

**2002
ABSTRACT
OF THE
MINUTES**

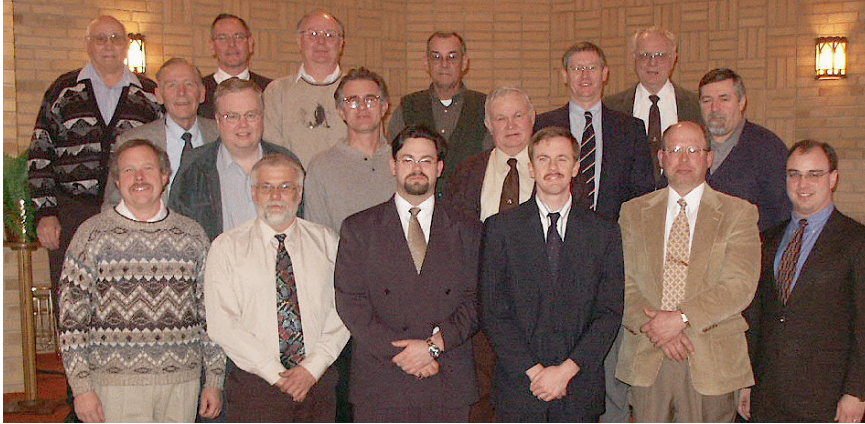
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS

**REFORMED CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES**

**17th Annual Spring Meeting
March 4-5, 2002
Eureka Reformed Church
Eureka, South Dakota**



Table of Contents



2002 Delegates:

- 1st Row - Jere Hieb, Allen Dockter, Michael McGee, Tracy Gruggett, Tom Ochsner, Dan Schnabel
 - 2nd Row - Herman Van Stedum, Alan Fickbohm, Tim Rott, Chester Beck, William Haddock
 - 3rd Row - Alwin Rau, Steven Richert, Rod De Jong, Ferdinand Opp, Dale Clark, Norman Jones
- Not Pictured: Milbert Kappes

2002 DIRECTORY NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS	
Classical Guideline for Giving	-6-
Officers of Classis	-6-
Permanent Committees	-6-
Ministers of the Word	-7-
Licentiates	-8-
Primarius Elders	-8-
Secundus Elders	-9-
Churches	-10-
SERVICES	-12-
ORGANIZATION	-12-
Election of Officers	-12-
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, ORDERS OF THE DAY, AND SPECIAL ORDERS	-12-
WELCOME & SEATING OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES; WELCOME & SEATING OF VISITORS	-12-
RECEPTION OF NEW CHURCHES	-13-
RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS	-13-
THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF CLASSIS	-13-
PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES, PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS	
Auditing Committee	-13-
Camp Committee	-14-
Candidates and Credential Committee	-17-
Home Missions Committee	-17-
Interchurch Relations Committee	-18-
REPORTS OF OFFICERS	
A. President's Report on the State of the Classis	-18-
B. Stated Clerk's Report	-19-
C. Report of the Executive Committee's Report of Synod	-20-
D. Executive Committee's Report on Their Minutes	-20-
E. Treasurer's Report	-21-
PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS	
Rev. Dale Clark	-22-
Licentiate Tracy Gruggett	-23-
Rev. William Haddock	-25-
Licentiate Michael McGee	-27-
Rev. Norman Jones	-28-
Rev. Steven Richert	-29-
Rev. Dan Schnabel	-30-
Rev. Herman Van Stedum	-32-
Kassel Reformed Church	-33-

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE ELDERS	-34-
REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS	-34-
READING OF THE STANDING RULES	-34-
REPORTS FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES	-34-
ADDRESSES AND/OR REPORTS OF VISITORS	-34-
REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES	-35-
REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES	
A. Examination & Licensure	-35-
B. Excuses	-35-
C. Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid	-35-
D. Judicial	-36-
E. Nominations	-37-
F. Overtures	-37-
G. Services and Interchurch Relations	-37-
H. Missions	-38-
I. Education, Publication, and Student Aid	-38-
MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS	
A. Expression of Appreciation to the Hosting Congregation	-39-
B. Adoption of the Stated Clerk's Report, Executive Committee's Minutes and Overture Committee's Report	-39-
READING OF THE MINUTES	-39-
ADJOURNMENT	-39-
A. Roll Call	-39-
B. Devotions	-39-
C. The Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction	-39-
<i>APPENDIX A</i>	
Treasurer's Report	-40-
<i>APPENDIX B</i>	
Northern Plains Classis - 2001 Statistics	-42-
<i>APPENDIX C</i>	
Necrologies	-44-
<i>APPENDIX D</i>	
The Stating Rules of the Northern Plains Classis	-46-

**2002 DIRECTORY
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS (RCUS)**

CLASSICAL GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

Classical Dues	\$10.00
Missions	<u>\$24.50</u>
Total	\$34.50

OFFICERS OF CLASSIS

PRESIDENT:	Rev. Dale Clark
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Rev. Herman Van Stedum
STATED CLERK:	Elder Rod De Jong
TREASURER:	Elder Ralph Kusler

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(underline indicates chairman)

AUDITING:	<u>F. Opp</u> , M. Kappes, H. Van Stedum
CAMP:	<u>T. Gruggett</u> , J. Hieb, D. Schnabel, A. Dockter
CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS:	<u>Schnabel</u> , Van Stedum, Richert, F. Opp
CHRISTIAN ED. & PUB.:	<u>W. Haddock</u> , N. Jones, A. Fickbohm
DIACONAL:	<u>D. Clark</u> , C. Beck, M. Kappes
EXECUTIVE:	<u>D. Clark</u> , R. De Jong, W. Haddock
HOME MISSIONS:	<u>S. Richert</u> , D. Clark, T. Rott, T. Ochsner
INTERCHURCH RELATIONS:	<u>N. Jones</u> , T. Gruggett, A. Rau

**2002 DIRECTORY
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS (RCUS)**

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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- Haddock, Rev. William (Hope RCUS, Pierre)**
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**2002 DIRECTORY
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS (RCUS)**

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- De Jong, Mr. Rod (Covenant RCUS, Watertown)**
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PH: 701/288-3884
- Fickbohm, Mr. Alan (Hope RCUS, Pierre)**
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PH: 605/224-0358
- Hieb, Mr. Jere (Hosmer RCUS, Hosmer)**
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PH: 605/437-2262
- Rau, Mr. Alwin (Kassel RCUS, Denhoff)**
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**2002 DIRECTORY
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS (RCUS)**

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PH: 605/437-2657

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PH: 701/838-7083 e-mail: snyderjbc@minot.com

**2002 DIRECTORY
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS (RCUS)**

CHURCHES

Aberdeen, SD

57401.....605/225-6120

First RCUS, 9th Ave. and Dakota S. St. (Mail: 1214 S. McCoy St.)

Worship: 9:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

Ashley, ND

58413.....701/228-3682

Salem RCUS, 209 1st Ave. SW (Mail: PO Box 345)

Worship: 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM (alternating monthly, please call)

Pastor: Steve Richert (wife, Nancy)

Denhoff, ND

58430.....701/768-2892

Kassel RCUS, 14 miles N. and 3½ miles W. of Denhoff

(Mail: 540 20th St. NE, Kief, ND 58747-9339)

Worship: 10:00 AM

Eureka, SD

57437.....605/284-2396

Eureka RCUS, 310 F Ave. (Mail: PO Box 276)

Worship: 9:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Dale Clark (wife, Sandra)

Herreid, SD

57632.....605/437-2739

First RCUS, Highway 69/ north end of town

(Mail: 201 Dyke St., PO Box 316)

Worship 9:00 or 11:00 AM (please call); Sunday School: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Dan Schnabel (wife, Marie)

**2002 DIRECTORY
NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS (RCUS)**

Hosmer, SD

57448.....605/283-2222

Hosmer RCUS, 2 blocks south of the water tower (Mail: PO Box 88)
Worship: 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM (alternating monthly, please call)
Pastor: Steve Richert (wife, Nancy)

Leola, SD

57456.....605/439-3537

Oranien RCUS, Hwy. 10 and Burtis (Mail: 1214 S. McCoy St., Aberdeen, SD 57401)
Worship: 11:00 AM
Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

Minot, ND

58701.....701/838-0605

Harvest RCUS, 5200 7th. Ave. SW
(On Highway 2, one mile west of the Highway 83 bypass)
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:15 AM
Pastor: Michael McGee

Pierre, SD

57501.....605/224-7846

Hope RCUS, 317 S. Garfield
Worship: 9:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:25 AM
(for information, call 605/224-5170 then press 3985)
Pastor: William Haddock (wife, Ferne)

Watertown, SD

57201.....605/882-9704

Covenant RCUS, 905 7th Ave. NE (Mail: 434 30th St. NW)
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School: 11:20 AM
Pastor: Tracy Gruggett (wife, Michelle)

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES

**NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Spring Meeting
March 4-5, 2002
Eureka, South Dakota**

I. SERVICES

The 17th Annual Spring Meeting of the Northern Plains Classis convened on Monday, March 4th, 2002, at Eureka Reformed Church of Eureka, South Dakota at 1:00 P.M. Rev. Dale Clark opened the Classis with a devotion and prayer, using Galatians 5:16-26 as the text.

The Classis met for a worship service with the congregation of the Eureka Reformed Church on Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. Licentiate Tracy Gruggett conducted the worship service and Rev. Steven Richert preached a sermon titled "You are the Salt of the Earth", using Matthew 5:13-16 as the sermon text.

On Tuesday, March 5th, the Northern Plains Classis opened its session with a devotion. Rev. Dan Schnabel led the Classis in devotion using Matthew 6:1-15 as the text.

II. ORGANIZATION

The President, Rev. Dale Clark called the assembly to order. The roll was called after the devotion and ilt showed 6 ministers, and 9 elders, a quorum. Also present were 2 licentiates; Tracy Gruggett and Michael McGee. The President defined the bar of the house as being the first 5 pews on either side of the church. The President appointed Dan Schnabel and Alan Fickbohm as tellers and appointed Rev. William Haddock the *Reformed Herald* reporter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President:	Rev. Dale Clark
Vice-President:	Rev. Herman Van Stedum
Stated Clerk:	Elder Rod De Jong
Treasurer:	Elder Ralph Kusler

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, ORDERS OF THE DAY, AND SPECIAL ORDERS

The Agenda, Orders of the Day and Special Orders were adopted by the Classis.

