2013
Abstract
of the Minutes

of the

COVENANT EAST CLASSIS

Reformed Church in the United States

28th Annual Session

March 5 - 6, 2013

held at

Grace Reformed Church

Northwest Arkansas

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

OFFICERS of Covenant East Classis

President	Rev. Randall Klynsma
Vice President	Rev. Dan Schnabel
Stated Clerk	Rev. Kyle Sorensen
Treasurer	Elder Jim Drewes

CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

General Fund	$12.00
Missions Fund	$22.00
Benevolence Fund	$14.00
Student Aid Fund	$18.00
TOTAL per communicant member	**$66.00**

CLASSIS TREASURER

Mr. Jim Drewes
(419) 592-0795
13033 Co. Rd. L2, Napoleon, OH 43545
jimdkhd@bright.net

PERMANENT CLASSIS COMMITTEES

Executive: Klynsma, Sorensen, Stuebbe, *Potter* (only for consult with Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, PA)
Candidates and Credentials: Brice, Fluck, Potter, Van Heest, Wright
Interchurch Relations: Sawtelle, Klynsma, Kron, Weilersbacher
Missions: Opp, Altman, Schnabel, Harms, Renner, Schroeder, Wiersma
Publications: no committee formed

(underlined serves as chairman)

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CHURCHES AND MISSION WORKS

Northwest ARKANSAS

Grace RCUS, 72756 worship at Hyatt Place Conf. Center,
4610 W. Walnut St., Rogers, AR .....(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 a.m.
www.gracereformednwa.org; wesbrice@yahoo.com

Eden Prairie, MINNESOTA

Emmaus Road RCUS, 55344
12000 Anderson Lakes Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN .....(612) 751-2096
Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kron (Wife: Colleen)
Mail: 10600 Yosemite Rd, Bloomington, MN 55437
Worship: 10:30 a.m. ; SS: 9:00 a.m.
www.emmausrcus.org ; ryankron@hotmail.com

Garner, IOWA

Peace RCUS, 50438
1905 200th St. (3 miles south of Garner on US 69) .....(641) 923-3060
Pastor: Rev. Harvey Opp (Wife: Carol)
Worship: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:30 a.m.
www.peacereformedchurch.com

Minneapolis, MINNESOTA

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

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)
Pastor: Rev. Randall Klynsma (Wife: Julie)
Worship: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; SS: 11:00 a.m.
www.northlandreformed.org ; rjklynsma@yahoo.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 Turnpike .....(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

CLERK's NOTE:

On March 4, 2013, the night before the Spring Classis meeting was to begin, the delegates of classis gathered for a discussion. The topic was the pastoral ministry. Before the discussion, delegates were encouraged to buy and read *Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*, Paul David Tripp (Crossway, 2012).

The discussion was led by Rev. Ron Potter. The lively discussion ran from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., and was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Abstract of the MINUTES
of the Covenant East Classis
of the Reformed Church in the United States
28th Annual Session -- March 5-6, 2013
Grace Reformed Church, Northwest Arkansas, meeting in Rogers, AR

Services

After the president, Rev. Randall Klynsma, called the body to order on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, he led the classis in prayer. He then read Leviticus 16:1-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:12-6:2. He gave a devotion on the nature of the gospel ministry of reconciliation.

On Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. the classis delegates, along with members and guests of the Grace Reformed congregation, worshiped our Triune God and Savior. Rev. Jim Sawtelle led the service and Rev. Dan Schnabel preached a sermon on Romans 8:28 titled, "Our Confidence—God's Sovereignty."

On Wednesday morning, March 6, Rev. Harvey Opp gave a devotion from Psalm 51 titled "The Brokenhearted Evangelist."

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 ministers' widows and fraternal churches.

Organization

The 28th annual session of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States was called to order at 8:11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, by Rev. Randy Klynsma, President. After the devotions were completed, the Stated Clerk, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, called the roll which showed 9 ministers and 8 elders present, a quorum. The bar of the house was defined as the first six rows. Elders Dan Wright and Bobby Duncan were appointed tellers by the president. President Klynsma read the Standing Rules.

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

The president appointed Rev. Dan Schnabel as reporter for the *Reformed Herald.*

Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

One fraternal delegate was present at the classis meeting, and he was given time to address the classis. Rev. Rodney Vermeulen was sent to us as a fraternal delegate from Classis Ontario West of the Canadian Reformed Churches. Among the visitors present during the meeting was Elder Don Buysse from Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Reception of New Ministers and New Churches

There were no new ministers. President Klynsma noted the blessing of the organization of the congregation of Heritage RCUS in Waymart, Pennsylvania. Rev. Wes Brice led the classis in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Standing Committees

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

Benevolence; Excuses:	Sorensen, Harms, Drewes
Examination & Licensure:	Opp, Brice, Wright, Duncan
Finances:	Altman, Duncan, Stuebbe, (Drewes advise)
Judicial:	Brice, Stuebbe, Opp, Potter, Wright, Fluck
Minutes of Classis; Services:	Sawtelle, Renner, Wiersma
Minutes of Synod:	Fluck, Potter, Harms
Missions; Nominations:	Schnabel, Klynsma, Van Heest

Presentation of Overtures, Reports, 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. (See Appendix #1)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 On Their Minutes

During the classical year of 2012 your committee conducted spiritual oversight of congregations and its ministerial members when sought or where appropriate. One Consistory requested that our committee provide them our interpretation of a specific article in their local Constitution. We researched the matter, consulted, and came to a united conclusion which we passed on to the Consistory.

Whenever a minister receives a call or resigns from a charge, before a circular is issued the Executive Committee speaks with the minister involved. In the future, it would be good for the whole Executive Committee to do a conference call with the minister, and then ALSO with the delegate elders from the charge he is resigning. This would be a more proactive way of providing spiritual oversight and the necessary checks-and-balances which Biblical church government provides. Having said this, we want to make plain that there have been no problems with any of the congregations or ministerial relationships which the Executive Committee has overseen this year.

Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA

Your Committee, along with the able assistance of Rev. Ron Potter, maintained contact with Sovereign Grace Church (SGC) of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Rev. Jay Fluck has been working on the scene since June 2011. Through Rev. Potter, we have

kept regular telephone contact with Rev. Fluck as to developments at SGC and provided input when asked by him. At the SGC Summer conference in late June and early July 2012, several RCUS ministers taught lessons (Revs. Jay Fluck, Maynard Koerner, Vernon Pollema, and Ron Potter). These men held a joint meeting with the Elders and Deacon of SGC which was designed to give a sense of where the church was at in relationship to the RCUS. Positive developments were noted and progress toward union with the RCUS was being made. Throughout the year much work was done by the elders of SGC in drafting a Constitution. At the request of Rev. Fluck and the elders, Rev. Potter reviewed their Constitution and provided feed-back. A revised version of the Constitution, along with a Glossary of definitions for terms used in the Constitution, has been given to this committee for our informal review.

In January, 2013, we requested that the church officers of SGC give us an update on their progress in joining the RCUS. We just received a response from them late last week. We will be reviewing this along with their proposed Constitution and communicate with them over these matters in the coming months. We are encouraged that they have been including the congregation each step along the way in the details of the Constitution and its application to their life. They specifically state that they hope to bring to a conclusion in the next 6-9 months some doctrinal clarity which they are seeking with the RCUS. We ask the members of Classis to keep in prayer the saints in Gettysburg and the labors of our brother Rev. Fluck and his wife Loretta. Please encourage your congregation members to pray for these brothers and sisters as well.

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

Executive Circular - Volume 27, Number 1 - August 1, 2012

A. Student Aid to Mr. Steve Carr

Your Executive Committee has received a request from the Consistory of Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis, MN, to provide financial aid to one of their members, Mr. Steve Carr. As you will remember, classis took Mr. Carr under care as a student for the ministry back in March of this year. At the time, it was mentioned that there may be a possible need for financial assistance from Classis for his family's living expenses. (Tuition, books, and fees, are covered from Synod funds)

After he received a financial aid package from Mid-America Reformed Seminary, as well as assistance provided from the congregation of Redeemer RCUS, a financial need remains.

At Classis in March, we anticipated these sorts of needs by raising a guideline for the Student Aid Fund. Your Executive Committee deems that this particular request is reasonable, and that we are also financially able to provide help at this time.

The Redeemer Consistory does note that they will reassess Mr. Carr's financial situation at the end of 2012. They are working on ways to provide for any future needs beyond that. As a Classis, we simply cannot predict at this point whether we will have a future request for aid come January 2013.

