

**2018
Abstract
of the Minutes**



of the
COVENANT EAST CLASSIS

Reformed Church in the United States

**33rd Annual Session
March 6th-7th**

Hosted by
Peace Reformed Church
Garner, IA

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

OFFICERS of Covenant East Classis

President	Rev. Kyle Sorensen
Vice President	Rev. Dan Schnabel
Stated Clerk	Rev. Steve Carr
Treasurer	Elder Jim Drewes

CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

General Fund	\$12.00
Missions Fund	\$50.00
Benevolence Fund	\$4.00
Student Aid Fund	-
TOTAL per communicant member	\$66.00

CLASSIS TREASURER

Mr. Jim Drewes
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jimdkhd@bright.net

PERMANENT CLASSIS COMMITTEES

Executive:	<u>Sorensen</u> , Carr, J. Larson
Candidates and Credentials:	<u>Fluck</u> , M. Larson, Marinelli, DeBoer
Church Camp:	<u>Campbell</u> , Stuebbe, Marinelli, M. Bruckschen,* Hommes (*Deacon)
Interchurch Relations:	J. <u>Sawtelle</u> , Altman, Potter, Kroells, Wiersma
Missions:	<u>Kron</u> , Campbell, Schnable, Liesveld, Oberhaus, Luquette
Special Study Committee:	<u>J. Sawtelle</u> , Fluck, Campbell, Carr, Luquette, Hommes
Publications:	No committee formed

(Underlined serves as chairman)

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Students Under Care

None

Churches and Mission Works

Northwest ARKANSAS

Grace RCUS, 72756

3320 N. Second Street, Rogers, AR(479) 372-1108

Pastor: Steven Carr (Wife: Crystal)

Service Times: Worship: 10:00 am.

E-mail: pastor@gracereformednwa.org Web site:

www.gracereformednwa.org

Garner, IOWA

Peace RCUS, 50438

1907 200th Street, Garner, IA (3 miles south of Garner on US 69).... (641)

923-3060

Pastor: Rev. Mark Larson (Wife: Cynthia)

Service Times: Worship: 10:30 am; S.S. 9:30 am.

E-mail: peacereformedchurch@gmail.com Web site:

www.peacereformedchurch.org

Eden Prairie, MINNESOTA

Emmaus Road RCUS, 55438

Meeting at Eden Lake Elementary School,

12000 Anderson Lakes Pkwy, Eden Prairie, MN(612) 751-2096

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kron (Wife: Colleen)

Mail: 8701 Woodcliff Road, Bloomington, MN 55438

Service Times: Worship: 10:30 am.

E-mail: pastor@emmausroadrcus.org Web site:

www.emmausroadrcus.org

Hamburg, MINNESOTA

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 55339

15480 County Road 31(952) 467-3878

Pastor: Rev. Dan Schnabel (Wife: Marie)

Service Times: Worship: 9:30 am; S.S. 8:30 am

E-mail: Stpaulsrcus@gmail.com Web site: www.stpaulsrcus.org

Minneapolis, MINNESOTA

Redeemer RCUS, 55427

1300 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley, MN.....(763) 417-9851

Pastors: Rev. Tim Marinelli (Wife: Renita); Rev. James Sawtelle (Wife:

Thelma)

Mail: 3101 Virginia Ave., N. Crystal, MN 55427

Service times: Worship 10:15 am & 5:00 pm; S.S. 9:00 am (Sept.- May)
E-mail: debtor2mercy.eph2@gmail.com; sawtellejim@gmail.com
Web site: www.redeemercus.org

Kansas City, MISSOURI

Northland RCUS, 64164
2901 NW Cookingham Drive(816) 420-9700
Pastor: Christopher Campbell (Wife: Megan)
Service Times: Worship: 9:30 am & 5:00 pm.
E-mail: pastor@northlandreformed.org Web site:
www.northlandreformed.org

Napoleon, OHIO

Peace RCUS, 43545
638 Huddle Road(419) 599-3106
Pastor: Rev. Steven Altman (Wife: Bianca)
Service Times: Worship: 10:00 am; S.S. 9:00 am
Web site: www.peacercus.com

Gettysburg, PENNSYLVANIA

Covenant RCUS, 17325
149 Centennial Road.....(717) 398-2603
Pastor: Rev. Jay Fluck (Wife: Loretta)
Mail: 330 Montclair Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325
Service Times: Worship: 11:00 am; S.S. 10:00 am; Wed. Study /prayer
7:00 pm
E-mail: jefluck@msn.com Web site: www.rcusgettysburg.org

Waymart, PENNSYLVANIA

Heritage RCUS, 18472
200 Belmont Turnpike (lower level of Waymart Presbyterian Church) (570)
785-4012
Pastor: Rev. Ron Potter (Wife: Sharon)
Mail: 136 Grand Ave. Forest City, PA 18421
Service Times: Worship: 10:30 am; Bible Study 9:30 am; Wed.
Study/prayer 7:00 pm
E-mail: hrc@nep.net Web site: www.heritagercus.org

Manitowoc, WISCONSIN

Salem Ebenezer RCUS, 54220

6524 Hwy C.....(920) 726-4940

Pastor: Rev. Kyle Sorensen (Wife: Donielle)

Service Times: Worship 10:00 am; S.S. 8:45 am

E:mail: info@salemebenezer.org Web site: www.salemebenezer.org

Abstract of the MINUTES
of the
Covenant East Classis
Special Video Conference Classis Meeting
September 12th, 2017

Services and Organization

The President, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, called the meeting to order at 7:00 Pm CDT (8:00 EDT) on Tuesday, September 12th, 2017. The President led devotions by reading from 2 Tim. 2:1-7, commenting on the text, and leading in prayer. The opening roll call showed 10 ministers and 9 elders present, a quorum. The President appointed Rev. Potter as *Reformed Herald* reporter.

Elder Bobby Duncan joined the conference at 7:23 pm CDT.

Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

Elders Dick Kroells, Ken Hanko, Jay Liesveldt, and Lee Blank, and Mr. Christian Carlson were welcomed. Also present was licentiate Christopher Campbell.

Examination of Candidates

Examination of Mr. Christopher Campbell for Ordination

Rev. Fluck proposed the order of examination.

Fluck examined in Hermeneutics. Rev. Potter examined in the Constitution. Potter examined in the Confessions. Fluck examined in RCUS History. Fluck examined in Practica. The President gave opportunity for questions from the floor, after which the exam was arrested.

The Classis entered executive session. Elders Mark Wiersma, Jay Liesveldt, and Lee Blank gave testimonials regarding Mr. Campbell. Fluck reported on the written sermon as reviewed by the Candidates and Credentials Committee. The Classis voted to sustain Campbell's examination as a whole.

After arising from executive session, the President announced to Mr. Campbell that his ordination exam was declared satisfactory.

Classis voted to proceed to ordination and installation and that Revs. Marinelli and Carr along with the elders of Northland RCUS be appointed as the committee to ordain and install Mr. Campbell.

Carr led in prayer for Mr. Campbell.

Excuses

There were no excuses to report.

Reading of the Minutes, Roll Call, Devotions, and Adjournment

The Clerk read the minutes, which were declared approved as read and corrected by the President. The Roll was taken, which showed 10 ministers and 10 elders present, a quorum. Elder Marc Wiersma read from Ephesians 4:1-6, commented on the text, and prayed. The President closed by pronouncing the benediction. Classis adjourned at 10:26 pm CDT.

SPRING MEETING 2018

CLERK'S NOTE:

On March 5, 2017, the night before the Spring Classis meeting convened, the delegates of classis gathered in a closed door session between 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. for a discussion led by Rev. Kyle Sorensen on the subject of "" (based on Wes Bredenhof, *To Win Our Neighbors to Christ* (RHB, 2016)).

**Abstract of the MINUTES
of the Covenant East Classis**
of the Reformed Church in the United States
33rd Annual Session—March 6-7, 2018
Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA

Services

The President, Rev. Kyle Sorensen, called the 33rd annual meeting of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States, to order at 8:10 am. Rev. Steve Carr lead in singing hymn #461, in devotions from Luke 17:10, titled “We Are Unprofitable Servants,” and in prayer.

On Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM, classis delegates, along with members and guests from Peace Reformed Church gathered for a scheduled worship service. Rev. Kron conducted the service and Rev. Schnabel preached a sermon on Luke 11:4 titled “Lead Us Not into Temptation.”

Wednesday morning Potter lead in singing from #235, in a devotion from Zechariah 9:9-10 and Matthew 5:1-3, titled, the Kingship of Christ, and in prayer.

Closing devotions were led by Elder J. Larson from Peace RCUS, who read from John 4:1-26; 39-42 and led in prayer.

In addition, each session of Classis was opened and closed with prayer and at appropriate times during the meetings and after each parochial report was read. Meals were conducted with a Bible reading, appropriate comments, and prayer.

Organization

The 33rd annual session of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States was called to order at 8:10 AM by President, Rev. Kyle Sorensen. Following opening devotions the Stated Clerk, Rev. Steve Carr, called the roll of Classis which showed 10 Ministers and 9 Elders present, a quorum. The Bar of the House was defined as the first four rows of pews. Rev. Christopher Campbell and Elder John Larson were appointed tellers by the President. The reading of the standing rules was suspended by a two-thirds vote.

The following delegates were elected to serve as officers of Classis for the year: Rev. Kyle Sorensen as President, Rev. Dan Schnabel as Vice-President, Rev. Steve Carr as Stated Clerk and Elder Jim Drewes as Treasurer.

The President appointed Schnabel as *Reformed Herald* reporter.

Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

Rev. Sawtelle welcomed Rev. Dan Drost from the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA. Rev. Drost was seated in the bar of the house and given the privileges of the floor. The following first time elder delegates to Classis were introduced: Elder Dale Hommes from Emmaus Road, RCUS and Elder Mark De Boer from Redeemer, RCUS. Potter welcomed Elder Ken Hanko from Blue Bell, PA. Rev. Fluck welcomed Deacon Nathan Fenby from Covenant RCUS, Gettysburg, PA.

Reception of New Ministers and New Churches

Rev. Christopher Campbell was received by the Classis and given the right hand of fellowship by the delegates. No new churches were received.

Standing Committees

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

<i>Benevolence; Minutes of Synod:</i>	<u>Fluck</u> , Luquette, DeBoer
<i>Examinations & Licensure; Excuses:</i>	<u>M. Larson</u> , Sawtelle, Liesveld
<i>Finances:</i>	<u>D. Scnabel</u> , J. Larson, Hommes (J. Drewes Advisor)
<i>Judicial:</i>	<u>Potter</u> , Marinelli, Altman, Hanko
<i>Minutes of Classis; Services:</i>	<u>Drewes</u> , Kroells, Sorenson
<i>Missions; Nominations:</i>	<u>Campbell</u> , Kron, Steubbe,

Presentation of Overtures, Reports, and Communications

The items were referred 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 Apendix # 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

Esteemed Brothers,

Your committee brings before you the following report.

Since the Spring Classis meeting of 2017, your committee fulfilled its responsibilities as per Article 91 of the RCUS Constitution. Those duties included the following:

We organized a special video conference Classis meeting for September 12, 2017, for the purpose of conducting an ordination exam for Rev. Christopher Campbell.

