

The
Reformed Church
in the
United States



Abstract of the Minutes of the 256th Synod

May 20–23, 2002
Emmanuel Reformed Church
Sutton, Nebraska

*The Abstract of the 256th Synod is hereby
affectionately dedicated to the memory of*

*the Rev. Donald R. Vance
(1947-2001)*

*a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and
a beloved friend. May his ministry among us
continue to bear fruit for generations to come!*

— The 256th Synod of the RCUS

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DIRECTORY

Congregations of the Reformed Church

CALIFORNIA

ANDERSON, CA 96007 (530) 365-6874
Faith RCUS, 3291 Rupert Rd.
(Mail: PO Box 902)
Worship 10:30 AM and 6 PM; S.S. 9:30 AM

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305 (661) 325-0165
Grace RCUS, 420 Columbus St.
(Mail: 6407 Brooklawn Way 93309)
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:15 AM; Bible Study noon or 6:30 PM
Pastor: George Horner (wife, Mary Jo)

CHICO, CA 95973 (530) 345-2732
Covenant Reformed Chapel, 1877 Hooker Oak Ave.
(Mail: 2665 Floral Ave.)
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 9 AM
Pastor: Gary Mancilas (wife, Gloria)

CHULA VISTA, CA 91977 (619) 697-0272
Covenant Reformed Chapel, CVPDA Bldg., 48 3rd Ave.
Worship 11 AM; S.S. 10 AM; Lunch 12:30 PM
(Mail: 757 Maria Ave., Spring Valley, CA 91977)
Pulpit Supply: Mr. Gil Baloy (wife, Maricar)

GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945 (530) 273-4673
Covenant RCUS, 407 W. Main St.
Worship 11 AM and 6 PM; S.S. 9:45 AM
Pastor: Dennis Roe (wife, Julie)

LA HABRA, CA 90631 (562) 947-4837
Rehoboth Chapel, 643 S. Beach Blvd.
(Mail: 11502 La Serna Dr., Whittier, CA 90604)
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 12 noon; Bible Study 6 PM
Pastor: Jay Fluck (wife, Loretta)

LANCASTER, CA 93534 (661) 940-4669
Grace RCUS, 551 W. Avenue I, Suite F
Worship 10:45 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM
Pastor: Neale Riffert (wife, Mary Elizabeth)

LODI, CA 95240 (209) 367-0552
Providence RCUS, 245 E. Vine
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM; Tues. Bible Study 7 PM
Pastor: Michael Voytek (wife, Rebecca)

MODESTO, CA 95350 (209) 523-3220
Trinity RCUS, 960 El Terino Ave.
(Mail: 4005 Masterpiece Dr. 95357)

Worship 10:30 AM and 6 PM; S.S. 9:15 AM
Pastor: Paul Treick (wife, Karen)

SAN RAMON, CA 94583 (925) 918-1422
Grace Reformed Chapel, meeting at 9300 Alcosta Blvd.
(Mail: PO Box 2866, San Ramon, CA 94583)
Worship 10:30 AM; Bible Study 7:00 PM Wed.
Pastor: Jonathan Merica (wife, Marsha)

SACRAMENTO, CA 95822 (916) 451-1190
Sacramento Covenant RCUS, 2020 16th Ave.
Worship 11 AM and 6 PM; S.S. 9:45 AM
Pastor: Jim West (wife, Elaine)
Associate Pastor: Frank Walker (wife, Christine)

SHAFTER, CA 93263 (661) 746-6907
Ebenezer RCUS, 235 James St.
Worship 10:30 AM and 7 PM; S.S. 9:30 AM
Pastor: Vernon Pollema (wife, Betty)

WILLOWS, CA 95988 (530) 934-2732
Grace RCUS, 148 W. Sycamore
(Mail: PO Box 225)
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 9 AM; Bible study 6:30 PM
Pastor: Tom Mayville (wife, Carolyn)

YUBA CITY, CA 95991 (530) 755-2272
First RCUS, 9882 Garden Hwy.
Worship 11 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM
Pastor: Paul Henderson (wife, Tina)

COLORADO

CALHAN, CO 80808 (719) 347-2381
High Plains RCUS, 657 7th St.
(Mail: 555 Boulder St.)
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 9 AM
Pastor: Maynard Koerner (wife, Marcia)

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80909 (719) 590-1477
Trinity Covenant RCUS, Meeting at New Geneva Seminary
3622 E. Galley Road
(Mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. 80918)
Worship 11 AM
Pastor: C.W. Powell, Jr. (wife, Penny)

GREELEY, CO 80631 (970) 336-9927
Grace RCUS, 1505 10th Avenue
Worship 11 AM; S.S. 10 AM

Pastor: Gene Sawtelle (wife, Sharon)

KARVAL, CO 81063 (719) 446-5215
Blue Cliff Community RCUS, Blue Cliff Comm. Bldg.
(Mail: 2600 SR 71, Ordway, CO)
Worship 11 AM; S.S. 12 noon
Pastor: Dorman Savage (wife, Kay)

LIMON, CO 80828 (719) 446-5215
Providence Reformed Chapel, 725 Michigan Ave.
Worship 9 AM; S.S. 10:30 AM
Pastor: Dorman Savage (wife, Kay)

PUEBLO, CO 81007 (719) 647-1540
First Reformed Chapel (Call for services and times)
(Mail: 4505 N. Carefree Cir., Colorado Springs, CO 80917)

IOWA

GARNER, IA 50438 (515) 923-3060
Peace RCUS, Highway 69 (3 miles south of Garner)
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM
Pastor: Jeff DeBoer (wife, Karen)

KENTUCKY

DANVILLE, KY 40422 (859) 936-1879
Deaf RCUS, meeting at 190 Bold Ave. (Grace PCA)
(Mail: 917 Rosemont Ave.)
Worship 2:30 PM; Midweek study 7 PM Wed.
Pastor: Kevin Hamilton (wife, Robin)

MARYLAND

COLUMBIA, MD 21045 (410) 674-4854
Deaf RCUS (call for location of meetings)
(Mail: 115 Langdon Farm Cir., Odenton, MD 21113)
Worship 1:30 PM; S.S. 3 PM
Pastor: Jari Saavalainen (wife, Ramona)

MINNESOTA

HAMBURG, MN 55339 (952) 467-3878
St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 15470 County Rd 31
Worship 10:00 AM; S.S. 8:55 AM

(Services are half an hour earlier May through October)

Pastor: Hank Bowen (wife, Patty)

MINNEAPOLIS (Golden Valley), MN 55422 (763) 417-9835
Redeemer RCUS, 1300 Lilac Dr. N.
(Mail: 3101 Virginia Ave. N, Crystal, MN 55427)
Worship 10:15 AM and 5 PM; S.S. 9 AM
Pastor: Jim Sawtelle (wife, Thelma)

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY, MO 64164 (816) 420-9700
Northland RCUS, 2901 NW Cookingham
Worship 9:30 AM and 6 PM; S.S. 11 AM
Pastor: Wesley Brice (wife, Virginia)

NEBRASKA

LINCOLN, NE 68521 (402) 477-7289
St. John's RCUS, 1101 South 26th St.
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM; Wed. 7 PM

SUTTON, NE 68979 (402) 773-4227
Emmanuel RCUS, 110 South Way Ave.
(Mail: PO Box 362)
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM
Pastor: George Syms (wife, Debbie)

SUTTON, NE 68979 (402) 773-4430
Hope RCUS, 311 E. Hickory
(Mail: PO Box 372)
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:15 AM; Bible study 7 PM
Pastor: Darrell Kingswood (wife, Lori)

NORTH DAKOTA

ASHLEY, ND 58413 (701) 288-3682
Salem RCUS, 209 First Ave. SW
(Mail: PO Box 345)
Worship 9 AM or 11 AM (please call)
Pastor: Steve Richert (wife, Nancy)

DENHOFF, ND 58430 (701) 768-2892
Kassel RCUS, 14 miles north and 3½ miles west of Denhoff
(Mail: 540 20th St. NE, Kief, ND 58747)
Worship 10 AM

MINOT, ND 58701 (701) 838-0605
Harvest RCUS, 5200 7th Ave. SW
(Hwy 2, one mile west of Hwy 83 bypass)
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:15 AM
Pastor: Michael McGee (wife, Jennie)

OHIO

NAPOLEON, OH 43545 (419) 599-3106
Peace RCUS, 638 Huddle Rd.
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 9 AM
(Services are half an hour earlier June through August)
Pastor: Harvey Opp (wife, Carol)

PENNSYLVANIA

CARBONDALE, PA 18407 (570) 282-6400
Covenant RCUS, 47 South Church St.
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 9 AM
Pastor: Ron Potter (wife, Sharon)

SOUTH DAKOTA

ABERDEEN, SD 57401 (605) 225-6120
First RCUS, 9th Ave. and S. Dakota St.
(Mail: 1214 S. McCoy St.)
Worship 9 AM; S.S. 10 AM
Pastor: David Dawn (wife, Colleen)

EUREKA, SD 57437 (605) 284-2396
Eureka RCUS, 310 F Ave.
(Mail: PO Box 276)
Worship 9 AM; S.S. 10 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 or 11 AM (please call); S.S. 10 AM
Pastor: Dan Schnabel (wife, Marie)

HOSMER, SD 57448 (605) 283-2222
Hosmer RCUS, 2 blocks south of water tower
(Mail: PO Box 88)
Worship 9 AM or 11 AM (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 AM
Pastor: David Dawn (wife, Colleen)

MENNO, SD 57045 (605) 387-2816
Zion RCUS, 220 S. Pine
(Mail: PO Box 387)
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM
Pastor: Hans Kalkman (wife, Gerda)

MITCHELL, SD 57301 (605) 996-7439
Grace RCUS, 1021 S. Davison
(Mail: PO Box 252)
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 9 AM
Pastor: Ron Morris (wife, Sherrie)

PIERRE, SD 57501 (605) 224-7846
Hope RCUS, 317 S. Garfield
Worship 9 AM; S.S. 10:25 AM
(for info call 224-5170, then press 3985)
Pastor: William Haddock (wife, Ferne)

RAPID CITY, SD 57701 (605) 399-1711
Grace RCUS, 5626 N Haines Ave.
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM
Pastor: David Fagrey (wife, Bonnie)

SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103 (605) 339-3887
Trinity RCUS, 7301 S. Louise Ave.
(Mail: 3309 E. 31st St.)
Worship 10 AM and 6:30 PM; S.S. 9 AM
Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

VERMILLION, SD 57069 (605) 624-4337
Providence RCUS, 830 E. Madison St.
Worship 10:30 AM; S.S. 9:30 AM; Bible Study 7 PM Wed.
Pastor: Robert Grossmann (wife, Pauline)

WATERTOWN, SD 57201 (605) 882-9704
Covenant RCUS, 905 7th Ave. NE
(Mail: 434 30th St. NW)
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 11:15 AM
Pastor: Tracy Gruggett (wife, Michelle)

WISCONSIN

MANITOWOC, WI 54220 (414) 726-4940
Salem-Ebenezer RCUS, 6524 County Trunk C
Worship 10 AM; S.S. 8:45 AM
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WYOMING

ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901 (307) 362-5107
Providence RCUS, 9th and Pearl
(Mail: 1007 9th Street)
Worship 11 AM; S.S. 12:15 PM
Pastor: Jon Blair (wife, Wendy)

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ABSTRACT
OF THE
MINUTES

The 256th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States

He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son – 2 John 9.

I. Services

The Reformed Church in the United States convened its 256th session of Synod at the Emmanuel Reformed Church of Sutton, NE, on Monday, May 20, 2002, at 7:30 PM. Rev. Ron Potter presided over a service of worship, and Rev. Paul Treick preached a sermon on 2 Corinthians 10 (vv. 12, 17 and 18) titled *The Measure of Your Ministry*.

The Synod joined the congregation of Emmanuel Reformed Church for a second worship service on Wednesday evening, May 22, 2002. Rev. Jim West presided and Rev. Maynard Koerner preached a sermon on Romans 10 titled *Glad Tidings of Good Things*. During the service Rev. West expressed the appreciation of Synod to the congregation for hosting this year's meeting.

Scriptural devotions were conducted daily. Rev. Jeff DeBoer led devotions on Tuesday, Rev. Dan Schnabel on Wednesday, and Rev. Tracy Gruggett on Thursday.

II. Organization

The President, Rev. Vernon Pollema, called the 256th session of Synod to order at 8:53 PM on Monday, May 20, 2002.

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Frank Walker, called the roll, which showed 38 ministers and 30 elders present, a quorum. The roll was also called at the beginning of each business day.

The President defined the bar of the house as the first ten pews on either side of the aisle.

The President appointed Revs. Jon Blair and Dan Schnabel and Elders David Helseth and Albert Haller as tellers.

The following delegates were elected to serve as officers of the Synod:

President:	Rev. Vernon Pollema
Vice President:	Rev. Paul Treick
Stated Clerk:	Rev. Frank Walker
Treasurer:	Elder Clayton Greiman
Editor of the <i>Reformed Herald</i> :	Rev. Paul Treick

The President appointed Rev. Jim West as the reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

The Stated Clerk read the Standing Rules.

III. Adoption of Agenda, Order of Day, and Special Orders

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

IV. Welcome of Delegates and Visitors

The President welcomed fraternal delegates, representatives of institutions, elders, and visitors as they arrived. Fraternal delegates and elders of the RCUS were seated in the bar of the house and given the privilege of the floor. Elders present at Synod as first-time delegates were introduced to the body and welcomed by the President.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES: Elder Bill Gortemaker (CanRC), Rev. Mark Harrington (OPC) and Rev. Anthony Cowley (RPCNA).

OBSERVERS: Rev. Al Vermeer (OCRC) and Rev. Todd Joling (URCNA).

REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITUTIONS: Dr. Nick Willborn (GPTS), Dr. Carl Zylstra (Dordt College), Dr. Cornelis Venema and Mr. Keith LeMaheiu (MARS) and Dr. Bryan Estelle (WTSCA).

VISITORS: Rev. Chuck Snyder and Mr. Mike Brabo (interpreters for the deaf brethren), Rev. Stuart Pastine (URC pastor in Kansas City), Mr. Mike McGee (licentiate in the NPC serving the Minot charge), and Mrs. Glenda Mathes (reporter for *Christian Renewal*).

V. Reception of New Ministers

The President welcomed the following new ministers: Tracy Gruggett, Jeff DeBoer, Dan Schnabel and Kevin Hamilton.

VI. Reception of New Churches

The President noted the reception of the Deaf Reformed Church in Danville, KY, by the Covenant East Classis. Rev. Lloyd Gross led in prayer for the new ministers and the new church of Synod.

VII. Announcement of Standing Committees

The President announced the appointment of Standing Committees.

VIII. Permanent Committee Reports

Reports and overtures were distributed according to the Agenda. Overtures are given initially to the Standing Overtures Committee, which then recommends referral to the appropriate Standing Committee for consideration.