In light of these considerations, we present to the members of Covenant East Classis the following:

Recommendation 1: That the Treasurer of Covenant East Classis be instructed to provide $4,000 from the Student Aid Fund to our Student-Under-Care, Mr. Steve Carr. This aid shall cover the time period from August through December, 2012.

Executive Circular - Volume 27, Number 2 - October 3, 2012

A. Pastoral Call to Rev. Ron Potter

Your Executive Committee has received a pastoral call which was issued from Heritage Reformed Church of Waymart, Pennsylvania to Rev. Ron Potter. The call states that at a congregational meeting held on September 16, 2012, Rev. Potter was elected as pastor. Your committee has also received the acceptance of that call from Rev. Potter, his resignation as Associate Pastor of Peace Reformed Church of Napoleon, Ohio, and the Consistory's acceptance of that resignation. After considering these documents and the terms of the call, your committee brings the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: "That the call from Heritage Reformed Church of Waymart, Pennsylvania to Rev. Ron Potter to serve as pastor be found in order and approved as received. The pastoral relationship is thus established between Rev. Potter and Heritage RCUS and the pastoral relationship dissolved between Rev. Potter and Peace RCUS (Napoleon), beginning on October 17, 2012."

Recommendation 2: "That the installation committee for Rev. Ron Potter shall be comprised of the elders of Heritage Reformed Church of Waymart, Pennsylvania, along with the representatives of the Classis Home Missions Committee who will visit this Fall."

Executive Circular - Volume 27, Number 3 - December 14, 2012

A. Student Aid to Mr. Steve Carr

Your Executive Committee has received a request from the Consistory of Redeemer Reformed Church in Minneapolis, MN, to continue providing financial aid to Mr. Steve Carr, Student-Under-Care of Classis. As you will remember, classis approved financial aid to him from our Student Aid Fund for his first semester of seminary. Now that his financial situation is more clear, we are being requested to provide further aid.

Classis delegates should know that the local congregation in Minneapolis is providing regular financial aid to the Carr family for their living expenses. He also is receiving financial aid from Mid-America Reformed Seminary.

At our classis meeting last March, we anticipated these sorts of needs by raising a guideline for the Student Aid Fund. Your Executive Committee deems that this particular request is reasonable, and that we are also financially able to provide help at this time.

In light of these considerations, we present to the members of Covenant East Classis the following:

Recommendation 1: That the Treasurer of Covenant East Classis be instructed to provide $1,000 per month from the Student Aid Fund to our Student-Under-Care, Mr. Steve Carr. This aid shall cover the time period from January 1, 2013 through May, 2013, for a total of $5,000.

Executive Circular - Volume 27, Number 4 - January 22, 2013

A. Time and Place of Spring Classis Meeting

Our annual Spring Classis meeting will be hosted by Grace Reformed Church of Northwest Arkansas. The precise meeting facilities are being finalized at this date, and will be sent to you by e-mail as soon as available. Classis will convene at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, March 5, 2013, and continue on Wednesday, March 6, through the end of business, but no later than 12 noon. Please contact Rev. Wes Brice

(wesbrice@yahoo.com, 479-876-6649) with your housing and transportation needs. If you are bringing your wife or family or any guests who are not delegates, it is important that you inform Rev. Brice so they can plan accordingly with meals, etc.

B. Pre-classis Fellowship and Discussion

The Executive Committee has again called for an organized discussion on the evening we all arrive. This discussion will run from 7:00-8:30 p.m., on March 4, 2013. We have asked Rev. Ron Potter to lead a discussion based on *Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*, Paul David Tripp (Crossway: 2012). While not required, it is highly suggested that every delegate purchase their own copy of this book to prepare for this discussion. There is much that pertains to the elders and their role in safeguarding the ministry.

C. Forms for Classis Meeting

The forms necessary for the classis meeting are included with this circular. Please send the clerk the membership statistics, financial statistics, 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 12 (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 12.

Parochial reports shall be sent to President Randy Klynsma by FEBRUARY 19.

D. Covenant East Classis Youth Camp

Please inform your congregations that camp will run from July 9-12. Brochures to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Randy Klynsma, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, Elder Steve Stuebbe

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

B. Candidates and Credentials Committee

Esteemed Brethren,

Your committee has made contact with the following students under care regarding their grades and request for tuition and books. (Please see attachments)

We have met by e-mail and make the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That we overture Synod for the following support:

For Christopher Campbell – Greenville Presbyterian Seminary
Tuition $2,100.00, Books $400.00
For Cody Schwichtenberg - Heidelberg Seminary
Tuition $4,800.00, Books $400.00
For Steven Carr - Mid-America Reformed Seminary
Tuition $5,000.00, Books, $400.00

Recommendation 2: That Thomas Short be removed as a student under care.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Wesley Brice, Rev. Ron Potter, Rev. Jay Fluck,
Elder Jay Kroese, Elder Mike Watson

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

C. Interchurch Relations Committee

Dear Brothers,

You committee was again active in maintaining and furthering our fraternal relationships within the bounds of the classis. Letters of invitation to attend our Spring classis meeting were sent to two OPC presbyteries, two URCNA classes, one CanRC classis, and one RPCNA presbytery. We received numerous invitations to classis and presbytery meetings this past year, including the CanRC Ontario West Classis, the OPC presbyteries of Ohio and of the Midwest, the URCNA classis Central and Eastern classis.

Men from our classis were delegated to represent us at the OPC Presbytery of the Midwest September meeting, Classis Eastern US URCNA, October meeting, and CanRC Classis Ontario West, March 2012 meeting. Reports on those meetings will be presented by those men who attended. Due to a communication error, we did not receive an invitation to Classis Central US URCNA, so no delegate was sent.

In terms of general ecumenical activities to report, in October 2012, Redeemer Reformed Church, with our unorganized Emmaus Road Reformed church, invited Mission OPC and St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS to a joint Reformation service. Rev. John Shaw of Mission OPC was invited to speak. We had a good representation of members from Redeemer, Emmaus and Mission. We plan to hold another Reformation service in 2013 with these same churches. We would encourage our congregations to make similar efforts to deepen our fraternal bonds with others through joint Reformation services or by inviting speakers from our fraternal churches. This is a good way to grow in understanding and familiarity with one another.

The Northland Reformed Church in Kansas City invited the Rev. Dr. Wes Bredenhof (CanRC) to speak at a Reformation service in October. In addition, Rev. Randy Klynsma continues to chair the Kansas City Alliance of Reformed Churches, which consists of PCA, URC, OPC, RPCNA and RCUS congregations.

This year, we hope to send a delegate to as many classis/presbytery meetings for which we can find available men. We will make special effort to attend Classis Central US URCNA. Again, opportunities abound, but man power doesn't.

We reported last year that we would make special effort to re-establish contact with RPCNA presbyteries within our boundaries. A number of efforts to make contact were initiated, but failed due to outdated contact information. We did manage in January 2013 to make a contact with an RPCNA pastor near Kansas City. We will see what comes of that contact going forward this year. We have not received invitations from the RPCNA Presbyteries in our boundaries. That is a matter we need to address more aggressively. If any of our men can help us in this effort your assistance would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James Sawtelle, Rev. Randall Klynsma, Rev. Ryan Kron, Mr. Mark Fisher

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

D. Missions Committee

Dear Brothers:

Since our last report, your Committee conducted visitations at Waymart, PA, Eden Prairie, MN, and Bella Vista, AR. A summary of these events during the year follows:

Waymart, Pennsylvania.

On December 5th, Classis missions committee members, Rev. Steve Altman, Rev. Dan Schnabel, and Elder Randy Schroeder, and Synod missions committee member Elder Mori Willemsen visited Heritage Reformed Church. This has been an eventful year, as we give thanks to God that Heritage was able to organize as a particularized church. Rev. Altman had preached at the organizational service, with the installation of elders John Grimm and Dan Wright, and deacon Dave Smith on August 22nd, 2012. On December 5th, Rev. Dan Schnabel preached at the installation service of Rev. Ron Potter. Before the installation we enjoyed a time of fellowship and dinner with the church members. After the service the committee members met with the consistory.

The church is very thankful to the Lord for His blessing that after 10 years as a chapel – they are now a church with their own officers and pastor installed. This has involved struggles however. In the last year, there have been 8 who have left. Currently they have 16 communicant members and 5 covenant children who continue to attend faithfully. One other communicant lives abroad, and they are still working with another who has not been attending lately. One reason for leaving which a former member stated was: "unspecified issues with members." The consistory, as well as the missions committee, believes a variety of family issues have been brewing for years in this case. Rev. Potter and the elders have been communicating with those who left, yet to no avail. The officers and remaining members continue to profess their love and commitment for the reformed church as well as their desire to move forward. They are strongly supportive and thankful to God for the shepherd placed over them. God has continued to bless Rev. Potter with good health.

