk for revision. These revisions were entered and then published as the “Revised Minutes,” which were distributed to all delegates as available. After appropriate time for review, the president called for any further corrections from the floor, and then declared them approved as corrected. The final items of business for which there was no time for this review process were read aloud by the stated clerk, and upon corrections by the floor, they were declared by the president approved as corrected.

Adjournment

The 26th annual meeting of the Covenant East Classis of the RCUS was adjourned at 11:13 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, until the time of the next stated meeting of classis.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 10 ministers and 5 elders present.

B. Devotions

Elder Mark Fisher read from Psalm 127 and closed in prayer.

C. Apostle’s Creed, Lord’s Prayer, Benediction, Doxology

The president of classis led the delegates in reciting the Apostle’s Creed and praying the Lord’s Prayer. He then pronounced the Benediction and all present sang the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted and Chronicled for the King’s Glory,
Rev. Kyle A. Sorensen, Stated Clerk

Appendix for the 2011 Abstract

#1 - List of Overtures and Communications

#2 - Statistics

#3 - Standing Rules

#4 - Necrology

Appendix #1: List of Overtures and Communications

OVERTURES

1. From Salem Ebenezer in Manitowoc, WI, that Classis overture Synod to establish a committee to receive proposals for amending the RCUS *Constitution* and *The Directory of Worship*, etc. (To JUDICIAL)
2. From Peace RCUS in Garner, to take Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg under care as Student for the Ministry. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
3. From Peace RCUS in Napoleon, to overture Synod for benevolent aid for Rev. Potter's medical insurance-related costs. (To BENEVOLENCE)
4. From Salem Ebenezer RCUS in Manitowoc, WI, ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance. (To BENEVOLENCE)
5. From Redeemer RCUS in Golden Valley, MN, credentials for alternate elder delegate Jay Kroese. [handled from the floor]
6. From Peace RCUS in Garner, IA, ministerial aid for Rev. and Mrs. Chester Ploeger. (To BENEVOLENCE)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. From Sovereign Grace Church, pastoral call to Rev. Jay Fluck. (2 pages) (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
2. From Rev. Jay Fluck, request to labor outside the bounds of Covenant East Classis. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
3. From Heritage RCUS, invitation to host 2012 Spring Classis. (To SERVICES)
4. From Executive Committee, regarding oversight of SGC. (To NOMINATIONS)
5. From Cody Schwichtenberg, request to become Student Under Care. (To EXAMINATION and LICENSURE)
6. From Sovereign Grace Church, questions on "visible church." (2 pages) (To JUDICIAL)
7. Dismissal of Rev. Jay Fluck from Western Classis. (To JUDICIAL)
8. From Rev. Chester Ploeger, regarding ministerial aid. (To BENEVOLENCES)
9. Fraternal Greetings from Classis Eastern US of the URCNA. [read on floor]
10. From Consistory of Salem Ebenezer in Manitowoc, WI, approved answers to Article 81. [read on floor]

Appendix #2: Statistical Information covering 2010, reported at spring 2011 Classis meeting

	Garner, IA	Golden Valley, MN	Hamburg, MN	Kansas City, MO	Manitowoc, WI
Category					
1. No. Of Elders	4	4	3	3	4
2. No. Of Deacons	3	4	3	4	3
3. Comm. Last Year	118	100	211	52	204
4. Rec'd by Confirm.	2	5	4	6	1
5. Rec'd by Letter	0	2	0	1	0
6. Rec'd by Prof.	0	7	0	1	0
7. Tot. Received	2	14	4	8	1
8. Tot. Old/New Mbrs.	120	114	215	60	205
9. Lost by Dismissal	6	2	2	2	0
10. Lost by Era/Dis.	3	1	0	2	2
11. Lost by Death	2	0	2	0	7
12. Total Lost	11	3	4	4	9
13. Comm. this Year	<u>109</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>196</u>
14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.	18	72	29	24	26
15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.	127	183	240	80	222
16. No. of Families	59	50	130	22	119
17. No. of S. S. Child.	12	68	22	24	13
18. Adult Baptisms	0	0	0	0	0
19. Infant Baptisms	0	6	4	0	2
20. Total Baptisms	0	6	4	0	2
21. No. L.S. Served	103	111	191	60	180
22. Times. L.S. Served	10	6	9	6	4
23. Regular Offerings	164600	243981	161852	167673	165146
24. Special Offerings	8365	11782	0	9822	0
25. Other Sources	27100	6250	17562	0	11192
26. Total Receipts	200065	262013	179414	177495	176338
27. to Synod Guidline	26836	19180	40090	10330	40362
28. to Classis Guidline	8359	7000	14770	3782	14280
29. RCUS non-budget	4737	3293	1402	9610	0
30. Non-RCUS causes	5494	4086	2190	4003	8300
31. Other Expenses	151049	192263	103583	181265	100164
32. Total Expenses	196475	225822	162035	208990	163106
33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.	750000	850000	1000000	1500000	800000
34. Val. of Parsonage	125000	200000	280000	0	200000
35. Impr. on Property	7772	8190	13000	9959	0
36. Property Debt	0	348185	0	230222	0
37. Debt Paid Last Yr.	0	31320	0	67386	0
38. Synod Giving /Com.	227	192	190	199	198
39. Classis Giving /Com.	71	70	70	73	70
40. RCUS Giving /Com.	338	295	267	456	268