IV. WELCOME & SEATING OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES; WELCOME & SEATING OF VISITORS

There were no Fraternal Delegates or Visitors at the Spring Meeting of Classis.

V. RECEPTION OF NEW CHURCHES

There were no new congregations to be received.

VI. RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS

There were no new ministers to be received

VII. THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF CLASSIS

(Chairman are underlined)

Education, Student Aid, and Publications: Van Stedum, Haddock, Fickbohm, Rott

Examination and Licensure: Van Stedum, Schnabel, Opp, De Jong, Hieb

Excuses: Richert, Clark, Rott, Rau

Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid: Haddock, Jones, Rau, Opp, De Jong

Judicial: Jones, Van Stedum, Beck, Fickbohm

Missions: Richert, Jones, Dockter, Beck

Nominations: Haddock, Richert, Ochsner, Dockter

Overtures: Schnabel, Clark, Hieb, Kappes

Services and Interchurch Relations: Schnabel, Clark, Kappes, Ochsner

VIII. PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES, PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk presented overtures and communications to the Standing Overture Committee. The following Permanent Committee Reports were referred to these Standing Committees:

Auditing - to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid

Camp - to Education, Publication, and Student Aid

Candidates and Credentials - to Examinations and Licensure

Christian Education - to Education, Publication, and Student Aid

Diaconal - to Finances, Benevolence and Ministerial Aid

Home Missions - to Missions

Interchurch Relations - to Services and Interchurch Relations

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Esteemed Brothers:

The auditing committee audited the financial books of the Northern Plains Classis as they are kept by the treasurer, Mr. Ralph Kusler. The committee met with Mr. Ralph Kusler. Present were John Bender, Milbert Kappes, Mr. Ralph Kusler and Rev. Herman Van Stedum. The committee went over the treasurer's report and verified it. They went through all the bank statements. They verified committee expenses and delegate expenses. They went through all the payment vouchers. They verified income received and expenses paid. The committee found the books to be in order and were impressed with the thorough and accurate job done by the treasurer. The committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Northern Plains Classis commend Mr. Ralph Kusler for his work as Treasurer.
2. That the treasurers of the congregations submit remittance slips designating which Classical funds the monies are to be applied.

We would gratefully take note that each of the congregations met their Classical guidelines.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Mr. John Bender, Mr. Milbert Kappes

CAMP COMMITTEE

Members Present: Elder Roger Gallimore, chair; Rev. Clif Loucks, Rev. Ron Morris and Rev. Dan Schnabel representing Northern Plains Classis.

1. Highlights of the 2001 finance report showed a net gain of \$750.60. The ending balance is \$3,934.80.
2. The proposed 2002 budget includes moderate increases in expenses and a decrease of camper fees of \$1 down to \$106. Note that Heidelberg Youth Camp pays all expenses for the committee meeting, the quarterly HYC Fire publication and video production of the lessons.
3. The theme of HYC 2002 is LORD of All Things. Continuing with HYC as largely focused on lesson apply the Biblical world view to contemporary issues, this theme plays on the currently popular movie and book trilogy, Lord of the Rings, while reminding campers that Jesus Christ is Lord over everything
4. Rev. Ron Morris will coordinate those teaching the junior camp lessons, which will include:

LORD of All Things – An overview lesson aimed at reinforcing the sovereignty of God over all the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

What Will They Think: - Particularly intense in junior high students is the concern of what others will think. The lesson is designed to strengthen campers knowledge and conviction that God sets the standard for living and not the other kids.

LORD of the Nations – Patriotism is now in vogue. This lesson teaches that it is God who establishes nations along with our Biblical responsibility as citizens of this country.

Dealing with Bullies – Schoolyard bullies is a present reality for many of our children. Dealing with the verbal, physical and yes, even sexual threats is the focus of this lesson.

Ladies and Gentlemen – Manners really do matter, especially for the children of God. In a unisex culture, this lesson teaches that there are truly differences between the genders and that we are to act accordingly.

Taking a Stand – This lesson teaches that covenant children are to stand for what is right in God's eyes.

Responding to Temptation – In a culture saturated with media messages, peer pressure and easy access to evil, this lesson helps equip children to resist temptation.

- Rev. Clif Loucks will coordinate those teaching the senior camp lessons, which will include:

LORD of All Things – An overview lesson aimed at reinforcing the sovereignty of God over all the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

School Shootings – This lesson examines an overview of what has lead to this recent phenomena and how we as Christians are to respond in the short-term and in the long-term.

Women in the Military – The feminist movement would have us believe that women can and should be soldiers in fighting for our country. This lesson reviews what the Bible has to say about this.

Tattoos and Body Piercing – This lesson examines the Biblical response to tattoos and body piercing as well as how we are to respond to any fad that is founded on rebellion.

Islam – This lesson provides an honest look at Islam. This is especially timely in the syncretism that prevails in our culture today.

9/11 – Much has been said about this terrible attack on our country. This lesson examines what was not said but by a few courageous people as to the cause of this tragedy.

Work and Recreation – We work so we can have fun on the weekend, right? Wrong. This lesson puts both work and recreation into proper perspective.

- Rev. Dan Schnabel will coordinate those who will lead the evening worship services. The offering from the evening worship services will go to RCUS foreign mission work in the Congo.
- There will be a youth advisory committee to help with camp planning for HYC 2003. The committee will be comprised of one youth selected by the pastor of each congregation represented at camp and will have opportunity to review camp evaluations and give suggestions for the camp theme and lesson topics.
- Minor changes were made in the schedule that allowed for more time in the second morning lesson and for evening programs. Plus, the afternoon soapbox will now be only made up of the two presenters from the morning lessons.
- HYC 2002 dates are July 22-26. Future organizers of the family camp and any other denominational function that HYC dates will always be the last full week of July. Camp Bob Marshall is reserved 5 years in advance each year.

The Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee recommends that:

- Classis approve the 2002 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.
- Classis approve the report as a whole of the Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee.

Balance Forward is	\$3,184.20	
(107 Campers – 35 adults)		
Revenue	Actual 2001	Budget 2002
Camp Fees	\$11,366.50	\$11,340.00
Gifts	\$285.00	\$300.00
Worship Offering	\$348.54	\$350.00
Interest	\$7.44	\$10.00
T-Shirts Sold	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>Camp Store Sales</u>	<u>\$470.10</u>	<u>\$470.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$12,477.58	\$12,470.00
Expense	Actual 2001	Budget 2002
Facility Use	\$7,310.20	\$7,420.00
Food	\$1,479.03	\$1,550.00
T-Shirts	\$1,299.00	\$1,400.00
Crafts	\$154.88	\$175.00
Supplies	\$112.99	\$150.00
Promotion	\$136.96	\$275.00
Custer State Park Fees	\$50.00	\$100.00
Postage	\$22.84	\$50.00
Administration	\$88.80	\$100.00
Equipment	\$46.51	\$100.00
HYC Fire	\$377.28	\$500.00
Camp Store Supplies	\$299.95	\$300.00
<u>Worship Offering</u>	<u>\$348.54</u>	<u>\$350.00</u>
Total Expense	\$11,726.98	\$12,470.00
Revenue – Expense	\$750.00	\$0.00
Summary		
Balance Forward	\$3,184.20	\$3,934.80
Total Revenue	\$12,477.58	\$12,470.00
Total Expense	\$11,726.98	\$12,470.00
Ending Balance	\$3,934.80	\$3,934.80

Proposed 2002 fees @ \$106 per camper. Adult volunteers continue to be free. \$50 per child not attending as campers. Each non-participating congregation in Northern Plains and South Central Classis to set out a plate for contributions to the camp.

Esteemed Brothers:

The Candidates and Credentials committee was busy this past year. We have also had a change in membership due to brothers Koerner and Voytek having moved to other Classis. We are grateful that Rev. Dan Schnabel has been ordained and installed as pastor of our Reformed Church in Herreid. Mr. Mike McGee sustained his preliminary and licensure examinations and is now supplying the Harvest Reformed Church of Minot. He is doing his internship under Rev. Dale Clark and we await his undergoing an ordination exam in the coming year. Mr. Tracy Gruggett has sustained his licensure examination and is currently serving the Covenant Reformed Church of Watertown. He has done his internship under Rev. Herman Van Stedum. He will be given his ordination exam dealing with the memorization of the Heidelberg Catechism at this Classis meeting. Rev. Herman Van Stedum will give a report on Tracy's internship

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Dan Schnabel, Fred Carpenter, John Bender

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Esteemed Brethren:

Your committee met the consistory of Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, South Dakota and with licentiate Tracy Gruggett on Monday, February 4, 2002 in Watertown. Also present at the meeting were Rev. Ron Morris and Elder Tom Ochsner of the Synodical Home Missions Committee.

The church has been encouraged with the arrival of Tracy and his family. Fellowship is being fostered and the Word of God is being preached. There has been a slight increase in attendance and a noticeable increase in offerings.

Mr. Gruggett and the elders have been searching for ways to reach out to the community. The church has advertised its Wednesday night Bible studies although it has not attracted any visitors. In addition to this Wednesday night study the church has men and women's Bible Studies. The church members have been encouraged to invite others to these studies and they have attracted some visitors.

The church has recently begun a fifteen-minute radio ministry that they hope will make them more visible in the community. The program airs at 11:15AM on Sunday mornings on KWAT 950 AM. This particular time slot could reach a number of unchurched people. Tracy and the elders are excited about this ministry and are looking forward to see what God will do in Watertown.

The Fargo-Moorhead work has been abandoned. There is one family left in Fargo holding membership in Watertown, however, they do not attend Covenant Church.

You committee sees the work in Watertown as viable and worthy of support. Since this is the only congregation in Classis requesting support, the committee will be recommending that Classical Support be increased so that Synodical Support can be decreased. Since Classis is able to take on a larger share of the support, we believe it would only be right to do so.

Recommendation:

That the NPC budget \$12,325.00 for Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, SD for the current year.

Respectfully Submitted:

Steven Richert, Herman Van Stedum, Dale Clark, Alwin Rau, Larry Kauk

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Brothers in the Northern Plains Classis,

Your committee has very little to report on this year.