Rev. Potter continues to preach faithfully covering books such as Ezekiel, and other appropriate texts, as for the approach of Christmas with passages of Isaiah, used by Handel. For Sunday classes they have been alternating between catechism and Bible history. The men are studying Calvin's institutes every other Sunday evening. The ladies are working through the book *Lies That Women Believe* at the same time. On Wednesday nights there has been a survey of the New Testament. At times they have included a study of the doctrine of scripture. In addition they use The Truth Project once a month, for all the church, and as an outreach.

The consistory spoke of the current loss of members as necessitating a variety of cutbacks including phone book advertising. This has also meant that Rev. Potter has done more tent-making through his woodworking and restoration. They continue to make their request of $350 per month from Classis, to assist with rent, as well as $450 monthly, in benevolent aid from Synod, to assist Rev. and Mrs. Potter with their insurance coverage, and medical costs. They are adding a request of benevolent aid of $500 per month for one year, from classis, to temporarily assist with their expenses and support for Rev. Potter, with mileage, car insurance, housing expenses, etc. They have also been assisted by Peace Reformed of Napoleon, OH, which will continue to help with the church's guidelines until June 2014.

Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

On January 13th, Rev. Harvey Opp and Elder Tom Renner were the first committee members present for visitation at Emmaus Road Reformed Chapel. Rev. Opp

spoke during adult Sunday School on the procedures for organizing a congregation, as had been requested. There was good discussion regarding the process, and also on the basis of biblical church government. It was then good to hear Rev. Ryan Kron preach on the subject of prayer, which was edifying. Also, two families became members, which included a baptism.

A church lunch followed the service, at which time Rev. Dan Schnabel and Elder Dale Harms were also present for the visitation. Further questions were answered regarding the organizational process. It should again be noted that the school building areas rented by Emmaus Road have been very adequate, in fact, a pleasant place to meet for classes, services, and meals. Various members expressed appreciation for the ministry of Rev. Kron, and their desire for organization as a particular church. A church constitution is to be considered mid-February for approval by the members. They plan to submit such to classis, along with a memorial requesting to be organized.

Committee members then went to Redeemer RCUS to meet with the full consistory. The consensus was that Emmaus Road should be ready to organize, and needs to do so. With only one elder and one deacon on site, that affects shepherding of the people, oversight of finances, benevolent needs, and conducting of the Lord's Supper. Redeemer always has another elder there to help administer the Supper. Officer training, conducted for about 3 months using the book *Called to Serve*, has just concluded. Two men in the class were elders in another denomination.

The Lord's blessing is evident with the increase of members along with the 20 communicants that came from Redeemer, in the previous year. There are now 41 communicants and 17 baptized children, in 18 families. Attendance at services averages above 70. The people are excited about the work, and there are several membership classes to accommodate those of various backgrounds. Rev. Kron and others also teach on covenants of the Bible, worldview, and a ladies' study. There is a men's coffee time, and a monthly prayer meeting. Catechism classes are taught by Rev. Kron. There have been challenges with some new to the reformed faith, with counseling, and some benevolent needs. Most have been very teachable, and quick to accept what they are learning.

In His grace, the Lord has brought new people in a variety of ways. Most often it has been through word of mouth, but they have used advertising in newspapers, direct mailing, and flyers in the neighborhood. Some have visited through these various means of outreach, and through a VBS held at Redeemer. They also have a Facebook page linked to a blog and their website, emmausrcus.org.

With the number of people it would be a blessing to have a larger parsonage for classes meeting there. The lease on the current home provided for the Kron family is up at the end of May. The plan is to purchase a parsonage, which is expected to cost $300,000 - $400,000. Such a purchase should be quite feasible, with the excellent giving there has been so far. They do not want to give too high a projection for 2013, but again foresee offerings of at least $135,000. They now have savings of about $125,000, which is expected to be used as downpayment on a parsonage. The officers are very concerned to be off of all support, and considered that possibility for the next fiscal year. Yet, this is a new work (supported since Nov. 2010), the savings will thus be used, and a mortgage taken. They will also continue to rent the school for services, but desire their own church building in the future. Therefore, your committee concurs that Synod and Classis support should continue in the next fiscal year. This would be reduced 50% overall, however, as we recommend a reduction to $2,000 from Synod, and $13,000 from Classis. Prayers for this mission will also then be continued!

Bentonville, Arkansas.

Rev. Harvey Opp, Elder Tom Renner, and Elder Marc Wiersma conducted the AR visitation from late afternoon on January 17th until after lunch on the 18th. We first met at the home of Rev. Wes and Ginger Brice with a family that is very new to the work. The parents and their 3 sons are in membership classes, being very thankful to find this reformed church in northwest Arkansas. Like others, they found the church through the internet. Rev. Brice has put all his sermons on the church website, gracereformednwa.org. He also has a Bible study and discussion in a local restaurant.

We then met with Rev. Brice, Elder Bobby Duncan, his wife Johnna, and Deacon Sam Hillyer. The other deacon, Stephon Johnson, was unable to meet at that time. Finances were discussed, and they should have over $80,000 in their building fund when they receive the money from the RCUS Home Missions offering from last fall. They are considering a property currently for sale, having a building which could possibly work for a church. Various improvements would need to be made, and perhaps a loan of $150,000 sought. In the fall, there was a higher priced property, with more land and less improvement needed. The offer they made was considered, but then was denied.

That evening we met with another member of the family mentioned before, and 2 other members of the church. The new visitor also expressed much gratitude for the church. They had found what they desired: a pastor who was serious about God's Word, a congregation with edifying worship, where they could pray together, have fellowship and Bible studies.

The next morning there was meeting with the other elder, Rev. Don Weilersbacher, who is a retired RPCNA minister . He gave a typed report of his view of the work, as had Rev. Brice. These were both encouraging. For example, it seems that the Lord is providing stability in the membership in a measure greater than any time in the past. That is, 8 members joined in 2012, and most of them have attended for some years. They currently have 30 communicants and 6 baptized children on the roll. There is another family which visited, now indicating they plan to move there and attend.

Much appreciation is expressed by all for Rev. and Mrs. Brice, as is also shown in practical support. For example, the congregation provided airfare and expense money for them to take a vacation in CA, to visit family and friends, in 2011. Since being organized as a particular church in Dec. 2011, the salary for Rev. Brice was substantially increased, and an expense allowance was provided to reimburse their frequent entertainment of new or prospective members. The officers are proposing an increase in 2013 which will be set aside for Rev. Brice's eventual retirement! He has again been blessed with good health in the past year.

As for the ministry of the church, the elders have assisted with some aspects of the worship service, and Elder Weilersbacher has taught adult Sunday School, on 'How to study the Bible', using Genesis as the basic text. The deacons have assisted with needs of a particular member, have looked for church building property, and supported the pastor with prayer and with paid vacation. The Lord's blessing is again evident in that offerings exceeded the 2012 budget by $15,000, for a total of almost $88,000, which includes $13,000 to the building fund. They agree with the committee in asking for a reduction of 5% of original support from both Synod and Classis.

The meeting space at the Hyatt Place in Rogers, AR, has been adequate for their needs on Sundays. The fellowship and prayer time is seen as a great blessing, as they have lunch after each service, and a time to sing psalms and pray as a congregation. Some amazing answers to their prayers have been seen, as with souls converted and some healed of most serious diseases! They seek to praise and thank God in the midst of many

difficult circumstances. They appreciate all the support of Classis and Synod, in prayers and finances. Your committee recommends continued support for this work!

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 believe that Grace RCUS, Bentonville, can be self-supporting within that time frame.

2. We believe Emmaus Road Chapel will soon be established as a church, and will be self-supporting within that time frame.

3. We believe our Classis work, Waymart, PA, can progress toward self-support within that time frame.

The Missions Committee brings the following recommendations:

1. That Classis provide Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA, with $350 per month, a total of $4,200 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013, for rent and associated costs, and $500 per month, an additional $6,000 in fiscal year 2014, to temporarily assist with their expenses and support for Rev. Potter.

2. That Classis provide Emmaus Road Chapel with $1,083 per month, a total of $13,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $2,000, 7% of original support.]

3. That Classis overture Synod to provide Emmaus Road Chapel with $167 per month, a total of $2,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $13,000, 33% of original support.]

4. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with $540 per month, a total of $6,480 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $720, 5% of original support.]

5. That Classis overture Synod to provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas, with $300 per month, a total of $3,600 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $720, 5% of original support.]