We were contacted by a few pastors outside the RCUS who were looking for a possible call in the RCUS. In the case of Rev. Chuck Muether, in the course of assisting with his potential entrance into the RCUS we actually had multiple contacts and conversations. This included contacts with him, with RCUS ministers outside our Classis, with representatives of the Classis Home Missions Committee, and with representatives of the Consistories of Garner, IA, and Gettysburg, PA.

On March 10, 2017, the Executive Committee informed Rev. Dan Schnabel of our discovery of the fact that Classis does need to grant him permission to serve on the board of a non-RCUS mission agency. He had requested that Classis do this at our March 2017 meeting, but at that time nobody was aware of the need for a Classis to do so, yet we still wished him well. In our letter to him on March 10, we said, "that based on our discussion at Classis, we have given you implicit permission and thus fulfilled the requirements of that decision of Synod in 1994. You may certainly continue to serve the Christians for Armenia with a clear conscience."

The Synod decision is as follows: "That pastors serving on independent mission agencies have the approval of their respective Classis providing that the agencies are first of all orthodox and Protestant holding to the essentials of the true gospel; that secondly, they require their missionaries to be biblically qualified and properly ordained to the ministry of the Word; that thirdly, they require their missionaries to be called, sent, and under the oversight of the church where the missionary's membership is held. The ordination requirement obviously, does not apply to those going on the mission field as aviators, nurses, teachers, etc." (*Abstract*, 1994:51)

If Covenant East Classis deems that we must have the entire Classis, rather than the Executive Committee, approve this request, then the classis should make such a motion at this meeting.

With the newly revised Standing Rule 14, one congregation informed us of amendments it had made in recent years. Some congregations have informed the Classis via the parochial reports through the years. We are grateful that

Peace Reformed in Garner, Iowa, chose to be the trailblazers by informing the Executive Committee per Standing Rule 14. They explained that the congregation added language allowing for the adjustment of the size of the Consistory due to the smaller size of the congregation. They also reported that a few years ago they updated language that was inconsistent with their Articles of Incorporation, so that they could match new Iowa legal requirements.

Part of the rationale for this standing rule is that others may learn from the constitutions of our fellow congregations. Thus, your Executive Committee encourages all the churches of Covenant East Classis, especially older ones, to confirm that there are no discrepancies between your Articles of Incorporation and the local Constitution, so as to avoid any potential legal issues in the future.

On the matter of the Pastor's Retreat, Rev. Sorensen had a conversation with a few Classis pastors, and maintained contact with the resort most likely to be used, but he was not able to follow through with booking anything due his workload. We will have to try for next year, if the interest is still there.

In addition to the above, your committee sent out the following three circulars along with their information and recommendations, all of which were approved.

Executive Circular Volume 32, Number 1, July 6th, 2017

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Executive Committee brings before you for your consideration the following item of business.

1. Special Classis Meeting for ordination examination of Christopher Campbell. Recommendation: "The Executive Committee hereby calls a Special Meeting of Covenant East Classis to conduct the Ordination Exam of Licentiate Christopher Campbell. This Special meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00 p.m. (Central Time Zone). It will be held by video conference call; the technical details regarding the conference call will be distributed to you in the near future."

PLEASE NOTE: this is not an 'optional' conference call as has been done in the past where the Candidates and Credentials Committee has to be there, but everyone else can sit in. This is an ACTUAL SPECIAL MEETING of Classis. We are simply attempting to optimize participation, as well as minimize time and financial constraints by using this method to meet. In that regard, then, we are all expected to arrange our calendars around the meeting. If the Elder Primarius is unavailable, then the Secundus should be there.

Information:

1. By calling this video conference meeting, we are not setting a precedent. We had planned to meet in person, combining the licensure exam for Rev. Chuck Muether (who wishes to come in to Classis from the OPC) with the examination called for in this meeting, and had even planned to hold the ordination service for Mr. Campbell that night, should he have passed. However, at Rev. Muether's request, and for a variety of timing considerations, his exam will be most likely scheduled during the Spring Meeting of Classis.

2. At this point, your Executive Committee believes that we ought to call for a meeting which will provide a meaningful examination process that can include the greatest amount of participation from Classis delegates. Because of the demands on time and financial constraints of having a Fall Meeting for several elders and ministers, we deem this the wisest course of action.

Executive Circular Volume 32, Number 2, July 20th, 2017

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Executive Committee brings before you for your consideration the following items of business.

1. Request for Dismissal:

Attached is a request from Rev. Harvey Opp to be dismissed to the South Central Classis.

Recommendation: That Rev. Harvey Opp be dismissed from Covenant East Classis of the RCUS to the South Central Classis of the RCUS.

Grounds: Rev. Opp has received a call from Providence RCUS in Vermillion, SD, of which we also have a copy. He has written to Providence RCUS accepting their call, pending dismissal from Covenant East Classis and approval from South Central Classis. He is requesting that Covenant East Classis dismiss him to South Central Classis. Rev. Opp, who has served this Classis for over 20 years, says, "It has been my privilege to be a minister in the Classis since 1996."

Executive Circular Volume 32, Number 3 January 17th, 2018

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Executive Committee brings before you for your consideration the following item of business for the Spring 2018 Classis Meeting.

1. Host, time, and place of Spring Classis Meeting.

The 33rd annual Spring Classis Meeting will be hosted by Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA, March 6 -7, 2018. The Meeting will convene at 8:00 am on the morning of March 6th and continue through March 7th to the completion of business. There may be a licensure examination (see below) which will require meeting well into the afternoon on Wednesday the 7th. Please make travel plans accordingly. However, we may want to consider beginning our business ahead of the customary time, following right after the pre-Classis fellowship and discussion (see below).

2. Pre-Classis Fellowship and Discussion.

The Executive Committee has once again called for an organized discussion to run from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on Monday evening March 5, 2018 entitled, "Missions and Confessions." Rev. Kyle Sorensen will lead the discussion based on the book *To Win Our Neighbors for Christ: The Missiology of the Three Forms of Unity* by Wes Bredenhof (RHB, 2015). All pastors and elders are strongly encouraged to purchase and read this book in preparation for the discussion. Note: The book can be purchased for \$5.00 plus shipping from Reformation Heritage Books. It is also \$4.99 for Kindle.

3. Forms for Classis Meeting.

The forms necessary for this Classis Meeting are included with this Circular. Please send the Clerk the membership statics, financial statistics, and certification of delegate Elders as soon as possible. The Statistics Form is an editable form to facilitate using a computer to fill it out. If you hand write the statistics, please write clearly and legibly. The deadline for the reception of these forms is February 19, 2018 (standing rules # 3-4). In addition to these forms please include any necrologies and/or overtures. Overtures received by February 12th, will be circulated with their supporting grounds so the delegates and their Consistories may consider them before the Classis meets (standing rule #15). If your congregation is overseeing a mission congregation please see the declaration on statistical reporting that was approved by Classis (2008 Abstract, 31).

Permanent and Special Committee reports need to be mailed to Consistories by February 12, 2018 (standing rule #15).

Parochial Reports need to be sent to the President of Classis by February 19, 2018 (standing rule #3).

4. Licensure Examination.

Rev. Chuck Muether is being examined by our Candidates and Credentials Committee for orthodoxy and intent, and he may have a call in hand from Covenant Reformed Church, Gettysburg, PA, the week before our Classis meets. In such case, our Classis will need to conduct a Licensure exam during our meeting.

5. Travel and Accommodations.

Garner Inn and Suites, at 785 HWY 18 in Garner, Iowa, has ten rooms blocked off for us. Please make reservations no later than February 5th. Their phone number is (641) 925-1000. Rev. Mark Larson will let us know if there is anyone from Garner who can host any delegates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kyle Sorensen, President
Elder Dustin Rothwell
Rev. Steve Carr, Stated Clerk

Classis Action: The report was adopted as a whole.

B. Candidates and Credentials Committee

Fathers and Brethren,

Your committee consists of Dr. Mark Larson, Rev. Ron Potter, Elder David Sawtelle, Elder Dan Wright, and Rev. Jay Fluck.

There are, currently no men under care

The following reports on contacts with men interested in the RCUS ministry:

1. Dylan Rowland, the work with which he is laboring has chosen to become OPC. Dylan is still enrolled at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and still desires to come into the RCUS.
2. Kasey Horvath, is still enrolled at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and has not joined any RCUS congregation.
3. The committee recommends that the call from Covenant Reformed Church of Gettysburg be considered.

4. Rev. Charles Muether (OPC) has sustained his examination before the Candidates and Credentials Committee in Orthodoxy and Intent pursuant to a call from Covenant Reformed Church of Gettysburg to serve as a home missionary to the southeast Iowa area. Should that call be presented, the Committee recommends that Classis proceed to Licensure examination on the following schedule:

Apologetics	Rev. Campbell;	examiner
Prologomena	Rev. Fluck;	examiner
Scripture	Rev. Sawtelle;	examiner
Theology Proper	Rev. Potter;	examiner
Christology	Rev. Schnabel;	examiner
Anthropology	Rev. Larson;	examiner
Soteriology	Elder. Luquette;	examiner
Eschatology	Rev. Kron;	examiner
Ecclesiology	Rev. Schnabel;	examiner
Three Forms	Rev. Potter;	examiner
Constitution	Rev. Potter;	examiner
Practica	Rev. Potter;	examiner
RCUS History	Rev. Fluck;	examiner

Each exam, with the exception of Constitution will be of 10 minutes duration, the Constitution exam will be 20 minutes. Following each locus questions will be entertained from the floor and additional questions will be entertained after the exams as a whole.

The committee further recommends that Rev. Muether's paper, and transcript be accepted, and that his sermon, scheduled for Tuesday evening during the worship service be considered.

The committee will seek for executive session following the exhaustion of questions from the floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Mark Larson, Rev. Ron Potter, Mr. David Sawtelle, Mr. Dan Wright, Rev. Jay Fluck

Clerk's Note: Rev. Chuck Muether was not able to attend the meeting.

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

C. Interchurch Relations Committee

Dear Brothers,

Your committee's activity this past year was routine. Letters of invitation to attend our classis meeting were sent to one OPC presbytery, two URCNA classes, two CanRC classes, and the Midwest presbytery of the RPCNA. We received invitations from Classis Ontario West and Niagara Classis (CanRC), the Presbyter of the Midwest and Ohio (OPC), the Classis Central and Eastern Classis (URCNA). I am happy to report that we have finally made contact with the Midwest presbytery of the RPCNA and anticipate a delegate from them at our meeting. Our committee is hopeful to develop stronger relations with this presbytery going forward.

We continue to struggle to get delegates to our fraternal church assemblies. Much of the problem in the spring is that many of these bodies meet the same week and even the same time that we do. The fall or rest of the year is mostly a better option for us to attend assemblies. But lamentably that did not work out last fall either. I was prepared to attend a CanRC classis meeting in January 2018, but the date was changed at the last minute and I wasn't able to attend. Part of the issue is also that many of our ministers are just too pressed for time, and our geographical spread often requires a rather large time commitment for travel. Still, we need to do better.

We did have one of our classis ministers attend the presbytery of the Midwest (OPC), the report has been sent to all delegates for you to read.