We received an invitation from the Manitoba Classis of the Canadian Reformed Churches to send a fraternal delegate to their Spring Meeting, which meets at the same time as our Classis meeting (March 4, 2002). Their meeting will be at the Winnipeg Redeemer Church building. In lieu of our sending a fraternal delegate, your chairman sent a letter of greeting and some Classis and RCUS literature for their information. We have thus far not received a letter of greeting from them.

We sent a letter of greeting to the clerk of the Presbytery of the Dakotas (POD), notifying him of our Classis meeting, and inviting the Presbytery to send a fraternal delegate or a letter of greeting to our meeting. We have thus far not heard from the POD.

There were no fraternal delegates sent to the POD this past year. We hope that there can be a renewed contact this year as that is a function of this committee, and it is important for us to promote fellowship with those bodies with whom we have fraternal relations.

We can read the brief letters which were sent to both the Manitoba Classis and the Presbytery of the Dakotas if that is the wish of the body.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Jones, Rod De Jong, Ralph Kusler

IX. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CLASSIS

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

As I write this report for the first time, I am reminded of two Scripture passages. The first is of our Lord speaking to Peter and the disciples, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) And the second is Paul speaking to the Ephesians,

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (Ephesians 2:14-16)

The first speaks to us about the church being built by Christ on the confession of Peter, and that that church will go forward to victory in Christ. Hell and this world may oppose it, but the Captain of the Armies of the Lord will bring victory. The second one speaks of the promise that internal strife between the various groups that make up the church will be at peace. Christ is our salvation and in Him all barriers have been broken down.

In the six months that I have been back in the Northern Plains, I see that there is indeed peace through the reconciliation of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel of peace is being preached each Lord's Day by men who are faithful to the Word of God. The other two marks of the church are also being utilized. The sacraments are being administered both to members able to gather and to the shut-ins. Our unity is thereby being displayed. As most parochial reports have mentioned, discipline, though grievous, has been carried out as is necessary.

These marks of the Church have, as it would seem from the pastors' reports, fostered the spiritual growth of many of the members to the security, and peace of the various congregations. Yet we could pray for more: restoration of those disciplined, and the increase of the zeal of all us for Christ and His kingdom.

While it has been peaceful, the Lord has also provided opportunity to reach out with the Gospel of our Savior. There are renewed efforts in Watertown to bring the Words of Life to a society that is in darkness. In other congregations, ministers mention the need and desire to be so engaged. There are now at least three radio programs within the Classis Churches. But we seem to see so little fruit from these efforts. We may even question whether the church is storming the gates of Hell towards victory at all.

God's times and purposes, however, are hidden from us and we see only dimly. But thanks be to our God that He preserves us for Himself and continues to give to us from His bounty, even the promises of His aid and that He grows the church, not us.

One other item, as I write this report, is how this meeting seemed to spring up on us so unawares. It was partly my fault for being new, and not thinking about the meeting. But part of the problem was a lack of organization from the classical level. Until January we had not received an invitation nor did we have any idea of when the meeting should be held. I would ask the Classis to set a time for the Annual Spring Meeting and maybe a rotation for the hosting of the meeting. Synod has set in its Standing Rules a time to meet in May. We could do the same thing. This would also help the Synodical Home Missions Committee as they would know when they could schedule their meeting.

I thank you for the privilege of being your President and may our God bless the fruits of our labors for Christ Jesus' sake.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Clark

B. STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Esteemed Brethren:

I was elected Stated Clerk in absentia last year. Mr. Rod De Jong filled in as Clerk on a temporary basis for the spring meeting last year and did an excellent job. However, this year I must request that the Classis elect another Clerk on a permanent basis. Having served the Classis as Clerk for years 1990 - 1992 and 1997 - 2002, I am quite willing to pass the torch to another individual. I wish to thank the brethren for entrusting me with the important work of keeping the historical record of our proceedings and for your patience with me as I undertook this work.

The Minutes of Synod Committee noted two irregularities with our minutes:

1. No addresses are given for the President, Vice-President or Treasurer in the minutes of the spring meeting or special meeting of December 5.

2. None of the Permanent Committee reports for the spring meeting were signed.

I would counsel the new Clerk to read the Minutes of Synod Committee reports for the last few years and note the exceptions that were taken so that such errors can be avoided in the future. As a general reminder to all of us, let us be diligent to sign all the permanent and standing committee reports before we leave the meeting this year.

The permanent records of the Classis are being stored at the Hope Reformed Church. As it is not practical to move the records each time we have an election of Clerk, the new Clerk should send the permanent papers to Hope Reformed to be placed in the archive file as soon as he is finished with them for the Classical year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. William Haddock

C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON SYNOD

No report was received from the Executive Committee of Synod.

D. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THEIR MINUTES

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Executive Committee brings this report as a summary of the business conducted by the Northern Plains Classis via circular letters this past year.

The Classis issued six circular letters last year. All recommendations of the Executive Committee became actions of the Classis, as no objections were received. The following recommendations from the circulars became actions of the Classis:

Executive Circular Vol. 16, No. 1

1. That the resignation of Rev. Darrell Kingswood from the Eureka Reformed Church and the acceptance of the resignation by the Eureka RCUS Consistory be declared order.
2. That the pulpit of the Eureka Reformed Church be declared vacant as of June 20, 2001.
3. That Rev. Darrell Kingswood be transferred to the roll of ministers of the South Central Classis.
4. That the resignation of Rev. Maynard Koerner be declared in order.
5. That the pulpit of the Covenant Reformed Church be declared vacant as of June 30, 2001.

Executive Circular Vol. 16, No. 2

6. That call of the Covenant Reformed Church of Watertown to Student Tracy Gruggett be approved.

7. That Student Tracy Gruggett be named Stated Supply of the Covenant RCUS of Watertown.
8. That the call and acceptance of the call of Rev. Koerner to the Trinity RCUS be declared to be an order, and that Rev. Koerner's credentials be transferred to the South Central Classis.

Executive Circular Vol. 16, No. 3

9. That the call of the Eureka Reformed Church (to Rev. Dale Clark) and the supporting documents be declared an order.
10. That the acceptance of the call by Rev. Clark be declared to be in order, and that Rev. Clark's credentials be received by the Northern Plains Classis from the Western Classis.
11. Upon reception of his credentials, that Rev. Clark be added to the roll of NPC ministers.

Executive Circular Vol. 16, No. 4

12. That the Northern Plains Classis convene a special meeting at 10:00 AM, September 11, 2001 at the First Reformed Church of Herried to conduct the exams of Dan Schnabel and Tracy Gruggett.
13. That the call of Rev. Voytek and the supporting documents to be declared in order.
14. That the call of Rev. Voytek be approved.
15. That the Harvest Reformed Church pulpit be declared vacant as of October 1, 2001.

Executive Circular Vol. 16, No. 5

16. That the Northern Plains Classis convene a special meeting at 10:00AM, December 15, 2001 at the Eureka Reformed Church of Eureka, South Dakota to conduct the licensure exam of Mike McGee.
17. That the call of Mr. McGee and the supporting documents be declared in order.

Executive Circular Vol. 16, No. 6

18. Declared "That the Northern Plains Classis convene the 17th Annual Spring Meeting at 1:00 PM, March 4, 2002 at the Eureka Reformed Church of Eureka, South Dakota."

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Clark, William Haddock, Alwin Rau

E. TREASURER'S REPORT

See Appendix A of the Abstract.

X. PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

Rev. Dale Clark
Eureka Reformed Church, Eureka, South Dakota

Esteemed Brothers and Fathers:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." The privilege that I have in preaching and teaching the gospel of peace has been renewed this past year. The wonder of having peace with God, the Almighty, and the Just, is often on my mind. The desire that those in the congregation would also grow in that understanding and so have peace with God in Christ is one of my motivations in preaching. It is also a desire that the congregation would desire to join in this task beyond the area surrounding Eureka.

I started this past year in entirely different circumstances, but by God's grace we have made the move from Chico to Eureka fairly easily. It was sad to leave a group of brethren in Christ, and other activities, but we thank Christ for his mercy in this transition. I have preached 49 of the 52 weeks of 2001. I have served Ashley, Hosmer, Herried, and Leola on the occasional Sunday since arriving. Since coming to Eureka, I have taken up the catechizing of the youth (there are 13 in the class) Youth Fellowship and Evening Study on alternate weeks, and teaching the Adult Sunday School. I periodically served in the Health Care Center with a short service on Fridays.

Moving from a congregation of 25 to one over 200 has taken some getting used to, especially in the area of getting to know people. To the end of putting names to faces, Sandra and I, with one of the Consistory families, invite 12 or so people plus children to the parsonage for dessert. This has worked out very well. The hope is that everyone will be in the parsonage before summer ends.

Another area of activity that I am resolved to do, though I have not started for one reason or another, is visiting each family. I have been visiting most of the shut-ins regularly, but there are a number of members that are not attending regularly. I can see that most of the changes are not going to come from the pulpit, but from house-to-house visitation.

I am sure that I am not alone when I say that my wish is for a congregation that would "hunger and thirst for righteousness" more and more. As mentioned, attendance is not perfect, though it has improved since my arrival. The finances have improved though there was a deficit this past year, mainly due to our move. As in any organization there are those who come to everything and those who make an appearance just often enough to make themselves feel good. Sunday School and Evening Study are attended by mainly the faithful. Too many adults leave for coffee elsewhere during the Sunday School time and miss out on the joy of learning the Scriptures.

One concern that is hard to do anything about is the decline in the population. The congregation continues to age and there is no replacement of those who die. We need to become more active in evangelizing our neighbors. One encouraging area is that a number of women in the community meet for Bible Study and there is a definite reformed presence there as my wife and others in the congregation are there. I have also been active in the local ministerial. I hope to be salt in the group which is divided between more liberal and evangelical churches. So far there has not been anything which I have had a real problem with in terms of their activities.

Statistically, the congregation has seen a decline in membership. There were 10 deaths and 7 dismissions/erasures this past year. We have had two baptisms, one in November and one in January, and we are expecting another baby in March or April. I have had one funeral since arriving from Chico, but he was not a member. The Consistory will be working this year to get

the rolls in order by dealing with those who have moved and not dealt with their membership properly.

I thank my God for his mercy and the congregation for their care this past six months. And look forward to serving our Great Shepherd of the Sheep, Jesus Christ, here in Eureka, where He has given me the privilege to teach and preach His Word.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dale Clark

Licentiate Tracy Gruggett
Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, South Dakota

To Know God Through Christ And Glorify Him In All That We Do

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren.