6. That Classis take note of the Missions Committee's proposed Strategic Plan for 3-5 years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Harvey Opp, chairman
Rev. Steve Altman, Rev. Dan Schnabel
Elder Dale Harms, Elder Tom Renner, Elder Randy Schroeder, Elder Marc Wiersma

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

E. Publications

No committee was formed.

Reports of Officers

A. President's Report

> *"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* Ephesians 3:14-19

The Apostle Paul is delighting in the wonder of God's grace. His epistle to the Ephesians records some of the most beautiful and succinct summaries of the Gospel. *"You were dead in sin." "We were made alive in Christ." "You have been saved by grace through faith."* He tells his readers about the mystery of God's grace. And what is this mystery? Since the beginning, throughout the Old Testament, God was intending to show all the fullness of His salvation plan. He wrote:

> *"…THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: THAT THE GENTILES SHOULD BE FELLOW HEIRS, OF THE SAME BODY, AND PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE IN CHRIST THROUGH THE GOSPEL…."* EPHESIANS 3:5,6

All we can do is the same. Bow our knees before Almighty God. Recognize that our life flows from His Life. We, like our brethren around the world and throughout history, have been made the true children of our Heavenly Father. When we taste grace and are brought to faith, the Apostle's prayer is being answered still.

As I've read and assimilated the Parochial Reports of the ministers of Covenant East Classis, I've been encouraged. The work of God's Grace is continuing among our congregations. All has not gone well. Things have not always gone as we would have liked. Oh, there are some shining lights and reports aglow with enthusiasm. But we know too, that with faithfulness and obedience often come opposition and discouragement. Even as we experience *"the strengthening in the inner man"* and the evidence of *"Christ indwelling our hearts,"* we also see the weakness of the flesh and the deceitfulness of indwelling sin. Anyone who says they don't is either naive or ignorant of the way God's grace works in the hearts of men.

A while back I came across a quotation that seems fitting: *"If dependence on God is the goal, then weakness is advantage."* When we are weak (humanly speaking), then we are strong, because we're being forced to rely upon God and His grace. Jesus said to the Apostle Paul, *"For my strength is made perfect in weakness."* One of our pastors commented: *"Needless to say the departure in 2012 of well over a third of our church was grievous."* And another *"As might be expected, such struggles have been difficult for myself, the consistory and the congregation as a whole."* Remarkably, these pastors also related that while in God's providence there were reasons to be discouraged, in God's timing He restored and strengthened His church with others. If there's a lesson for us here it is that when faced with adversity, we should commit ourselves to God by doing good (1 Peter 4:19).

From their reports, it is clear that each of our pastors is laboring diligently in the work of the Christian ministry. They are dedicated to the preaching and teaching of the

holy Gospel. They are feeding and shepherding their flocks. Most of our pastors are fully supported by their respective congregation, but there are a couple of our ministers with financial challenges. A common note through all the reports is gratitude to the Lord and congregations for the livelihood provided. Among our pastors are families at every state of life. Some like Rev. Ryan Kron (who missed our classis due to the impending birth of a child) are at the stage where their families are still growing. Others like Revs. Fluck and Opp are seeing their adult children getting married. Through them all, God has been pleased to sustain Covenant East Classis for another year. For this we can and will give thanks. We are glad to report that our ministers have been enjoying good health and strength. This is mentioned as in the previous years, a couple of our ministers have had some fairly serious medical conditions.

Each report also indicated that our ministers are laboring toward the instruction of the youth. Many of the ministers have participated in our Summer Church Camp. We remain grateful for the faithful labors of the Manitowoc congregation and Rev. Sorensen for the organizing and hosting of each year's camp. "Thank-you!" We said the same words last year, but it remains a wonderful blessing to us all.

Our mission work at Waymart, PA, was organized into an individual congregation. We commend this congregation to God and His grace. Through faithful service and patient endurance the Lord has been pleased to gather and build His Church. Rev. Potter concludes:

> "We as a Church are grateful for the support of Classis and Synod that has enabled us to persevere. We are still very optimistic as a congregation that the LORD will continue to build our little Church. The folks at Heritage are truly one in the LORD, love one another and are actively seeking to bear witness of the gospel. Pray for us as we press on in reliance on Him."

Similarly, Rev. Brice states of the mission congregation in Northwest Arkansas:

> "We presently have a total communicant membership of 34 members, with 6 children on our baptized rolls. When I think of how we began … with just 6 members I cannot help but give God thanks for each one of you….One prayer that I ask is that you … join with us in praying that God may grant us opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the world around us, and, that He might be pleased to use our witness to the saving of eternal souls… adding them both to His kingdom and our congregation bringing them to know the comfort and joy of our Lord."

According to Rev. Ryan Kron, the Lord is transforming our mission work, the Emmaus Road Reformed Church, into an organized congregation. In his words:

> "We continue to have unity in the gospel as God's people gather for prayer meetings and Bible studies at our home. As we meet for prayer, our hearts are knit closer together in love for the Lord and for each other. At the prayer meetings it is a great encouragement for me to hear of the many ways that the congregation is involved in witnessing, outreach, and evangelism! I also enjoy the fellowship we have in our Bible study gatherings."

Rev. Kron told of the encouragement provided by the young people's group that came from the Salem Ebenezer RCUS of Manitowoc, WI. They came out last summer and passed out informational literature to several neighborhoods around their meeting location. To top matters off, they are at the point where they are presenting their proposed constitution and a memorial requesting that they be organized as congregation.

Statistically, there are no great anomalies. There were some year over year changes, but most are understandable in light of the ebb and flow of Church life. As our youth are coming to maturity, there were 18 confirmations this year, compared to just 5 the year before. There were 3 adult baptisms compared to 0 and an increase in the number of infant baptisms from 15 to 18.

As noted last year most of the congregations are providing a fruitful setting for spiritual growth and study. Most congregations have Bible Studies and study groups meeting for fellowship and mutual learning. Some groups were studying our Creeds and Confessions, while others were studying classic reformed works like Calvin's Institutes and Berkhof's Manual of Christian Doctrine, still others books on living the Christian life and church history. May the Lord be pleased to bless all of these labors for his glory and the building of the saints.

Several of our ministers have been trying to find ways to utilize social media and the internet to reach out to prospective members. Rev. Brice mentioned that almost their entire congregation has found them by means of their website. May the Lord continue to fill His "house" with the open door the internet provides! Rev. Sorensen mentioned that they have been trying to take advantage of Facebook's popularity by creating a Church Page and then promoting their church through it. Notice the focused response they've received:

> "The Consistory approved the creation of a Facebook page. I have put up various pictures from church events as well as from our history. I post a link to each week's sermon. Usually once or twice a week I post another comment, either from myself or to a helpful article or thought by some other pastor or Christian thinker. I get weekly reports of how many people and what kind of people are following our page. We can also do advertising on Facebook. With an inexpensive test run of advertising between December 17 and January 3, we had between 3,000 and 9,000 people each day seeing the sponsored ad. Several liked the church's Facebook page, or the sermon link in the ad, and a few even commented. *All of these people were within 50 miles of Manitowoc*. The Consistory has approved a modest budget to fund one-month long Facebook ad campaigns in the coming year. We are soliciting ideas from members, as well as giving them the opportunity to 'sponsor' an ad. We will spend $100 a month."

It seems to me that this is an avenue that other churches could probably replicate. In addition to this, several of our congregations have begun using Sermonaudio.com as a way to broadcast their weekly sermons to a broader audience. It is encouraging to see sermons preached in the context of a local church continue to minister to dozens, hundreds and occasionally even thousands of individuals across the United States and around the world.

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

As was mentioned in last year's report, we also have a minister, Rev. Jay Fluck, who is continuing to minister within the geographic bounds of the Covenant East Classis, but outside of our ecclesiastical bounds. He is ministering the Word and Sacraments to an independent congregation, the Sovereign Grace Church, in Gettysburg, PA. They have been developing a constitution and hopefully making progress toward eventual union with the RCUS. Regarding the Flucks, Rev. Potter made an interesting observation: "They [Jay and Loretta] were received the same evening right after I was installed. I thus went at the same moment from having Rev. Altman as my pastor to being Rev. Fluck's Pastor."

In summary then, it seems the Lord is using and blessing the ministry of the Gospel to build up the churches of Covenant East Classis. Let's all give ourselves afresh with renewed zeal that we might *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* Let's all remember this admonition of the Apostle Peter:

> *"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Sincerely, your co-laborer in the Gospel,
Randall Klynsma

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,

It has been a privilege to serve as your Stated Clerk for another year. Following the 2012 Spring Classis Meeting the minutes of the 27th Annual Meeting of the Covenant East Classis were typed, indexed, and placed in a permanent binder with all reports, overtures, and relevant information. The 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 2012 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.