A. Archives

[Referred to Standing Overtures]

The Archives committee has consulted by phone during the past year, and has begun to inventory the holdings of the Synod entrusted to it. The Archives remain stored in a reasonably fire safe room in the facilities of Grace Church of Bakersfield, California. We have taken the liberty of seeking donation of two rubberized plastic containers to replace the four

cardboard boxes in which these irreplaceable records had been stored. It is our opinion that a more appropriate repository should be sought; should a seminary be authorized by the Synod, these records should be housed in its library. Until then, the records will be cared for as best we are able in the facilities graciously provided by the Grace congregation.

The Archival records contain (as far as we have progressed in our inventory):

1. A complete record of all the minutes of the Eureka Classis.
2. A complete record of the minutes of the Synod from 1886.
3. The congregational records of Sutley, South Dakota.
4. The family registry of Sutley, South Dakota.
5. The congregational records of Odessa, South Dakota: 1894–1930.
6. The congregational records of Odessa, South Dakota: 1898–1946.
7. The financial records of Odessa, South Dakota: 1924–1944.
8. The congregational records of Pollock, South Dakota (Missouri): 1928–
9. The congregational records of Freidens congregation of ??: 1923–1947.
10. The congregational records of Freidens congregation of ??: 1892–1930.
11. The congregational records of St. John's, Zeeland, North Dakota: 1978.
12. The Geschichte of the North West Synod of the RCUS: 1867–1917.
13. The History of the North West Synod of the RCUS(?): 1910–1960.
14. The Acts and Proceedings of the North West Synod: 1922, 1933–1940.
15. The Annual reports of the Boards of the Synod of the ERC: 1934–1940.
16. The Abstract of the Minutes of the Nebraska Synod of the ERC: 1956.
17. The Mission House Bulletin: 1903–4, 1932–3, 1955–7.
18. The Mission House Catalog: 1939–40.
19. The Acts and Statistics of the Eureka Classis: 1949–1956.
20. The Theological Journal of the German Synod of the RCUS: 1908.
21. The Acts and Proceedings of the General Synod of the RCUS: 1926, 1932.
22. The Acts and Proceedings of the General Synod of the ERC: 1942, 1950.
23. The Yearbook of the UCC: 1967.

The General Synod of the RCUS in 1939 instructed the synods and congregations of the denomination to prepare and publish histories in order to preserve the record and history of that body which believed that it was passing out of existence. Many of those histories are available. It would appear to this committee that such histories of our congregations would be appropriate to preserve the record of our labors for future generations. If members of our congregations would be willing to share their memories and memorabilia, each congregation (and especially those closing their doors) could produce that record to be added to the archives. Such a record would prove valuable to succeeding generations of our church.

J. Fluck, J. Stuebbe, R. Wegis

B. Board of Trustees

[No report.]

C. Christian Education

[Referred to Standing Education and Student Aid]

The 255th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States mandated a number of tasks to this committee. The following is the report of your committee's execution of its Synodical mandate, including recommendations specific to each task.

Sunday School Curriculum

At the 251st Synod of the RCUS, the long-term need and desire for a thoroughly and consistently Reformed and integrated Sunday school curriculum was constituted into a mandate for its development. The Permanent Christian Education Committee's responsive recommendations for a pedagogical approach (see Abstract of the 252nd Synod), S. DeGraaf's *Promise and Deliverance* as the matrix and Howard Hart and Harvey DeGroot as the writers of the RCUS Sunday school curriculum (K–8) were adopted by the 252nd Synod. This major educational publications venture, consisting of 247 lessons, each lesson developed for the four different grade levels (K–1, 2–3, 4–6, 7–8; a total of 988 lessons), designed as a "flexible" five-year program, includes not only a teacher training program, but as well a teacher's manual with tips for teachers and an answer key. Each lesson

1. Is titled to correspond with the respective lesson in DeGraaf;
2. Includes a lesson-appropriate memory verse;
3. Is integrated with the church's confessions;
4. States the summary lesson truth;
5. Defines the intent of the lesson;
6. Provides a lesson explanation;
7. Asks lesson review questions;
8. Provides a discuss/decide applicatory section;
9. Includes a family section;
10. Includes a glossary of important terms/words; and,
11. Previews next week's lesson.

The writers, compilers, editors and proof-reader of this curriculum have diligently and from a self-consciously Reformed, covenantal perspective labored to provide for the recipients of God's covenant promise an understanding of the covenant and the application of the doctrines of the Reformed faith. This curriculum meets its goal by focusing throughout, and thus the usefulness of DeGraaf, on the redemptive activity of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

To date the writers have written approximately 70 percent of the total lessons. The lessons for the first year of the curriculum program have already been compiled on CD-ROM by Charles Henson and that material is undergoing final proof-reading by Jess Johnson. Following the final editing and compilation, that material is then ready for publication. Pending adoption of collaborative recommendations from both the Christian Education and Publications Committees, it might be feasible to begin publication of the curriculum yet in 2002.

The curriculum has been evaluated on several fronts. Your committee has continued to provide oversight of the curriculum's development and commends the writers for the willing spirit in which they have carried out the mandates given them by Synod. The concerns voiced early on relating to the teacher-friendliness of the curriculum have been addressed (see above).

The further-expressed concern that the material for the lower grades is not sufficiently grade-specific has been demonstrated, by actual implementation of the lessons among that respective age group, to be unfounded. Thus, the curriculum has also been evaluated by

actual use in the Sunday school classroom (Mitchell, Menno, Sioux Falls) and your committee heard positive and very enthusiastic responses from its use as prescribed.

Furthermore, the curriculum was also evaluated by representatives of Great Commissions Publications, a leading publisher of Sunday school material. Their comments on the work were very complimentary and they expressed great interest in publishing the curriculum, noting the potential of a broad market within the Reformed community. Had Great Publications undertaken the writing of this curriculum, the investment would have been, in a comment made by their publisher and passed on to your committee as remembered, in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. (The interest by Great Commissions is included in this report as a testimony to the quality and perceived publication-worthiness of the material, not as an inference that Great Commissions might actually be the curriculum's publisher.)

The writers expect to complete the writing of all the lessons within about one and one-half years. As the process from writing to the final compilation of the material has become more streamlined, it is anticipated that the full curriculum could be ready for publication in approximately two years.

Your committee is convinced that what is being accomplished by way of this Sunday school curriculum is a major undertaking of great benefit to the promulgation of the Reformed faith. A sound understanding of one's place in God's covenant redemption, greatly assisted by this curriculum, will promote the kind of covenantal thankfulness that we pray will be evident for generations to come. The potential use of this curriculum beyond the RCUS thrills our evangelistic hearts.

This committee wants not only the delegates to Synod, but every member, to be grateful to our sovereign and provident God for enabling the RCUS to develop, with what is considered to be a small financial investment for such a work, this curriculum which stands out uniquely in a plethora of Sunday school material.

Every congregation that seeks to have its Sunday school curriculum be Reformed in doctrine and presentation right out of the box, wanting not to make excuses for the material nor needing to amend it, will breathe a sigh of relief and rejoice in the availability of this curriculum.

The content of this curriculum ought not cause offense to anyone who is confessionally Reformed, but rather serve to increase their number.

The published product, samples of which we hope to present at Synod, will, with its high-tech graphics and judicious use of illustrations, enhance the use of this curriculum and raise awareness of the RCUS.

This Sunday school curriculum will, we hope, be published and refined through further printings in the service of training up God's covenant children unto His glory both within the RCUS and in the broader church of Jesus Christ.

Post-Seminary Instruction

Your committee was granted an extension by the 255th Synod to carry out the following task mandated by the 254th Synod, viz., "That the Permanent Christian Education Committee study the feasibility of establishing a mandatory post-seminary course of instruction for students who seek licensure for the ministry in any of the Classes of the RCUS."

This mandate arose out of concern that some seminary graduates seeking licensure in the RCUS were not sufficiently aware of and versed in the distinctives of the RCUS. This concern was validly based on evaluation of candidates' performance on those specific areas of the exam.

Your committee studied, as was mandated, the feasibility of what would be a Synodically mandated post-seminary course designed to teach the RCUS distinctives to RCUS licensure candidates.

We noted that, based on the Constitution of the RCUS, Articles 17–26, that the classes are acknowledged as having the responsibility for taking under their respective care students for the ministry and to administer and evaluate their respective licensure and ordination examinations. It is the respective classes who have the authority to license and ordain the students for the ministry under their care.

Given that authority and responsibility, the feasibility for training a seminary graduate in the RCUS distinctives really lies within the purview of the respective classes. It is the respective classes that have the ongoing oversight of the students for the ministry throughout their respective seminary studies and can determine if the student will require extra-seminary training in order to be properly prepared for his classis' examination.

The respective classes, if their oversight is properly administered, can feasibly tailor such instruction to the individual student, perhaps by way of a mentor assigned by the classis.

One source of instruction in the distinctives of the RCUS is the Reformed Resource Center of the South Central Classis.

Your committee is of the opinion that what is feasible for the classes to do in terms of extra-seminary instruction is not feasible for the Synod. It is not feasible for Synod because, first of all, this issue is not properly under its purview. Secondly, Synod mandating such a post-seminary course would represent a "shot-gun" approach which your committee believes would be far less effective than the "rifle" approach that the classes' oversight enables it to develop specific to the student. Thirdly, were the Synod to mandate such a course, it might well prove unnecessarily burdensome to some students who might already be aware of and versed in the distinctives of the RCUS.

In summary, your committee believes that proper and diligent practice of the oversight that rightly belongs to and is the responsibility of the respective classes will accomplish what would prove, by means of an improper Synodical mandate, to be unfeasible.

City Seminary of Sacramento

The 255th Synod mandated "that Synod investigate the City Seminary of Sacramento with a view toward listing it as a seminary worthy of support by the RCUS, without a request for Synodical financial aid."

A sub-committee consisting of Revs. Tom Mayville, George Syms, and George Horner visited City Seminary of Sacramento on March 11–13, 2002. Rev. Frank Walker, member of the faculty, and associate pastor of Covenant Reformed Church, cordially and expeditiously arranged the committee's visitation schedule and as well, with his lovely wife Christine, hosted the committee for a wonderful dinner at his house. We enjoyed stimulating fellowship over good food also with another member of the faculty, Rev. Jim West, pastor of Covenant Reformed Church, who served as the seminary's host at a lunch and dinner at a local café and restaurant. The other member of the present faculty, Rev. Charles McIlhenny, serving an OPC pastorate in San Francisco, kindly made an extra trip to the seminary in order to meet with our committee.

It is the stated conviction of City Seminary "that every major metropolitan area in the United States should have a theological center where men can be trained and prepared for the gospel ministry without relocating to another area.... At City Seminary we want to make seminary education as accessible as possible for the greatest number of students. We believe that God has called us to minister to the churches in the Sacramento area in this way."

First opening its doors to students in fulfillment of that mission in September of 2000, the enrollment has reached 30 and includes members from the diverse "Protestant" churches in the region (viz., Baptist, Pentecostal, Reformed). All students must attest to the following confession:

- The authority, infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture
- The Trinity
- The full deity and humanity of Christ
- The fallen nature of man
- The substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection of Christ
- Salvation by faith alone in Christ alone
- The future, physical return of Jesus Christ

Because of its desire to offer a Reformed theological education also to students who circumstantially have not earned an undergraduate degree, City Seminary does offer two undergraduate degrees, the Bachelor of Divinity and the Associate of Theological Studies degree.

Its stated goal, however, is “to provide a classical theological seminary education for ministerial candidates and to offer continuing education for those already active in the ministry.” To that end, the seminary offers both the M.Div. and the Master of Theological Studies degrees, as well as a Certificate program for those students not pursuing a degree. The M.Div. program is classical, that is, its 98 required credit hours consist of the course work traditional to Reformed theological seminaries. In addition, theological students desiring to seek ordination in the RCUS are required to take the electives that focus on the Three Forms of Unity, RCUS church government, Covenant Theology and a course on exegeting Romans.

Our committee had the opportunity to sit in on a class in Prolegomena, taught by Rev. Jim West, as well as an Introduction to the New Testament class under the tutelage of Rev. Frank Walker. The teaching in both classes was fully Reformed, the subject material covered in depth and pastorally applicable where appropriate, and the presentation to the class evidenced thorough preparation and the ability to stimulate profitable discussion.

In both observing the students and conversing with them at an opportunity so provided, we found them to be very zealous for the truth and enthusiastic about the seminary and its training. This is reflected also in the fact that new students have come to the seminary through this openly expressed enthusiasm of current students. It is especially gratifying to note this of students who are members of Arminian churches. City Seminary is very much up-front in telling those interested that its teaching will be from the Reformed perspective. They actually have students attest to their understanding that such will be the case. This procedure frees City Seminary to teach the Reformed faith in its purity and with boldness.

The faculty as well as the Board member present at our interviews, all stated, when questioned rather pointedly and specifically due to the concerns made known to the committee members, that no member of the faculty or Board now holds to or does or would teach “Reconstructionism” or “Theonomy” as those terms are popularly conceived within the Reformed community. It was stated to the committee that the view communicated by the seminary is that the Kingdom of God is manifested by the visible church of Jesus Christ and that violations of the law of God are the purview of church discipline, and, as regards the civil magistrate, he ought to be held accountable to the authority of God in accordance with the decalogue.

Given the current scheduling of courses, (13 hours are offered this semester), one professor figured, it would take an M.Div. candidate about seven years to complete the program. However, it was indicated to us (by a Board member) that the Board plans to add another faculty member this year. If indeed a student desired to pursue the M.Div. program on a full-time basis, the seminary would be able, perhaps within a few semesters, to reduce the time-frame for an M.Div. toward its goal of four years.

City Seminary expressed to this committee its desire to be a “handmaiden” to the RCUS. City Seminary wants to train ministers for the RCUS within the context of its focus on service

to the city of Sacramento. In other words, City Seminary does not envision itself as primarily a seminary of the RCUS but rather a seminary under the oversight of an RCUS congregation (Covenant Reformed Church, Sacramento), its service primarily directed toward the broader Protestant church in Sacramento.

It is pertinent to note that City Seminary, as it is governed, is already more accountable to the RCUS than any seminary currently on the RCUS approved list. This is so because the majority of its faculty are ministers on the roll of the Western Classis of the RCUS, and as well Board members, except for Rev. Riffert, are members of Covenant Reformed Church, having been approved by its consistory. All Board members must subscribe to the standards of orthodoxy of the RCUS and all candidates for a faculty position must sustain an examination in theological orthodoxy. We were assured that City Seminary’s orthodoxy is entirely conformable to the Three Forms of Unity as well as all the distinctives of the RCUS. (There is no Framework Hypothesis taught nor is it taught as tolerable within the confessional orthodox Reformed faith; no hyper-Vosian biblical theology, not any, to put it succinctly, of the aberrant teachings which have been of concern at other “Reformed” seminaries.)