First on behalf of all the members of Covenant Reformed Church I wish to thank the men of Classis for your financial support, prayers and advice. In my congregational report I reminded the people that we exist due to the support of Classis and synod. We thank you.

My family and I have felt very welcomed and accepted by the members of Covenant Reformed Church. It has not been difficult for us to join into the life of this church-family, and we have been encouraged by the friendliness of the people towards us as well as their maturity and faithfulness, their humor and hospitality. They have shown patience with my youth and immaturity. I have thanked them and asked that they continue to be patient, as the Lord gradually forms me into being a mature, Biblical pastor. I have also been encouraged by the positive comments by the members regarding my ministerial gifts.

I appreciate the very evident commitment of the congregation to the Lord's truth and to this church. There are many churches--churches that have more to offer when it comes to programs for children and active social life. Yet they come here, though we are small and struggling to grow. And many of them drive a good distance to be able to worship.

The elders see positive change in our church life. Particularly, it seems that the folks desire to stay longer to talk with each other after church. I too notice this and am very glad to see it. I would say that we are growing more into a close-knit community. This is a token of God's grace to us.

Up a little from the year 2000 was our monthly attendance, averaging from 15 to 17 worshipers in 2001. We are seeing an increase in this thus far for 2002. Including my own, the church formally received three families, last year, while one family was transferred and another erased. The congregation gave more this last year with a monthly average of \$413.44 per Lord's Day, up from last year's \$295. All of this is good to see.

The elders and I have been visiting the families of the church. In these visits we have encouraged them to make the Bible a greater part of their lives. I think at the very least they spur the people to think about the role the word should have in their families. Faithful preaching of the Word continues each Sunday. The Lord's Supper was regularly administered in the first half of 2001, but that regularity was interrupted in the second half of the year. We have adult and children's Sunday schools. We divided our youth into two classes; two children in the older class, learning

the Heidelberg Catechism, three in the younger class, using various Sunday school materials. In addition, we presently are engaged in two home Bible studies, one for the women and the other for the men.

The work in Fargo has ceased for the time being. We have one family living there that still desires to see a solid Reformed witness in that area. But it seems that there are no open doors. Still, we intend to keep our eyes open for new opportunities.

As for myself, I presently spend my days mostly in study, with occasional meetings, visits, and other matters that come up. In keeping with the goal of the gospel, I am increasingly aiming my preaching and teaching at God-centered, grace-centered change. In other words I am moving more and more out of academic to a pastoral mind set. I have been preparing myself for the ordination exam mainly by doing the work of ministry. This provide situations and opportunities to learn and grow. I have regularly sought advice from experienced ministers and the elders. In addition I have been memorizing the Heidelberg Catechism as required, and have been focusing much on my on personal godliness. The elders have been very helpful and encouraging and will be submitting their own evaluations.

I joined the local ministerial association around November. This is mostly a liberal and mildly evangelical gathering. But it gives me opportunities to make contacts. Through the association I have been able to do some short radio messages and in mid-February I submitted an article in the local newspaper, which was published.

We (the consistory) have tried to come up with a defining vision that would focus us and help animate us to greater service and gratitude. In certain sense that vision has already been present, but needs, I think to honed and clarified. That vision is reflected in our church slogan: *To Know God Through Christ And To Glorify Him In All That We Do*. We think this is good slogan, both biblical and Reformed. We place this slogan on everything that has our church name, whether bulletins, adds in the paper, fliers, church cards, or the pastor's report or in our radio announcements. In all things we want to continually remind ourselves and the people that we exist and are shaped and defined by the pursuit of the glory of God.

We have been implementing some new ministries. We have attempted to use the Wednesday night Bible study this study as a form of outreach. I began a series of lessons dealing with evil and suffering from a Biblical perspective (a timely subject in light of Sept 11). This was advertised in 19 radio commercials. I put out fliers on homes in the neighborhoods near the church, and pinned up advertisements on the bulletin boards of the local supermarkets. While we have not yet seen any visitors, we think that these efforts are not in vain as no work for the Lord can be vain. We should think of these efforts as, perhaps, the laying the foundation for the larger superstructure that will come latter, God willing. Four of our families attend this study and I encourage all members to come to these if they can.

We have also had church business cards made for the members of the congregation. The idea here is for each member to take some of these cards and have them on hand to give to others when engaged in a conversation about church or related subjects. This is an easy way to tell others about our church. Who knows, they may read the card and decide to call or visit. I remind the congregation from time to time of these cards.

We have also resumed our men's and women's Bible studies. These provide excellent opportunity to invite friends and acquaintances to learn the word of God. I have been pleased with the attendance at both of these. And we have had some visitors at each. I have urged the congregation to participate in these studies. They promote fellowship as well growth in the knowledge of God's word. We have advertised the men's Bible study in the local paper and will continue to do so in the future. I hope to that we can have more of these studies that are more evangelistically oriented.

We are conducting a monthly prayer meeting. I have found this meeting to be very encouraging, not only a time of praying, but also of learning more about each other's concerns and needs. We will continue to promote this gathering and hope that it will become an important and vital part of our church life. We have this meeting the last Sunday evening of each month.

Finally the Lord has opened an exciting new door of opportunity through radio ministry. This program, we hope, should go far in introducing the community to Covenant Reformed Church. Our message will in a greater way go beyond our church doors and be heard by many others. I regularly encourage the congregation to pray for this ministry.

We continue to search for ideas for ministry and ways to grow our church. I am trying to be positive and optimistic. I think, along with the elders, that things are looking up. Time will tell, of course. We ask you to pray for us regularly. Thank you and God grant you his grace to in your assessment of Covenant Reformed Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Licentiate Tracy Gruggett

Rev. William Haddock
Hope Reformed Church, Pierre, South Dakota

Beloved Brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ,

The previous year has been a year of large changes in the Hope Reformed congregation. At the beginning of 2001 the Consistory agreed to change the course for the support of our ministry. Seeing no end in sight for the need of continuing benevolent support of the Northern Plains Classis and the Synod of the Reformed Church, the Consistory and I reached agreement that I would seek employment outside the congregation to provide enough support for me to continue as pastor. We decided, based upon our faith that God would provide a means through His providence, that we would no longer request financial assistance from our brethren in the RCUS.

God provided employment for me with the State of South Dakota at the Office of the State Engineer. I am blessed to work under the direct supervision of the State Engineer who is a member of our congregation and a newly elected deacon. I am pleased to report to the Classis that this employment has provided enough additional support for me so that the financial needs of the congregation are being met. As you no doubt know, there are drawbacks to this arrangement, chief among them being the demands upon my time. I will be entirely open with my brethren to admit that I have not given much consideration as to how long I should continue in such an arrangement, and what it means for the long-term future of the congregation in Pierre. The chief challenge that we face in Pierre is a small membership that has steadily declined over

the past twenty years. I am faced with the reality that I now have an arrangement that provides for the financial needs of the congregation, yet prevents me from devoting my full time to building up the congregation. For now, it seems to be the best answer for continuing the ministry in Pierre. I am thankful to God for providing a way for us to continue, and leave the future of the Hope Reformed Church is to His almighty power and infinite wisdom.

We lost many of our members last year for various reasons. Besides the cases of discipline and erasure, long-time member and past elder Marv Olivier was called from this world by our Lord after a long struggle with cancer. Some of the losses were for joyous reasons: two of my children, Jessica and Lucas, moved away to begin their own families after having entered into covenant marriages.

Although we are small, there are faithful members who comprise the core of our congregation. The marks of the Church are evident: the preaching of the gospel is well-received; we exercised discipline when needed, even though it resulted in the loss of a significant portion of our small group; and the sacraments were observed in accordance with the Word of God. Brethren, we are striving to be faithful to Christ.

I wish to highlight several aspects of our ministry. The reception of the preaching and teaching and the bond of fellowship that we enjoy at Hope have been, and continue to be, areas of encouragement. To cite an example, about twice a month on Sunday evenings we meet for informal fellowship at the residence of Pastor Norman & Lena Jones. Our group, called the "Calvin Society," reads through Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. The meetings have been a blessing to everyone attending.

Finally brethren, I include this personal note. I was unable to attend the Classis meeting last spring, so I was not able to personally thank the brethren for the support that has been given to the Hope Reformed Church. I take this occasion to publicly express my gratitude, and that of the whole congregation at Pierre, for your generous benevolent support that enabled us to continue the ministry from 1997 until last spring. We debtors to your love in Christ, and we thank you earnestly for your kindness. May God cause us all to "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," (II Peter 3:18).

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. William W. Haddock

Licentiate Michael McGee
Harvest Reformed Church, Minot, North Dakota

Dear Congregation,

Another year is upon us, and it is time once again for the annual pastor's report. A lot has occurred at Harvest Reformed Church within the last year. Yet through it all, the Lord's mighty hand can be seen here in Minot. I know for myself that is someone would have come to me and said that in one year's time, I would be finished with seminary, engaged, and pastor of a RCUS church in Minot, ND, I would have not believed them. And I am sure that if someone had come to you in January 2001, and told you all that would happen in 2001 at Harvest Reformed Church, you would have been amazed. And yet, through it all, God has truly remained faithful to his people.

There are a few things that I would like to bring to your recollection. First, although there have been a few members that have left Harvest over the last year (the departure of the Baird's to Montana and the Lee's and Voytek's to California), the Lord has provided for this congregation with the addition of Greg Czubik and Chris, Wendy, and Adeline Bergstrom. An additional blessing from the Bergstrom's membership is Chris's interest in the mentor program at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has already begun his studies with the seminary.

The Lord has also blessed us with the opportunity to see one of his children come back to the church. In December 2001, Valerie Hayward was received into fellowship with Harvest Reformed Church. In this situation, the people of God were given an opportunity to see how the keys of the kingdom work in the church. Along with Valerie's attendance, Harvest Reformed Church has been blessed with the attendance of her husband Chris, and their four children. Again, we have a demonstration of the faithfulness of God by bringing the Hayward family in our midst.