In addition four Executive Circulars were sent out this year. Together with the president of Classis, I planned out the discussions and researched study materials for this meeting. I am very grateful to Rev. Ron Potter for his leadership in this important topic of the "dangerous calling" of the gospel ministry.

I also handled the paperwork and was part of advising Rev. Ron Potter in his acceptance of the call to Heritage RCUS in Waymart, PA. I was part of advising the Consistory of Redeemer in how to proceed with organization of Emmaus Road in Eden Prairie, MN. I also served as Clerk for our communications with Sovereign Grace Church of Gettysburg, PA.

For this meeting, most of the credential and statistical information came in early or on time. Thank you. Please do fill out the forms completely and carefully. A number of statistical errors were made. Some could be corrected by the clerk's calculator, but others needed some follow-up with the local pastor/elders. I have been in the process of

switching all the Classis documents over from WordPerfect and QuattroPro to MS Word and Excel formats. This has not been easy or painless, especially typing in of accurate formulas in the spreadsheet for the statistics. Now that most of this is finished, the electronic files are more portable and usable by nearly anyone who would serve as a future clerk. I have also been researching a way to create fillable forms for handling statistics forms and credentials. Also, please do verify that you have filled out all the information that is requested, since apparently two elders do not have a phone, one church building does not have an address, and one pastor donated his entire salary to his congregation last year!

I have not received any necrologies. Please submit any as soon as possible for publishing in the 2013 Abstract.

In recent years, I have noticed that several of our congregations are having difficulty accurately accounting for baptized members. Sometimes extra notations are made on the forms. Our forms do not account for the gain or loss of baptized members as a separate item. A 'prejudice' seems to be given to communicant members. Other items that perhaps should be added or deleted from the statistics forms would include the existence of memorial funds and cemetery funds. For these grounds, I submit the following recommendation:

Recommendation 1: That Covenant East Classis overture Synod to establish a committee to review the membership and financial statistics forms for possible additions or deletions and report its findings to the following Synod. Particular attention shall be given to the accounting of baptized members.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kyle A. Sorensen, Stated Clerk

Classis Action: The report was adopted. The recommendation was also carried.

C. Report of the Executive Committee of Synod

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 266th Synod, there are some items that the Classes should take note of:

1. Classes should take note of the corrections that should be made to their minutes as adopted by the Synod (266th Abstract, pp. 84-86).

2. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the *calendar* year.

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

4. Synod has declared that Council Bluffs, Iowa is in the South Central Classis.

5. The Classes are reminded that the 267th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 20-23, 2013, at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI.

Respectfully submitted,

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

D. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer 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.

Fund Balances (July 2012 thru Feb 2013 YTD)

Starting Balance – June 30, 2012				**$104,602.44**
General Fund	**Balance 06/30/12**	$ 1,652.20		
Receipts		$ 3,066.68		
Expenses		$ 387.64		
	Balance 2/28/13		$ 4,331.24	
***Missions Fund**	**Balance 06/30/12**	$ 88,096.04		
Receipts		$ 14,625.72		
Expenses		$ 20,683.40		
	Balance 2/28/13		$ 82,038.36	
Benevolence Fund	**Balance 6/30/12**	$ 11,820.20		
Receipts		$ 1,179.50		
Expenses		$ ----		
	Balance 2/28/13		$12,999.70	
Student Aid Fund	**Balance 6/30/12**	$ 3,034.00		
Receipts		$ 4,717.98		
Expenses		$ 7,200.00		
	Balance 2/28/13		$ 551.98	
ENDING Balance February 28, 2013				**$ 99,921.28**

*Current $57,044, + $5,265 = $62,309 set aside for future CEC Mission works

Detailed Income Report (July 2012 thru Feb 2013 YTD)

13% 62% 5% 20% 100%

Guideline Total $68	$ 9	$ 42	$ 3	$ 14	$ 68			
	Members	**General**	**Missions**	**Benevolence**	**Student Aid**	**Budget**	**Totals YTD**	**Due 6/15/13**
NW Arkansas	19	$171	$798	$57	$266	$1,292	$861.36	$430.64
Garner, IA	91	$819	$3,822	$273	$1,274	$6,188	$3,094	$3,094
Mpls., MN	118	$1,062	$4,956	$354	$1,652	$8,024	$4,012	$4,012
Hamburg, MN	209	$1,881	$8,778	$627	$2,926	$14,212	$0.00	$14,212
KC, MO	51	$459	$2,142	$153	$714	$3,468	$0.00	$3,468
Manitowoc, WI	169	$1,521	$7,098	$507	$2,366	$11,492	$6,703.65	$4,788.35
Napoleon, OH	84	$756	$3,528	$252	$1,176	$5,712	$5,712	$0.00
Totals	**741**	**$6,669**	**$31,122**	**$2,223**	**$10,374**	**$50,388**	**$20,383.01**	**$30,004.99**

	Other income and interest				$3,206.87
Income Total	**$3,066.68**	**$14,625.72**	**$1,179.50**	**$4,717.98**	**$23,589.88**

$15 from Mission Fund Guideline is set aside for future mission works (36% of $42 Guideline)	$ 5,265

Detailed Expense Report (July 2012 thru Feb 2013 YTD)

General Fund Expense

Spring Classis Meeting	$	-	
Clerk/Printing & supplies	$	-	
Travel	$	387.64	
Honorarium	$	-	
Postage/Phone/Conf Calls	$	-	
	Total		**$387.64**

Mission Fund Expense

Grace Reformed Chapel	$	5,580.00

Heritage Reformed Chapel	$ 2,800.00	
Eden Prarie (Minneapolis MN)	$ 10,000.00	
Travel	$ 2,303.40	
Total		**$20,683.40**

Benevolence

	$ -	
Total		**$0.00**

Student Aid

Schwichtenberg, Cody	$ 1,200.00	
Carr, Steve	$ 6,000.00	
Total		**$7,200.00**

Expense Total	**$28,271.04**
Total Classis Income vs Expense July 2012 - Feb 2013	**-$ 4,681.06**

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 churches 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 churches answered "Yes."

3. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation:
    a. Is visitation faithfully performed?
        Napoleon, Manitowoc, and Waymart answered "Yes." Garner, Northwest Arkansas, Minneapolis, and Kansas City answered "Yes, needs improvement," and Hamburg answered "No, but we are working on it."

    b. Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?
        All churches answered "Yes," except Minneapolis, which answered "Yes, but needs improvement."

4. Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution?
    All churches 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 churches answered "Yes."
    b. Are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?
        All churches answered "Yes."
    c. Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the guidelines for giving?
        All churches answered "Yes."
    d. Are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?
        All churches answered "Yes."

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

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

7b. Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?
    All churches answered "Yes."

Report of Membership and Financial Statistics

The Stated Clerk provided a table of statistics based on the information submitted by the churches of classis (see Appendix #3, pages ?? of this abstract). This report was adopted.

Reports from Classis Delegates to Fraternal Bodies

Classis Ontario West of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches was visited by Rev. Jim Sawtelle in March 2012. The Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC was visited by Rev. Kyle Sorensen in October 2012. The Classis Eastern US of the URCNA was visited by Rev. Jay Fluck in October 2012.

Classis Ontario West

Classis Ontario West of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches met on March 21, 2012, in Hamilton, ON, hosted by Providence Reformed Church. The classis convened for business as 9:00 AM and completed its work by early afternoon.

The main item of business was to conduct a candidacy exam for Mr. Abel Pol, who is a graduate of the Canadian Reformed seminary. Mr. Pol was examined in four areas: a sermon proposal on Lev. 10:1-7, which declared satisfactory; OT exegesis of Psalm 14 and NT exegesis on Matt 11. This too was declared satisfactory; Doctrines and Creeds-the person and work of Jesus Christ, again this area of examination was declared satisfactory. The classis declared Mr. Pol eligible for a call. The examinations were thorough and thoughtful. The brothers were careful to determine the candidate's orthodoxy and ability to handle the scriptures from the original languages. I learned that this was not the candidate's first exam, and by that it was clear to me that the brothers are very diligent in their exams, always concerned that the man examined is truly prepared and equipped to handle the Word of God in a faithful way. It was edifying and gratifying to see the care with which the classis handles examination of men for the ministry.

A few other matters were handled, such as some advice to a church on a discipline matter, reports from delegates to fraternal churches, and church visitors reports. As for fraternal delegates present at the meeting, these included a minister from the OPC and yours truly. We were given opportunity to greet the classis members and pass on information about our respective bodies. The classis also appointed a time of prayer for each of us and our churches.