City Seminary has been actively pursuing funding from the Sacramento community and has successfully raised, from private contributions, including also from specific offerings taken at Covenant Reformed Church, in excess of its operating expenses (2001) of approximately \$130,000. A very successful fund-raising technique has been to promote the sponsoring of student scholarships, most current students being recipients of such. The maximum tuition charge per semester (assuming a maximum full-time course load) is currently set at \$2,700.

City Seminary currently is lacking in its own adequate library, although other library resources are available. City Seminary has not yet developed any type of formal ministerial apprenticeship program, but such is part of its program development process.

The current seminary facilities, part of the Covenant Reformed Church building, will only be temporarily adequate if future growth of the student body is as anticipated. City Seminary is actively seeking to have some sort of philanthropic foundation provide a more serviceable facility.

The committee enthusiastically supports City Seminary’s vision and is duly impressed with the bold and courageous implementation of the plan to turn the vision into a progressing reality.

It is our considered opinion that City Seminary could indeed serve as a “handmaiden” or a subcontractor of the RCUS in terms of its orthodoxy, including also the RCUS distinctives.

A student under care of an RCUS classis, enrolled in the M.Div. program of City Seminary, would, we think, receive the kind of theological education that would equip him to pass RCUS licensure and ordination exams.

Heidelberg Theological Seminary

The 255th Synod mandated “that Synod investigate Heidelberg Theological Seminary with a view to its possible inclusion on the list of approved seminaries of the RCUS.”

At the time this mandate was given, Heidelberg Theological Seminary was not yet ready to open its doors to students. The seminary criteria that are the basis for an evaluation by your committee were yet only potential. It was therefore decided that the investigation mandated by Synod would be carried out as late in the Synodical year as possible in the hope that the seminary might then have developed to actual functional status. In early 2002, your chairman was informed that Mr. Scott Henry, a student for the ministry taken under care of the Western Classis, was enrolled to take classes at Heidelberg Theological Seminary in its first semester of operation, fall of 2002. The evaluation was therefore scheduled in conjunction with the Synodical Home Missions Committee meeting at the site of Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Vermillion, South Dakota, on April 4–6, 2002.

Since the Synod Home Missions Committee was scheduled to meet in Vermillion, SD, just prior to the meeting of the Synod Christian Education Committee, Rev. George Homer requested the assistance of members from the Home Missions Committee in the evaluation of Heidelberg Theological Seminary (more bang for your buck). Rev. Michael Voytek, Rev. Ron Morris, and Elder Jeff Jones agreed to undertake this task. We met with Rev. Robert Grossmann and Rev. Warren Embree on Thursday, April 4th in Vermillion, South Dakota.

Your representatives found the Rev. Grossmann and Rev. Embree to be very open and willing to participate in the interview. They are men of great knowledge and vision. As the committee is already aware, they are firmly committed to the Reformed faith and desire to train others in the faith, having in mind the RCUS as the primary recipient of the fruit of their labors. They are orthodox in doctrine and their plan for the seminary's curriculum is in line with the thinking of the RCUS concerning ministerial training. One of the members of the evaluation committee stated, "My impressions are that Grossmann and Embree are highly intelligent and competent men. Both have a deep knowledge of the Reformed faith, especially from an RCUS perspective. In a manner of speaking, they epitomize the RCUS."

The Home Missions Committee held its meeting in the facility of Providence Reformed Church in Vermillion, the same facility that houses Heidelberg Seminary. The building is more than adequate to meet the needs of the seminary at this time. There are a number of classrooms, a room that can be utilized as a library with study carrels already in place, a sanctuary that can serve as both a chapel as well as a large meeting room, and two kitchens. The seminary is located within driving distance of a number of RCUS churches which will allow students the opportunity to serve these churches as they prepare for the ministry. We did not inquire into the cost of living in Vermillion nor does the seminary catalog include this information, but we believe that due to the fact that the seminary is located within walking distance of the University of South Dakota, student housing is available and affordable.

The greatest difficulty that your representatives faced in the evaluation process was the fact that the seminary has not yet begun conducting classes. We understand that it has one student planning to move to Vermillion this spring and that a number of applications are being processed. As we interviewed the two professors, we were forced continually to refer to the future when discussing the various aspects of the training. The structure and content of the various classes that the seminary is planning on offering is very promising, but almost everything had a future reference attached. In other words, there is no "track-record" to use in our evaluation. Furthermore, the seminary library has not yet been set up. We understand that they have acquired the library of the late Rev. Don Vance, unfortunately it had not yet arrived on site when we met.

There are many aspects of the seminary that can be commended. The faculty are men of God, committed to the Reformed faith, with a great love for the RCUS and a desire to see that her ministers are properly trained. The location and arrangement of the facility provide additional reasons to recommend this work. On the other hand, there are a number of areas that, due to the nature of the situation, cause great hesitation. It is not yet a functioning seminary, there are no students that have taken classes, no "track-record" of graduates that could be interviewed, and the library is a "work in process." From all that we gathered, the seminary has great potential and could greatly assist the RCUS in the training of her ministers in the future. Unfortunately, due to the lack of measurable criteria such as student assessment, onsite class visitation, and the establishment of a library, we would suggest that the Christian Education Committee request that Synod extend the time for the evaluation of Heidelberg Seminary to the following year.

Seminary Evaluation Guidelines

The task of evaluating specific theological seminaries for the purpose of recommending

their being worthy/not worthy of RCUS Synodical support has been delegated by Synod to its Permanent Christian Education Committee. Synodical Standing Rule # 16 states, in part, "Students for the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States shall be urged by Synod to attend only such seminaries which are listed as institutions worthy of receiving benevolent monies from the Reformed Church in the United States. Only students who attend institutions so listed shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian ministry."

It seems prudent, considering the demands of this task and the change in committee personnel from year to year, that a guideline be established to promote consistently serviceable evaluations. The following is the proposed guideline. (Note: The guideline format to be used by the committee is expanded to include lined space for comments next to each criteria to be evaluated — those lines have been eliminated in this report to save paper.)

Guidelines

In preparation for the evaluative visit to the seminary, it is recommended that the chairman of the visiting committee contact the seminary to set up appointments with the President and faculty members, and if feasible, Board members, and arrange to attend classes, and, if possible, special seminary events, and to meet with students. Furthermore, request the seminary to send to each member of the visiting committee an information packet with as much information about the seminary and its programs as is available. This information ought to be reviewed before the visit.

The primary task of the PCEC's seminary evaluation team is to determine the answer to the following question: "Will a graduate of this seminary be qualified and equipped to serve as a duly ordained Minister of the Word in the RCUS?" To determine that answer, the PCEC needs to assess the following as they apply to the seminary being evaluated:

1. Is the teaching of this seminary orthodox according to the standards of the RCUS (i.e., as set forth by the RCUS' confessions, constitution, and position papers)? This would necessitate examination of the seminary's teaching as it relates to:
 - a. Apologetics
 - b. Hermeneutics
 - c. Systematic Theology
 - d. Homiletics
 - e. Evangelism and Missions
 - f. Practical Theology
 - g. Biblical languages
 - h. Church History
 - i. Reformed Creeds and Confessions
 - j. Old Testament History and Biblical Theology
 - k. New Testament text transmission and textual criticism.
2. In particular, is the teaching of this seminary orthodox as it relates to the following RCUS-held doctrines:
 - a. Creation in six ordinary days
 - b. Presuppositional apologetics (C. Van Til)
 - c. Covenant theology (covenant life, covenant responsibility, sacraments as signs and seal of the covenant)
 - d. Worship according to the RCUS *Directory of Worship*
 - e. Is the emphasis of this seminary upon practical exegesis — for the purpose of preaching and teaching a congregation?

3. Specifically, does this seminary teach as being within the realm of "Reformed theology" any form of the following:
 - a. Framework hypothesis
 - b. Open theism
 - c. Hyperpreterism
 - d. Hyper-Biblical Theology
 - e. Egalitarianism
 - f. Seeker-sensitive worship
 - g. Congregationalism
 - h. Dispensationalism
 - i. Theonomy
 - j. Cosmologic philosophy
4. Does this seminary meet acceptable academic standards?
 - a. Proper M.Div. curriculum in terms of courses offered and required, hours offered and required (how many?), time to completion of M.Div.
 - b. Qualified academic and practical instructors. Do all faculty members submit to a theological and academic exam before the board and faculty?
 - c. Serviceable library or ready external access to necessary resources.
5. Student Expenses
 - a. Tuition, books, housing, etc.
 - b. Are these expenses in line with other "worthy" seminaries?
 - c. Availability of student aid
6. Do all faculty and visiting professors have to subscribe to the Three Forms of Unity and/or the Westminster Standards in order to be allowed to teach?
7. Does this seminary show a sincere interest in an effective working relationship with the RCUS, especially as it relates to the training of current RCUS-sponsored students?
8. How is this seminary governed? Do the governing members subscribe to the Three Forms of Unity and/or the Westminster Standards? Does this seminary feel in any way answerable to the RCUS Synod?
9. Does this seminary provide adequate hands-on ministerial/pastoral experience and is such training closely monitored and evaluated?
10. What is the "track-record" of this seminary's RCUS-sponsored graduates?
 - a. Are those graduates serving in the RCUS now?
 - b. Would/have those graduates recommend(ed) this seminary?
11. Does this seminary send a newsletter to RCUS churches?
12. Has this seminary undergone or is it expected to undergo any major changes in affiliation, faculty, or mission within the next few years?
13. Are regular chapel services held for students and faculty? What kind?
14. What recommendations and academic achievements are necessary for a student to apply

for admission?

15. What percentage of students graduating will enter the Reformed pastoral ministry?
16. Other concerns?
 - a. What institution has given accreditation to this seminary and has anyone else in the Reformed community recognized it as a worthy seminary?

Reformed Colleges

The 255th Synod adopted the motion that "the Permanent Christian Education Committee be allowed to continue to investigate and evaluate Reformed colleges with the intent of making recommendations to the 256th Synod."

At the meeting of the 255th Synod, your committee had presented a list of colleges which indicated distinctively, on their web sites, that the Reformed faith (as understood by the Three Forms of Unity and /or the Westminster Standards) undergirds the teaching provided. This list was provided in the hope that it might be useful in searching for a Reformed college.

Your committee has investigated the feasibility of advancing beyond merely providing an advisory list of self-proclaimed Reformed colleges to actually making recommendations related to such listed colleges. Such recommendations, in order to be useful, would need to be based on a more thorough investigation than is possible merely from web sites.

A useful recommendation would assess the degree to which a college actually promotes a Reformed worldview through its curriculum and campus life. Such an assessment would require interviews with Board and faculty members, onsite scrutiny of the campus milieu, as well as input from respective students and parents. Furthermore, a useful recommendation, given the broad range of educational fields and degrees that students might desire to pursue, would require a rather comprehensive evaluation of the college catalog. In addition, a useful recommendation would include a multifaceted comparison with other like colleges.

In the opinion of your committee, making recommendations concerning "Reformed" colleges to Synod is not feasible unless Synod is willing to establish a budget and the manpower to gather and develop the kind of interactive database necessary for such an endeavor to be fruitful.

The Christian Education Committee could, however, be given the task to, on a yearly basis, search the internet and update the advisory list of colleges that might provide an education from the perspective of our creeds. Such a list could be published in the *Abstract* and perhaps also in the *Reformed Herald*.

The actual assessment of a college is most feasible for parents and potential students. They know the student's particular higher education requirements and ought, seeking wise counsel if needed, be able to discern the colleges' claims, especially their Reformed status. Such discernment might be aided by email queries on the RCUS list, among others, about the listed colleges or others under consideration.

G. Horner, D. Dawn, W. Brice, G. Sawtelle, D. Kauk, H. DeGroot, J. Liesveld, R. DeJong

D. Diaconal Ministries

[Referred to Standing Benevolence]

The Diaconal Ministries Committee had one item of business this past year. Rev. Maynard Koerner requested aid for moving expenses from Watertown, SD, to Pueblo, CO. The committee authorized the payment of \$1,489.76, which was the cost for the rental and fuel for two trucks. Mr. Clayton Greiman has made the reimbursement.

E. Editorial Advice

[Referred to Standing Publications]

The Permanent Editorial Advice Committee had no business come before it this past year; and, therefore, we did not meet and did no business.

N. Jones, S. Richert, L. Gross, L. Kauk

F. Executive

[Referred to Standing Overtures]

The Executive Committee issued three circulars since the 255th Synod adjourned. All of the recommendations carried. The recommendations were as follows:

Vol. 255, No. 1 (July 11, 2001)

1. That Synod grant a loan of \$30,000.00 to Covenant Reformed Church at Grass Valley, CA. This loan would be given at an interest rate of 3 percent per year with the expectation that Covenant Reformed Church will try to pay off the loan within ten years. It is also understood that Synod will be listed as second on the mortgage and that a copy of the mortgage agreement will be filed with the Stated Clerk of Synod. [NB: The mortgage agreement is on file with the Stated Clerk.]

2. That Synod grant permission to the Covenant Reformed Church to solicit additional building loans from the congregations of the RCUS.

Vol. 255, No. 2 (Nov. 20, 2001)

1. That Synod grant \$1,000.00 per month in Ministerial Aid to Mrs. Joan Vance, and that this aid be provided retroactively beginning October 1, 2001.

Vol. 255, No. 3 (Dec. 27, 2001)

1. That support for Rev. Koerner, as outlined in Recommendation 18 of the Standing Benevolence Report (2001 Abstract, p. 64), be continued through June 2002 or until he secures a call elsewhere, whichever comes first.

2. That Synod grant \$1,300.00 per month in benevolent aid to the Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, to help alleviate the temporal needs of the Rev. Robert Davis family. This aid is to begin retroactively as of December 2001 and continue through March 2002 or until Rev. Davis secures employment, whichever comes first. The Consistory of Zion Reformed Church is to notify the Treasurer of Synod if and when Rev. Davis finds employment. [NB: One objection from the Covenant East Classis was received for this recommendation.]

As for other business, the Executive Committee received a request from Mr. Chris Caughey to delay the first installment on the repayment of his student loans until January 2002 due to financial hardship. The committee appreciated the fact that he contacted us and, consequently, granted his request. The Treasurer reports that he has been making timely payments since January.

On the other hand, the Rev. John Sawtelle's student loan currently shows an outstanding debt of almost \$20,000.00. Mr. George Hueber, chairman of the committee of the St. Lawrence Presbytery (RPCNA) that was looking into this situation, informed the Executive

Committee on August 9, 2001, that his presbytery would make a final determination about this matter at its October meeting. This was followed by an email dated October 9, 2001, stating that the presbytery had "agreed to take responsibility for John Sawtelle's Student Aid." It further stated that the new committee would contact us shortly to work out the details. No contact was made. In March 2002, our Clerk contacted Rev. Kenneth Smith, moderator of the St. Lawrence Presbytery and chairman of the new committee, to request an update. Rev. Smith informed the Clerk on March 8, 2002, "that a letter has gone out to our congregations with an appeal for funds." He also stated that the wheels of his presbytery are turning very slowly and graciously requested our patience. The Treasurer reports that nothing has been received thus far from the St. Lawrence Presbytery.