Another addition to this congregation has been the provision of a new pastor in December 2001. Lord willing, I will be a blessing to the congregation through faithful ministry here at Harvest Reformed Church, and you in turn will be a blessing to my family in the coming years. The faithfulness of the Lord was demonstrated in the process of bringing me here to Minot. First, consider the connections made with the RCUS church in Lodi, CA, and for the church in Lodi to mention my name to Harvest Reformed Church. Also, the Lord providing Elder Jim Snyder to faithfully lead and exhort the congregation during the time that the church did not have a pastor. And, lastly, the short period of time it took me to prepare and be examined by the Northern Plains Classis. All of these events help to demonstrate God's faithfulness for this congregation.

God's provision can also be demonstrated in the events of Harvest Reformed Church. For the first time in the life of the church, we were able to host the Northern Plains Classis meeting in March. In that meeting, the men of Classis were able to see the work that the Lord was doing here in Minot. We also hosted Vacation Bible School in July. As the last VBS, the church was able to reach out to a diverse group of people. There were eight different churches represented in the group including Shiloah Christian Fellowship, which also helped with some of the work involved with VBS.

Another one of God's provisions can be seen in the building project that we have taken up. God has provided us with the funds to continue to make improvements to our facilities. This past December we witnessed a new sign put up in the parking lot, and this sign should help to bring further visibility to our facilities.

God's faithfulness can also be seen in the provision of the Diaconal Aid Fund. With this fund, the church is able to help people in need as they bring their needs to the church. There have been many people to which the church has ministered, and the Lord has blessed the fund in such a way that the fund has rarely dropped below the original point in which it started.

In thinking on this past year, the chorus of the hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness* comes to mind. Thomas O. Chisholm wrote:

'Great is Thy Faithfulness!
'Great is Thy Faithfulness!
Morning my morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
'Great is Thy Faithfulness' Lord unto me!

Let us thank our Great Lord for the many provisions that He has made for us this past year, and let us look to Him for the many great things that He will do for us in this coming year.

Your Humble Servant,
Licentiate Michael A. McGee

Rev. Norman Jones
Retired Pastor, Pierre, South Dakota

Dear Brothers in Christ, our sovereign Lord and Mediator,

It is a joy to be able to report once again to the Northern Plains Classis regarding my life and ministry this past year.

The Lord has been very gracious to us this past year in spite of our grievous sins and shortcomings. Health wise, I had to check into the hospital two more times since last year's Classis for breathing problems associated with my heart condition. The problem is corrected with diuretics, given intravenously, which get the fluid out of the lungs. With more pills the problem seems to be manageable. Actually, I seem to feel better now than I have for a long time. Regular walking at the "Y" also helps a great deal. My lack of sight in my right eye is a persistent problem in many ways. I thank all of you who have remembered us in your prayers this past year.

With renewed energy I have been able to do some preaching in Classis churches, and have enjoyed those opportunities. I have supplied in Pierre when Pastor Haddock was on vacation. In a few days I am scheduled to preach at the SD Gideon Convention in Pierre which I am looking forward to. Also, I am scheduled for Hamburg, MN in April.

As you know, I continue to edit the NP Chronicles six times per year. I enjoy reading every bulletin if everyone of our classis churches in order to gather my information. I would encourage all the pastors to make their bulletins as newsy and as interesting as possible.

In closing, I might mention that a few of our church members gather on Sunday evenings twice a month to read in Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion. We have been meeting in our apartment, and the fellowship has been very enjoyable as we close out the Sabbath day. We commend this to others who are looking for a Sabbath evening activity besides TV.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Norman Jones

Rev. Steven Richert
Salem Reformed Church, Ashley, North Dakota
Hosmer Reformed Church, Hosmer, South Dakota

Esteemed Brethren,

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice," the apostle Paul exhorts us in Philippians 4:4. We do have much to rejoice about in Jesus Christ. He has blessed this congregation with faith that endures affliction. He has granted physical healing to many among us this past year.

We have many members who are willing to serve the congregation in various ways. God's people have been faithful in their financial support of the congregation. There is a genuine love and concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Salem resumed the Adult Sunday School Class, which is being led by a three-man rotation. This class is well attended and has been well received. We have been using tapes from the NPC Video Tape Library. We finished a series by John Gerstner dealing with the parable of the ten virgins and are currently going through Jay Adam's "Christian Living in the Home". The confirmation class saw four students confirmed in August. The new class has one student and is meeting on a weekly basis. Hosmer does not have a Sunday School. They did not have a confirmation class last year. Since this fall there is one student in a new confirmation class.

I preached fifty-two times in Ashley this past year including six special services and fifty-one times in Hosmer. We canceled services only once in each congregation because of weather. I preached at Mission Fests in Denhoff and Herried. I also delivered the message at the community Palm Sunday Night Sing in Ashley. The Lord's Supper was observed three times in Ashley and four times in Hosmer. The Lord's Supper was served to shut-ins twice in Ashley and once in Hosmer. I have visited the sick and shut-in. There was only one funeral service in Ashley this past year. There were three in Hosmer. I also had a funeral service in Eureka when the pulpit there was vacant. I officiated at the wedding of Marsha Schlepp to Joe Ford Jr. in Ashley last year and counseled the couple prior to the wedding. I led worship services at the Ashley Nursing Home ten times and eleven times at the Hosmer Senior Citizens Home this past year.

I continue to contribute devotional articles to the Ashley Tribune as part of the rotation of the Ashley Ministerial. The weekly ministry of Start of the Week continues on KSJB. We are grateful for the support Classis gives to this program. Messages this past year have been from the books of Colossians and James. There have been few requests for catechisms, but I have received comments from many people in Ashley and in Wishek that they listen to the program regularly. I accepted a position on the board of Faith Christian School in Lehr this past year. The board meets once a month. I see this position as a way of serving our community.

We have a new elder and a new deacon in Hosmer. Mr. Leroy Neifer was elected to the office of elder to replace Mr. Fred Carpenter. Mr. Leroy Mehlhaff was elected to the office of deacon to replace Mr. Neifer. We are thankful to God for the men he has gifted and called to serve Him as elders and deacons in both congregations. We look forward to seeing how God will use both churches for the advancement of his kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Steven Richert

Rev. Dan Schnabel
First Reformed Church, Herreid, South Dakota

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers in Christ:

I join with the Apostle Paul in rejoicing when he said "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" (Phil. 1:3-6).

Although my first day here in Herreid was not very long ago, the Lord has continually given me reason to be thankful to Him. Particularly by the many in this past year, who prove faithful to our Lord both by their participation in the various studies of God's word and by their financial support which has been reason for praising our God, who promises of His word that it will not return to Him empty (Isa. 55:11).

Looking over the past year, I do thank the Lord for bringing increase to our congregation through the profession of faith by Irene Kost and the covenant baptism of Nicole Ochsner. At the same time we do miss those saints to whom the Lord has chosen to take to Himself. Although we mourn our loss, we do not mourn as those without hope remembering the assurance of salvation and life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord. For this reason we remember Lottie Pickering who went to the Lord in March and Milly Ochsner who went to the Lord in August. As we remember these who were precious to us, we much more recall the words of the Psalmist (116:15) that "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."

My continued prayer is that the Lord will increase not only our numbers, but more particular our spiritual health and growth. Generally a good number have been faithful in seeking to worship and hear God's word on a weekly basis. We continually encourage and also admonish those who have faltered in seeking to be with God's people in His worship (Heb. 10:24-25).

On Sunday mornings we have been primarily going through a series on 1 John, James, and now we are finishing up on the Sermon on the Mount. In Sunday School we have done studies on a variety of subjects such as church discipline, baptism and other brief studies. The last month of the year we began an extensive look at prayer. For the youth this year we have had a variety of occasions looking at aspects of Christian leadership. Concerning all the times of the study of God's word, I have heard numerous responses which are positive to God's word and show a great interest for it, along with appreciative comments for the preaching.

This year the Lord has also provided numerous opportunities for my preaching in the community. God granted me the honor of preaching at our centennial service where a great number were gathered. I was also given the occasion of presenting the gospel through preaching at a couple of funerals of people in the community. On a regular basis I have also delivered messages at the assisted living home and another local nursing home. The most unique opportunity to teach God's word recently occurred when the door was opened to teach on what the Reformed Faith is at a local North American Baptist church. In this brief time I dealt with the aspects of the Reformed confession and in particular the Cannons of Dordt. My prayer is that God will plant the seed by all those activities.

As the year has gone by, I appreciated and am encouraged greatly by the humility and faithfulness of the elders of this church. Especially, their eagerness to follow God's word and to lovingly deal with and at times tackle what could be very difficult issues. One of the great strengths has been the mutual submission and the ability to work together, not for our own glory but God's. In this light, as a parent does not take pleasure in the discipline of their children, but recognize it is commanded by God and that it is a true aspect of love. We announce that in accordance with our Lord's command in Matthew 18 and conformity to the constitution the spiritual council (which was beefed up by many pastors in order to hopefully bring repentance and humility to all involved) suspended a man for his hard heartedness for continually failing to honor his marriage covenant. We continue to pray that the Lord will soften his heart, although currently in our eyes it does not

look this way. We also had a variety of other occasions where the Elders and myself confronted a variety of sins where they were repented of and discipline was averted.

This year has been a monumental year of blessing on my own life. Not only has it been my first full time gospel ministry, but also the Lord gave me time to prepare and allowed me to be ordained on October 14th. I am very grateful that three faithful servants of God in the RCUS, who God has no doubt greatly blessed this denomination with, but also me in my upbringing, were able officiate and give the charges. Again I was very honored and thankful to Rev. Grossmann, Hart, and Van Stedum for being able to join with our congregation and myself on that special occasion.

It is also necessary that I also thank the Lord for another blessing this year. The Lord added to my own family our fourth child. God gave my wife Marie and I a beautiful baby girl Anna Christine, who I also had the great honor of baptizing. We look forward with hope and expectation as this covenant child grows in knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

As I conclude I recall again Paul's words as I do often in my prayers, not only for my own children, but the children and brothers and sisters in Christ, whose care I have been entrusted as a servant of Christ. My pray is that God would fulfill his promise, for Christ's bride here in Herreid, that we would continue to rejoice even to heaven joining with Paul "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dan R. Schnabel

Rev. Herman Van Stedum
First Reformed Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota

Esteemed Brothers in Christ Jesus:

In Romans 1:16,17 the Apostle Paul testifies "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." What a joy, but also what a heavy responsibility to be intrusted with the power of the gospel. The central focus of my ministry has been, and Lord willing will continue to be, to preach the gospel because it is indeed the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. It has been a joy to observe the faith of our members and to see their faith strengthened.