It would be well for classis to add more members on the Interchurch Committee. We also need to do a better job of utilizing ministers in various geographical areas to attend the fraternal meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James Sawtelle, Rev. Steve Altman, Mr. Marc Wiersma

Classis Action: The Report was adopted.

D. Missions Committee

Brothers,

Members of your Classis Home Missions committee made a visit to Redeemer Reformed Church in Golden Valley this past year. We also had conference calls

with Waymart, Blue Bell, Arkansas, and a call with Rev. Chuck Muether and about a potential new work in Iowa.

Conversation with Rev. Chuck Muether

On May 8, 2017 the classis home missions committee met with Rev. Chuck Muether via video conference call. Present on the call were the following members of the classis home missions committee: Rev. Dan Schnabel, Rev. Harvey Opp, Rev. Ryan Kron, Elder Dick Kroells, Elder Dennis Luquette. We talked with Rev. Muether about his own history of church planting in the OPC, his interest in the RCUS, and his interest in starting a new church plant in the Oskaloosa area in Southeastern Iowa. At this point there are two committed families and the possibility of six other families. We anticipate his upcoming licensure exam at the spring classis meeting. Your committee also looks forward to continued discussions with Rev. Muether and a visit to Oskaloosa, Iowa in the year ahead, the Lord willing.

Reformation Church in Blue Bell, Blue Bell, PA On November 6, 2017 the classis home missions committee met with Reformation Church in Blue Bell via video conference call. Present on the call were all the members of the classis home missions committee (Rev. Dan Schnabel, Rev. Ryan Kron, Elder Dick Kroells, Elder David Oberhaus, Elder Dennis Luquette). We talked with Elder Ken Hanko and four others who are a part of the group at Blue Bell, as well as Rev. Ron Potter and Elder Dan Wright from Heritage. We opened the meeting with Scripture reading and prayer.

This is not the usual method of meeting with a mission church, but for this year your committee went this route in order to allow the entire committee to be a part of the discussion. This also allowed two new members of the committee to become acquainted with Blue Bell. Also, Pastor Ryan Kron had a very difficult year with ongoing back pain, at times having to go in for treatment four times a week. This made extra travel difficult for him. Next year, your committee plans to send two members to the mission work to visit.

Rev. Kron opened with reading Matthew 28:18-20 and with prayer. Ken is preaching through the Psalms and Judges in the morning and the Belgic Confession in the evening. His preaching is very sound. Both Rev. Potter and Rev. Fluck are preaching once a month in the evening. Most of the people attend both services each day. They also have a regular Bible study where they spend three to six weeks on topics like prayer, angels, wisdom, and witnessing. They also did a study on Titus. There is one regular visitor to the Bible study. They also have a prayer meeting every other month. Their regular attendance is the same as last year (twelve people total). This group is strongly committed to the work of the church. They have gotten about 24 visitors over the past year from other churches. None of the visitors have stayed, but we were encouraged to hear that the church is welcoming to visitors and hospitable, seen in how they often invite visitors over for lunch after the service. They also had a recent Reformation Day event with a dozen or more visitors.

Most of the families live within twenty minutes of the church building. The church is in a very populated suburb just outside of Philadelphia. They are eight miles from Westminster Seminary. The closest Reformed/Presbyterian church is five miles away in Ambler.

We also talked with them about outreach and evangelism. They have a very good website (mobile-phone compatible) which includes sermons. They are on church-finder websites and on sermon audio. They put together posters and business cards. They posted a realtor's box outside the door of the church. They might pursue a mailing campaign. We encouraged them to use Facebook and "Next door" to get word out to the community. Ken has also written a couple short pieces with their practice of the Lord's Supper and predominantly Psalm-singing in corporate worship. Ken is also continuing to work on versifying the psalms for existing psalm and hymn tunes.

We also discussed fellowship and the life of the church. They joined Gettysburg this summer with their conference series (with over 30 men in attendance), and we were encouraged to hear of the good fellowship among the Pennsylvania churches. Is this a possible bridge to future church planting? They do not have regular fellowship/potluck suppers, and we encouraged them to have this once a month.

They have a very good situation with the building where they meet. They maintain the building but don't have to pay any rent. This past year they have made some improvements with the building, including adding a lighted sign in the front yard and signs on the doors and walls to help direct people. We were thankful to hear that they have no major financial concerns at this point, although they will need some funding for the next year.

We talked with Ken about not taking too much of the work on himself. Ken said a man named Joe is doing the treasury work, and Joe's daughter is helping with maintaining the website. Blue Bell does not yet have a steering committee, although four of the men are doing some of the work that a steering committee would typically do. David Sawyer is helping out with versifying the psalms. We asked them about their goals, and one man said "to be faithful to God's Word." They stated that they do not want to cater to the culture but to serve the Lord. They would like to continue to do outreach and invite new people to the church, and they desire to see growth at the work.

Ken said that the relationship is very good with the overseeing consistory at Heritage. Ken meets once a month with the Spiritual Council at Heritage and gives them a report, and Rev. Potter contacts Ken each week. Ken and Rev. Potter do pastoral visitation together. We also encouraged Ken to pursue licensure in the RCUS.

Heritage RCUS, Waymart, PA On November 6, 2017 the classis home missions committee met with Heritage Reformed Church in Waymart via video conference call. Present on the call were all the members of the classis home missions committee (Rev. Dan Schnabel, Rev. Ryan Kron, Elder Dick Kroells, Elder David

Oberhaus, Elder Dennis Luquette). We talked with Rev. Ron Potter and Elder Dan Wright from Heritage.

The fellowship is a blessing to the church in Heritage. One thing Rev. Potter said that was very encouraging was that the church is their family. They have regular Wednesday night Bible study, prayer meeting, and a Bible class on Sunday mornings. They also have Lord's Supper once a month (with a fellowship meal). Heritage hasn't added numbers this year but financially they are doing well and can step back from classis missions funding. We give thanks to God for the faithful and generous giving of His people!

Heritage has four to seven regular visitors that are regularly attending. They also had two new visitors at a Reformation evening. Their regular attendance on Sunday mornings is sixteen to twenty-four. Occasionally they are over thirty in attendance with visitors. The Lord is adding to the church in Waymart! They have slow but SOLID growth, and people are "sticking on the word of God." They pray for this at their prayer meeting, and they give thanks for the visitors who have come and stayed this year. One answer to prayer is that they have a more comfortable environment for worship with their new chairs. Another answer to prayer is that they will be off classis missions funding.

This past year Elder John Grimm stepped out of the office of Elder, as he feels overworked and his elderly father is in poor health. Rev. Potter is now the clerk and president of Spiritual Council. Elder Dan Wright is helping with singing in worship and he is the treasurer. Dave Smith continues to serve as a deacon. They are also involved in outreach. Their members are engaging people on a one-on-one basis. Some of their visitors have found them through the website. They have 3 domain names in the area, with the goal of reaching people in surrounding areas. They helped a family in the area that went through a financial downturn. Other outreach events include a hayride in the fall, a missions night with other NAPARC churches in the area, an annual picnic in the summer and an annual Christmas party. They do a good job of following up with visitors via phone, email, and visits with Rev. Potter.

We also asked Rev. Potter about his health. He is doing some woodworking still. He is not doing the work as NAPARC clerk anymore, and his health is better (and his stress is less!). Rev. Potter also reports that he will not need Classis health care help this year, as the church will handle this. This means that Heritage will not need any classis support, and this will end Home Missions involvement with Heritage. We praise God for his faithfulness to Heritage through the years! Rev. Potter also asked for prayer for his wife, Sharon, as she is dealing with some serious eye problems.

Grace RCUS, Rogers, AR

On February 5, 2018 the classis home missions committee met with Grace RCUS in Rogers, AR via video conference call. Present on the call were the following members of the classis home missions committee: Rev. Dan Schnabel, Rev. Ryan Kron, Elder David Oberhaus, and Elder Dennis Luquette. We talked

with Rev. Steve Carr and Elder Bobby Duncan. This is not the usual method of meeting with a mission church, but for this year your committee went this route in order to allow the entire committee to be a part of the discussion. Your committee plans to send some men to visit Arkansas later in 2018.

Rev. Kron opened the meeting with reading from Colossians 4 and prayer. We then began by talking about some of the goals at Grace RCUS. Currently there are eight families at the church with an average Sunday attendance of nineteen. Rev. Carr says that they are praying for church growth not only in numbers but also growth in spiritual maturity among God's people. One of the great needs in Rogers, Arkansas is for a depth of teaching of God's Word. Elder Bobby Duncan said that they want to deepen their understanding of the gospel among the entire congregation. This includes catechizing the children, as well as doing various forms of outreach. They have a VBS and Sunday School program, as well. They want to be faithful to the members of the church and they also hope the congregation will be outward oriented to others outside the congregation. One goal is for the members to be more involved in outreach and to make the community more aware of the church.

Rev. Carr often does his work at a local coffeeshop. He is also involved in a program called "Work Matters," which seeks to promote the Christian faith in the workplace. He led a Bible study among them. He has also gone to a local park to pass out gospel tracts. Others in the church are involved in Bible studies at their places of work. Rev. Carr has also started a "YouTube" channel where he does a 10-15 minute summary of the sermon. The sermons are also posted each week on the website. They have found that their website is the primary form of getting the word out.

Elder Duncan stated that there is harmony among the leadership, including Rev. Carr, Elder Duncan, and Deacon Steve. They have a genuine love for each other and for the church. Rev. Carr has a deep sense of appreciation for the brothers who are on the consistory. This sense of harmony and unity extends to the entire congregation. They currently do not have any overbearing personalities. We praise God for the healing that has taken place. The church has regular fellowship meals and a time of prayer after each Sunday morning service. Some visitors will also attend this meeting from time to time. This fosters an intimate love among the members of the congregation, as it is a time to bear one another's burdens and pray together. They have thought about the idea of adding a "mid-week Bible study," as well. The entire church is blessed by the worship and fellowship they experience each Lord's Day. Elder Duncan says that the congregation is very faithful in their attendance, love, and giving. They have a great love for the Lord and for each other.

They are thankful that a new family has moved to the area recently from Texas. They have been regularly attending, and Rev. Carr looks forward to meeting with them soon. Rev. Carr tries to follow-up with visitors when they attend. This past year Rev. Carr concluded a series on Mark, and also preached on 1 Corinthians 13, and Galatians 4:4. To begin 2018, Rev. Carr preached on Acts 2:42 and then began a series on Jonah. Elder Duncan says that the Word is

being faithfully proclaimed is well-received by the congregation. Rev. Carr is also teaching on the Heidelberg Catechism and writing up a weekly exposition of the Canons of Dort.

Rev. Carr says that he, his wife, and five children are being well provided for by the church. There have been some repairs done to the parsonage and to the church building. The church is very blessed financially with providing for Rev. Carr, as well as having a church building and a parsonage. They are very thankful and praise God!

Rev. Carr's wife, Crystal, has connected with many people in the community through homeschooling. Rev. Carr also teaches teams through 4-H robotics. This has also been an effective way to connect with people in the community. They recently had their congregational meeting, and they are very thankful for the generous giving of the congregation.