V. Pollema, P. Treick, F. Walker, R. Fay, E. Merz

G. Foreign Ministries

[Referred to Standing Missions]

Your committee has been especially busy this past year in dealing with our foreign mission works both on the field and here in the United States. Arrangements were made for visits to the U.S. by representatives of both the Reformed Confessing Church of the Congo (ERCC) and the Free Reformed Church of Kenya (FRCK), which were both founded with the help of the RCUS (the ERCC in 1984 and the FRCK in 1998). Our brothers Meshack Nyarango and Kabongo Malebongo are happily back in their own countries working enthusiastically among their people. Mr. Mukendi Musungayi of the ERCC, who came to the U.S. with the supposed purpose of attending civil rights classes in Minneapolis (the class was canceled), and also visited among our churches, was sent back to the Congo in July 2001, but returned to the U.S. by the end of August and has been living in Raleigh, NC, while his wife and eight sons continue in Kinshasa.

We would like to thank the congregations of the RCUS for their generous extra giving to foreign ministries. Over \$18,000 of such special offerings have been received (including \$2,500 from Kansas City to provide a computer for Rev. Kabongo). The great majority of these funds have been sent to Kenya for the medical clinic construction and children's education, and to the Congo for special uses for Rev. Kabongo and others there. We continue to support Rev. Kabongo (in Mbuji-Mayi), Rev. Kishimba Kasantika and Rev. Mbayo (in Lubumbashi) and five churches led by leading elders in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Congo. Money was set aside at our 2001 Synod for pastoral-elder salaries in Kenya, and to our knowledge the two men there have received them.

We have had good contact this past year with the fields, especially through email in the last few months, and have had some contacts with the Dutch (GKN-Lib.) missionaries who conduct the theological seminary in Lubumbashi. Our contacts with the GKN have been limited, as we seem both to be working more beside each other in different activities in the ERCC than directly with each other. We plan to hold a meeting of the Foreign Ministries Committee during 2002 to share information and plan future work.

Our work in the Congo focuses on help for various leaders through financial support and educational materials, and answering questions of theology and practice as they are brought to us from the brothers in the Congo. With our support, Rev. Kabongo has been able to serve his own congregation and to travel to Kananga and Kinshasa to train leaders in Reformed theology and practice. He has also traveled to Lubumbashi to teach in the GKN seminary there. Rev. Kishimba has been busy with his work in his local congregation and as "Legal Representative" of the ERCC to the government. The churches in Kinshasa continue to function fairly well. Much of our support for them goes to diaconal aid for members living in

extreme poverty because of continued political unrest.

An important issue before us is whether we should encourage RCUS members to establish a volunteer organization for economic development in certain areas of the Congo. The Dutch organization, *De Verre Naasten* (the Far-away Neighbors), works only around Lubumbashi and Rev. Kabongo has asked us to consider similar work in the area of Mbuji-Mayi. Such work, in this case agricultural development, is not part of missions but would be very helpful to the ERCC folks in that area. The plan sent by Rev. Kabongo calls for a budget of \$40,000 per year, but a number of economies would be possible.

The work of teaching and evangelism in the Free Reformed Church in Kenya continues with the untiring efforts of pastoral-elders Meshack Nyarango and James Aunga. One hundred copies of the final edition of the Heidelberg Catechism in the Kisii language have been sent to the church.

A great need continues to be the training of ministers for the FRCK. The committee chairman has made numerous contacts seeking useful means of such training on the African continent. The history of bringing such students to the U.S. is very poor with almost none of them returning to their homelands, and our sister mission programs in other NAPARC churches keep advising us not to attempt this procedure. The possibility of using video and cassette tapes of lectures from seminaries in the U.S. is being investigated.

The FRCK medical clinic project has been proceeding well with our support and it should be nearing completion. The school for FRCK children and orphans in the area has also been started. It has been two years since RCUS pastors have visited Kenya and such a visit would be much appreciated by our brothers and sisters there.

Rev. Eric Kayayan, the preacher and administrator for the work of the Reformed Radio Administration Committee (RRAC), reports that response to the now many programs produced continues to increase and that more and more radio stations are interested in using these programs, not only in Africa but also in France. Rev. Kayayan reports that he may be moving from Potchefstroom to Pretoria, the capital of South Africa, in order to be closer to the main radio facilities that broadcast our programs and to mailing facilities.

R. Grossmann, P. Treick, H. Kalkman, J. Blair, P. Henderson, W. Johnson, H. Yoder

Special Report: Analysis of RCUS Mission Work in Kenya

An overture from the Trinity Reformed Church Consistory, Karval, CO, requesting that the Foreign Ministries Committee provide an analysis of our mission work in Kenya was referred to our committee by the 255th Synod of the RCUS. The following is an analysis of this work.

In 1986 the Synod of the RCUS voted to suspend our foreign mission work under the administration of the Committee on Foreign Missions of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church that had been so conducted for twenty-six years. Alternative foreign mission work had already been begun in the African country of the Congo (then named "Zaire"). This mission work had been begun in 1984 and was then carried forward under the direct administration of the Foreign Ministries Committee of the RCUS. The principal thought was that we could get more accomplished for the amount of money spent if we supported native workers than if we supported one American missionary in a foreign land as we had under the OPC. The effect of this new kind of operation was to make the chairman of the RCUS FMC into an "executive director" without pay for this work. He became responsible for carrying out correspondence and transferring RCUS funds to the right places at the right times. When the GKN (Lib.) Churches in the Netherlands also became involved in working in Zaire, the chairman of the FMC also became the liaison to them, especially because of his ability to read and understand the Dutch language.

When the RCUS was contacted by a Reformed group in Kenya, first in the person of Rev. Jim West, and then through Mr. Kurt Schimke who was working as a missionary aircraft mechanic in Nairobi, the question of working in Kenya was brought to the FMC of the RCUS. With the positive recommendations of Mr. Schimke and favorable correspondence with this group's leader, Mr. Meshack Nyarango, it was decided by Synod to begin working in Kenya in a similar fashion to that in which we were already working in the Congo. In due time, February 1998, Mr. and Mrs. Schimke accompanied two RCUS ministers to the mountainous Kisii region of Kenya, where they taught among the leaders and people, and helped to found the Free Reformed Church of Kenya (FRCK). At that time Mr. Schimke had decided to return to Kenya as a missionary among the Kisii people. Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Schimke matriculated at New Geneva Seminary and began studies in preparation for doing mission work in Kenya. It was thought that he could train ministers for the FRCK in their own native land and could help build up the church by his own preaching and teaching.

Mr. Schimke returned to Kenya in 2000, while a seminary student, and was accompanied by Rev. Michael Voytek. Again a good deal of teaching and preaching was accomplished. In the meantime one of the FRCK members translated the Heidelberg Catechism into the Kisii language and it has since been published by the RCUS FMC and a number of copies have been sent to Kenya. A good number of other theological books in English (the national language) have been supplied to the leaders of the FRCK for their own theological studies and edification.

Since Mr. Schimke has not been able to return to Kenya as a permanent missionary, the FMC has found itself unable to keep up with the growing needs of the FRCK and especially that of training men for the ministry. Realizing that very few third-world men who study in America return to their native countries, the FMC has sought places in Africa that might provide reasonably Reformed and conservative theological education. We have been frustrated in finding such educational opportunity not only because most African countries are not stable politically but also because of tribal differences among them. At this point the RCUS continues to support the FRCK with regular financial gifts, including special help for building a medical clinic and center for the FRCK, and by providing whatever literature and advice we are able. It is clear that the present "executive director" functions need to be divided among several members of the FMC, and a meeting is planned for 2002 to discuss such plans.

R. Grossmann

H. Home Missions

[Referred to Standing Missions]

The Synod Home Missions Committee met at Providence Reformed Chapel in Vermillion, SD, on April 4–5, 2002. All committee members and missionaries were present with the exception of committee members Bill Borgwardt (whose car broke down on the way) and Dennis Roe.

With changes to the Synod Home Missions Manual, this was a year where more was expected of the classes in the area of oversight and administration. Every mission church was visited this year by at least one synodical and classical committee member. There were no requests made to the Synod Home Missions Committee to evaluate any potential new works. The classis' missions chairmen in Northern Plains and Covenant East Classis submitted reports in a timely manner to the Synodical Missions chairman for consideration at the SHMC annual meeting. The South Central chairman brought his report to the annual meeting. All missionaries likewise submitted reports.

In preparation for the RCUS Annual Day of Prayer, information was gathered from the missions congregations and sent out to all the congregations of the RCUS. The special offering for debt reduction was designated to benefit the Providence Reformed Chapel of Vermillion, SD, this year. Rev. Grossmann reported that the work had received approximately \$15,000 from the churches. These monies were used to reduce the debt on the church. The SHMC will recommend that the 2002 offering this fall be designated for First Reformed Church in Yuba City, CA.

There was one assessment done prior to the annual meeting of the SHMC by the South Central Classis. There was no contact directly with the SHMC chairman on this, even though a report was sent through email to him after the fact. This has raised a question as to the proper role of the SHMC in the assessment process. The current reading of the Home Missions Manual states in article 4, paragraph 1, that a Committee on Assessment "will be drawn from the Permanent Classical or Synodical Home Missions Committees if possible" (emphasis mine). Therefore, South Central Classis held that the classes could do an assessment of a new work without notifying the Synod Home Missions Committee. After discussion, the Synod Home Missions Committee agreed that the intent of the reading is to include the synodical committee in the assessment process. The SHMC will recommend a change in the Home Missions Manual to clarify that both committees are to be involved in the process, if possible.

First Reformed Church, Yuba City, CA, is now in its fifteenth year as a mission work of the RCUS. It is the last of the solely synodical works of the RCUS. Pastor Henderson has now been its ordained minister for over a year. He reports the loss of two members due to the exercise of Christian discipline and four adherents who have been seduced by the teachings of Harold Camping. At the same time, the Lord has added three new members. That means the roll increased by two communicant members up to 51 total among 29 families. Giving was up substantially showing a total giving of \$101,931 for an amount of \$19,371 over budget. This year the church is scheduled to have its support reduced to \$17,466, which is an overall reduction of 55 percent. They are projecting an additional reduction to \$13,160 (66 percent) in 2003 and \$11,712 (70 percent) in 2004. Their original baseline is \$39,000 from 1992.

Covenant Reformed Church, Watertown, SD, reports that its new pastor, Tracy Gruggett, has completed the ordination process and can now devote his full attention to the work of the ministry and outreach. The congregation continues to meet in the Watertown Presbyterian Church, which affords it full use of the facilities most of the time. Rev. Gruggett reports that he is trying numerous ways to become more visible as a congregation and as an individual in the community. The church is engaged in everything from neighborhood tract distribution to a fifteen-minute Sunday morning radio broadcast at 11:15. While average attendance still remains under twenty, giving has increased. The Northern Plains Classis is also doubling its level of support to Watertown to \$16,000 per year to enable synodical support to be reduced greatly over the next few years. Classis also voted to give \$10,000 to help reduce the church's debt on the parsonage. It committed to do this since the hope to start a work in Fargo has been dropped.

Redeemer Reformed Church, Minneapolis, MN, is in its third year as a mission congregation. The group continues to show a very sustained growth even though there were some hindrances with its current meeting facility over the summer. Communicant membership rose from thirty to forty-seven and a total of twenty-six families. Giving has also continued to rise and is now well over \$100,000 from the congregation last year. It has also greatly reduced its debt on the parsonage and is close to being able to pay it off. However, the congregation has also recently entered into a purchase agreement of a 300-seat church building close to its current location for a reasonable price of \$660,000. While it originally believed it was about a year away from making such a move, providentially this fell into its lap. The church has some

concerns about the pressure this may put on it over this next year, yet it is convinced the Lord will see it through and its ability to reach out to the Minneapolis area will be greatly enhanced. The work has continued to ask for reductions, but is wondering if it will be able to absorb an increase over the next year or two if the building is purchased.

Covenant Reformed Chapel, Chico, CA, reports that Rev. Dale Clark moved to Eureka this year and the Rev. Gary Mancilas only recently arrived on the field. The work is currently at seventeen communicant members. It has been requested that Rev. Mancilas' health insurance be covered by benevolence. The committee discussed this and came to the conclusion that this is a missions expense and should be covered by the missions budget. Therefore, the committee will be recommending that Chico's request for mission support be increased by \$3,600 to cover the pastor's health insurance.

Rehoboth Chapel, L.A. Basin, CA, reports some progress in both the addition of six communicant and two baptized members and increased giving. There also appears to be an upward trend in visitors to the services. It is to ordain its first elder this year. Shafter has also increased support to allow Rev. Fluck more time for pastoral ministry and less time toward tent-making. This past year the congregation met in a store front which seems to have proven beneficial as Rev. Fluck reports it is outgrowing the place. Synodical support is to remain the same this year at \$14,200 but the work is proposing a reduction to \$11,360 for 2003.

Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO, was able to organize as a congregation this year with Rev. Gene Sawtelle as the pastor. Officers were elected and ordained. Six new members were added to the church and others are in preparation. Average attendance is up from twenty-seven to thirty-three this year. Giving has also increased. The congregation currently rents a church building and parsonage from the RPCNA but it is unsure of the future in this facility. The RPCNA has made an indication that it wants to sell the facility, but the Greeley mission is not sure it can or wants to purchase this particular facility in this particular part of Greeley.

Providence Reformed Chapel, Vermillion, SD, reports that the work in Vermillion is proceeding with an average attendance of twenty-eight. There have been as many as seventy in worship with several visitors both from the community and the local university. The majority of the outreach effort this past year was by personal contact. The work continues with a radio ministry outreach on WNAX that airs on Sunday mornings at 8:45 and covers a five-state region. The church building was given to the group and the parsonage was obtained at a reasonable cost. The facilities are insured for \$305,000 and there is currently about \$30,000 of debt remaining on the parsonage. A new air-conditioning system and new bathroom have been installed in the parsonage as well as two new high efficiency furnaces in the church building. A great deal of energy has been put into improvements and repairs on the church and parsonage this past year. Now that most of the major work is done, the pastor has expressed a desire to do more outreach. The group in Vermillion seems excited about its prospects for the future.

Grace Reformed Chapel, San Ramon, CA, moved from Pleasanton to San Ramon as of August 2001. The new location allows for more room for growth, and is more centrally located in the Tri-Valley area. Grace Reformed Chapel is under the oversight of the consistory of Covenant Reformed Church, Grass Valley. The Rev. Jonathan Merica has been installed as associate pastor of Covenant Reformed Church and mission pastor of Grace Reformed Chapel. As of last year the new work has nineteen communicant members. Its biggest concern of date is a meeting facility. The congregation is sub-leasing space now, but has been informed that it must find other arrangements by June 15. Rev. Merica specifically requests prayer for this urgent need.