I wish to thank the congregations of Aberdeen and Leola for their continued support and love. One does not know the great amount of joy and gratitude that this has given me and my family. As I considered a call to Manitowoc Wis. I realized how precious is the communion of the saints and the participation in the family of God here in Aberdeen and Leola.

This past year again God has called their eternal reward members of our congregations. What a blessed assurance awaits all who believe in the Lord. We have also lost members who have transferred to other churches since they are no longer living in the area. Sadly we also lost members who neglected regular attendance at worship, or who moved but have not affiliated with

any church where they now live. Tracy and Michelle Grugget transferred to Watertown where he is now the pastor. May the Lord bless his ministry.

We have had the joy this past year to have had two pastors (elders) from our church in the Congo speak to us and visit with us this past. May the Lord bless their labors as many are being saved in Africa. As a church we have had the blessing of participating in home and foreign missions, benevolence, training of pastors, and Christian mercy through guideline giving.

I have sought to fulfill the various obligations of the pastor. I have instructed the youth in Daily Vacation Bible School, Youth Camp, and confirmation instruction. Bret Bielke, Kristina Serfoss and Andrew Wanner plan on being confirmed this year. There will be a nice group who will be starting confirmation this fall. I have thoroughly enjoyed the Bible Studies, Hymn Sings and Life and Fellowship meetings. I have enjoyed leading the Ladies Aid and realize what a blessing the ladies of the church provide for us. We would like to see even greater participation on the part of all of our members in these opportunities for spiritual growth which are provided. We thank God for the divine signs and seals of God's covenant blessing given to us in the sacraments this past year. And we anticipate the blessings of Baptism in the coming year.

I have had the opportunity to speak at the Baptist School, and at the Care Centers. I have been able to bring God's word of comfort to those who sorrow and to pray with and read together God's precious words in times of illness and uncertainty.

In the providence of God we were able to make needed improvements to the church property. in Aberdeen This was also an opportunity for the members to show their willingness to do their part through generous giving. The furnaces are already saving money and the paved parking lot is appreciated each week.

As we look ahead, we must keep our priorities in focus. The two fold task to this congregation is first to build up each other in the faith as they grow in knowledge, love and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and secondly we must reach out to the lost and perishing with Gospel We would encourage each member to invite people to come and worship and to give a reasonable account of the faith that is in them.

Christ's Servant
Rev. Herman Van Stedum

Kassel Reformed Church, Lincoln Valley (Denhoff), North Dakota
By Graef Brian Gannon, Elder

Fathers and Brethren:

As the Kassel Reformed Church of Lincoln Valley, or rural Denhoff, North Dakota, continues without the services of a parish pastor, I again submit this annual pastoral report in lieu of the same. I am Graef Gannon, one of the elders of the congregation and the person regularly conducting the weekly morning worship and preaching the Word.

Our congregation is small and cannot afford a full-time pastor but the remaining members are loyal to their church and in recent years I have been able to lead them in Sunday worship even

though I live and work during the week in Bismarck, ninety miles distant. The other elder, Alwin Rau who lives in the area, has given strong leadership to the church over many years, and has been faithful in the affairs of the congregation, Classis and Synod. We have two deacons, Arthur Rau and Arnold Sprenger, also of long service.

During 2001, Lord's Day worship was held on fifty Sundays, with February 4 and December 23 canceled because of weather conditions. As Classis has desired to have ordained pastors officiate at the Lord's Supper, we have observed the Supper five times during the year on January 21, April 1, June 24, September 9, and December 16, with these pastors presiding respectively: Steven Richert, Michael Voytek, Michael Voytek, Steven Richert, Dan Schnabel. The September 9 Communion was combined with the annual Mission Fest Sunday at which Pastor Richert was the guest speaker. In addition, I was on vacation over Sundays July 29 and August 5. Services those days were conducted by Rev. Edward Huntington and Rev. Wayne Vleck respectively. In addition to a special Easter service on Easter Sunday, April 15, we held services during the week to observe Good Friday, April 13; Ascension Day, May 24; and Thanksgiving Day, November 22. There was to have been a Christmas program during the Sunday service, December 23, but this was missed due to weather so was included in the following Sunday, December 30.

Each Lord's day service contains a short meditation on the appropriate passages from the Heidelberg Catechism. The Lord's Prayer, Gloria Patri, and Doxology are always used, and recently, at the request of Elder Rau and the concurrence of the Consistory, the Apostles' Creed has been added.

My major effort with the congregation is to hold regular weekly worship services but I also try to make occasional visits to the hospitals in Harvey and Minot as needed and I represent the Kassel congregation usually together with a few of our members in Sunday afternoon devotionals at the retirement homes in McClusky and Harvey, four times a year in each place.

The Consistory has met frequently to direct the spiritual and temporal life of the congregation and has considered and answered the constitutional questions as submitted to Classis. The Kassel church meets all Classis and synod financial obligations and makes small contributions to Hope Haven and several Reformed seminaries. The major local expense to the congregation is compensation to me and others for leading worship. The compensation to me is entirely adequate and is appreciated by me, as is the loyalty extended by the congregation to me, to the Reformed Church in the United States, and to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ Who first loved us and called us to Himself before the foundation of the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Grael Brian Gannon, Elder

XI. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE ELDERS

The President asked the elder delegates the Constitutional Questions from Article 81 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States.

Question #1 - all answered yes; Question #2 - all answered yes; Question #3a - all answered yes except elder from Herreid (could be improved); Question #3b - all answered yes; Question #4 - all answered yes; Question #5a - all answered yes; Question #5b - all answered yes; Question #5c - all answered yes except elders from Aberdeen, Salem, Eureka, Herreid,

Hosmer, & Pierre (No); Question #5d - all answered yes except elder from Eureka (No); Question #6 - all answered yes; Question #7a - all answered yes; Question #7b - all answered yes.

XII. REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

See Appendix B of this Abstract.

XIII. READING OF THE STANDING RULES

See Appendix D of this Abstract.

XIV. REPORTS FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES

No reports were given.

XV. ADDRESSES AND/OR REPORTS OF VISITORS

No addresses were given.

XVI. REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

There were no special committee reports.

XVII. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Note: All recommendations in the Standing Committee reports appear in their final, amended form, and were adopted unless otherwise noted.

A. EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE

The examination and licensure committee received the report of the Candidates and Credentials committee and makes the following recommendations:

1. That Licentiate Tracy Gruggett be given an ordination examination. The ordination exam to consist of an examination on the memorization of the Heidelberg Catechism to be done by Rev. H. Van Stedum; an open examination by members of Classis on any area including constitution. Further that no time limits would apply.
2. That Rev. H. Van Stedum give a report on his internship including an evaluation by internship assignments and responsibilities be handed out to the delegates.
3. That the ordination and installation committee honor the request of Mr. Tracy Gruggett.

Resentfully Submitted

H. Van Stedum, D Schnabel, J. Hieb, F. Opp, R De Jong

B. EXCUSES

Your committee received the following item:

1. A request from Milbert Kappes to be excused from all sessions of Classis on Monday, March 4.

Recommendations:

1. That the excuse be granted.
- S. Richert, D. Clark, T. Rott, A. Rau

C. FINANCES, BENEVOLENCE, AND MINISTERIAL AID

Esteemed Brethren:

Your committee received the following:

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Auditing Committee Report
- c. Mileage requests from delegates
- d. Request for Ministerial Aid from Rev. Jones.

We bring the following Recommendations:

1. That Northern Plains Classis pay mileage requests according to the following:

	Miles	Rate	Total
Alan Fickbohm	268	\$0.20	\$53.60
Allen Dockter	506	\$0.20	\$101.20
Alwin Rau	340	\$0.20	\$68.00
Ferdinand Opp	150	\$0.12	\$18.00
Jere Hieb	88	\$0.12	\$10.56
Tracy Gruggett	300	\$0.12	\$36.00
Michael McGee	46	\$0.04	\$19.04
Herman Van Stedum	150	\$0.12	\$18.00
Norman Jones	252	\$0.20	\$50.40
Steven Richert	130	\$0.20	\$26.00
William Haddock	268	\$0.04	\$10.72
Rod De Jong	300	\$0.12	\$36.00
Tim Rott	130	\$0.04	\$5.20
Dan Schnabel	60	\$0.20	\$7.20
			<u>\$459.92</u>

2. That the Northern Plains Classis Treasurer be directed to transfer \$1,000.00 from the Missions Fund to the Classical Dues Fund.
3. That the Northern Plains Classis overture the Synod for Ministerial Aid on behalf of Rev. Norman and Lena Jones in the amount of \$1,300.00 per month.

4. That the Guideline for Northern Plains Classis for the next year be set according to following table and that \$10,000.00 from the Home Missions fund be given to Covenant Reformed Church of Watertown for debt reduction.

Classical Dues	\$10.00
Missions	<u>\$24.50</u>
Total	\$34.50

W. Haddock, A. Rau, N. Jones, F. Opp, R. De Jong

D. JUDICIAL

Recommendations:

1. That the Northern Plains Classis hold its annual meeting on the first Monday in March and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. (Adopted by 2/3rd vote)
2. That the Standing Rules of Classis be renumbered in a more systematic fashion; and that this be done by the Executive Committee and circularized for approval (Adopted by 2/3rd vote)
3. That the congregations of Classis be asked to host the Classis Meetings on a rotating basis in alphabetical order in so far as possible and will begin in 2004. (Defeated)

Respectfully Submitted,

N. Jones, A. Fickbohm, C. Beck, H. Van Stedum

E. NOMINATIONS

The following were approved for appointment to the Permanent Committees for the coming year (Underlined is Convener):

- EXECUTIVE:** Clark, De Jong, Haddock
CHRISTIAN ED. & PUB.: Haddock, Jones, Fickbohm
CANDIDATES & CREDENTIALS: Schnabel, Van Stedum, Richert, F. Opp
HOME MISSIONS: Richert, Clark, Rott, Ochsner
CAMP: Gruggett, Hieb, Schnabel, A. Dockter
INTERCHURCH RELATIONS: Jones, Gruggett, Rau
DIACONAL: Clark, Beck, Kappes
AUDITING: Opp, Kappes, Van Stedum

W. Haddock, A. Dockter, S. Richert, T. Ochsner

F. OVERTURES

Your Committee has received the following:

1. An invitation to host the Northern Plains Classis meeting in spring of 2003 from the Hope Reformed Church.
2. Ministerial Assistance for Rev. Jones.