Elder Duncan says they are thankful for the prayers and support of classis. He also asked if there are opportunities for Rev. Carr to receive more formal mentorship, encouragement and care from the classis as it is common for pastors to "toil in isolation." Rev. Carr has tried to meet with some of the local pastors in the area to "brush up on their Greek."

Over this past year they have had some people come, and they have also had some families leave. This includes some families moving out of town and another family that recently decided to leave the church, which can be a discouragement. Steve has met with the husband of the family who left, and he has been trying to arrange for another meeting to remind them of their obligation and vows as members. They also lost Deacon Sam, as he got married and is now attending his wife's church. Rev. Carr has also spoken with him (and written him a letter) since he left. We encouraged Rev. Carr and Elder Duncan to "keep the channel open" and to "not burn any bridges" with these members who have left. We also encouraged the consistory to do a "yearly review" with Rev. Carr in order to keep a short account with each other (as a form of mutual censure and sharpening one another).

We as a committee also talked with Elder Bobby Duncan individually. Elder Duncan has served for many years "joyfully" in the congregation. He is also now working an extra job. Elder Duncan said he would like to see other members of the congregation step forward to serve as elder or deacon, but so far they have not been willing to serve. We as a committee encouraged them to "task" some of these men with other ways to serve in the church. We also talked about the possibility of having an officer training class.

They also have an officer training class. They had a men's leadership conference in September last year, which they plan on doing again this September. It is designed to get men thinking about church office and other ways men can lead in the church.

We also talked about their consistory meetings. Their consistory is meeting together (at least quarterly), but Elder Duncan said it would be better if the meetings were happening monthly. Our committee agreed that their consistory ought to regularly meet each month. Elder Duncan re-iterated the unity, closeness, and harmony among the consistory. He said that the congregation is blessed by Rev. Carr's preaching. He also commented on the good work and service that Rev. Carr has provided. Elder Duncan mentioned that their Deacon Steve has some health issues, and he also has to travel a long distance to worship at Grace RCUS. Rev. Schnabel closed the meeting in prayer.

Redeemer RCUS, Golden Valley, MN

On February 6, 2018 three members of the classis home missions committee visited with the consistory of Redeemer RCUS. Those attending were Rev. Dan Schnabel (Hamburg), Elder Dick Kroells (Hamburg), and Rev. Ryan Kron (Eden Prairie). From Redeemer, Rev. Jim Sawtelle and Rev. Tim Marinelli were in attendance, along with four other members of their consistory.

Rev. Kron opened with devotions from Matthew 28:18-20 about the Great Commission. We then began to talk about the ministry of Redeemer through this past year. 2017 was a difficult year for Redeemer. In the providence of God, Talitha Marinelli's illness was a major trial for the Marinelli family. This trial is still ongoing, as Talitha's arteries have not been growing properly. But they are hopeful that her health will not be as burdensome in the year ahead. The Marinelli family is thankful that they have a nanny who will be coming to help them soon, as they anticipate the birth of a child later in the month.

We then talked about the labor of both Rev. Sawtelle and Rev. Marinelli. Rev. Marinelli has been laboring here since the summer of 2015. Things are going very well, as they have a rotating plan for preaching (morning and evening) and doing the sacraments. This past year Rev. Marinelli did a series in James and Jonah and is now doing a series on the law of God. Rev. Sawtelle did series on sanctification and now is preaching in the gospel of Luke.

Rev. Marinelli is leading a mid-week Bible study on Revelation where the attendance has grown this past year. They are also doing a women's Bible study on 1 Corinthians 13. Also, there is a study that is taking place among the Chinese at the University of Minnesota. The attendance has been lower than in years past.

They also have split up the work of the membership classes. Rev. Sawtelle has been helping to teach the adult Sunday School, while Rev. Marinelli is teaching catechism to the students. They continue to have a monthly prayer meeting. Due to Redeemer hosting synod, they will not hold a VBS this coming year.

Their visitors are down a bit from last year, and they had a few families leave and move away this past year. However, overall their families and membership have grown over the past year. They have had several marriages in the congregation in the past year.

They met this past year to assess their goals, progress, and initiatives. These include ideas on hospitality with visitors, hosting a speaker to come and host a conference, and a plan to have outreach classes to be held once or twice a year. These outreach classes would be evangelistic, as they would introduce people to the Christian faith. They will ask their members to specifically bring non-Christians to attend. The classes would be held at a member's home or coffeeshop. Their hope is that these outreach classes will begin in March or April of this year. They hope to use the Christianity Explored materials.

Here is a detailed list of their three initiatives:

Initiative 1 – Rotating Hospitality focus We wish to create a list of members with interest and gifts to increase the practice of hospitality at Redeemer. Members will serve with a focus on hospitality for a Sunday on a rotating schedule. Possible acts of hospitality can include: hosting visitors for a meal, greeting worshippers at the door and handing out bulletins, directing visitors to coat racks, restrooms and nursery, giving visitor cards to visitors, pointing out and/or introducing visitors to other members at Redeemer, exiting worship services during the doxology and greeting and welcoming visitors before they leave. In addition, have a weekly bulletin announcement welcoming visitors, create visitor cards, and consistory to do regular review and follow up with visitors.

Initiative 2 – Special Event/Speaker Series We intend to host periodic special events or speakers for our members as well as invitees or visitors, to meet a need for our members and to introduce those outside of our church to Redeemer. We hope to have a speaker this fall on media/technology/cell phone use by Christians, and another event which we thought beneficial to pursue would be a marriage conference, perhaps next year. These could be held at Redeemer or another location.

Initiative 3 – Outreach Classes As a regular, evangelistic outreach effort of Redeemer Reformed Church, one pastor would lead a series of classes (one to two times a year) introducing the basics of the Christian faith through a discussion on the material from Christianity Explored or other like sources. Preferably, each series would consist of 4 classes, 1.5 hours in length and held on a bi-weekly basis. To assist in this effort, we would seek the participation of approximately 6-8 members of the church who could commit to attending these meetings. Members of the church who know people they could invite to attend these meetings are encouraged to do so. The response of the members will help determine the location of these meetings. We suggest that these meetings be held either in a member's home or in a public venue such as a coffee shop or library meeting room in the vicinity of those likely to attend. We hope to begin the first series of these classes in the March/April time-frame."

Next we discussed their five year goals and objectives. Their prayer is to grow to 70-75 families and plant another church in a 3-5 year window. They currently have 55 families, with a number of visitors and potential new members. Their thinking is that they will wait to decide on where to plant a church until they have 65 families. They are currently 2 ½ years into their 3-5 year plan. Another goal

is the continued discipleship, growth, and spiritual maturity of the members at Redeemer. They also desire to increase the number of elders and deacons. We praise God that they had one new elder and one new deacon added at their annual meeting in January 2018. They now have 3 elders and 5 deacons and 2 pastors on their consistory. They are following the manual on officer training that Rev. Sawtelle put together a few years ago. They are thankful that there is a sense of harmony and unity on the consistory. The men who are serving are very involved in the life of the church. They interact well and effectively together. They also said there is good harmony among the entire congregation. They desire to be more interconnected as a congregation (as people live a distance away), but they are united together as a congregation.

The Lord is also blessing them financially. They started at \$50,000 total from classis and synod, and now the support is at \$30,000 from classis and synod (the same amount from last year). They want to continue to reduce their dependence on classis and synod in the years ahead. They are thankful that this past year they were able to complete an elevator project to improve accessibility to the church with the handicap access lift.

Also, the committee wants to mention one other thing. The brothers at Redeemer wanted to pass along that they felt that the synod standing committee was harsh in their assessment at synod last year. We felt like this should be passed on to classis.

We concluded our visit with a time of prayer. We prayed for former deacon John Selvestra's wife, Jennifer, who has terminal cancer. We also prayed for Talitha, Renita's pregnancy, Thelma's health, and for Redeemer as they spread the gospel in the Twin Cities.

Recommendations:

1. That Classis provide Reformation Church Blue Bell with \$867 per month, a total of \$10,400 in mission funds in the fiscal year beginning July 2018, to be used for remuneration for sermons preached in the morning and afternoon services at Blue Bell (\$200 per Sunday).

Explanation and grounds: Now that there is a Heritage Elder on the field the funds can go straight to Blue Bell with Blue Bell reporting its finances to Heritage monthly (which they are presently doing). That way it will not entangle Heritage's finances especially since both churches need to submit a three year budget. Also, electronic funds transfer would expedite things greatly and get the funds to all our mission works on the 1st of each month. The Synod Treasurer, Randy Schroeder, is now doing electronic funds disbursement at the synodical level. Since Jim Drewes and Randy are in the same Church. Randy could help Jim get this set up.

2. That Classis provide Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA with \$3,000 for outreach through Reformation Church Blue Bell if needed. [Same as last year.]

3. That Classis support Redeemer RCUS of Golden Valley church building efforts with up to \$1,250 a month, a total of \$15,000, in 2018-2019, as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area in around 3-5 years. (This is the same as last year)

5. That Classis overture Synod to provide Redeemer RCUS church building efforts with up to \$1,250 a month, a total of \$15,000, for 2018-2019 as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area in around 3-5 years. (This is the same as last year)

6. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$330.75 per month, a total of \$3,969 in the fiscal year beginning July 2018. [This is a reduction of 10% from last year].

7. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$384.50 for life insurance for Rev. Carr.

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

E. Publications

No Committee was formed

F. Church Camp Committee

Dear Brothers,

Covenant East Heidelberg Youth Camp met again in 2016 at Camp Sinewa, July 12-15. The theme of the camp continued building on the teaching of petitions of the Lord's Prayer using the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day as a basis. The theme this year was: Thy Will Be Done (Loving What God Wants), the theme verse was Psalm 119:16.

Our schedule was the same as previous years with five presentations dealing with various aspects of our theme. Our overview of goals and objectives was as follows: "To clarify, trust and delight in the Will of God our Savior. God delights in His Will, loves His Will, and wants our will to be His. He wants the atmosphere of Heaven to be reflected in the earth; and in particular in and through His people. He wants us to want what He wants, love what He loves, and hate what He hates. Apart from Christ we are utterly incapable of doing this. In Christ, it is to become our chief calling and desire. This theme will be explored first of all through considering the third petition of the Lord's Prayer and many Scriptures that flesh out this petition. We will then explore how this pursuit of God's Will is worked out in our "office and calling", then we will consider what it means to be made in the image of God and reflect His image in terms of two important and

challenging areas: Gender Identity (understanding who we are as male/female) and Sexual Purity. We will also explore how delighting in God's Will is to be applied specifically in our use of modern media devices."

We tried a couple new things this year. We asked that lectures be 30 minutes, and that the speaker prepare a list of discussion questions applying and exploring the subject. A fellow pastor then acted as a facilitator of discussion using the prepared questions. The goal was to generate active interaction with the campers, urging them to engage in the subject matter and ask their own questions about the teaching. Based on discussions among the presenters, this format was in some ways good, but there were some draw backs to it as well. We will have to tweak the execution of this format for the coming year.

Presentations were a bit more challenging this year due to combining all camper age groups in the lectures. With an age range of around ten years old to eighteen it was difficult to keep discussion age appropriate. We will have to address that this year.