High Plains Reformed, Calhan, CO. In October of 2000, Rev. Dorman Savage made contact with a group of Calvinistic believers in Calhan, CO, during a Reformation Conference at Trinity Covenant RCUS in Colorado Springs. This group requested that Rev. Savage lead them in a

Bible study on covenant theology. After several months of Bible study, it became clear that the group wanted to start a Reformed church in its town. Calhan is a small town, but with its close proximity to Colorado Springs, it is becoming a bedroom community for the Colorado Springs area. An assessment was done by South Central Classis and it was concluded that the group exhibited real potential for a new work. It has since organized, called the Rev. Maynard Koerner as its organizing pastor under the oversight of the Blue Cliff consistory, and it most recently purchased a church building from the Lutheran church in Calhan. There are currently about nine "seed" families and it has a monthly income of around \$3,000. Of primary concern is a place for the pastor to live. He currently lives in Pueblo West, about eighty miles away, and commutes on Sundays. This makes it difficult for the pastor to do the day-to-day ministry in Calhan. The group is confident that a place will come available in the near future.

Reformed Church Ministries of Northwest Arkansas. The Covenant East Classis did an assessment of the NW Arkansas group last year and determined it was not ready to become a home mission work even though everyone believes there is great potential there. The classis has been scheduling pulpit supply there at least twice a month and is trying to increase that. A summer intern is being sought from Greenville. The hope is to do another assessment of the potential come the end of the summer to determine if a man should be placed on the field at that time. Classis has budgeted \$1,200 a month for this work plus some extra money for expenses incurred to bring an intern there for the summer. It is asking Synod to budget \$14,000 for the last half of the year should the assessment in August determine a man should be called to the field.

R. Morris, D. Roe, M. Voytek, H. Bowen, J. Jones, B. Borgwardt

I. Interchurch Relations

[Referred to Standing Ecumenical]

Your committee herein brings before you a report on its labors on behalf of the RCUS during the past synodical year together with recommendations to further the relations of the RCUS with other ecclesiastical bodies.

Your committee conducted its business by mail, email and telephone and therefore did not use the funds budgeted by the 255th Synod of the RCUS for a committee meeting. It is anticipated that a committee meeting will be necessary this next synodical year. Your committee has continued to operate with subcommittees assigned to specific denominations or federations who report to the IRC as a whole. Plans to write a handbook for the committee's use were assigned to two members of the committee but the project has not gone beyond an initial outline due to time constraints. Your committee is yet hopeful this project will be completed since a handbook will be a valuable tool to orient new committee members and the members of the Synod to the work of the IRC and to the various churches the IRC works with.

Your committee also, from time to time, submitted reports from observers and delegates from the IRC to other church bodies to the *Reformed Herald* to be considered for publication.

Churches in Fraternal Relations

Canadian Reformed Churches (CanRef). Since the formal establishment of fraternal relations between the RCUS and the CanRef churches there have been no sub-committee meetings. One attempt was made to hold such a meeting in conjunction with the Covenant East Classis meeting in March of 2002, but a regional Synod of the CanRef churches in the same time-period precluded that attempt. Email and mail contact has been maintained with their Committee for Contact with Churches in the Americas (CCCA). Requests for information

have been received and responded to.

It is to be noted that your committee actively encouraged the CCCA to send observers to NAPARC. At the last minute the CCCA advised your committee that no men were available to attend NAPARC but that they would plan to have men present in 2002. Your committee sent a copy of the Constitution of NAPARC together with Minutes and papers of NAPARC 2001 to the CCCA, at their request.

General Synod Neerlandia (2001) of the CanRef churches, at the same time it voted to enter into ecclesiastical fellowship with the RCUS, also voted "to continue the contact with the RCUS by the CCCA with a mandate to continue the discussion on the issues noted in the Considerations 4.2; 4.4; 4.5" (Acts of General Synod Neerlandia, p. 64). In brief, these considerations are as follows:

- 4.2 (Acts, p. 63): Ongoing discussion about different practices relative to the observance of the Lord's Day will be mutually beneficial.
- 4.4 (Acts, p. 63): Discussion on the administration of the Lord's Supper to shut-ins in light of Article 35 of the Belgic Confession.
- 4.5 (Acts, p. 63): Discussion of bringing the language of the RCUS position paper on church unity more in line with the language of the Three Forms of Unity.

Your committee notes that regarding 4.5 the RCUS adopted the five principles contained in the church unity paper but not the paper itself (1999 Abstract, pp. 42-9), which contains some language more in line with the Westminster Standards than the Three Forms of Unity. This is the concern of our CanRef brethren. Your committee would welcome this discussion with our CanRef brethren as part of our mutual working together in ecclesiastical fellowship. Your committee believes that the RCUS paper on church unity needs to be adopted as well as the principles but recognizes that this paper will need some fine-tuning before it is presented to Synod.

In consideration of the mandate given to the CCCA by Synod Neerlandia, your committee expects to meet sometime this year with the CCCA at the sub-committee level.

Independent Presbyterian Church of Mexico (IPCM). At the 254th session of Synod the following action was taken with respect to the IPCM: "That the Clerk of Synod send a letter to the IPCM, including copies of the 1998 and 1999 letters sent to them, advising them that this is the final request for a response to these letters. Failure to respond within eight months of the date of this letter will result in the termination of the fraternal relationship between the IPCM and the RCUS." This correspondence was sent by the Stated Clerk of Synod on December 28, 2000 advising the IPCM of the above action and including copies of the 1998 and 1999 letters previously sent.

Prior to the termination date of August 28, 2001, a letter was received by the Stated Clerk of Synod from the Comité de Relaciones Eclesiásticas of the IPCM dated May 15, 2001. In that letter the IPCM expresses its desire to continue in fraternal relations with the RCUS and expresses its hope that this relationship will be more productive in the future. They express their thanks for the RCUS efforts to maintain the relationship between the churches and of their desire to "do" the five points upon which our relationship was built and to respond to our correspondence in "timely" fashion.

Your committee notes this letter from the IPCM effectively returns the relationship between the IPCM and the RCUS to one of suspension (1999 Abstract, p. 71). Your committee is somewhat at a loss as to where things ought to go now. We do not believe that there is sufficient warrant given in the letter from the IPCM to re-institute an active fraternal relation between our churches.

Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). The Rev. Robert Grossmann represented the RCUS

as fraternal delegate to the OPC at its 68th General Assembly, which met at Grand Rapids, MI, in June of 2001.

It is the practice of your committee to meet informally with the Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations (CEIR) of the OPC during the annual NAPARC meeting. Your committee made preliminary arrangements to do this, but in the end we were not able to meet with our OPC brethren because of the CEIR's schedule during NAPARC. It is hoped that these meetings can be resumed at the next NAPARC meeting since they provide us with an ongoing means of discussion apart from their General Assembly or our Synod.

Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated) (GKN-Lib). The General Synod of the GKN-Lib is already meeting in Holland. Regrettably the time for addresses from fraternal delegates from churches abroad conflicts with our Synod and we are unable to have a delegate present. Because of this conflict no delegate from the GKN-Lib is expected at our Synod. Budgeted funds to send a delegate to the GKN-Lib Synod have not been used.

Your committee continues to monitor the synodical activities of the GKN-Lib via the internet and with the able help of Elder Dave Stelpstra who provides translations of anything pertinent. Your committee is preparing a letter of greeting to the GKN-Lib.

It is to be noted that delegates of the IRC to the ICRC met with the delegates to the ICRC from the GKN-Lib in Philadelphia in June of 2001 at the ICRC meeting. These brothers provided your committee with copies of the *Acta Contracto*, which is the English translation of the Survey of the General Synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, at Leusden 1999. This is published by the Committee on Relations with Churches Abroad (BBK) and provides us with a helpful extract of the proceedings of their Synod.

Since your committee did not meet this year we were not able to work through this English document with any detail but we do note that the GKN-Lib continues to deal with what constitutes proper Lord's Day activities, sacrament and church polity issues, and matters of worship. The dust has yet to settle on some of these matters. Our letter to the GKN-Lib will reflect on some of these matters. It is expected that when the English extract of Synod 2002 is received your committee will undertake a thorough study of what is taking place among our Dutch brethren and bring its findings to the Synod of the RCUS together with any recommendations.

Reformed Confessing Church of the Congo (ERCC). Your committee has had no contact with the ERCC this past synodical year. Contact with the ERCC is normally maintained through the Permanent Foreign Missions Committee.

Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA). The Rev. Tom Mayville was the fraternal delegate from the RCUS to the Synod of the RPCNA held at Beaver Falls, PA, in July 2001.

An invitation was received by your committee to send a delegate to the 2002 meeting of the RPCNA Synod in Parkville, MO, July 6–12, 2002. Your committee plans to have a delegate present.

Relations with other churches

Your committee continues to maintain contact with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and the Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC) through NAPARC as per the previous actions of the Synod of the RCUS. Thus no observers will be sent to these churches, nor have invitations been sent to them to send observers to this Synod. It is to be noted that an invitation was received from the KAPC to send an observer from the RCUS to its 26th General Assembly meeting in Rosemont, IL, May 21–24, 2002. Your committee will send a letter of greeting to the KAPC.

United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA). The Revs. Jim Sawtelle and Vern Pollema attended the Synod of the URCNA held in Escondido, CA, in June of 2001. The

URCNA has been invited to send an observer to this Synod meeting.

Your committee received a letter from the Clerk of the URCNA, Rev. Jerome Julien, advising that the URCNA Synod voted to establish Corresponding Relations with the RCUS. This is the first step of a three-step process which the URCNA sees as culminating in organic union. The RCUS has no category of Corresponding Relations. Rather, it views our present relationship with the URCNA as tantamount to corresponding relations. Within this frame of reference your committee continues to work with the URCNA at the sub-committee level to identify areas that need to be discussed. This past year no sub-committee level discussions took place between the URCNA and the RCUS because of changes of personnel in the URCNA committee and the relocation of the chairman of the RCUS subcommittee, thus none of the budgeted funds for these meetings were used. Plans are being formulated between our respective committees to get these discussions back on track this year. It is hoped that a member of the URCNA Committee on Ecumenical Relations and Church Unity (CERCU) will be present at Synod for a meeting with the permanent IRC to set the stage for this.

Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches (OCRC). Informal contact with the OCRC by members of the IRC together with contact between the RCUS observers to the URCNA Synod and the OCRC observer, led to an invitation given to the RCUS to send an observer to the 2001 Synod of the OCRC. Your committee responded by sending the Rev. Tom Mayville to observe the proceedings.

At its 2001 Synod meeting the OCRC voted to enter into a Corresponding Relationship with the RCUS. While no official letter has been received from the OCRC by your committee, recent telephone contact with the chairman of their Interchurch Relations Committee, the Rev. Maurice Luimes of Nobleton, ON, indicated that it will soon be forthcoming.

Your committee understands that the venture into establishing corresponding relations means that the OCRC must begin from the ground up and first set an Interchurch Relations Committee in place and then get it functioning. The consistory at Nobleton has been appointed the IRC of the OCRC by Synod 2001 and is just now gearing up.

An invitation was given by your committee to the OCRC to have an observer present at this Synod meeting. The Rev. Al Vermeer is expected to attend on behalf of the OCRC.

Ecumenical Relations

International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC). The fifth meeting of the ICRC took place June 20–29, 2001, at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA, hosted by the OPC. The RCUS delegation consisted of Revs. Ron Potter and Vern Pollema (voting delegates) and Rev. Robert Grossmann (advisory delegate).

It is to be noted that this meeting of the ICRC provided an opportunity for the RCUS delegation to interact with other Reformed churches. Your delegation met by arrangement with the GKN-Lib brethren as well as with the delegation from the Free Reformed Churches of North America (see also the OCRC report).

Though action was taken at the ICRC to amend the Constitution, partly as a result of the RCUS overture regarding membership requirements, this will be referred to the 2005 meeting of the ICRC for action and then will come to the churches. That amendment will be to Article IV.a and reads as follows:

- Those churches shall be admitted as members which,
- a. Adhere and are faithful to one or more of the confessional standards stated in the Basis, as each church has adopted one or more of these as its own standards
- Or,
- Adhere and are faithful to Reformed Confessions which are equivalent in content to the Confessions listed in the Basis (Art. 2), and which confession (or confessions) shall

be proposed to be added to article 11 of the Constitution.

The next meeting of the ICRC will take place in 2005 in South Africa. Your committee will seek to have a minimum of two delegates present.

North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC). The twenty-seventh meeting of NAPARC convened in Philadelphia in November of 2001. Two items of business from the meeting of NAPARC are herein brought before the Synod:

1. The termination of the membership of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) from NAPARC. The following action was taken by NAPARC: "That membership of the Christian Reformed Church in North America in NAPARC be terminated no later than the 2004 meeting of NAPARC for the following grounds." The removal of the CRCNA from NAPARC requires the approval "within three years of two-thirds of the major assemblies of the member churches" (Constitution, Article 5:3).
2. The request of L'Eglise Reformee du Quebec (ERO) to become full members of NAPARC. NAPARC voted to have documents from the L'Eglise Reformee du Quebec submitted to member churches for examination "so they could be eligible to be received into membership in NAPARC at the 2002 Meeting" (Minutes of NAPARC XVI).

Your committee received these documents from the L'Eglise Reformee du Quebec, distributed them to committee members and has copies available for the Standing Committee on Ecumenicity and a few extra for delegates to Synod to review. They consist of a lengthy introduction to the denomination, a copy of their Church Order and a copy of their rules for fraternal relations. (Note: Should the Council vote to propose the membership of the ERO to the member churches, according to the provisions of Article V.3. of the NAPARC Constitution, this will require the approval of two-thirds of the major assemblies of the member churches and may take up to three years.)

Your committee also advises the Synod that the dues for NAPARC are now \$500.00 per year (Minutes of NAPARC XII.1).

The next NAPARC meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the PCA either in Atlanta, GA, or in Orlando, FL, November 12–13, 2002. The Synod is also reminded that the RCUS is scheduled, on the basis of the present rotation, to host NAPARC in the year 2004.

R. Potter, M. Koerner, T. Mayville, G. Syms, J. Sawtelle, R. Spitzer, J. Kroese

J. Ministerial Relief

[Referred to Standing Ministerial Aid]

Your committee conducted its business by phone, email, and one meeting in Pierre that was attended by several members.

Nedved Accounting, the firm that audits the Synod Treasurer's books, again audited the financial records of the Ministerial Aid Fund. Their report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2001, shows \$88,260.04 in a checking account at Bank West, \$185,538.47 divided between two certificates of deposit (Bank West and Dacotah Bank), and \$178,437.67 in two mutual fund accounts (American Funds and Vanguard Group). The total for the Ministerial Aid Fund as of the end of last year was \$452,236.18.