3. Request from Salem Reformed Church for support for the Radio program.
4. Your committee has received an excuse from Milbert Kappes.

Recommendations:

1. Item 1 goes to Services
2. Item 2 goes to Finances Benovolences and Ministerial Aid
3. Item 3 goes to Missions.
4. Item 4 goes to excuses.

D. Schnabel, D. Clark, M. Kappes, J. Hieb

G. SERVICES AND INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

Your committee received the following:

1. Hope Reformed Church extends invitation to the Northern Plains Classis to host the 18th Annual meeting of Classis in the spring of 2003.
2. We received an invitation from the Manitoba Classis of the Canadian reformed Churches to send a fraternal delegate. We were unable to send a delegate but did send a letter of greeting for their meeting which was concurrent with our Classis meeting.

Recommendations:

1. That the invitation be accepted.
2. Take note.
3. That the Interchurch Relations Committee pursue relations with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
4. That the following be published and printed in the bulletin of March 10th of Eureka Reformed Church:

“The pastors and elders of the 17th Annual Northern Plains Classis Spring Meeting expresses their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the congregation of the Eureka Reformed Church of Eureka, South Dakota, for hosting the Classis. We appreciate your gracious hospitality and give thanks to our Lord for you. May He richly bless you for your service to His church.”

D. Clark, T. Ochsner, D. Schnabel, M. Kappes

H. MISSIONS

Your committee received the following items:

1. The Permanent Home Missions Committee Report.

2. A request from Salem Reformed Church concerning radio outreach.

Recommendations:

1. That the Northern Plains Classis budget \$16,000.00 for Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, SD for the current year.
2. That the Northern Plains Classis budget \$1,404.00 to provide ½ support of the radio outreach program, “Start the Week.”

S. Richert, N. Jones, A. Dockter, C. Beck

I. EDUCATION, PUBLICATION, AND STUDENT AID

Recommendations:

1. That Rev. Jones serve as editor of the Northern Plains Chronicles for the coming year and that he be given \$200.00 honorarium for this services.
2. That Rev. Jones continues to serve as the librarian for the Classis Video library.
3. That the Classis approve the 2002 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.
4. That the Classis approve the report including the themes of the Heidelberg Youth Camp committee.

H. Van Stedum, W. Haddock, A. Fickbohm, T. Rott

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

A. Expression of Appreciation to the Hosting Congregation

The pastors and elders of the 17th Annual Northern Plains Classis Spring Meeting expresses their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the congregation of the Eureka Reformed Church of Eureka, South Dakota, for hosting the Classis. We appreciate your gracious hospitality and give thanks to our Lord for you. May He richly bless you for your service to His church.

B. Adoption of the Stated Clerk’s Report, Executive Committee’s Minutes and Overture Committee’s Report

The Stated Clerk’s Report, the Executive Committee Report, and the Standing Overtures Committee report were all adopted by the Northern Plains Classis.

XIX. READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were read and corrected by the Clerk. The President asked; shall the minutes be now approved? Since there were no objections, he declared the minutes approved.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

The Northern Plains Classis adjourned to the 2003 Spring Meeting of Classis to Hope Reformed Church of Pierre on March 3rd, 2003. The Classis adjourned at 2:00 P.M. on March 5th, 2002.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 6 ministers, 10 elders and 2 licentiates present.

B. Devotions

Elder Chester Beck led the Assembly in devotion from Romans 14

C. The Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction

The Assembly stood to unite in the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer. The President pronounced the Benediction.

Rodney S De Jong

Stated Clerk, Northern Plains Classis

APPENDIX A

NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS

FUND BALANCES

Jan. 1, 2001 thru Dec. 31, 2001

FUND	Balance	INCOME	EXPENSES	Balance	SAVINGS CERTIFICATES
	1/1/01			12/31/01	
Classical Dues	1,572.64	4,338.76	6,157.04	(245.64)	1,000.00
Home Missions	12,309.49	19,391.73	16,014.45	15,686.77	2,000.00
Total	13,882.13	23,730.49	22,171.49	15,441.13	3,000.00

STATEMENT OF INCOME

<u>From Source Received</u>	Classical	Home
	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Missions</u>
Interest on NOW Account	8.62	79.12
Interest on Savings Certificate	52.64	154.61
Gertrude E. Mettler Estate	700.00	0.00
Covenant Reformed Church - Watertown	104.50	551.00
First Reformed Church - Aberdeen	676.50	3,567.00
Kassel Reformed Church - Denhoff	143.00	754.00
Leola Reformed Church - Leola	71.50	377.00
Harvest Reformed Church - Minot	220.00	1,160.00
Salem Reformed Church - Ashley	297.00	1,566.00
Eureka Reformed Church - Eureka	1,292.50	6,815.00
Hosmer Reformed Church - Hosmer	211.50	1,410.00
Hope Reformed Church - Pierre	159.50	841.00
Herreid Reformed Church - Herreid	401.50	2,117.00
Total Income	4,338.76	19,391.73

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT OF EXPENSE

<u>SPRING CLASSIS MEETING</u>		<u>OFFICERS HONORARIUM</u>	
Rev. Herman Van Stedum	24.00	Rev. Haddock - Clerk	250.00
Ralph Kusler	120.00	Rod De Jong - Clerk	50.00
Rev. Dan Schnabel	84.00	Rev. Dale Clark - President	50.00
Ronald Abbink	176.00	Rev. Voytek - President	50.00
Rev. Darrell Kingswood	115.20	Ralph Kusler - Treasurer	100.00
Alwin Rau	28.00	Total	500.00
Lynn Goehring	128.00		
Rod De Jong	35.20	<u>CLASSICAL EXPENSES</u>	
Rev. Steven Richert	89.20	Mike McGee - Airfare	535.40
Reinhold Dockter	17.84	Rev. Kingswood - Mileage	76.00
Fred Carpenter	92.00	Rev. Voytek - Mileage	248.00
Total	909.44	Alwin Rau - Mileage	45.20
		Rev. Van Stedum - Mileage	110.00
<u>SEPTEMBER CLASSIS MEETING</u>		Rev. Clark - Mileage	328.00
Milbert Kappes	24.50	Rev. R. Grossman - Mileage	144.00
Alwin Rau	56.80	Rev. H. Hart - Mileage	108.00
Rev. Van Stedum	40.50	Rev. Jones - Ed. N.P. Chronicles	100.00
John Bender	8.00	Rev. Jones - Mileage	52.00
Rev. Norman Jones	8.80	Rev. Jones - Expenses	29.97
Rev. William Haddock	44.00	Covenant Reformed Church-	
Tracy Gruggett	16.00	Diaconal Aid Reimbursement	1,000.00
Rod De Jong	80.00	State Publishing Co. - Abstracts	1,214.75
Rev. Michael Voytek	43.36	U.S. Postmaster	8.40
Jim Snyder	17.76	Covenant Media Foundation -	
Rev. Richert	19.40	Books for N.P.C. Library	20.00
Reinhold Dockter	3.88	Total	4,019.72
Total	363.00		
		<u>TOTAL CLASSICAL EXPENSES</u>	6,157.04
<u>DECEMBER CLASSIS MEETING</u>		<u>HOME MISSIONS</u>	
Rev. Van Stedum	30.00	Rev. Koerner - Mileage to Fargo	360.00
Lynn Goehring	52.80	Rev. Schnabel - Mileage to Fargo	99.20
Alwin Rau	68.00	Watertown	8,325.00
Ronald Abbink	66.00	Minot - To R.C.U.S. Synod	1,000.00
Rev. Richert	12.80	Pierre - To R.C.U.S. Synod	3,600.00
Rev. Jones	10.48	Pierre	1,500.00
Allen Dockter	104.00	Salem Reformed Church -	
Mike McGee	20.80	Radio Broadcast	1,130.25
Total	364.88	Total Home Missions	16,014.45
		<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	22,171.49

Northern Plains Classis Treasurer prepared this financial statement on a cash basis. Fund accounting which consists of a self balancing group of accounts and in which is recorded cash received and expenditures paid, is used by the Classis. In addition, revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Ralph Kusler, Treasurer

APPENDIX B

NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS - 2001 STATISTICS						
	Aberdeen	Ashley	Denhoff	Eureka	Herreid	Hosmer
1 Number of Elders	3	3	2	3	2	2
2 Number of Deacons	3	3	2	3	2	3
3 Communicants Last Year	123	53	26	235	67	47
4 Received - Confirmation	0	4	0	0	0	0
5 Received - Transfer	6	0	0	0	2	0
6 Received - Profession	1	0	0	0	1	0
7 Total Received	7	4	0	0	3	0
8 Total Old & New	130	57	26	235	70	47
9 Lost - Dismissal	5	0	0	6	0	2
10 Lost - Erase/Disciple	8	0	0	1	0	0
11 Lost - Death	2	1	0	10	2	3
12 Total Lost	15	1	0	17	2	5
13 Total Communicants This Year	115	56	26	218	68	42
14 Unconfirmed Members	31	1	4	29	13	4
15 Total Baptized Members	146	57	30	247	81	46
16 Number of Families	66	31	17	121	19	27
17 Children in Sunday School	26	4	0	27	13	4
18 Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Infants Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	1	2	0
20 Total Baptisms	0	0	0	1	2	0
21 Members' - Lord's Supper	103	51	23	183	57	27
22 Lord's Supper Observed	4	3	4	4	4	4
23 Receipts - Sunday Offerings	\$57,311	\$41,085	\$16,285	\$86,192	\$35,035	\$7,205
24 Receipts - Special Offerings	\$6,909	\$3,627	\$0	\$10,205	\$4,771	\$2,614
25 Receipts - Other Sources	\$31,362	\$1,744	\$217	\$9,887	\$42	\$16,491
26 Total Receipts	\$95,582	\$46,456	\$16,502	\$106,284	\$39,848	\$26,310
27 Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$14,955	\$6,970	\$4,381	\$31,261	\$2,252	\$1,639
28 Budgeted Classical Funds	\$4,244	\$1,863	\$855	\$8,359	\$2,519	\$1,621
29 RCUS Non-Budgeted	\$0	\$243	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
30 Non-RCUS Benovolences	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
31 Other General Expenses	\$72,865	\$22,635	\$6,525	\$69,223	\$37,857	\$22,164
32 Total Disbursements	\$92,064	\$31,711	\$11,761	\$108,843	\$42,628	\$25,424
33 Value of Church Building	\$150,000	\$24,900	\$30,000	\$250,000	\$40,000	\$25,000
34 Value of Parsonage	\$90,000	\$19,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$42,000	\$0
35 Property Improvements	\$21,500	\$688	\$0	\$4,952	\$8,586	\$0
36 Present Property Debts	\$6,170	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
37 Debt Paid Last Year	\$6,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
38 Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$122	\$132	\$169	\$133	\$33	\$35
39 Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$35	\$35	\$33	\$36	\$37	\$34
40 Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$156	\$171	\$201	\$169	\$71	\$69