Another initiative this year seemed to be well received by the campers. At various times on the schedule we introduced our campers to the pastors by having the pastors present "Gospel Stories." This included the pastor's story of his journey to faith. Our objective was let the campers see the pastors in a more personal light, as well as be edified by hearing how the Lord manifested His grace and mercy in them, as well as learn something about how the gospel shapes and delivers God's people.

The camp was hosted, as always, by the capable and dedicated servants from Salem Ebenezer. Carolyn Hackmann was the local organizer. She and the members of Salem Ebenezer go above and beyond the call in making the camp work smoothly. We want to thank them for their gracious hosting.

There were a total of 45 campers this year, down from previous years. Five ministers and student for the ministry Christopher Campbell were present, as were three adult women counselors.

We note that several churches were not represented either by campers or pastors/ adult members of the churches. Your committee doesn't know whether this absence reflects a demographic issue in the churches, a geography issue, an economic issue, or lack of interest. Is the participation of the congregation dependent upon whether or not the Pastor will be attending? We are sensitive to the fact that there may simply be insurmountable obstacles that hinder some churches from participation. We would ask each consistory to consider this question as you receive this report. We ask this because knowing the answers to these kinds of questions would be beneficial for the planning of the camp by Salem Ebenezer.

The dates for the 2017 camp are July 11-14.

Finally, we would mention some needs that would contribute to a successful camp this year: 1) we are in need of female counselors for the girls' dorm and cabins. In particular it would be wonderful if we could have some mature college age women present. 2) We would be well served by having some mature men

present to help with chaperoning. Ideally, having some college age men would be a great service, but fathers are welcome too. 3) Timely response to the call for numbers of attendees from each church is crucial for food and t-shirt purchases. 4) We need pastors to participate in teaching and general interaction with campers. 5) Anyone with EMT certification is a huge bonus. 6) Financial contributions would be helpful to keep us in the black.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Steubbe, Jim Sawtelle, Tim Marinelli, Mark Bruckschen

Classis Action: The report was adopted by the Classis

Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches or Visitors

The President introduced Rev. Dan Drost of the Midwest Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Rev. Drost brought fraternal greetings, and Rev. Ron Potter responded with prayer.

Reports of Officers

A. President's Report

Our *Heidelberg Catechism* states in Question and Answer #54,

What do you believe concerning the “holy, catholic Church”?

That out of the whole human race, from the beginning to the end of the world, the Son of God, by His Spirit and Word, gathers, defends, and preserves for Himself unto everlasting life a chosen communion in the unity of the true faith; and that I am and forever shall remain a living member of this communion.

The Son of God “gathers” His Church. As I reflect on the state of the Church of our Lord in Covenant East Classis, I am looking at the handiwork of the Son of God. How has He been at work gathering, defending and preserving His Church among us this year? What follows are my feeble reflections on this mighty work of Christ Himself.

The statistics show that we received fewer communicant members this year (down 14%) while we lost fewer members (down 28%). I notice that last year we lost 43% fewer members than the year before that. The total number of communicants has increased a modest 2%. Four of our congregations report having one less elder this year. Normally the number of church officers is very consistent. This amounts to a 15% drop in elders serving in the Classis. While each situation has an explanation and it does not appear to be the sign of conflict, it is a concern. The means God uses to gather, defend, and preserve His Church is the Word of God as taught in the power of the Spirit. That happens through the work of faithful pastors and elders to oversee and shepherd that

work. Several congregations report an active recruitment of new elders and deacons and training programs that are in place or in development. Many of these are the very ones with fewer officers. We should all make it a matter of prayer that God would raise up a new generation of officers in His Church. The Candidates and Credentials Committee reports some correspondence with potential ministerial candidates, as well as direct oversight and preparation for a licensure exam at this meeting of Rev. Chuck Muether, who is coming to us from a fraternal denomination and looks to plant a missionwork in south central Iowa under the oversight of Gettysburg.

The Church Camp Committee reports that our covenant youth again were blessed by fellowship and Biblical study and application of the Reformation truth this year. A very positive development was the increased participation from more ministers and adults. Thank you for answering the call! Financially, the camp is just scraping by and needed to be bailed out again by the Manitowoc church funds until another special plea went out. The simplest way to solve this is to get more campers. There is plenty more room, so let us continue to encourage our youth and their parents EARLY in the year to plan for July's camp. The Interchurch Relations Committee sings a familiar tune. We had one face-to-face visit, but attempted to do more and desire to do even more. They plead for more members on the committee so that we would be able to attend more meetings. I believe part of the challenge is that our classis is so geographically spread out and yet our total number of available men is so small to cover that geography.

The Missions Committee provides a clear report of its contact with each of our mission works. Partly because of the turnover of newer members on the committee, it conducted most of its business by way of videoconference so that all members could be involved in conversation with the local missionaries and church officers and a few members. The report does mention that this will not be their plan going forward and they will make more in-person visits this coming year. Meaningful oversight can never be done from afar, so they should be encouraged in this effort. I feel somewhat guilty for introducing the technological ability to videoconference, since I had never envisioned it to function as a replacement for personal ministry. So far, it does not appear that it has, but if we were to continue overseeing our missions this way, that would be a real problem. All of our technological tools are only helpful if they enhance the personal ministry of the gospel.

The brightest highlight of the missions report is the report of the church building efforts of the Redeemer church in Minneapolis. They have really led the way in our classis for many years in how to be proactive in the work of building a mission-mindset among the Consistory, and then the congregation members. They have been used by God to plant Emmaus Road some years ago. Now, God is using them again. The final chapter and shape has not yet been revealed by the Lord. What is exciting to me is that the Consistory is understanding and responding to God's providence in ways that require changes in strategy. It is hard for anyone to adjust, much less a group of people. I pray that our entire

Classis would take the Redeemer plans as laid down in the missions report and adapt them accordingly for our congregational settings.

The Parochial Reports reveal the truth of Catechism #54. There is clear focus on the 3 marks of the Christian Church. As the Word is preached in the power of the Spirit, each congregation continues in that glorious mission of God's Kingdom from the beginning to the end of the world. Several congregations mention specific efforts to bring the gospel to 'the whole human race' and not only their own current membership. When ministering the gospel to our own members, some of the churches reflect a spiritual battle with a persistent spirit of our age. This spirit views the individual as his own highest authority. The individual member knows best how much Christianity and church life and means of grace he needs. Nevertheless, in each congregation the members are being faithfully disciplined in true doctrine and being led into the piety and practice that flows from true doctrine.

However, I wonder if we have the resources to continue to be the gatherers that Christ is using to gather, defend, and preserve for Himself His elect. Several pastors mention physical and emotional suffering in their own immediate families and relationships. They also mention suffering in a unique way within some of the membership. Faith in a sovereign God always encourages and lifts us up. Yet when the suffering is chronic and no end appears to be in sight until we are called home to glory, our patience and faith is stretched very thin. I encourage pastors to reach out regularly to their Consistory members and also to other pastors in the Classis for prayer and counsel. I also hope that each of our pastors would proactively reach out to one another. We are all busy. When someone is under the cloud of suffering or discouragement, he sometimes can't even see his way to make the first step to reach out. I really do believe that our pastors could benefit from pastoring one another. I praise God for our unity within the Classis, and it is my prayer that our round-table discussion on the missionary focus and evangelistic use of the Three Forms of Unity would inspire, invigorate, and lift up the hearts which may be sinking or lagging in hope, joy, and confidence in our God of grace.

From West to East, a selective summary of the parochial reports follows.

The Kansas City congregation increased in many ways. They increased the size of the building with the new fellowship hall. They increased by filling their pulpit with a new pastor, Rev. Christopher Campbell. They increased in the reception of several members as well. Rev. Campbell describes an active first year of ordained ministry serving all aspects of congregational life.

In Northwest Arkansas, Rev. Carr mentions he is actively recruiting new church officers through a men's leadership conference. He also describes a ministry which encompasses the doctrine of the Reformed creeds and also a preaching series through 1 Corinthians 13 on the nature of Biblical love. They are seeking to use technology to get short versions of the weekly message out on social media, in hopes that it may draw in souls hungering and thirsting for the truth.

In Hamburg, Rev. Schnabel reports a very difficult year for him and the church in that God called out of this life some dear saints who were faithfully serving the Lord. His ministry plans for the congregation were abruptly altered by some of these losses. Nevertheless, the saints in Hamburg continue to be led in true doctrine through a variety of engaging Bible Study efforts. The elders have also stepped up their involvement in visiting the families of the church.

In Garner, Rev. Larson reports a focus on seeking to defend and preserve the saints by leading them to deeper study of Biblical truth. They arranged a Reformation Conference with Dr. Richard Gamble speaking on the life of John Calvin, and they have another conference planned this year with another Reformed scholar. There was also the addition of a new family, which is a real blessing for a rural church.

In Eden Prairie, Rev. Kron describes a desire for real sanctification in the lives of the congregation, as expressed individually and especially in their life towards one another. He writes, "Sanctification is a team sport that happens in the midst of a family of believers who are justified yet sinful. This community is called the church. How can we continue to grow together in our commitment, service, and love for Christ's church?"

In Minneapolis, Rev. Marinelli reports a very trying year with the medical challenges of his daughter and the family trials that have accompanied that. Nevertheless, he is taking an active leadership role in the Consistory and in the ministry and teaching in the congregation, along with Rev. Sawtelle. The congregation is busily preparing to host their first ever Synod meeting this year. The membership is very active in providing for one another's needs through the work of the deacons and the many members who volunteer their time and service to show Christian love to one another. Rev. Sawtelle mentions that he prays daily for eight people with chronic illness and all the trials and discouragement that accompany that reality. Some of these people are in his family. He also notes a level of spiritual health and maturity in the members. Both of the pastors praise the Lord for the faithful giving of the congregation to the mission work efforts of the congregation. About 2/3 of the total mission work budget is provided by the congregation's offerings, while 1/3 of the mission costs come from the Classis and Synod.

In Manitowoc, Rev. Sorensen reports a heavy load of responsibilities in denominational work. The congregation itself also joyfully serves the denomination through hosting the annual church camp and through involvement in prayer and special offerings for non-budget RCUS causes. He also reports a curious fact that at the same time there is an increase in desire to learn Biblical and Reformed doctrine, there has been some doubts expressed by a few about whether we should openly teach our Reformed distinctives. The congregation continues to favorably receive the preaching of the gospel. A few new visitors have come this past year and taken membership class, though they have not yet joined.

In Napoleon, Rev. Altman reports an answer to prayer in that he has a better job situation. While it is not ideal that he has to work outside the church for health insurance purposes, the new job gives greater flexibility and ability to minister to his family and the congregation. He reports that parents of young children often apologize for the noise in the service. He replies that the noise of covenant youth is music to the ears. The congregation celebrated their 50th anniversary this year.

In Gettysburg, Rev. Fluck reports a problem with church growth. God has blessed them with such growth that they do not have enough room at the buildings on the Foster's farm that have served so well for many years. They are in the process of renting a nearby church facility. They also are seeking to oversee a passible church plant in Iowa and have extended a call to Rev. Chuck Muether for this purpose. The congregation remains united in witness and faith. In Waymart, Rev. Potter reports that through over 40 years of being a Christian, he has personally experienced God's faithfulness again and again for him, his wife, and the congregations he has served. This year provided fresh evidence. For the first time in the history of the congregation they have enough offerings so that they do not need any assistance from Classis or Synod for building rent or medical costs of the pastor. The church also continues to oversee its Blue Bell mission in greater Philadelphia.