I enjoyed a lunch with the brothers and had opportunity to interact with a good number of the ministers and elders. I came away thankful for the fellowship I had with these men personally and a sense of having a real unity in the faith with these churches.

Since I had to arrive in Hamilton a day early, I also had the opportunity to tour the Canadian Reformed seminary and visit with some of the professors. I toured the Teachers College and a local Christian high school run by members of the Canadian Reformed churches. The tours I mention were given by Wes Bredenhof, whose company I thoroughly enjoyed. He also treated me to some excellent BBQ at Hillbilly Heaven. It may not be KC BBQ, but it was good enough to eat (as my Okie grandpa used to say when he wanted to give high praise for a meal).

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James Sawtelle

Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC

On September 14, 2012, your delegate represented our classis to the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC, meeting in Green Bay, WI. I was cordially received and given the privilege of a 'corresponding member.' I was also given time to bring greetings to the presbytery. One pastor, with whom I had never spoken, commented how the RCUS takes our fraternal relationship seriously and sincerely. He said that a few meetings ago when their presbytery was considering some action, the words and counsel of the RCUS fraternal delegate were extremely helpful to the presbytery. In my formal remarks, I relayed to the presbytery the perspective of our classis that our fraternal relationship is not one in which our unity has been merely "maintained. Rather, our unity has grown in the past year through our formal and informal conversations regarding our history with the deaf congregations, etc.

On that note, after undergoing an initial exam before a committee of the Presbytery in March 2012, Rev. Jari Saavalainen has not been in contact with them at all.

So, there was no discussion at all at this meeting regarding any possible mission works among the deaf. I was asked to pass on to our classis the sincere thanks of the presbytery for our assistance to them in answering their letter to us last March.

The meeting itself was run relatively orderly. I did feel it unwise for the moderator to convert most motions expressed on the floor into a "common consent" statement. He did give opportunity for objections, and then the 'common consent' stood. Motions were reserved, in his management style, for items where there may be some level of disagreement. I mention this because we in the RCUS also use the 'common consent' procedure occasionally. It seems not to be a wise tool as a general rule, from what I observed. Nevertheless, the wisdom of following the church order prevailed later in the meeting. A pastor wanted the presbytery to dissolve his relationship with the congregation because he had taken a call to another church. However, he had not had opportunity to inform his own congregation yet, due to providential circumstances. After a long debate, the wisdom of the church order and a way to apply it to the specific situation prevailed.

The presbytery has several mission works. However, at this meeting they had to decide to close the mission in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The work had been in existence for four years with an experienced and successful church planter, Rev. Jim Hoekstra. However, God did not open the door during that time, and it was a mutual decision that the work should cease.

A few men were taken under care as students for the ministry. I heard two candidates preach sermons before the presbytery. One was acceptable, while the other was just a detailed exegetical paper and not a sermon at all. I was not present when they discussed these sermons. Another candidate was to have an ordination exam, which was held after I had to leave. One of the new students for the ministry commented that his desire upon graduation and ordination was to serve on the missionfield. He said he would be happy even to die on the missionfield.

The Presbytery has a Permanent Youth Committee. They reported on a summer cross-cultural trip which 20 youth took part in. They went to a host OPC congregation, and then did VBS at two area Native American reservations. The Committee is also trying to create a Presbytery-wide youth camp. They did a few test runs with shorter camps in different locations. They specifically liked one camp which was a canoe adventure trip, where you paid the camp staff to be guides and for their equipment, and all you provided was the students and your own teaching and adult chaperones. Their long term goal is to create a high-quality and high-octane camp which might attract even youth from outside their presbytery.

One committee commented that the presbytery had been discussing in recent years how they had not been providing oversight of their own pastors and elder delegates who had not been attending their meetings. This was being addressed through a specific subcommittee to approach individuals with pastoral care. One of the negligent pastors had responded with a letter seeking the forgiveness of the presbytery. It was a true joy to see the Presbytery grant that forgiveness, and the moderator handled the whole situation very wisely and pastorally. He reminded all the delegates that it is and should be a safe thing to confide in one's brothers at presbytery when someone has doctrinal or personal issues they are struggling through. I hope that our classis would also be the same kind of 'safe place' for any delegate to come when they need counsel and prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Kyle A. Sorensen

Classis Eastern U.S. of the URCNA

The meeting of the Classis Eastern U.S. of the URCNA was held at Preakness Valley Reformed Church in Wayne, NJ, on October 17, 2012. Classis began at 8:00 with devotions, followed by a brief series of organizational motions and then to the examination of the day. As last year, the day was taken up by the exams which parallel ours but attempt to be more relaxed. The examiners are certainly more relaxed, but the effort had little effect on the candidate, except, perhaps, that he took the examination more lightly. His answers were less precise than those which you expected of me. I longed to see more precise answers and questions less leading.

Lunch was provided and as normal in such congregations sufficient for several days if one was not restrained. The fellowship around the table was encouraging. I was the only fraternal delegate present and many sought to greet me. I discovered that a second congregation of the classis was using and old RCUS facility, this in Washington, DC; (Theodore Roosevelt memorial—it is now UCC). I was also surprised to find that the URC has no official version of any of the Three Forms of Unity. This would seem to work against a uniform stand on theological issues.

After lunch I was asked to address the body and reported on our classis statistics and mission works. I encouraged them to be diligent in their exams. The examinations continued after I needed to leave, shortly after 4:00. Last year they deferred their business to a special meeting to be called later and it appeared that this day would see the same necessity.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jay Fluck

Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches or Visitors

Rev. Rodney Vermeulen, fraternal delegate of Classis Ontario West of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches, addressed the body. A time for questions from the delegates followed.

Sawtelle led the body in prayer for the fraternal delegate and his respective churches.

Reports of Special Committees

A. Organization Committee of Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and thanksgiving from our Lord that Heritage Reformed Church (HRC), Waymart Pennsylvania has elected two elders and one deacon to oversee the congregation of Christ's church in NE Pennsylvania.

At the direction of Covenant East Classis, RCUS (see page 40 of the 2012 Covenant East Classis abstract item 4, under Judical/Examination and Licensure Committee) and as advised by the consistory of Peace Reformed Church (PRC) Napoleon Ohio, the overseeing church for HRC since 2003, the election of two elders and one deacon was held at HRC on August 12, 2012, under the supervision of Pastor Ron Potter, associate pastor of PRC Napoleon, Ohio. Elected to the office of elder: John Grimm and Dan Wright. Elected to the office of deacon: David Smith.

On August 22nd, 2012 Pastor Steve Altman and elders Jim Drewes and John Honeck traveled to Waymart, Pennsylvania to conduct, along with Pastor Ron Potter, the ordination and installation of the newly elected officers at HRC. At the service, the ordination of elder Dan Wright, and the installation of the officers took place, with elder

John Grimm and deacon David Smith having previously been ordained. The seventeen communicant members and eight baptized children were dismissed from membership roll of PRC Napoleon Ohio to the care of HRC Waymart, Pennsylvania.

We ask for your prayers in support of the HRC congregation and may God grant them growth, in both faith and numbers, to his glory and honor.

Prayerfully submitted,
Peace Reformed Church Consistory, Napoleon Ohio
Pastor Steve Altman
John Honeck
Jim Drewes
Randy Schroeder

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

B. Installation Committee of Rev. Ron Potter

Rev. Dan Schnabel gave a verbal report of the installation of Rev. Ron Potter on December 5, 2012, as pastor of Heritage Reformed Church in Waymart, Pennsylvania. In addition to the chairman (Schnabel), the committee was Rev. Steve Altman, Elder Randy Schroeder, and Elder Mori Willemsen.

Classis Action: Classis took note.

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. Benevolence

1. That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Grace Ploeger in the amount of $1,200 per month for Synodical Year 2013.

2. That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of $1,000 per month for Synodical Year 2013.

3. That Covenant East Classis provide from the Student Aid Fund $150 per month to Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg to assist with his living expenses as a student-under-care for Classical Year 2013.

4. That Covenant East Classis provide benevolent aid of $658 per month for Classical Year 2013 to Rev. Jay Fluck to assist with medical insurance costs.

5. That Covenant East Classis provide benevolent aid of $475 per month for Classical Year 2013 to Rev. Ron Potter to assist with health care costs.

6. That Covenant East Classis provide $500 per month in benevolent aid for one year to Heritage Reformed Church of Waymart, PA. This aid is to begin in March, 2013.

7. That $12,000 be reserved in the Student Aid Fund in anticipation of additional benevolent needs for our students for the ministry that may need to be used in Classical Year 2013.