APPENDIX B

NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS - 2001 STATISTICS					
	Leola	Minot	Pierre	Watertown	Totals
1 Number of Elders	1	2	2	2	22
2 Number of Deacons	2	3	0	0	21
3 Communicants Last Year	13	40	27	18	649
4 Received - Confirmation	0	1	0	0	5
5 Received - Transfer	0	0	1	4	13
6 Received - Profession	0	3	1	6	12
7 Total Received	0	4	2	10	30
8 Total Old & New	13	44	29	28	679
9 Lost - Dismissal	0	7	3	6	29
10 Lost - Erase/Disciple	0	0	4	2	15
11 Lost - Death	1	0	1	0	20
12 Total Lost	1	7	8	8	64
13 Total Communicants This Year	12	37	21	20	615
14 Unconfirmed Members	0	12	3	12	109
15 Total Baptized Members	12	49	24	32	724
16 Number of Families	8	23	10	10	332
17 Children in Sunday School	0	14	3	5	96
18 Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	1	0	1
19 Infants Baptized Last Year	0	0	1	2	6
20 Total Baptisms	0	0	2	2	7
21 Members' - Lord's Supper	12	37	21	18	532
22 Lord's Supper Observed	4	9	6	4	46
23 Receipts - Sunday Offerings	\$10,496	\$45,455	\$31,841	\$21,219	\$352,124
24 Receipts - Special Offerings	\$855	\$316	\$1,333	\$431	\$31,061
25 Receipts - Other Sources	\$1,148	\$15,559	\$8,640	\$29,317	\$114,407
26 Total Receipts	\$12,499	\$61,330	\$41,814	\$50,967	\$497,592
27 Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$2,119	\$6,520	\$4,268	\$2,934	\$77,299
28 Budgeted Classical Funds	\$448	\$1,380	\$1,000	\$655	\$22,944
29 RCUS Non-Budgeted	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$381	\$824
30 Non-RCUS Benovolences	\$0	\$0	\$595	\$2,163	\$2,758
31 Other General Expenses	\$11,083	\$63,927	\$33,208	\$47,842	\$387,329
32 Total Disbursements	\$13,650	\$71,827	\$39,271	\$53,975	\$491,154
33 Value of Church Building	\$20,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$789,900
34 Value of Parsonage	\$0	\$78,000	\$90,000	\$145,000	\$539,000
35 Property Improvements	\$0	\$13,000	\$0	\$0	\$48,726
36 Present Property Debts	\$0	\$26,512	\$51,056	\$46,500	\$130,238
37 Debt Paid Last Year	\$0	\$3,488	\$5,270	\$6,899	\$22,057
38 Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$163	\$163	\$159	\$163	\$1,272
39 Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$34	\$35	\$38	\$36	\$353
40 Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$197	\$198	\$202	\$220	\$1,654

APPENDIX C

Necrologies

Milton Ochsner
1926-2001

Milton C. Ochsner, 75, was born January 23, 1926 in rural Artas, SD the son of Calvin and Rosina (Hoerth) Ochsner. He was raised on a farm northwest of Artas and attended rural school. He married Ruby Huber west of Zeeland, ND on August 25, 1946. Following their marriage, they continued farming northwest of Artas. Milton retired in 2000. He was a member of Farm School Board, Zeeland Elevator Board, Herreid School Board, Campbell County Commissioner, Campbell County Clinic Board and Selective Service Board.

Milton was member of the Artas Reformed Church and later the First Reformed Church in Herreid. Milton faithfully served the Artas Church for many years as a deacon and also in the choir. In 1997 Milton became an elder of the Artas Reformed Church, serving faithfully for its final year.

Milton died August 15, 2001 in Bismarck, ND. Grateful to have shared his life are his wife, Ruby; one son: Jim Ochsner of Leola, SD; one daughter: Jeanne Ochsner of Pierre, SD; four brothers and sisters-in-law: Cornell and Nettie Ochsner of Herreid, SD, Donald and Shirley Ochsner of Aberdeen, SD, John and Joyce Ochsner of Herreid, SD and Jerry and Joyce Ochsner of Rapid City, SD; three sisters: Ruth Fuehrer of Rapid City, SD, Delores Roland of Minneapolis, MN and Darlene Hoisington of Woodbridge, VA. He was preceded in death by both parents and one brother, Elmer.

Marvin L. Olivier
March 1, 1930 – April 25, 2001

Marvin L. Olivier was born March 1, 1930, in Aurora County near Stickney, SD, to Paul and Ida (Star) Olivier. He lived on the family farm near Stickney and attended school there. Marvin began working for Brink Construction doing electrical line construction in 1950. On October 5, 1951, he entered the Army and served as a military police in Berlin, Germany, with an honorable discharge in September 1953. Upon discharge from military service, he began his career with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Western Area Power Administration) where he worked as a groundman, truck driver, lineman, and eventually a foreman, serving for 42 years until his retirement January 3, 1992.

Marvin was united in marriage with Irene Dykstra on June 4, 1954, at Corsica, SD. Following their marriage they lived in the Corsica and Armour, SD area. The couple moved to Pierre in 1960. The couple had four children; Wayne, Craig, Dianne, and Gary. Marvin was a member of the Hope Reformed Church of Pierre, SD, where he served as an elder for many years. He will be fondly remembered by many in the Reformed Church in the U.S. as having represented the Hope RCUS at Classis and Synod meetings. After a long struggle with cancer, he died on

April 25, 2001. He died professing his trust in the Only Comfort in life and in death, to belong to the faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

APPENDIX C

Rudolph Opp

Rudolph Opp was born March 20, 1916 to John and Elizabeth (Neuharth) Opp at Eureka, SD. This is where he was raised and received his education. He received the sign and seal of God's covenant promises in baptism on May 28, 1916 at the Glueckstal Reformed Church. On June 29, 1930, he professed his faith in the rite of Confirmation. He was united in holy marriage to Thelma Freeman on April 24, 1939. They farmed in the Eureka area until 1943 when they moved to the Leola area. Rudolph suffered a major heart attack in April of 1966 and sold the farm in 1968 then moved to Leola. In 1995, they moved to Aberdeen.. His wife died on February 16, 1997. Rudy continued to live in Aberdeen being a faithful member of the First Reformed Church, until the time of his death. The Lord called him to his home in heaven on June 14, 2001.

Rudy was a life time member of the Reformed Church which he loved and served faithfully. He served as treasurer and for 48 years he also served as a Deacon and Elder of the Oranien Reformed Church of Leola. He had a great love for the youth and a concern that they be taught the precious teachings of the Bible as so beautifully and faithfully taught in the Heidelberg Catechism. He served as treasurer of the Heidelberg Youth Camp for 32 years when it met at Richmond Lake. He took his civic responsibilities seriously and served for 17 years as the secretary-treasurer of Kenwood Manor in Leola. He was also secretary-treasurer of the Leola Hospital Board, he served of Leola Equity, the Spring Township school Board, the Better Leola Club and the Leola Country Club. He was also the caretaker and treasurer for the Green Mound Cemetery. He loved to hunt and fish and had a cabin for many years at Little Leola on the Missouri River. He was also a big sports fan especially enjoying baseball and football.

He is survived by his son Robert (Renee) Opp of Arvada, CO; his three daughters, Phyllis Wright of Beaverton, OR, Patricia Ehresmann of Hillsboro, OR, and Marjorie (Mike) Morgan of Fort Collins, CO; two brothers, Calvin Opp and Edmund Opp of Eureka, SD; one sister Alma Donahue of Richland, WA; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one step grandchild; and one step great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, daughter Audrey, a son in law, five sisters, and four brothers.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

APPENDIX D

THE STANDING RULES OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS CLASSIS

1. The Classical dues shall be due on the first of September and are to be paid not later than the 30th of the current year.
2. The parochial reports and statistics shall be forwarded two weeks before the spring session; the parochial reports to the President of the Classis and the statistics to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the session of Classis.
3. The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the stated clerk two weeks before the session of Classis
4. The Standing rules shall be read during the session of Classis.
5. If pastors, elders, and 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 in written form and relevant only to the item in question.
6.
 - a. If a pastor and his elder drive to Classis separately, they shall be paid 12 cents both ways;
 - b. If a pastor and his elder come in the same car, the one driving is to get 20 cents per mile and the rider is to get 4 cents per mile;
 - c. If there is but one delegate driving he is to get 20 cents per mile, and if a man travels in behalf of Classis business he is to get 20 cents per mile;
 - d. When distance and time require travel on public transportation to Classis, or for Classis business, they shall be granted full fare.
7. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only to those delegates whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions or have been properly excused by Classis.
8. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form to "Northern Plains Classis," and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.
9. The President of Classis shall receive one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), and the Treasurer one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the Classical year.
10. 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.
11. The worship services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circulated before Classis.

12. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of Classis shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at any time.
13. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the yearly Spring meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elder according to Article 81 of the Constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge, and sent to the Stated Clerk.
14. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to the Consistories of all the Churches two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis. Parochial reports from all Ministers and Licentiates are to be sent to the President at least two weeks before the Spring meeting of Classis. Excuses for these requirements are to be made by written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis.
15. It shall be the practice of the Classis before ordaining candidates for the ministry and before installing ordained ministers from other denominations, to require no less than a six month internship for them under the supervision of a pastor of the Classis who has served in the Reformed Church in the United States for at least five years. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed upon learning the peculiarities and practices of the RCUS. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed.
16. All documents submitted to Classis be written on sheets of paper 8.5 inches wide and 11 inches long.
17. That the Northern Plains Classis hold its annual meeting on the first Monday in March and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. (2002)