Our Classis was pleased to see Rev. Harvey Opp return into active ministry this year, though that took him out of our Classis. Praise God that we are a part of a bigger body of Christ such that we are still united with him through the RCUS. Some of the overtures before us this year as well as last year reveal a desire to mature and clarify in our understanding of the proper role of men and women in the life of the Church. There is also a desire to understand what it means to be believer from a Biblical viewpoint, not a cultural or traditional one. Does the individual believer hold an office from God? How does he or she fulfill his or her office in connection with, but in distinction from, the special offices of the minister, elder, and deacon? Many of these answers are found in our Reformed creeds. Yet the specific applications in our society and current ministry settings are what is being discussed. We should praise God for the call to deeper unity through debate, Biblical discussion, and service together. The body of people that the Son of God is gathering is a chosen communion in the unity of the true faith. It is right for us as a classis to want to be even more unified in our faith and practice. Let us be patient and trusting of one another in that process.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Kyle A. Sorensen

Classis Action:

The report as revised 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

Esteemed Brothers,

It has been my privilege to serve you this past year as Stated Clerk. I am thankful for this opportunity and the personal growth this office brings. I am especially thankful for the help and encouragement I've received from my fellow laborers in this Classis.

As your Stated Clerk, I have formatted, indexed, and placed in permanent binders all of the Minutes of the Special Video Conference Meeting of April, 2016 and Spring 2017 Meeting of the Covenant East Classis, along with all of the report's, overtures, and other relevant information. These Minutes were submitted to the Standing Minutes of Classes Committee at Synod and their corrections were noted and the Minutes corrected accordingly. The President's Report on the State of the Church was spread in the Minutes, printed in the 2017 Abstract, and sent to the *Reformed Herald*.

I prepared the 2017 Abstract, which included the Special Video Conference Meeting of April, 2016. I was thankful to find a local, family-owned printing company that did fine work following the printing instructions and printing quality work. I distributed the printed copies to all the churches of Synod in compliance with standing rule #10 either by mail (Covenant East Classis and several retired or without charge ministers) or by physical distribution at Synod to the remaining Classes and retired ministers.

I sent the required forms, communications, and overtures to the Synod Clerk on time. All Classis records are kept in hard copy and in electronic form and backed up on a second computer and on a memory stick.

I kept and formatted the minutes of the Fall Video Conference Meeting on September 12, 2017. These minutes will be recorded in the Abstract of this 2018 Spring Meeting. I signed and sealed all the licensure and ordination certificates and delivered them to the appropriate candidate. I also sent a Letter of Dismission for Rev. Harvey Opp, as per his request, to the Stated Clerk of South Central Classis. I sent out three circular letters and participated in the work of the Executive Committee as detailed in that report.

For this meeting, I have organized all the overtures, communications, and reports, and placed them all in their proper folders for distribution at Classis. I received no necrologies for this year.

Thank you for your encouragement, support, and confidence, and, should you vote for me to be your Stated Clerk again this year, I shall gladly continue my service to you, hopefully armed with a little more knowledge and experience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Carr, Stated Clerk

Clerk's Note: Two necrologies for Bruce Gruenhagen and Bill Borgwardt were received after giving the report and appear in Appendix #2.

Classis Action: The report was adopted by Classis.

C. Report of the Executive Committee of Synod

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 271st 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 (271st Abstract, pp. 99-100).
2. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the calendar year.
3. Standing rules #2 and #3 which respectively read: "The statistics of the Classes for the calendar year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod May 1"; "The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk May 1."
4. That the Stated Clerk of each Classis regularly provide the webmaster, in electronic form, an updated roll of ministers, elders, and churches following their spring Classis meeting.
5. Standing Ministerial Aid recommendation 8 (2013 Abstract page 76), that pursuant to Article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, Classes shall not consider a pastoral call letter as "adequate support" to the temporal needs of the called pastor, unless retirement is addressed and funded in the terms of the call.
6. That treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with Synod standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
7. The Classes are reminded that the 272nd Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 21-24, 2018, at Redeemer Reformed Church, Golden Valley, MN.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fagrey

Classis Action:

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

D. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Drewes presented the following report.

Fund Balances (YTD July 2017 thru Feb 2018)

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2017

\$61,504.80

General Fund	Balance	\$6,029.17	
7/01/16			
Receipts		\$9,038.72	
Expenses		\$1,903.30	
Balance 2/28/18			\$13,164.59

*Missions Fund	Balance	\$44,661.6	
7/01/17		7	
Receipts		\$14,687.9	
		2	
Expenses		\$22,672.00	
Balance 2/28/18			\$36,677.59

Benevolence Fund	Balance	\$415.72	
7/01/17			
Receipts		\$4,519.36	
Expenses		\$3,800.00	
Balance 2/28/18			\$1,135.08

Student Aid Fund	Balance	\$10,398.24	
7/01/17			
Receipts		\$0.00	
Expenses		\$0.00	
Balance 2/28/18			\$10,398.24

ENDING Balance February 28, 2018

\$61,375.50

*Set aside \$39,144.30 - \$10,000 = \$29,144.30 available for future CEC Mission works

Detailed Income Report (July 2017 thru Feb 2018 YTD)

Guideline Total \$66	33%					+52%	+16%	+0%	=100%
	\$21					+\$34	+\$11	+\$0	=\$66
	Members	General	Missions	Benevolence	Student Aid	Budget	Totals YTD	Due 6/15/18	
NW Arkansas	14	197.12	320.32	98.56	0	924	616	308	
Eden Prairie, MN	105	2217.60	3603.60	1108.80	0	693	6930	0	
Garner, IA	55	654.72	1063.92	372.36	0	363	2046	1584	
Gettysburg, PA	31	309.12	502.32	154.56	0	2,046	966	1080	
Hamburg, MN	198	0	0	0	0	13,068	0	13068	
Kansas City, MO	68	0	0	0	0	4,488	0	4488	
Manitowoc, WI	126	2661.12	4324.32	1330.56	0	8,316	8316	0	
Mpls, MN	106	1119.36	1818.96	559.68	0	6,996	3498	3498	
Napoleon, OH	64	1351.68	2196.48	675.84	0	4,224	4224	0	
Waymart, PA	25	528.00	858.00	264.00	0	1,650	1650	0	
Totals	792	9038.72	14687.92	4519.36	0	52,272	28,246	24026	

Detailed Expense Report (July 2017 thru Feb 2018 YTD)

General Fund Expense

Classis Meeting		
Clerk/Printing & Supplies		
Travel	\$1,878.70	
Honorarium		
Postage/Phone/Conf Calls	\$24.60	
Total		\$1,903.30

Mission Fund Expense

Grace Reformed Church	\$2,940.00	
Heritage Reformed rent/costs	\$2,800.00	
Heritage Reformed Blue Bell	\$6,932.00	
Redeemer Reformed Church	\$10,000.00	
Travel		
Total		\$22,672.00

Benevolence

Medical – Potter	\$3,800.00	
Total		\$3,800.00

Student Aid

Total		\$0.00

Expense Total	\$28,375.30	
Total Classis Income vs. Expense July 2017 - Feb 2018	\$28,246.00	

Respectfully Submitted, Jim Drewes, Treasurer

Classis Action:

The report was referred to the Standing Finances committee.

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 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?
All churches answered "Yes," except Manitowoc, which answered, "Yes, but needs improvement."

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

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

Reports from Classis Delegates to Fraternal Bodies

On March 17, 2017, your fraternal delegate visited the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC meeting in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. I spent most of the day at the meeting, and was welcomed and seated as a corresponding delegate. The RCUS has many colleagues within this presbytery, and I have several personal connections. I was able to hear the report of Rev. Brian DeJong on his visit to our Classis just the week before. He had many fine words to say to the OPC brothers, and highlighted to them the RCUS process of parochial reports. This is

not a practice that the OPC is familiar with, but he clearly commended it as valuable for the OPC to consider. In my opinion, this sort of mutual benefit and learning from one another is one of the best parts of the entire ecumenical practice of exchanging fraternal delegates. This presbytery does have a heart for ecumenical cooperation, and their meeting this month is being held concurrently with the URCNA Classis Central in Schererville, IN. Each classis/presbytery will hold its own meeting in the same location, but there will also be joint fellowship and worship opportunities.

This Presbytery is rather large, and an overture was before the Presbytery to consider splitting into two because of their size. Several years ago a similar overture was brought and failed. This time they wanted to create a committee to investigate it, including the possibility of distributing some of their churches into other already existing Presbyteries.

One thing that the RCUS could learn from this Presbytery is that after each Committee gave its report, someone was assigned to pray for its work. We could very easily begin such a practice ourselves. A few items which we do that could be of benefit to these brothers is, in my opinion, is the practice of parochial reports, as their own fraternal delegate mentioned. Also, I was surprised to hear that the 'Moderator' does not give an update to the Presbytery annually on the direction of the Presbytery and its churches and committees, to chronicle the Lord's blessing as well as to spur on further growth and courage to stay the course.

The denominational Foreign Missions Committee of the OPC always gives a report at the Presbytery meetings. Missionary on furlough, Rev. Ben Hopp, of Haiti, gave an interesting presentation. He commented on the fact that most OPC churches in the US probably have more Reformed books and pamphlets than are available in the entire country of Haiti. They are attempting to address this by publishing faithful Christian literature in the local dialects.

He pleaded with the local churches to encourage OPC missions. They have ambassadors to make sure people are not forgetting them and are getting the publications into the hands of people. He made an excellent observation, in my opinion. "We do not view parachurch missions organizations as an enemy, but they are a competitor." He then encouraged OPC churches to take seriously their denominational covenant to one another in the area of missions funding and support. This is a helpful reminder for the RCUS as well.

I witnessed a licensure examination of Rev. Lane Keister, a minister who had contacted various NAPARC churches in August 2016 to pursue a call. I spoke extensively with him at that time. He has been called to the OPC in Momence, IL. He did not take any exceptions to the Westminster Standards. When asked about covenants in Scripture, including the covenant of works, he expressed agreement with the OPC's report on covenant of works and republication. When asked about his view of Genesis 1-2, he said that he holds to a six 24-hour day view of creation, yet "I can coexist peacefully with day age, framework, analogical day."

I was given time to address the body. In accordance with our Interchurch Relations Committee report approved last year, I “gently reminded [the Presbytery] of our mutual responsibilities to receive members according to church order procedure.” During my address, I spoke on the importance of being pastoral as we follow the Biblical and constitutional processes of church government. While I did not know it at the time, in God’s providence immediately after my address came the most sensitive moments of the entire Presbytery meeting. There were two special committees appointed since the previous meeting to deal with conflict in two different congregations. It even got a bit ugly at times during the debate on the floor. Several delegates referred to concepts and words that I had used in my address as they were interacting with each other. Later in the day and coming days, I received email or personal comments from brothers who said that they appreciate how God had used my words to focus their meeting in a godly way as they approached these conflicts between pastors and churches.