Appendix #2: Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States

	Napoleon, OH	2011 Total	2010 Total	% Change	mission work statistics also in supervising congregation's totals	Bentonville, AR (Garner)	Waymart, PA (Napoleon)
1. No. Of Elders	3	21	21	0.0%	1. No. Of Elders	1	0
2. No. Of Deacons	3	20	20	0.0%	2. No. Of Deacons	0	0
3. Comm. Last Year	70	755	772	-2.2%	3. Comm. Last Year	17	17
4. Rec'd by Confirm.	2	20	8	150.0%	4. Rec'd by Confirm.	2	0
5. Rec'd by Letter	0	3	16	-81.3%	5. Rec'd by Letter	0	0
6. Rec'd by Prof.	4	12	11	9.1%	6. Rec'd by Prof.	0	3
7. Tot. Received	6	35	35	0.0%	7. Tot. Received	2	3
8. Tot. Old/New Mbrs.	76	790	807	-2.1%	8. Tot. Old/New Mbrs.	19	20
9. Lost by Dismissal	2	14	14	0.0%	9. Lost by Dismissal	0	0
10. Lost by Era/Dis.	0	8	28	-71.4%	10. Lost by Era/Dis.	1	0
11. Lost by Death	1	12	10	20.0%	11. Lost by Death	0	0
12. Total Lost	3	34	52	-34.6%	12. Total Lost	1	0
13. Comm. this Year	<u>73</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>755</u>	0.1%	13. Comm. this Year	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>
14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.	19	188	198	-5.1%	14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.	2	7
15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.	92	944	953	-0.9%	15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.	20	27
16. No. of Families	37	417	426	-2.1%	16. No. of Families	8	9
17. No. of S. S. Child.	11	150	159	-5.7%	17. No. of S. S. Child.	0	0
18. Adult Baptisms	1	1	0	100%	18. Adult Baptisms	0	1
19. Infant Baptisms	2	14	9	55.6%	19. Infant Baptisms	0	0
20. Total Baptisms	3	15	9	66.7%	20. Total Baptisms	0	1
21. No. L.S. Served	71	716	705	1.6%	21. No. L.S. Served	16	20
22. Times. L.S. Served	18	53	53	0.0%	22. Times. L.S. Served	6	12
23. Regular Offerings	154566	1057818	998047	6.0%	23. Regular Offerings	44730	28730
24. Special Offerings	2645	32614	40744	-20.0%	24. Special Offerings	0	0
25. Other Sources	13674	75778	236469	-68.0%	25. Other Sources	21163	11050
26. Total Receipts	170885	1166210	1275260	-8.6%	26. Total Receipts	65893	39780
27. Giv. to Syn. Guidlin.	13930	150728	171509	-12.1%	27. Giv. to Syn. Guidlin.	3230	1000
28. Giv. to Clas. Guidlin.	4900	53091	56812	-6.6%	28. Giv. to Clas. Guidlin.	1289	2000
29. RCUS non-budget	3070	22112	16752	32.0%	29. RCUS non-budget	0	0
30. Non-RCUS causes	5170	29243	22160	32.0%	30. Non-RCUS causes	0	0
31. Other Expenses	122088	850412	958708	-11.3%	31. Other Expenses	62940	31289
32. Total Expenses	149158	1105586	1255941	-12.0%	32. Total Expenses	67459	34289
33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.	275000	5175000	4850000	6.7%	33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.	0	0
34. Val. of Parsonage	0	805000	790000	1.9%	34. Val. of Parsonage	0	0
35. Impr. on Property	0	38921	43784	-11.1%	35. Impr. on Property	0	0
36. Property Debt	0	578407	667252	-13.3%	36. Property Debt	0	0
37. Debt Paid Last Yr.	0	98706	63504	55.4%	37. Debt Paid Last Yr.	0	0
38. To Synod per Com.	199	200	222	-10.1%	38. To Synod per Com.	190	59
39. To Classis per Com.	70	70	74	-4.4%	39. To Classis per Com.	76	118
40. RCUS Giving /Com.	313	299	317	-5.7%	40. RCUS Giving /Com.	266	176