Sorensen, Harms, Drewes

B. Examination and Licensure

1. That Classis overture Synod to provide student aid to Mr. Chris Campbell with $2,100 for tuition and $400 for books for the 2013-2014 academic year.

2. That Classis overture Synod to provide student aid to Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg with $4,800 for tuition and $400 for books for the 2013-2014 academic year.

3. That Classis overture Synod to provide student aid to Mr. Steven Carr with $5,000 for tuition and $400 for books for the 2013-2014 academic year.

4. That Mr. Thomas Short be removed as a Student-under-care.

Opp, Brice, Wright, Duncan

C. Excuses

1. We excuse Rev. Ryan Kron from our classis meeting.

2. We excuse Elder Bobby Duncan from a portion of Wednesday's meeting of classis.

Sorensen, Harms, Drewes

D. Finances

1. We have audited the Treasurer's Report and find it to be in order.

2. That travel reimbursement for this Classis meeting be as follows:

Sorensen	$40.00
Opp	$20.00
Wright	$34.00
Sawtelle	$1,295.20
Potter	$1,631.20
Fluck	$384.09
Schnabel	$695.00
Altman	$901.20
Stuebbe	$430.00
Klynsma	$306.00
TOTAL:	**$5,736.69**

3. That the Classis adopt the following guidelines:

General Fund	$12.00
Missions Fund	$22.00
Benevolence Fund	$14.00
Student Aid Fund	$18.00

TOTAL per communicant member $66.00

4. That Classis direct the Treasurer to pay $1,083 per month to Emmaus Road Reformed Church from the set-aside funds for CEC mission works.

Altman, Duncan, Stuebbe, (Drewes advise)

E. Judicial

1. That the Constitution of Emmaus Road Reformed Chapel, Eden Prairie, MN, be approved with the following exception to Article 15: in the last sentence the words 'or appointment' should be deleted.

2. A. That in Article 3, consider adding the word 'inspired' in the 2nd line before the words 'infallible and inerrant.'
   B. That in Article 5 (top of page 2, 2nd line) after the word 'dismission' consider adding 'or by renewal of profession.' (see article 25 of Model Constitution)
   C. That in Article 15 (2nd to last line) after 'may fill a vacancy' consider adding 'by appointing an inactive elder or deacon, or by calling for a special election.'
   D. That in Article 16 (page 4, 2nd line) after 'two elders' consider adding 'and two deacons.'

3. That the Articles of Incorporation for Emmaus Road Reformed Church be found in order according to the RCUS Constitution, Article 9.

4. That Classis overture Synod to erect a study committee on Dispensationalism according to Overture #10.

Overture #10 states, "That Covenant East Classis overture Synod to prepare a position paper regarding the errors contained in the teachings of present day Dispensationalism.

Reasons attached:

1. Dispensationalism is a widely held teaching in a plurality of evangelical churches.
2. Since this is a common teaching of such churches we have found that prospective members coming from such churches have only heard this doctrinal view.
3. This paper would provide a teaching tool for the pastors and elders of our congregations
4. This paper would also provide an instruction for our present membership
5. This would also provide instruction for those seeking membership, and/or those who visit our churches and would like to have a biblical understanding of our position.

We would appreciate amongst other issues that this paper includes the following:

What is the position of our teaching regarding national Israel today?

How would we answer those who accuse us of teaching replacement theology?

This would also include the importance of the teaching that the Old Testament believers are one with the continuing Church in the New Testament age.

How would one answer the charge that we are anti-Semitic because we do not teach the necessity of the rebuilding of the temple and the necessity of a literal future temporal kingdom of Israel?

We also request that the paper provide a careful answer to their misinterpretation of prophecy in general, such as a secret rapture and a literal millennial age of one thousand years."

5. That Classis overture Synod to instruct its Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee in accord with Overture #12.

Overture #12 states, "Covenant East Classis overtures the 267th Synod of the RCUS to instruct the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee of Synod to interact with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church regarding their confessional position on the authority and inspiration of Scripture in the light of their General Assembly's adopted position that there is a multiplicity of acceptable views of Genesis 1-2 on Creation; and that the IRC report back to the 268th Synod.

GROUNDS:

1. The position of the RCUS on Six-day creation demonstrates a position which trusts the perspicuity of Scripture, lives by its divine inspiration and proclaims its accuracy. This position appears to be at contradiction to the published position of the OPC General Assembly.

2. If the OPC's position is consistently applied, the doctrinal agreement between the OPC and the RCUS will devolve to the point of mutual exclusion."

An additional motion was made from the floor and passed that Classis appoint a Committee consisting of the elders and pastors of Redeemer Reformed Church to organize Emmaus Road Reformed Church upon their amendment of the exception to their constitution.

Brice, Stuebbe, Opp, Potter, Wright, Fluck

F. Minutes of Classis

1. That Classis circulars, correspondence, forms, reports, and other communications pertaining to classis business be distributed electronically, where feasible.

2. That all official Classis documents be kept in hard copy form with the required signatures.

3. That the Clerk be given permission to develop 'fill in the blank' statistical forms after Synod considers the overture from CEC regarding the revision of statistical forms.

A motion was passed from the floor that the Clerk be authorized to purchase software necessary to produce forms.

4. Your committee received the draft minutes from the Stated Clerk and made corrections which were then incorporated in the revised minutes. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

Sawtelle, Renner, Wiersma

G. Minutes of Synod

1. Regarding #1 of the Synod Stated Clerk's report to Covenant East Classis; we consulted with the Clerk of Classis who assured us that he had corrected the minutes appropriately. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

2. Regarding #2 of the Synod Stated Clerk's report to Covenant East Classis, take note. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

3. Regarding #3 of the Synod Stated Clerk's report to Covenant East Classis, take note. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

4. Regarding #4 of the Synod Stated Clerk's report to Covenant East Classis, take note. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

5. Regarding #5 of the Synod Stated Clerk's report to Covenant East Classis, take note. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

Fluck, Potter, Harms

H. Missions

1. That Classis provide Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA, with $350 per month, a total of $4,200 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013, for rent and associated costs.

2. That Classis provide Emmaus Road Reformed Church with $1,083 per month, a total of $13,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $2,000 for the year, a 7% decrease from original support.]

3. That Classis overture Synod to provide Emmaus Road Reformed Church with $167 per month, a total of $2,000 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $13,000 for the year, a 33% decrease from original support.]

4. That Classis provide Grace Reformed Church of NW Arkansas, with $540 per month, a total of $6,480 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $720 for the year, a 5% decrease from original support.

5. That Classis overture Synod to provide Grace Reformed Church of NW Arkansas, with $300 per month, a total of $3,600 in fiscal year 2014, beginning July 2013. [A reduction of $720 for the year, a 5% decrease from original support.]

6. That Classis take note of the Missions Committee's proposed Strategic Plan for 3-5 years. [Classis Action was: Take Note.]

Schnabel, Klynsma, Van Heest

I. Nominations

The committee's recommendation for the permanent committees was passed as follows (underlined serves as chairman).

Executive:	Klynsma, Sorensen, Stuebbe, *Potter* (only for consult with Sovereign Grace Church in Gettysburg, PA)
Candidates and Credentials:	Brice, Fluck, Potter, Van Heest, Wright
Interchurch Relations:	Sawtelle, Klynsma, Kron, Weilersbacher
Missions:	Opp, Altman, Schnabel, Harms, Renner, Schroeder, Wiersma
Publications:	no committee formed

Schnabel, Klynsma, Van Heest

A motion was passed from the floor that Covenant East Classis authorize the Committee to Consult with Sovereign Grace Church to set a reasonable deadline for their application to join the RCUS.

J. Services

1. That Covenant East Classis accept the invitation of Peace RCUS of Garner, IA, to host the Spring 2014 Classis meeting.

2. That the following words of gratitude be extended to the saints of Grace Reformed Church: "The delegates of the Covenant East Classis wish to express our delight in and enjoyment from the hospitality of the saints of Grace Reformed Church. Your generous and thorough provisions of our needs have served to satisfy our hunger and blessed us with happy fellowship. Even as we have been blessed by this cheerful service, we recognize in it the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May our God richly bless you as you continue to seek the honor of His Name."

Sawtelle, Renner, Wiersma

Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

A. Expression of Appreciation to Hosting Congregation

This was handled through the Standing Services Committee.

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

These reports were already adopted.

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 stated clerk read aloud the final items of business for which there was no time to complete this review process. Upon corrections from the floor, the president declared the minutes approved as corrected.

Adjournment

The 28th annual meeting of the Covenant East Classis of the RCUS was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, until March 4, 2014, at Peace Reformed Church in Garner, Iowa.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 9 ministers and 7 elders present.