I share this information to our Classis just to remind us all of the need to be pastoral and prayerful towards one another, even in our meetings, for we never know when sin may rear its ugly head, or when we may be used by God to preserve peace in the life of others.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Kyle Sorensen

Reports of Special Committees

A. Special Committee to Ordain and Install Mr. Christopher Campbell

Dear Brothers,

Christopher Campbell was ordained to the Ministry of the Word and installed as pastor of Northland RCUS, Kansas City, MO, on October 1, 2017. Those participating were Dr. Tony Curto (Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary), Rev. Steve Carr, and Rev. Tim Marinelli, and the elders of Northland RCUS participated in the laying on of hands.

Dr. Tony Curto delivered the charge to Mr. Campbell from 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and Rev. Marinelli delivered the charge to the congregation from Ephesians 6L19-20. Rev. Steve Carr led the worship service and presided over the ordination and installation.

It was a blessed time to witness the Lord’s provision in raising up a minister of the Word for the saints at Northland RCUS. Let us keep this congregation and our fellow laborer in prayer before the throne of grace.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Marinelli

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. On motion Standing Benevolence committee recommends that Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Grace Ploeger in the amount of \$1,300 per month for the Synodical year 2018-2019, which represents an increase of 100 per month. [Classis adopted the recommendation.]
2. On motion Standing Benevolence committee recommends that Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of \$1,200 per month for the Synodical year 2018-2019, which is the same amount as last year. [Classis adopted the recommendation.]
3. Letter of thanks was received from Pastor Christopher Campbell stating: I would like to express my deep gratitude to the members of Classis for your support over the past six years of seminary, licensure, and ordination. The encouragement and guidance I received throughout the process was truly a blessing from God. May our God bless you richly for the kindness you have shown. [Classis took note.]

Luquette, DeBoer, Fluck

B. Examination and Licensure

1. Dylan Rowland—the work with which he is laboring has chosen to become OPC. Dylan is still enrolled at HTS and desires to come into the RCUS. [Classis took note]
2. Kasey Horvath is still enrolled at HTS and has not joined any RCUS congregation. [Classis took note]
3. A call from Covenant Reformed Church in Gettysburg has come to Rev. Chuck Muether to plant a new RCUS church in Oskaloosa, Iowa. The committee recommends that the call be considered as proper and in good order with the following comments: It provides no financial support from the church in Gettysburg. All financial support is already covered by the current employment of Rev. Muether and his wife. Also, the call stipulates no vacation time. [Classis adopted the recommendation]

4. We cannot have his reception until after he sustains his licensure exams. At that point, the OPC will dismiss him to the RCUS. [Classis took note]
5. The committee recommends the licensure exams be given to Rev. Muether at a special Classis meeting to convene on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 1:00 PM immediately before the meeting of Synod. Since each exam is ten minutes in length, there should be adequate time for the examination.
6. The committee recommends that Rev. Muether post a video of a publicly preached sermon online at some point in April so that we all have time to watch and listen to the sermon. We also are asking for him to provide an audio sermon online.

Sawtelle, Liesveld, M. Larson

C. Excuses

1. Bobby Duncan informed the Classis that he is unable to attend this meeting of Classis due to work obligations. The committee recommends that the Classis grant the excuse. We also recommend that the missions committee gently exhort the church in Arkansas to arrange for an elder to be present for Classis meetings in the future, reminding them that this is a good thing for the health of the congregation.

An additional motion was made that the Stated Clerk inform the Permanent Home Missions committee of this motion.

2. The committee recommends that we excuse Rev. Tim Marinelli for his late arrival due to his wife's health.

Larson, Sawtelle, Liesveld

D. Judicial

1. Regarding overture # 3 from Northland Reformed church to remove Classis Standing Rule #22 of Covenant East Classis: recommendation #1 that the overture be denied on the following basis:

1. The grounds confuse current practice with procedure as defined by the standing rule.

2. The second ground offered implies that the Covenant East Classis has not taken a position against this practice. We disagree with that ground. Covenant East Classis has taken a firm position against this practice on the basis of the Position adopted by the Eureka Classis in 1978.

A substitute motion was made that Classis remove Standing Rule #22. [Classis adopted the motion with a division called that showed 16 in favor and 3 against.]

2. Regarding overture #4 from Redeemer Reformed Church requesting guidance and clarity on the Biblical teaching about the office of believer in the church. Recommendation #2 that a special classis study committee be erected by Covenant East Classis to study the matter and to report back to the Spring meeting of Covenant East Classis 2019.

Potter, Marinelli, Altman, Hanko

E. Financial

1. The Standing Committee on Finances has audited the final Treasurer's Report, fiscal year 2017, and found it to be in order.

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

Tim Marinelli	\$145
Peace Reformed Church (Ohio)	\$432
Ron Potter	\$612.95
Dan Schnabel	\$180
Dennis Luquette	\$900
Steven Carr	\$228.37
Christopher Campbell	\$313
Ken Hanko	\$954.59
Kyle Sorensen	\$300
Total	\$4,065.91

3. That Classis adopt the following guidelines:

General Fund:	\$12
Missions Fund:	\$50
Benevolence Fund:	\$4
Student Aid Fund:	\$0
TOTAL per communicant	\$66

Schnabel, J. Larson, Drewes

F. Minutes of Synod

1. With respect to the communication #1 to the Minutes of Synod Committee, items #1 through #7 take note. [Classis action: take note.]

G. Services

1. That Covenant East Classis accept the invitation from Peace Reformed Church of Napoleon, Ohio to host the Spring Classis meeting of 2019.

2. The Covenant East Classis express the following words of gratitude to the congregation of Peace Reformed Church of Garner, Iowa by including in the

bulletin: The delegates of Covenant East Classis express our sincere gratitude for your loving and generous hospitality at our 2018 Spring meeting. Your work and effort provided us with delicious food, wonderful fellowship and facility to conduct the work of the church. As your attention to our needs encourages us, so we would encourage you to pray that the Lord would bless you and meet your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Sincerely in Christ, Covenant East Classis

Sorensen, Drewes, Kroells,

H. Missions

1. Regarding overture #2 that Classis provide Reformation Church Blue Bell with \$866.67 per month, a total of \$10,400 in mission funds in the fiscal year beginning July 2018, to be used for remuneration for sermons preached in the morning and afternoon services at Blue Bell (\$200 per Sunday).
2. That Classis provide Heritage RCUS of Waymart, PA with \$3,000 for outreach through Reformation Church Blue Bell if needed (same as last year).
3. That Classis support Redeemer RCUS of Golden Valley church building efforts with up to \$1,200 a month, a total of \$15,000, in 2018-2019, as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area. (This is the same as last year).
4. That Classis overture Synod to provide Redeemer RCUS church building efforts with up to \$1,200 a month, a total of \$15,000, in 2018-2019, as needed, for the purpose of building up the congregation with a view towards starting a mission work in the Minneapolis Metro area. (This is the same as last year).
5. That Covenant East Classis commends the Consistory of Redeemer for the specific plans they have always had to plant another mission work. We further commend them for adjusting on their own those specific plans to the present situation of the congregation. We heartily endorse these brothers for their labors and pray that the Lord of the harvest will open the doors for this mission. This commendation shall be forwarded to the Synod Home Missions Committee for its report to the next Synod meeting.
6. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$330.75 per month, a total of \$3,969 in the fiscal year beginning July 2018. (This is a reduction of 10% from last year.)
7. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with \$1328 to cover the cost of life insurance for Rev. Carr for the remainder of fiscal year 2018 and the entirety of fiscal year 2019.

Kron, Schnabel, Kroells, Luquette, Oberhaus

I. Nominations

We recommend the following permanent committees:

Executive: Sorensen, Carr, J. Larson

Candidates and Credentials: Fluck, M. Larson, Marinelli, DeBoer

Camp: Campbell, Stuebbe, Marinelli, M. Bruckshen, Hommes

Interchurch Relations: J. Sawtelle, Altman, Potter, D. Kroells, Wiersma

Missions: Kron, Campbell, Schnabel, Liesveld, Oberhaus, Luquette

Special Study Committee Office of Believer: J. Sawtelle, Fluck, Campbell, Carr, Luquette, Hanko

Campbell, Kron, Stuebbe

J. Minutes of Classis

1. Your committee received the draft minutes from the Stated Clerk and made corrections, which were then incorporated into the revised minutes. Take note. [Classis Action: Take note.]

Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

A. Expression of Appreciation to Host Congregation

This was handled through the Standing Services Committee

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

The Stated Clerk's Report was previously adopted.

The Executive Committee's report was adopted as a whole.

Classis Action: The report was adopted as a whole.

Reading of the Minutes and Their Approval

The Clerk read the minutes. The President declared the minutes approved as corrected.

Adjournment

The 33rd annual meeting of the Covenant East Classis was adjourned at 1:18 PM until the 34th Annual Meeting to be held at Peace, RCUS, Napoleon, OH.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 11 ministers and 9 elders present, a quorum.

B. Devotions

Elder John Larson from Peace RCUS led the devotions. He read from John 4:1-26; 39-42 and led in prayer.

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

President led the Classis in reciting the Apostle's Creed and praying the Lord's Prayer. He then pronounced the Benediction and led in the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted and chronicled for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Steve Carr, Stated Clerk

Appendix
for the
2018 Abstract
follows:

#1 - List of Overtures and Communications

#2 - Necrology

#3 - Statistics

#4 - Standing Rules

Appendices

Appendix #1

List of Overtures and Communications

Overtures

Overture #1: January 19th, 2018. From Peace RCUS, Garner, IA requesting to overture Synod for Ministerial Aid for Mrs. Grace Ploeger in the amount of \$1,300 per month for the Synodical year 2018-2019. (TO STANDING BENEVOLENCE)

Overture #2: January 27th, 2018. From Heritage Reformed Church, Waymart, PA for Home Missions funding in the amount of \$866.67 per month, a total of \$10,400 for the Classis fiscal year 2018-2019 beginning July 1st, 2018, for sermons preached in the morning and afternoon services of Reformation Church, Blue Bell, PA. (TO STANDING MISSIONS)

Overture #3: February 27th, 2018. From Northland Reformed Church, Kansas City, MO for Covenant East Classis to remove Classis Standing Rule #22. (TO STANDING JUDICIAL)

Overture #4: March 1st, 2018. From Redeemer Reformed Church, Golden Valley, MN requesting guidance and clarity from the wider body of Covenant East classis on the biblical teaching about the Office of Believer in the Church. (TO STANDING JUDICIAL)

Overture #5: March 6th, 2018. From Salem-Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI requesting Classis overture Synod for Ministerial Aid for Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of \$1200 per month for the Synodical year 2018-2019. (TO BENEVOLENCES)

Communications

Communication #1: January 9th, 2018. From the Stated Clerk of Synod: Minutes of Synod Report. (TO STANDING MINUTES OF SYNOD)

Communication #2: February 19th, 2018. From Rev. Christopher Campbell expressing thanks for the support received from Classis during his seminary education, licensure, and ordination. (TO STANDING BENEVOLENCE)

Communication #3: February 26th, 2018. Pastoral Call Letter from Covenant Reformed Church, Gettysburg, PA to the Rev. Charles Muether. (TO STANDING JUDICIAL)

Communication #4: March 4th, 2018. From Elder Bobby Duncan requesting to be excused from all sessions of Classis 2018. (TO STANDING EXCUSES)

Necrologies

Bruce William Gruenhagen

St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, Hamburg, MN

Bruce William Gruenhagen was born on March 15, 1950 in Glencoe, Minnesota. He was baptized at another local church but confirmed at St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church in Hamburg, Minnesota. After graduating from high school, Bruce attended DeVry Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois. After graduating, Bruce worked in the telecommunication industry which took him around the world. He moved back to Hamburg to care for his parents. Bruce became a member again of St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church in Hamburg and was very active in the church. He served for 3 years as an elder. In the last few years, his love for Christ was growing, and he had a passion to reach out to the lost with the good news of God's saving grace in Christ. He met his wife Sarah Wiernemant on a mission trip, and enjoyed 9 years of marriage with her. A week after an extensive heart surgery, he developed complications, and the Lord called his servant home on March 11, 2017 at the age of 66 years, 11 months, and 26 days. He is survived by his wife, 2 children, step children, and grandchildren.