Appendix #3

Standing Rules of the Covenant East Classis

1. The fiscal year of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the U.S. shall run from July 1st to June 30th of the following year. The Classical Dues shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid not later than the thirtieth of June of the current fiscal year. [2011]
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 fifty cents per running mile; when an elder or pastor drives his own car, he shall be paid fifty cents per mile; when a pastor or elder rides with another person he shall be paid \$20 per day. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare. [2009]
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel on behalf of Classis at fifty 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 to 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. [2009]

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. Prior to the Spring Meeting of Classis, the Spiritual Council of each charge shall direct the elder delegate how to answer the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the Constitution. 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. [2003]

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. If possible, overtures with their supporting grounds shall be submitted to the clerk of classis at least three weeks before the scheduled meeting for circulation among the churches of classis. [2006]

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 \$500.00 annually. [2005]

19. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall begin on the first Tuesday of March, and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. [2002]

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 put questions to the candidate. [2003]

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.

Appendix #4: Necrology

Edward Peter William Treick Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church of Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Edward Peter William Treick (1909-2010) was born on February 17, 1909, in the town of Newton, Wisconsin, at the same home where he lived all his life. He was the oldest of three children of the late Ernst Henry and Hulda (Vriesen) Treick. He received the covenant sign of baptism on March 28, 1909, and professed his faith and was confirmed in April, 1924. He married the former Erna Rodewald on June 13, 1936, in Newton. She preceded him in death on March 29, 2002. He was a life-long member of Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church. He was in the fourth generation of Treicks, who were charter members after arriving from Germany.

Edward was a dairy farmer on the Treick homestead, active in the church choir, and served the church as an elder and in a number of capacities during his lifetime. On September 13, 2010, at the age of 101 years, it pleased Almighty God in His all-wise providence to suddenly call him to his everlasting rest with his Lord.

Edward leaves to mourn his death, three sons and daughters-in-law: Edward F. (Barbara) Treick, Tuscon, AZ; Rev. Donald W. (Myrene) Treick, Lookout Mountain, GA.; Rev. Paul H. (Karen) Treick, Modesto, CA; nine grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; two brothers-in-law: Alfred Hardrath, and Ray Goeke of Manitowoc. Nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends also survive. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Erna, two sisters. Hildegard Siemers; Ruth Hardrath; other brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Edward was a very private individual with a deep and abiding faith. In addition to spending several hours each day in Bible and devotional reading, he ended that day with a 30 minute verbal prayer, always in German, remembering the special needs of every family and church member.

Psalm 116 tells us that "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" and by that we are all comforted.

Lloyd L. Waack

Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church of Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Lloyd L. Waack (1935-2010) was born March 1, 1935, in Manitowoc, son of the late Erhardt and Ruth Pleuss Waack. He attended schools in Manitowoc and graduated with the class of 1953 from Lincoln High School.

On June 2, 1956, he married the former Janet Voss at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, Newton. Lloyd was employed at the Manitowoc Company as a journeyman machinist for many years until his retirement in 1997.

Lloyd was a member of Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, a Church Elder and a former member of the Consistory. He was a 50-year member of the Manitowoc Marine Band, Golden K, and is a former member of the Elroy Berkholtz, Carl Laack and the Die Tiroler Musikanten bands.

Lloyd L. Waack, at the age of 75, died peacefully on Aug. 13, 2010, surrounded by his family. One Scripture he found comfort in during his final years was Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ, Who strengthens me."

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Janet Waack, Manitowoc; three children and their spouses: Lori and Steve Ball, Appleton; Keith and Patti Waack, Two Rivers, Jennifer and Patrick Pankratz, Manitowoc; six grandchildren: Stephanie Ball, Appleton; Ben Waack, Manitowoc; Zackary and Olivia Waack, Two Rivers; Lindsey and Ryan Pankratz, Manitowoc; two great-grandchildren: Caden and Jersie Pankratz, Manitowoc; two brothers: Leroy and Leonard Brouchoud, Manitowoc; two sisters and one brother-in-law: Mildred Fisher, Grafton; Marie (Francis) Sprang, Manitowoc; two sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Ruth (Russ) Truettner, Appleton; Robert (Pat) Voss, Manitowoc; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends also survive.

Lloyd was preceded in death by his parents: one sister-in-law and two brothers-in-law: Margaret Brouchoud, Bill Fisher and Bill Voss.