Please note the following concerning the auditor's report: (1) The report covers the calendar year 2001; (2) The report shows a high balance in the interest-bearing checking account at the end of 2001, reflecting the fact that many receipts were received near the end of the year that were not invested at the time; and (3) As can be expected, the net asset value

of our mutual fund holdings decreased in value in 2001, reflecting the decrease in value of the stock market.

Notwithstanding the turmoil of the market last year, the majority of committee members favor maintaining our current "50/50" policy for the next year. Any consideration of loss of value in the mutual fund last year should be weighed along with the increase in the value of those funds in previous years. Your committee does not see any need to rashly change our policy. Down-years are a reality of investing in the stock market. Our goal needs to be focused on the long-term opportunity that affords us through keeping a sensible balance of safety and risk to our assets, which the "50/50" policy gives us.

The \$15.00 per communicant member Synodical Guideline has been the most important factor in the MAF's increase the last few years. The continuation of this guideline is important for continuing the growth of the fund. Your committee will seek approval from Synod to continue the \$15.00 guideline.

The goals for the MAF were set by the Synod back in 1988. Since many of the members of the RCUS, including ministers and elders, have joined the RCUS after that date, it would be helpful to review the goals of the fund in this report. Those who would like to read some of the history and reasons for the establishment of the MAF can find information in the 1988, 1989, and 1990 Abstracts. The following items summarize the purpose and goals of the MAF:

1. The MAF was started to phase out the current method of providing for our retired ministers and ministerial widows. We currently provide for their needs with an annual guideline. The Synod initially set the goal of raising \$500,000.00 in a fund that would produce interest money to help phase out that guideline. Subsequently, the Synod raised that amount to \$1,000,000.00. The principal in the MAF cannot be used, except by a 2/3 vote of Synod. Once the goal is reached, only the annual interest generated by the fund can be used to provide monies for retired ministers and widows.

2. The interest generated by the MAF when it reaches \$1,000,000.00 will not be enough to meet all the needs of our retired ministers and widows. Initially, a mechanism will need to be adopted by the Synod to enable the MAF to continue to grow beyond \$1,000,000.00 until it is large enough to provide for 100 percent of our needs. This can be achieved by using only a portion of the interest money available in any given year. The remaining portion can be added to the principal to allow the MAF to grow. Private contributions can also be a continuing source for building the fund's principal.

3. It is anticipated that once we reach \$1,000,000.00 the guideline for the MAF will cease. In addition, interest money will then be available to lessen the guideline for current Ministerial Relief. If we patiently follow the course mentioned above, the Ministerial Relief guideline will eventually "zero out" and the MAF will be self-sufficient.

4. When the Synod adopted this plan (see the 1989 Abstract) it also strongly encouraged pastors and/or consistories to establish Individual Retirement Accounts for each minister. This is still sound policy. It makes sense for anyone not to rely on one source alone for retirement planning. It is still wise counsel for ministers to supplement retirement expectations that the Synod pledges with an IRA of their own.

W. Haddock, D. Kingswood, L. Goehring, D. McPherson, T. Renner, F. Krivohlavek, G. Williams

K. Publications

[Referred to Standing Publications]

Your Permanent Publications Committee conducted business by telephone, email and correspondence to work on the tasks assigned by the 255th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States. For the consideration of the 256th session of Synod, the committee

presents the following report.

The RCUS treasurer reports that the current subscription fee for the *Reformed Herald* has not covered its development, publication, and distribution costs. With an inflow of \$11,030.86 and an outflow of \$15,254.91, the subscription cost should be set at \$10.00 per year per family.

Rev. Paul Treick, editor of the *Reformed Herald*, reports that there was a total expenditure of \$644.38 from his expense account of \$1,000.00, leaving a balance of \$355.62. The practice of providing an expense account for the editor should be continued.

Your committee contacted Great Commission Publications regarding the possibility and cost of reprinting the *Trinity Hymnal* and was told that they would print a minimum of two thousand copies at the cost of \$11.34 each, totaling a base cost of \$22,680.00 (about 50 percent higher than our last printing). Your committee also contacted Pine Hill Press regarding publishing an RCUS hymnal. At no up-front expense, they are researching copyrights on the hymns published in the blue *Trinity Hymnal*. Hopefully, by this upcoming synodical session, we might have more information.

In keeping with the consensus of the delegates of Synod, every RCUS charge should have the opportunity to submit hard copy certificates for the committee's review. Accordingly, your committee corresponded with each charge and requested that it provide hard copies of their certificates for the committee's consideration. Three Certificates of Baptism, one Certificate of Marriage, one Certificate of Membership, and three Certificates of Confirmation were received. It is the intention of your committee to continue its research after the 256th session of Synod and to provide, through correspondence, hard copy sample certificates to the delegates for their consideration. The choice certificates of the majority will be presented at the 257th Synod with publishing costs, along with a recommendation from your committee.

Your committee proposes that each book title in the RCUS Book Depository inventory include a one-paragraph synopsis providing the size, binding, number of pages, contents, audience, and application (i.e., Sunday school, Bible study, confirmation, etc.), to be composed by its author or appointed reviewer. Your committee further proposes that the summary of each work be presented to the Permanent Christian Education Committee by January 2003 for its review. All completed summaries are then to be forwarded by the Christian Education Committee to the RCUS Web Site Committee for posting to the RCUS web site.

The committee is pleased to report that the Rev. G. Syms completed the Three Forms of Unity in audio format, and the work is ready for production. Before production begins, the audio recording should be proofed by the written approved Confessions of the Reformed Church in the United States. The proofing process for the audio recording should not require more than 16 hours labor. After the proofing process, the audio recording will be ready to be produced in cassette and CD format. Your committee recommends that the three or four cassettes be assembled in a tape album with a designed cover insert and cassettes labeled accordingly, and the four CDs be assembled in a jewel case with a designed cover insert and CDs labeled accordingly.

Regarding the production and design of the audio recording, we found that the company "Kingdom Tapes" (www.kingdomtapes.com) has the capability to provide quality audio reproductions. According to our research, the company has been in business since 1981 and has been assisting ministries and churches worldwide, by providing the best tapes and electronics at the best prices in the industry. They claim to design, produce, and duplicate all forms of media communications; have one of the finest design and production staffs in the industry; and house a digital production facility capable of handling the toughest of production projects, specializing in audio mastering in cassette and CD formats. Further, the president of the company guarantees 100 percent satisfaction and claims they will not be undersold.

Your committee contacted Kingdom Tapes and requested a bid for the custom duplication

of two hundred cassette albums and two hundred CD jewel case sets of the Three Forms of Unity in audio format. The initial cost to produce the cassette albums, including four cassettes to an album, will be \$1,699.40, excluding graphic and title inserts and shipping. Thereafter, the reproduction cost for two hundred cassette albums would be \$1,203.40, excluding inserts and shipping. The initial cost to produce the CD Jewel case sets, including four CDs to a jewel case, will be \$1,987.00, excluding graphic and title inserts and shipping. Thereafter, the reproduction cost for two hundred CD Jewel case sets would be \$1,727.00, excluding graphic title inserts and shipping. Pine Hill Press will produce the graphic title inserts for both the cassette albums and the CD jewel case sets for \$65.00. Kingdom Tapes will ship both the two hundred cassette albums and two hundred CD jewel case sets for \$100.00. The approximate total production cost for the cassettes comes to \$1,781.00 (\$9.00 per album). The approximate total production cost for the CDs is \$2,069.00 (\$10.50 per album). The grand total for audio cassettes and CDs is \$3,851.00.

Your *Reformed Herald* editor has received inquiries from both RCUS and non-RCUS members regarding placing ads in the *Reformed Herald*. Your editor presented your committee with a request to provide him with guidelines and policies on this matter. Your Permanent Publications Committee will work toward providing such policies.

G. Mancilas, R. Davis, H. Hart, H. Kalkman, G. Mall, D. Fagrey, D. Kingswood, Myron Koerner, D. McPherson, J. Johnson

L. Web Site

[Referred to Standing Publications]

This past year your Web Site Committee was able to stay within our proposed budget of \$1,800.00. This budget provided \$1,200 for our web engineer, \$360 for web hosting (Earthlink) and domain registration and \$240 for software purchases/upgrades (FrontPage 2002 and Adobe Acrobat 5.0).

Some of the things we were able to accomplish this year were:

1. Posted the online version of the *Reformed Herald* both in HTML and Adobe Acrobat format (when available).
 2. Produced a PDF (Adobe Acrobat) format version of the Three Forms of Unity. It includes both the Modern English and the Traditional English versions. It is available for downloading off the RCUS web site.
 3. A PDF format version of the RCUS Constitution was added.
 4. Updated the inventory of our Book Depository and added information for purchasing our publications.
 5. The RCUS Web Discussion feature for posting messages was discontinued due to lack of use.
 6. Discontinued the RCUS Email List for automatically emailing members on the list and replaced it with a more robust email discussion group at Yahoo! Groups.
 7. Periodic updating of church congregation information.
 8. Periodic updating of members/elders/minister email addresses, change of addresses, etc.
 9. Continued posting online audio sermons and exhortations of our ministers and elders. More audio sermons and exhortations are needed for posting.
 10. Added a web site search feature.
- Again, we welcome the comments and suggestions submitted by the members of our church.

D. Roe, F. Walker, T. Renner, M. Peery

IX. Reports of Officers

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

[On motion it was determined to receive the President's Report, spread it in the minutes, and print it both in the Abstract and in the *Reformed Herald*.]

According to Article 111 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States, the President of the Executive Committee of Synod shall annually submit a report to the Synod on the state of the church, making use of the reports of the Presidents of the Executive Committees of the Classes. This practice serves to maintain a sense of unity and present a broad view of the work of the denomination. Membership and financial statistics, which also serve to indicate the state of the church, are not included. They appear as item X on the Agenda and will be printed in the Abstract. The following assessments and highlights are gleaned from the reports of the Presidents of the Executive Committees of the Classes in alphabetical order:

Covenant East Classis: "The Apostle Paul writes in Titus 3:8: *This is a faithful saying and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

"The Apostle's exhortation weighs heavily on the minds of the ministers of our classis. It is evident in your parochial reports as you express in varying ways your emphasis on biblical preaching with the goal of moving your members to greater levels of experiencing Christ in their daily lives. This is commendable to you brothers. It is the work the Lord has called us to. We are to be shepherds first, concerned for the flock of the Great Shepherd under whom we labor. This is not to say that our theological astuteness is not important. On the contrary, daily we see the need for even greater care to be taken to speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). All of the ministers' reports reflect a conscious effort being made to live up to the three marks of the church and share similar difficulties in accomplishing visitation in our fast-paced society.

"A cause for great rejoicing this year is the addition of the Deaf Reformed Church of Danville, KY, to our list of churches. We anticipate the completion of Rev. Kevin Hamilton's licensure exam and his being added to the roll of active ministers. As fellow ministers we often stand in awe of the work that Rev. Jari Saavalainen and Elder Kenton Hoxie are doing within the deaf community with limited resources but an abundance of energy and love for the Reformed faith.

"In the work of missions the classis continues to gain momentum. After years of relative inactivity in starting new works within our boundaries, the Lord has blessed in the planting of the Redeemer congregation in Minneapolis.... The Lord has also expanded our field of efforts with initial efforts in Northwest Arkansas.... In reading over the reports it is apparent that the Lord is keeping us very occupied in the work of building His church."

Northern Plains Classis: "In the six months that I have been 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 indicate, 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.... There are now at least three radio programs within the classis churches. But we seem to see so little fruit from these efforts.... 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 us from His bounty, even the promises of His

aid and that He grows the church, not us."

South Central Classis: "In reading the parochial reports it is evident that in the churches there is faithfulness in the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.... The instruction of the covenant youth in Sunday school and catechism classes is a high priority. The continuing instruction of confirmed youth is being carried out in many churches through youth league organizations. Bible studies are commonplace in the congregations. Several of the churches have regular radio broadcasts to their communities and surrounding areas. It is good to note a strong interest in the work of evangelism.

"The sacraments are faithfully administered in the churches, and church discipline is exercised when the need arises. We may be confident that the three marks of the true church are evident in the churches of South Central Classis.

"We rejoice in the Lord's provision of a new facility for Northland Reformed Church in Kansas City, MO.... We are especially glad that this Reformed witness to metropolitan Kansas City is easily accessible from all areas due to a great location.... Another milestone in 2001 was the organization of Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO.... The work of our Regional Home Missionary, Rev. Dorman Savage, has been fruitful in the establishing of mission works at Greeley, Limon, Pueblo, and Calhan.... We note with regret the resignation of our brother Dorman Savage as RHM due to health problems. Our prayers for him include thanksgiving for God's blessing upon his labors, and that his health would stabilize. Our brother's humble and faithful service is greatly appreciated by all of us."

Western Classis: "As a result of studying your parochial reports, I came to three positive conclusions: First, your reports reminded me of a woman who responded to a Bible study I did on Proverbs 31 many years ago. That chapter, of course, is about the VW, the 'virtuous woman.' After giving exposition on this chapter this woman said to me and before all the class: 'This Proverbs 31 woman makes me feel tired.' Likewise, your reports made our President feel tired! It is good to see that the ministers in the Western Classis are not sleepers, or at ease in Zion. I think that we all realize that our 'labor is not in vain, in the Lord' (1 Cor. 15:58). Thus, by God's grace, we are putting into practice the 'Protestant (resurrection) work-ethic.' The second conclusion is that we take our creeds very seriously. This is why we instruct our covenant youth faithfully in the doctrines of the Heidelberg Catechism. Woe to the Church that does not disciple its youth, and woe to the church that does possess a Reformed creed and catechism but still does not catechize its youth. Thus, comprehensive catechetical instruction remains one of the hallmarks of our denomination and the Western Classis. My third conclusion is that the work of missions, both domestic and foreign, continues not just to occupy, but even to preoccupy our thinking. It is so easy to forget this, to become insular in our thinking. A number of years ago I heard a preacher speak about the danger of what he called 'box theology.' Box theology is simply the mentality of a church or denomination that sees only itself on God's radar screen. A world is to be won for Christ, and yet the box theologian or preacher wants to keep everything packed away in his own ecclesiastical box. Christ preached that He is 'the Light of the world,' and that his church should be the 'salt of the earth.' Your President's palate tasted a lot of salt as he read your parochial reports. As Jesus preached in John 7:38: 'He that believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'"

The Permanent and Special Committee reports also serve as indicators of the state of the church, both of the present as well as the future. I have selected those reports for comment which I believe have the most bearing, beginning with the Permanent Christian Education Committee Report, in which we find two very important areas that will effect the state of the church for years to come, i.e., seminaries and a Sunday school curriculum.