B. Devotions

Elder Marc Wiersma read from 1 John 2:24-28 and closed in prayer.

C. Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Doxology

The president led the body in reciting the Apostles' Creed and praying the Lord's Prayer. He then pronounced the Benediction and all who were present sang the Doxology.

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

Appendices

Appendix #1

List of Overtures and Communications

OVERTURES

1. From Peace RCUS in Garner, to overture Synod for ministerial aid for Mrs. Grace Ploeger. (To BENEVOLENCE)

2. From Peace RCUS in Garner, to provide Cody Schwichtenberg (Student Under-Care) with $150 per month for living expenses. (To BENEVOLENCE)

3. From Rev. Jay Fluck, request for benevolent aid. (To BENEVOLENCE)

4. From Heritage RCUS in Waymart, to overture Synod for benevolent aid for Rev. Potter's health care costs. (To BENEVOLENCE, with 3-year budget attached)

5. From Heritage RCUS in Waymart, for benevolent aid of $500 monthly for one year to Heritage RCUS. (To BENEVOLENCE, with 3-year budget attached)

6. From Heritage RCUS in Waymart, for $350 monthly from the Classis Missions budget for rental costs of Heritage RCUS. (To MISSIONS, with 3-year budget attached)

7. From Heritage RCUS in Waymart, to authorize the Stated Clerk to design a "fill in the blanks" form for statistics and credentials, and that these, along with all future Classis circulars and correspondence be transmitted and signed electronically whenever possible. (To MINUTES of CLASSIS)

8. From Peace RCUS in Napoleon, invitation to host Classis in 2014. (To SERVICES)

9. From Peace RCUS in Garner, invitation to host Classis in 2014. (To SERVICES)

10. From Grace RCUS in NW Arkansas, to overture Synod to write a position paper on a Biblical response to the doctrines of Dispensationalism. (To JUDICIAL)

11. From Salem Ebenezer RCUS in Manitowoc, to overture Synod for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance. (To BENEVOLENCE)

12. From Rev. Jay Fluck, to overture Synod to instruct its IRC to contact OPC regarding its view of Scripture (To JUDICIAL)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. From Emmaus Road RCUS in Eden Prairie, MN, their proposed constitution with a memorial requesting to be organized. (8 pages) (To JUDICIAL)

2. From Rev. Ryan Kron, request to be excused. (To EXCUSES)

3. From Emmaus, proposed articles of incorporation (4 pages) (To JUDICIAL)

Appendix #2
Necrology
Elder Eugene F. Greimann (1919-2013)
Peace Reformed Church of Garner, IA

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

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

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

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

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

Category	Northwest Arkansas	Garner, IA	Hamburg, MN	Kansas City, MO	Manitowoc, WI
1. No. Of Elders	2	3	3	3	4
2. No. Of Deacons	2	3	3	4	3
3. Comm. Last Year	19	91	209	51	169
4. Rec'd by Confirm.	0	0	4	3	2
5. Rec'd by Letter	2	0	0	3	0
6. Rec'd by Prof.	7	0	5	0	0
7. Tot. Received	9	0	9	6	2
8. Tot. Old/New Mbr	28	91	218	57	171
9. Lost by Dismissal	0	1	0	2	0
10. Lost by Era/Dis.	0	3	2	4	9
11. Lost by Death	0	1	8	0	4
12. Total Lost	0	5	10	6	13
13. Comm. this Year	**28**	**86**	**208**	**51**	**158**
14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.	5	21	29	17	20
15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.	33	107	237	68	178
16. No. of Families	17	50	127	21	95
17. No. of S. S. Child.	6	14	18	15	10
18. Adult Baptisms	1	0	0	0	0
19. Infant Baptisms	1	1	2	1	1
20. Total Baptisms	2	1	2	1	1
21. No. L.S. Served	25	80	185	55	163
22. Times. L.S. Served	6	5	9	6	4
23. Regular Offerings	$73,489	$126,073	$175,960	$154,268	$171,740
24. Special Offerings	$13,390	$8,980	$0	$16,849	$1,710
25. Other Sources	$12,635	$3,228	$15,494	$0	$4,298
26. Total Receipts	$99,514	$138,281	$191,454	$171,117	$177,748
27. Giv. to Syn. Guidlin.	$3,520	$23,598	$29,551	$10,256	$37,055
28. Giv. to Clas. Guidlin.	$1,330	$6,279	$8,616	$3,536	$12,421
29. RCUS non-budget	$0	$4,182	$3,783	$3,463	$3,885
30. Non-RCUS causes	$300	$9,198	$5,261	$8,975	$2,955
31. Other Expenses	$73,675	$83,702	$118,933	$160,345	$102,994
32. Total Expenses	$78,825	$126,959	$166,144	$186,575	$159,310
33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.	$0	$750,000	$1,000,000	$1,500,000	$800,000
34. Val. of Parsonage	$0	$125,000	$300,000	$0	$200,000
35. Impr. on Property	$0	$0	$110,000	$0	$0
36. Property Debt	$0	$0	$0	$144,084	$0
37. Debt Paid Last Yr.	$0	$0	$0	$57,000	$0
38. Synod Giving /Com.	$185	$259	$141	$201	$219
39. Classis Giving /Com.	$70	$69	$41	$69	$73
40. RCUS Giving /Com.	$255	$374	$201	$338	$316

Statistics of Covenant East Classis: covering 2012, reported in 2013

Minneapolis, MN	*Eden Prairie, (Minneapolis)	Napoleon, OH	Waymart, PA	2012 Total	2011 Total	% Change
4	0	3	2	24	22	9.1%
4	0	3	1	23	22	4.5%
118	22	84	21	762	756	0.8%
5	2	2	0	16	5	220.0%
2	0	0	2	9	12	-25.0%
13	13	4	1	30	26	15.4%
20	15	6	3	55	43	27.9%
138	37	90	24	817	798	2.4%
6	0	21	4	34	19	78.9%
0	0	0	0	18	32	-43.8%
0	0	1	0	14	6	133.3%
6	0	22	4	66	57	15.8%
132	**37**	**68**	**20**	**751**	**741**	**1.3%**
70	17	15	9	186	197	-5.6%
202	54	83	29	937	938	-0.1%
61	18	33	12	416	415	0.2%
65	15	13	8	149	150	-0.7%
1	1	0	0	2	0	300.0%
6	4	2	0	14	15	-6.7%
7	5	2	0	16	15	6.7%
132	41	61	19	720	717	0.4%
18	12	6	12	66	51	29.4%
$357,610	$144,497	$141,251	$24,484	$1,224,875	$1,143,494	7.1%
$17,535	$1,041	$1,104	$0	$59,568	$54,915	8.5%
$43,624	$43,624	$3,488	$12,698	$95,465	$292,075	-67.3%
$418,769	$189,162	$145,843	$37,182	$1,379,908	$1,490,484	-7.4%
$21,962	$4,763	$17,023	$3,700	$146,665	$164,406	-10.8%
$7,897	$1,725	$5,712	$1,400	$47,191	$68,729	-31.3%
$15,636	$0	$562	$0	$31,511	$31,794	-0.9%
$1,898	$1,250	$6,303	$0	$34,890	$39,212	-11.0%
$301,130	$101,545	$97,895	$32,842	$971,516	$997,330	-2.6%
$348,523	$109,283	$127,495	$37,942	$1,231,773	$1,301,471	-5.4%
$850,000	$0	$275,000	$0	$5,175,000	$5,025,000	3.0%
$170,000	$0	$0	$0	$795,000	$695,000	14.4%
$0	$0	$6,067	$0	$116,067	$90,761	27.9%
$303,733	$0	$0	$0	$447,817	$504,476	-11.2%
$11,743	$0	$0	$0	$68,743	$85,709	-19.8%
$186	$217	$203	$176	$192	$217	-11.3%
$67	$78	$68	$67	$62	$91	-31.9%
$386	$295	$277	$243	$296	$350	-15.5%

*mission work statistics included in supervising congregation's totals

Appendix #4
Standing Rules of 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 Consistory of the Church to which the treasurer belongs shall audit the final Classis Treasurer report in July. The Treasurer shall distribute their findings and his report to the Consistories of Classis. [2012]

3. 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.

4. The writ of certification of delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring session of Classis.

5. 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."

6. The Standing Rules shall be read immediately after defining the bar of the house.

7. 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.

8. 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]

9. 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]

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. The complete Classis statistics shall be made part of the minutes at the Spring Meeting of Classis.

13. 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.

14. 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]

15. 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]

16. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circulated before Classis.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. The Stated Clerk shall be paid an honorarium of $500.00 annually. [2005]

20. 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]

21. 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]

22. 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.