William O. Borgwardt

Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI

William Otto Borgwardt (1950-2018), was born May 27, 1950, in Manitowoc, WI, son of the late Elroy and Lucinda Dill Borgwardt. He grew up on the family farm in the town of Liberty, attended Liberty Bell one-room school and graduated from Valders High School in 1968. He earned a degree in Dairy Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972. On December 27, 1969, he married his high school sweetheart, Judy Vraney, at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church. Bill owned and operated Sunnyside Dairy Farm in partnership with his father and brother, and more recently his nephew. Together they developed an outstanding herd of registered Holsteins that is recognized throughout the world. Bill loved his job and valued the friendship of each of his co-workers.

Bill was a life-long member of Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church. He served as an elder at the church for 20 years, until the time of his death, and was a member of the Adult Bible Class and Men's Bible Study. He also served on several missions committees of the Reformed Church in the United States. Bill was active in several dairy organizations. He was a past president of the Manitowoc County and Wisconsin Holstein Associations, and the Manitowoc County UW Ag Alumni. As a longtime coach of the Manitowoc County 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Team, advisor to the Manitowoc County Junior Holstein Association, and a 4-H dairy leader he mentored many young people. Bill received several awards for his contributions to the dairy industry, including Honorary Recognition from the University of Wisconsin College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Distinguished Dairy Breeder from the Wisconsin Holstein Association, and Friend of the Manitowoc County Holstein Association.

At the age of 67, Bill entered into eternal life on May 1, 2018 at his home in rural Valders, after suffering for several months with pancreatic cancer. Bill is survived by his wife Judy; one son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Kathy Borgwardt, Janesville; three daughters and sons-in-law, Julie and Dave Wankowski, DeForest, Becky and David Kopidlansky, West Bend, and Lisa and Austin Mautz, Delafield; twelve grandchildren, Grace, Jonathan, Ella and Lexi Mautz, Morgan, Sydney, Eli and Isaac Kopidlansky, Meghan and Alayna Borgwardt, Brittany Wankowski, Pewaukee, David Wankowski II and his wife Maghan, Jupiter, FL; and one great-grandson, Caledon Wankowski; one brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Peggy Borgwardt, rural Valders; one sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Rev. Randy Argall, Green Bay; his nephew and business partner, Todd Borgwardt, rural Valders; and his mother-in-law, Helen Vraney, Manitowoc. He is further survived by sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Jane and Dennis Kueter, Platteville, Ginny and Dick Vraney, Keshena, Dorothy and Gene Kramer, Floyds Knobs, IN, Joanne and Kurt Krish, Athelstane, and Kathi and Chuck Vraney, Manitowoc. Three aunts, many nieces, nephews and cousins also survive. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his father-in-law, Milton Vraney and a brother-in-law, Dan Konkle.

Bill was a man of strong faith, taking comfort throughout his life and during his illness in knowing that he belonged to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Because he actively founded his life on the Lord Jesus, Bill was looked up to by all who knew him as a rock of strength and Biblical wisdom. He loved spending time with his family, attending his grandkids' activities, and watching the Badgers, Packers and Brewers. He and Judy enjoyed many fun and interesting trips with family members, visiting most of the states in the U.S. and many foreign countries.

Statistics of Covenant East Classis: Covering 2017 reported in 2018						
	Northwest	Eden Prairie	Garner	Gettysburg	Hamburg	Kansas City
Category	Arkansas	Minnesota	Iowa	Pennsylvania	Minnesota	Missouri
1. No. of Elders	1	3	2	3	3	3
2. No of Deacons	1	4	3	1	3	4
3. Comm. Last Year	15	107	55	31	198	68
4. Rec'd by Confirm.	0	0	1	2	0	0
5. Rec'd by Letter	0	0	1	0	0	2
6. Rec'd by Prof.	5	11	0	4	0	2
7. Total Received	5	11	2	6	0	4
8. Tot. Old/New Mem	20	118	57	37	198	72
9. Lost by Dismissal	0	2	1	0	0	3
10. Lost by Era/Dis.	1	4	0	0	7	0
11. Lost by Death	0	0	0	0	3	0
12. Total Lost	1	6	1	0	10	3
13. Comm this Year	19	112	56	37	188	69
14. Unconfirm. Mbrs.	12	56	8	19	19	15
15. Total Bapt. Mbrs.	31	168	65	56	207	84
16. No. of Families	11	56	36	19	109	32
17. No. of S.S Child.	12	50	5	13	10	22
18. Adult Baptisms	0	0	0	0	0	1
19. Infant Baptisms	7	6	0	1	2	1
20. Total Baptisms	7	6	0	1	2	2
21. No.L.S. Received	19	112	47	37	165	68
22. Times L.S. Served	12	12	5	12	9	6
23. Regular Offerings	\$ 118,640	\$ 251,003	\$ 114,875	\$ 87,197	\$ 158,472	\$ 184,714
24. Special Offerings	\$ -	\$ 25,141	\$ 5,404	\$ 2,354	\$ 2,235	\$ 7,610
25. Other Sources	\$ 5,394	\$ -	\$ 8,539	\$ 10,975	\$ 414	\$ -
26. Total Receipts	\$ 124,034	\$ 276,144	\$ 128,818	\$ 100,526	\$ 161,121	\$ 192,324
27. Giv. To Syn. Guide.	\$ 1,800	\$ 25,620	\$ 15,457	\$ 7,132	\$ 45,652	\$ 15,384
28. Giv. To Clas. Guide.	\$ 792	\$ 6,930	\$ 4,059	\$ 2,062	\$ 13,332	\$ 4,026
29. RCUS non-budget	\$ 480	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 886	\$ 2,650	\$ 1,634
30. Non-RCUS causes	\$ -	\$ 7,975	\$ 6,402	\$ 300	\$ 330	\$ 7,416
31. Other Expenses	\$ 70,318	\$ 138,201	\$ 108,620	\$ 78,249	\$ 140,746	\$ 120,020
32. Total Expenses	\$ 73,390	\$ 178,726	\$ 144,538	\$ 88,629	\$ 202,710	\$ 148,480
33. Va. of Ch. Bldg.	\$ 112,636	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 2,000,000
34. Val. Of Parsonage	\$ 70,000	\$ 371,972	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -
35. Impr. Of Property	\$ 17,636	\$ -	\$ 2,062	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 603,109
36. Property Debt	\$ 108,037	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600,000
37. Debt Paid Last YR.	\$ 7,503	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,864
38. Synod Giving/Com.	\$ 120	\$ 239	\$ 281	\$ 230	\$ 231	\$ 226
39. Classis Giving/Com.	\$ 53	\$ 65	\$ 74	\$ 67	\$ 67	\$ 59
40. RCUS Giving/Com.	\$ 205	\$ 304	\$ 537	\$ 325	\$ 311	\$ 309

* - Statistics for Bluebell, PA are included in statistics for Waymart, PA.

Manitowoc	Minneapolis	Napoleon	Waymart	Bluebell*	Total 2017	Total 2016	% Change
Wisconsin	Minnesota	Ohio	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania			
4	3	3	2		27	31	-15%
3	5	3	1	0	28	29	-4%
126	106	64	25	10	795	781	2%
3	4	0	0	0	10	12	-20%
0	11	0	0	0	14	10	29%
2	2	0	0	0	26	36	-38%
5	17	0	0	0	50	57	-14%
131	123	64	25	10	845	838	1%
3	5	0	0	0	14	23	-64%
2	2	1	0	0	17	13	24%
2	0	0	0	0	5	10	-100%
7	7	1	0	0	36	46	-28%
124	116	63	25	10	809	792	2%
11	55	24	7	2	226	203	10%
135	173	87	32	12	1038	995	4%
76	55	38	12	5	444	443	0%
6	54	13	0	0	185	191	-3%
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	100%
2	4	1	0	0	24	25	-4%
2	4	1	0	0	25	25	0%
120	113	60	25	10	766	758	1%
4	6	6	12	12	84	82	2%
\$ 153,103	\$ 284,567	\$ 138,073	\$ 48,801		1539445	1470051	5%
\$ 3,305	\$ 93,396	\$ 2,029	\$ 564		142038	213552	-50%
\$ 31,284	\$ 35,273	\$ 714	\$ 27,334		119927	122992	-3%
\$ 187,692	\$ 413,236	\$ 140,816	\$ 76,699	\$ -	1801410	1806595	0%
\$ 32,051	\$ 24,891	\$ 12,574	\$ 4,428		184989	155303	16%
\$ 8,547	\$ 6,963	\$ 4,224	\$ 1,188		52123	48759	6%
\$ 5,305	\$ 340	\$ 405	\$ 100		21800	42106	-93%
\$ 918	\$ 14,657	\$ 3,580	\$ 464		42042	49079	-17%
\$ 112,794	\$ 465,755	\$ 116,825	\$ 55,859		1407387	1214878	14%
\$ 159,615	\$ 512,606	\$ 137,608	\$ 62,039	\$ -	1708341	1510125	12%
\$ 1,000,000	\$ 760,000	\$ 275,000	\$ -		6197636	5697636	8%
\$ 250,000	\$ 285,000	\$ -	\$ -		1401972	1401972	0%
\$ -	\$ 17,631	\$ 14,021	\$ -		654459	134779	79%
\$ -	\$ 356,920	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 1,314,957	1048805	20%
\$ -	\$ 4,502	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 14,869	19411	-31%
\$ 254	\$ 235	\$ 196	\$ 177	\$ -	223	223	0%
\$ 68	\$ 66	\$ 66	\$ 48	\$ -	70	70	0%
\$ 364	\$ 304	\$ 269	\$ 229	\$ -	343	343	0%

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, Candidates and Credentials, Church Camp, Interchurch Relations, Missions, Publications. The Standing Committee on Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees. [2014] The members of the Executive Committee shall not be from the same congregation. [2016]

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] Whenever the congregation amends its constitution and/or bylaws, these amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee of Classis for its information. [2017]

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]. The President shall be paid an honorarium of \$500 annually. [2015]

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]

[Standing Rule #22 was removed 2018.]