The Permanent Christian Education Committee was given the mandate to investigate two seminaries that have originated in the RCUS, City Seminary of Sacramento and Heidelberg

Theological Seminary, Vermillion, SD. It has been a long time since the RCUS had its own seminary(s). That possibility has been long desired and contemplated and, especially so, in light of the problems that have arisen with our present arrangement for training our students for the ministry. Most denominations have their own seminaries for obvious reasons, the most obvious being that of control. That has certainly been lacking in our case and a cause of frustration. The Constitution of the Reformed Church in the U.S. was written with a view to having a denominational seminary(s), and that such come under the oversight and control of the Synod. While the classes are directly involved with overseeing the studies of those students for the ministry under their care, the conducting of licensure examinations, the ordination of licentiates, and the approval of pastoral calls (cf. Art. 82), the original jurisdiction for the education of students for the ministry lies with the Synod as evidenced by the following: "The Synod shall give necessary attention to the education of pious men for the Gospel ministry" (cf. Art. 101); such "shall pursue [their] course of study in a theological institution recommended (approved) by the Reformed Church in the United States" (cf. Arts. 17 and 20), "the reception of a minister from another denomination shall not be final until it is confirmed by Synod" (Art. 84). (This is required because Synod has a vested interest in the education of its ministers, which has not been the case with those from another denomination.) Furthermore, it is the Synod that elects, calls, and inaugurates Teachers of Theology as professors in a Theological Seminary of the Church (cf. Arts. 36–38, 108); the Synod is also to exercise careful oversight of the professor's teaching and has the authority to remove him from his teaching position (cf. Arts. 40 and 41). Another obvious reason for having our own seminary is the personal knowledge one gains of the student, i.e., strengths, weaknesses, capabilities, fitness for the ministry, etc. (Perhaps that imagined "PC" cloud formation in the sky meant "Plant Corn" instead of "Preach Christ.")

The other area addressed by the Permanent Christian Education Committee Report was that of the Sunday school curriculum. This has been a long-standing concern of the RCUS. There has been continual dissatisfaction with materials available in the market-place. As a result, most congregations and ministers have resorted to compiling and writing their own materials, using a variety of sources. It has been a long-time desire to have our very own unified Sunday school curriculum that can and will be used by all of our congregations. To that end we entered into a plan and project that would bring about that desire. After a considerable amount of time, effort, and money, that desire appears to be nearing reality. Hopefully, this material will soon get into the hands of all the congregations on a provisional basis, where it can be used, tested, and proved. Its acceptance by the congregations will be the ultimate test and is also prudent before we enter into huge and grandiose publication costs. Should this curriculum receive denomination-wide support and approval, it may well be marketed beyond the bounds of the RCUS. Then it will indeed be of great benefit to the promulgation of the Reformed faith as well as to the teaching of our covenant youth. That would thrill the hearts of all of us!

The Permanent Home Missions and Foreign Ministries Reports must also thrill our hearts. How much has changed and how greatly God has blessed our efforts since the days of the old Eureka Classis. Our home mission churches, though at times having to struggle because of finances, finding suitable and affordable facilities for worship, and small numbers, continue to flourish, and new doors of opportunity are opened. May God strengthen and encourage us in the work.

Our foreign ministries continue to grow and expand as well. The visits by Elder Meshack Nyarango and Rev. Kabongo Malebongo were most beneficial in putting a face to our foreign ministries. It was such personal contact that resulted in the generous outpouring of extra funds for these ministries. Also helpful in generating additional funds is the listing of specific needs, i.e., medical clinic, children's education, computer, motorcycle, etc.

An exciting possibility in our foreign ministries is that of a volunteer organization for economic development in certain areas of the Congo, i.e., agricultural development, building projects, etc. This could mean hands-on involvement by members, young and old, of the RCUS, and opportunity to provide "a cup of cold water" as a disciple of Christ (cf. Matt. 10:42).

A most pressing need of our foreign ministries continues to be that of training ministers. As the French Radio Broadcast in Africa continues to expand with the Lord's blessing, that need will become more acute. Here is a need that demands our utmost care and attention as well as one for fervent prayer.

The Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee continues to have its field of labor expanded as evidenced by the length of its report. It also indicates the state of the RCUS with regard to its relations with other Reformed bodies. We now have fraternal relations with five Reformed denominations: Canadian and American Reformed Churches, Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated), Reformed Confessing Church of the Congo, Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Fraternal relations with a sixth denomination, the Independent Presbyterian Church of Mexico, remain in suspension. Fraternal relations are being discussed with the United Reformed Churches of North America. Contact with the Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches and possible fraternal relations is in process. Contact with the Free Reformed Churches of North America has also been made through NAPARC.

Our involvement with the International Council of Reformed Churches (ICRC) and the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) provides opportunity to interact with other Reformed churches and to keep abreast of what is happening in the wider Reformed community. It also gives us the opportunity to express our views and be an influence for orthodoxy.

The Special Committee on Covenant Education was given the mandate to write "a position paper setting forth the Reformed (biblical-covenantal-antithetical) perspective on education and the responsibilities that pertain thereunto." It is evident that the committee has put in a considerable amount of time and effort to fulfill its mandate. This is one of those rare occasions in which a minority report has been submitted. This is an important issue in the life and state of the church, i.e., the education of its covenant youth and the witness it presents. Synod will have to decide whether one report, both, or neither represents its position.

The Special Committee to Research Ebooks continues to do its work and the RCUS Electronic Library References has, or is about to become a reality. While we are conservative in our theology and are careful to guard against inroads of modernism and liberalism, that is not true in the technological realm as evidenced by this report and that of the Permanent Web Site Committee. Let us pray that this technology will be an effective tool to communicate the Reformed faith and heritage to succeeding generations.

I would be remiss in concluding this State of the Church Report if I did not remember the brother who is not present at this Synod, the Rev. Don Vance. We truly miss him, but look forward to meeting again at Jesus' feet. In the meantime we continue to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14), and long for that state in which Jesus will present the church "to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:27).

V. Pollema

B. Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes of Synod

[On motion the Stated Clerk's Report was adopted.]

In accordance with the requirements of office, your servant has preserved the minutes of the 255th Synod and all supporting documents. An abstract of the actions and reports contained therein was also prepared and published per Standing Rule 10. Copies of this Abstract were distributed to all ministers and congregations of Synod, as well as to all churches with which we maintain official correspondence and to all institutions approved by Synod.

In addition, your servant was also requested to write a letter to Rev. Robert Sander congratulating him on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the gospel ministry (2001 Abstract, p. 63). A letter dated July 3, 2001, was sent as requested. This letter was also to appear in the Abstract itself (2001 Abstract, p. 64). It can be found on the page opposite the Table of Contents in the 2001 Abstract.

In my report last year, I indicated that a letter regarding the suspension and possible termination of fraternal relations had been sent to the Independent Presbyterian Church of Mexico but that no response had been received. Shortly after the 255th Synod, a response (dated May 15, 2001) arrived. A copy of this response was immediately forwarded to the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee. That committee's report will address the nature of the response.

As for the minutes, the Clerk would like to emphasize the importance of everyone abiding by Standing Rule 14, which requires that "all reports, overtures and correspondence ... be submitted on 8½" x 11" white paper." Each year the Clerk continues to receive correspondence submitted either on infinitesimal fragments or on paper of interesting hues. Most of these tend to be requests for excuse — probably written at the last minute on whatever the individual happens to have at hand. The Clerk seldom sees these communications until he is at home working on the minutes. Please keep in mind that the minutes are important documents of the church and should not be either a cut-and-paste project for the Clerk (which opens the possibility of the pasted item falling out of the minutes) or a nicely colored album. All overtures and correspondence, including requests for excuse, are required to be on standard paper. The chairman of the Overtures Committee should be especially careful not to receive any documents except those that comply with the rules of Synod.

F. Walker

C. Treasurer's Report

[This report was referred to Standing Finances.]

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES — CASH BASIS

	Jan. 31, 2002	Jan. 31, 2001
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash	0.00	0.00
Money Market Savings	<u>199,167.18</u>	<u>216,269.34</u>
Total Current Assets	199,167.18	216,269.34

OTHER ASSETS:		
Notes receivable unsecured		61,447.49
TOTAL ASSETS		277,716.83
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
FUND BALANCES	<u>313,115.10</u>	<u>277,716.83</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	313,115.10	277,716.83

The following notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING — The Reformed Church in the United States Synod prepares its financial statements on the cash basis method of accounting.

FUND ACCOUNTING — 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 Synod. 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 position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

NOTE 2: NOTES RECEIVABLE — Notes receivable are recorded as an asset at the time funds are advanced.

FUND BALANCES Year Ended January 31, 2002

BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	ENDING BALANCE
Ministerial (Ref. 20)	22,562.56	(115,600.00)	(2,630.70)
Student Aid	(669.64)	15,156.79	2,402.69
Synod Dues	5,428.58	42,888.66	35,116.61
Home Missions	5,408.03	46,262.97	49,421.26
Foreign Missions	5,563.56	63,701.91	65,605.91
General Purposes	4,439,386.49	(47,474.21)	37,980.72
General Benevolence	3,105,345,817.13	(61,004.00)	(3,081.53)
Seminary	0.00	9,560.46	0.00
Dordt College	0.00	5,447.64	0.00
Hope Haven	0.00	4,538.12	0.00
Diaconal	815.74	2,369.16	1,695.14
Ministerial Aid	0.00	37,568.09	0.00
Building Fund	542,581,416.57	(30,000.00)	9,959.15

Debt Reduction	6,830.97	2,697.93	(6,830.97)	2,697.93
Other Assets	65,447.49	65,117.00	(12,616.57)	113,947.92
TOTAL	72,277.46	72,491.48	(587,093.21)	313,115.10

Kyle Sorensen	3,650.00
Matthew Powell	2,000.00
Richard Stetler	2,214.46

11,084.46

LOANS RECEIVABLE

CHURCH BEGINNING & RATE	PRINCIPAL BALANCE	INTEREST PAID	PAID	ENDING BALANCE
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX Cincinnati 7.5%	4,547.49	4,547.49	212.81	0.00
PEACE Garner 3%	26,900.00	2,822.00	978.00	24,078.00
PROVIDENCE Rock Springs 3%	30,000.00	2,617.18	900.00	27,382.82
SAWTELLE, JOHN Student Loan	(new 22,190.00)		2,200.00	19,990.00
COVENANT Grass Valley 3%	(new 30,000.00)	429.90	149.46	29,570.10
CAUGHEY, CHRIS Student Loan	(new 12,927.00)			12,927.00
TOTAL	61,447.49	12,616.57	2,240.27	113,947.92
	(new 65,117.00)			

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES
January 31, 2002

Ministerial Relief:			
Mrs. Joan Vance	4,000.00		
Mrs. Marie Stuebbe	12,000.00		
Mrs. Marjorie Duckett	10,800.00		
Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann	10,800.00		
Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger	10,800.00		
Mrs. Vivian Stuebbe	12,000.00		
Rev. Chester Ploeger	10,800.00		
Rev. Howard Hart	14,400.00		
Rev. Norman Jones	14,400.00		
Rev. Robert Sander	15,600.00		
TOTAL			115,600.00
Student Aid:			
Andrew McIntyre	3,220.00		

Synodical Dues:

Abstracts	4,406.26	
Annual Meeting	16,844.01	
Christian Education		971.87
Clerk Assistants	100.00	
Computer and Accessories		1,287.67
Dordt College Committee		206.40
Executive Committee		383.35
Family Convention		5,000.00
Financial Audit	495.00	
Home Missions Committee		2,264.48
Interchurch Relations		5,509.69
Miscellaneous	15.00	
Officer Remuneration		2,450.00
Postage	414.98	
Special Judicial Committee		544.80
Supplies	397.15	
Telephone	48.46	
Web Site Committee		1,861.51
TOTAL		43,200.63

Home Missions:

Building Debt, Vermillion	13,847.12	
Covenant, Chico	8,400.00	
Covenant, Watertown, SD	20,799.96	
First, Yuba City, CA	20,829.96	
Grace, Greeley, CO		22,295.96
Grace, San Ramon, CA	11,097.03	
Providence, Vermillion, SD	21,696.00	
Redeemer, Minneapolis, MN		14,000.04
Rehoboth, La Habra, CA		14,199.96
SHM Committee	3,083.71	
TOTAL		150,249.74

Foreign Ministries:

Congo Travel	5,713.64	
International Radio	7,427.00	
Kenya Account	10,809.25	
Kenya Travel	2,000.00	
Kinshasa Account	8,807.00	
Kishimba Kasantika	5,400.00	
Mbayo Masangu	1,800.00	
Rev. Kabango Malebongo		7,100.00
SFM Committee	1,371.67	
TOTAL		50,428.56

General Publications:			
Book Purchases	14,590.80		
D. McPherson Honorarium	300.00		
Directory of Congregations	354.51		
E-book Committee	310.99		
George Mall Translations	500.00		
Herald Editor Honorarium	1,000.00		
Postage	1,198.87		
Publications Committee	671.27		
<i>Reformed Herald</i>	15,254.91		
Royalties	520.80		
Sunday School Curriculum	272.06		
Subscription Manager	500.00		
Sunday School Curriculum Writers		12,000.00	
TOTAL			47,474.21
General Benevolence:			
Amy Stevens	8,400.00		
Faith, Anderson, CA	12,030.00		
Grace, Lancaster, CA	5,502.00		
Maynard Koerner	21,000.00		
Robert Davis	2,600.00		
Trinity, Colorado Springs, CO		11,472.00	
TOTAL			61,004.00
Seminary:			
Mid-America Seminary	4,878.52		
New Geneva Seminary	4,650.02		
WTS Escondido	31.92		
TOTAL			9,560.46
Dordt College	5,447.64		5,447.64
Hope Haven	4,538.12		4,538.12
Diaconal:			
Regional Missionary	1,489.76		1,489.76
Ministerial Aid Fund	37,568.09		37,568.09
Building Fund			
Transfer to Other Assets	30,000.00		30,000.00
Debt Reduction	6,830.97		6,830.97
Other Assets			
Transfer to Building Fund	12,616.57		12,616.57
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$587,093.21

C. Greiman

X. Report of Membership and Financial Statistics

[On motion the Report of Membership and Financial Statistics was adopted. See the appendix for the text of the report.]

XI. Reports from RCUS Fraternal Delegates and Observers

Rev. Robert Grossmann reported as the RCUS fraternal delegate to the 2001 General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and as a Synodical representative at the International Conference of Reformed Churches. Rev. Thomas Mayville reported as observer to the 2001 Synod of the Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches and as fraternal delegate to the 2001 Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Rev. Jim Sawtelle reported as observer to the 2001 Synod of the United Reformed Churches of North America. Rev. Ron Potter reported as a Synodical representative at the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council.

XII. Addresses by Delegates, Representatives and Visitors

Elder Bill Gortemaker spoke in behalf of the Canadian Reformed Churches. Rev. Mark Harrington spoke in behalf of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Rev. Anthony Cowley spoke in behalf of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Rev. Todd Joling spoke in behalf of the United Reformed Churches of North America. Rev. Al Vermeer spoke in behalf of the Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches. Dr. Cornelis Venema spoke in behalf of Mid-America Reformed Seminary. Dr. Nick Willborn spoke in behalf of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Bryan Estelle spoke in behalf of Westminster Theological Seminary in California. Dr. Carl Zylstra spoke in behalf of Dordt College. Mr. Marlowe van Ginkel spoke in behalf of Hope Haven.

XIII. Reports of Liaisons

Rev. Maynard Koerner reported as a member of the Dordt College Board of Trustees. Rev. Robert Grossmann reported as liaison to the deaf Reformed congregations, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Mid-America Reformed Seminary, and as a representative of Heidelberg Theological Seminary. Rev. Frank Walker reported as a representative of the City Seminary of Sacramento. Rev. C.W. Powell reported as a representative of New Geneva Theological Seminary. Rev. Jeff DeBoer reported as a member of the Board of Trustees of Hope Haven. Rev. Paul Treick reported as liaison to the "Reformed Faith and Life — French" radio ministry (referred to Standing Missions) and as editor of the *Reformed Herald* (referred to Standing Publications). Synod voted to commend Rev. Treick for his good work as editor of the *Reformed Herald* and to thank him for the same.

XIV. Reports of Special Committees

[Recommendations as adopted, unless otherwise noted]

A. 2002 Family Convention

The 2002 RCUS Family Convention is set up and ready to go. A bank account under the name of RCUS Family Convention Committee has been set up at Pikes Peak National Bank in Colorado Springs.

A few minor details still need to be worked on, such as menus and nursery, and your chairman is in the process of putting those together at this writing.

In the providence of God, the topic is very timely with differing views of justification unfortunately infiltrating the church. I am waiting still on ministers to register to hit them up to preach. Please let me know if you are planning on attending as soon as possible.

Registration forms and all of the information that anyone should need to register can be downloaded and printed easily from our website (www.rcus.org).

It is not possible for this committee to do much more with the funds available. The best way to spread the word from here would be for the elders and ministers to communicate to their churches. Printing a notice in your bulletins would be far cheaper and more effective than anything that I could do. Here is a sample: "Family convention is coming to Maxwell, Nebraska. This promises to be a great time of fellowship and study for all members of the family. Registration forms and information can be downloaded from our website at www.rcus.org."

Please do this soon and encourage your congregations to register. We need to give final counts to Maranatha camp shortly and so far most people are waiting until the last minute.

It might be helpful for you to download and print several forms to have on hand for those members of your congregations who do not have access to a computer. This would be far cheaper than for me to mail them out. This could easily be assigned to someone in your congregation who is computer literate.

We need to make a decision about the next convention as well so that we can plan. A committee needs to be commissioned. I would not mind doing it again, as I have the bank accounts and details already mostly worked out.

I believe that this convention is a great place for young people to meet other young people (I know of many couples who found godly spouses at this convention, including myself) and would recommend holding it every two years, but I have no strong feelings about it either way.

Recommendations:

1. That the standing nominations committee nominate a committee to organize the next Family Convention.

2. That the next Family Convention be held in 2005 at a location to be determined by the 2005 Family Convention Committee.

S. Powell, J. McClay, H. Yoder, R. Morris, D. Dawn, H. Van Stedum

B. Confer with Dordt College

Your committee is charged with the responsibility of maintaining contact with Dordt College and with RCUS students who attend the college. The number of RCUS students at Dordt this past year was thirteen. We seek to accomplish this mandate by providing study sessions for the students as well as individual contact with students whenever possible. The committee meets with Dr. Zylstra, president of the college, and several members of his staff to discuss

issues and concerns.

The contact with the students was limited to personal contact this past year. Because of the relocation of the chairman, the committee failed to have a "get acquainted" meeting this fall as we have had in the past. On two occasions an attempt was made at having a study session, but did not work out very well. Rev. Jeff DeBoer has agreed to take over the responsibility of arranging these meetings this next year. We trust that this will help. Since the chairman of the committee is on campus on a fairly regular basis he has been able to have some contact with individual students. These students all seem to be fairly pleased with their education at Dordt.

The committee met with Dr. Zylstra on February 13, 2002, at the college. All members were present with the exception of Elder Chuck DeBoer. The committee did not have any specific concerns to address at the meeting. A general discussion concerning our relation with the college was held, including chapel services and Dordt's policy requiring all professors and staff to have their membership in local CRC congregations. There are some exceptions to this policy. This is an issue which is before the Board. The committee expressed to Dr. Zylstra its desire that a way be found for professors and staff to hold membership in Reformed churches and not limit it to the CRC.

The committee continues to be convinced that the contact which we have with the students as well as the college is well worthwhile. We do hope to increase the contact with the students in the future.

We believe that RCUS students continue to find their experience at Dordt College to be a positive one. They appreciate the emphasis on a Reformed world and life view. They are serious-minded students. They are very concerned to be faithful to God and his Word.

It is good that the RCUS is concerned about the education of its covenant youth. Keeping contact with Dordt College and the students who attend is one good way to provide for our youth.

Recommendations:

1. That the guideline for giving for Dordt College be continued at \$2.25 for the coming year.
2. That the committee be continued.

M. Koerner, R. Grossmann, J. DeBoer, C. DeBoer and C. Greiman

C. Covenant Education

[Synod recommitted the mandate to the committee.]

D. Research eBooks

Your special committee was commissioned by the 255th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States the following work as outlined in the 2001 Abstract, page 62, which states, "That Synod approve the Adobe Acrobat 5.0 software and the Adobe Acrobat Reader for the development of the RCUS Electronic Library References, that Synod approve \$8,575.00 to develop in Adobe Acrobat 5.0 format a collection of RCUS historical references for sale and distribution on CD-ROM. That Synod approve the distribution to each RCUS charge of two CDs containing the collection of RCUS historical references." In keeping with the assigned responsibilities, the committee conducted business by telephone, email and correspondence.

Mr. Eric D. Bristley of Olive Tree Communications was commissioned to develop the RCUS Electronic Library References. Your committee is pleased to inform the Synod that, as of this date, Mr. Bristley reports that he will have completed all but one title (book) of the RCUS Electronic Library References, as commissioned by Synod. Although incomplete, for your review your committee hopes to have one CD available to each charge at Synod. Upon receipt of the completed work and reproduction of the CD, your committee will distribute the last CD to each charge.

Most gratefully, the RCUS is enjoying its technological expansion. Your committee is optimistic about the current technology that is available to us as a denomination and the key role it will play in our future. Our hope is that we will continue utilizing the current technology to communicate effectively the Reformed faith; and that we, as a denomination, will be willing to adapt new strategies to disperse to this and successive generations the Reformed heritage. To this end, it warrants that your committee continues to do research in developing electronic references.

Your committee has prepared for the consideration of the 256th session of Synod the following:

Production and Distribution of the completed RCUS Electronic Library References. The approximate twenty books (over 6,000 pages) included in the RCUS Electronic Library References will be ready for production and distribution after the 256th session of Synod. The estimated production cost for five hundred CDs of the RCUS Electronic Library References will be approximately \$2,240.00. The estimated production cost of each CD will be approximately \$4.50. Your committee found that electronic resources of the same caliber of the RCUS Electronic Library References sell for far more than \$49.00 each. Therefore, we believe that this CD will sell rapidly at \$29.00 for RCUS members and \$49.00 for non-RCUS members.

Production and Development of an RCUS Electronic Library References, Volume II. Your committee proposes that an RCUS Electronic Library References, Volume II, be produced. Mr. Eric D. Bristley is willing and available to produce a second volume. At the same cost of \$1.35 per page, and of the same quality of the previous volume, Mr. Bristley would produce Volume II. Mr. Bristley has offered once again his valuable resources, as have other ministers within our denomination. Mr. Bristley is willing to include our resources in this collection. At Synod, your committee will provide a list of proposed resources for Volume II. Your committee would work closely with our RCUS ministers and elders in selecting the resources to be included in Volume II.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod approve the production of 500 CDs of the RCUS Electronic Library References at the cost of \$2,240.00 for production, packaging, and shipping.
2. That the committee continue its work on the RCUS Electronic Library References, Volume II, to determine what should be included, and that the committee report to Synod next year for possible production of the same.
3. That Synod approve the sale cost for each RCUS Electronic Library References CD at \$29.00 for RCUS members and \$49.00 for non-RCUS members.
4. [No action.]
5. [Take note] That Synod approve the work of the Special Committee to Research eBooks be continued.

G. Mancilas, D. Roe, W. Haddock, J. Mills

XV. Reports of Standing Committees

[Recommendations as adopted, unless otherwise noted]

A. Benevolence

Recommendations:

1. That Grace Reformed Church of Lancaster, CA, be granted \$450.00 per month of benevolent aid.
2. That Faith Reformed Church of Anderson, CA, be granted up to \$1,000.00 per month of benevolent aid once it provides a three-year budget to its Permanent Classical Diaconal Committee showing its need for it, which would then inform the Executive Committee of Synod to inform the Treasurer.
3. That Mrs. Amy Stevens be given \$1,000.00 per month of benevolent aid.
4. That Rev. David Dawn be given \$1,500.00 per month of benevolent aid for the three months of June, July and August, as needed.
5. That Trinity Reformed Church of Colorado Springs, CO, be granted \$800.00 per month of benevolent aid.
6. That Blue Cliff Community Church of Karval, CO, be granted \$500.00 per month of benevolent aid for one year.

D. Clark, G. Syms, H. Van Stedum, D. Schulz

B. Ecumenical

Recommendations:

1. That the Stated Clerk of Synod write to the IPCM and:
 - A. Thank them for their response to the letter of December 28, 2000, from the RCUS.
 - B. Advise them that our fraternal relationship continues in suspension.
 - C. Request that they advise the RCUS of:
 - (1) How they propose to make our fraternal relationship work.
 - (2) How they propose to maintain contact with us.
 - (3) Their rules for fraternal relations.
 - (4) What they believe we can accomplish together as churches.
2. That the Stated Clerk of Synod advise the IRC of any response from the IPCM and that upon the basis of this response, or lack thereof, the IRC bring recommendations to the 257th Synod of the RCUS germane to continuing our fraternal relationship with the IPCM.
3. That the IRC of the RCUS pursue continued contact with the OCRC with a view to learning

more about this denomination and to working toward the establishment of fraternal relations with them and report on its progress to the 257th meeting of the RCUS Synod.

4. That Synod through its Standing Finance Committee begin to budget now for the sending of a delegate from the RCUS to the 6th meeting of the ICRC in South Africa.

5. That the Synod of the RCUS approve the termination of the membership of the Christian Reformed Church in North America from membership in NAPARC and that the Stated Clerk of Synod advise the Secretary of NAPARC of the RCUS action.

6. That the RCUS delegation to the 2002 meeting of NAPARC vote to propose to the member churches the reception of L'Eglise Reformee du Quebec into membership in NAPARC.

J. Merica, R. Potter, D. Schnabel, K. Hamilton, R. DeJong, A. Haller, D. Speranza

C. Education and Student Aid

Recommendations:

1. [Referred to Standing Missions] That Synod budget \$2,000.00 for the training of deaf ministers.

2. That the following student aid be granted:

- A. \$3,600.00 for James Grossmann.
- B. \$2,853.00 for Richard Stetler.
- C. \$3,575.00 for Lee Johnson.
- D. \$2,500.00 for Matt Powell.

3. That the writers (H. Hart and H. DeGroot), compilers (H. Kalkman and C. Henson) and proofreader (J. Johnson) of the curriculum material be commended for their diligent and laborious work.

4. That the honorarium for Hart and DeGroot be continued in this synodical year at \$6,000.00 per man.

5. That an expense account of \$500.00 be set aside to cover incidental expenses related to the development of the curriculum.

6. That up to \$3,000.00 be budgeted for Charles Henson to compile the curriculum programs.

7. That Hart and DeGroot be given time on the floor of Synod to answer questions related to the curriculum.

8. That Synod begin publishing the Sunday school curriculum as soon as practically feasible.

9. [Take note] That our churches be encouraged to use this Sunday school curriculum.

10. [Take note] That upon completion of this project, a curricula be developed for a three-year post-high school class and an adult Sunday school class.

11. [Take note] That the respective Classes of the RCUS, as part of their oversight of Students for the Ministry, determine and implement as they see fit whatever post-seminary course work is necessary to prepare candidates properly for their RCUS licensure exams.

12. That City Seminary be revisited by the Permanent Christian Education Committee upon meeting the following criteria:

- A. City Seminary acquires an adequate library; and,
- B. City Seminary develops an adequate ministerial apprenticeship program.

13. That the 256th Synod mandate the Permanent Christian Education Committee to make an evaluation of Heidelberg Theological Seminary and bring its report to the 257th Synod.

14. That the Permanent Christian Education Committee utilize the *Seminary Evaluation Guideline* in its mandated investigations of theological seminaries.

15. That the Permanent Christian Education Committee, making use of internet resources, provide an updated advisory list of Reformed colleges to the 257th Synod.

16. [Take note] That parents and students evaluate potential college choices with the discernment characteristic of the Reformed faith.

17. That Synod provide maximum student aid for Mr. Scott Henry to attend Heidelberg Seminary in the fall, contingent upon Synod approving Heidelberg Seminary as an institution worthy of support.

18. That Synod approve the use of the NKJV in the Sunday school curriculum.

J. Sawtelle, J. West, G. Homer, J. Fluck, B. Richards, D. Helseth, D. McPherson

Further action of Synod:

That Mr. Scott Henry be granted benevolent aid of \$3,600.00 for the coming year.

D. Excuses

Recommendations:

1. That excuses be granted to the following delegates who were absent from all or part of the 256th Synod, according to their requests: L. Blank, D. Clark, R. Davis, D. Fagrey, G. Gannon, L. Goehring, S. Gross, W. Haddock, J. Hieb, F. Krivohlavek, D. McPherson, J. Merica, T. Ochsner, A. Rau, D. Roe, D. Savage, D. Schick, D. Speranza, M. Voytek and H. Yoder.

2. [Take note] The excuse of Elder Jim Bruckschen from Manitowoc was not necessary as the secundus from Manitowoc was here.

P. Henderson, C. Loucks, D. Dawn, M. Kappes, L. Goehring, C. Mehlhaf

E. Finances

Recommendations:

1. That the travel expenses of delegates to the 256th Synod of the RCUS be paid. Total \$14,274.02.
2. That Synod allow the Treasurer to disburse the \$2,697.93 in the Deficit Reduction Fund to zero the Ministerial Relief Fund, and reduce the deficit in the Benevolences Fund.
3. That the Guideline for the Deficit Reduction Fund be set at \$5.00.
4. That the Guideline for the Synodical Dues be set at \$8.00.
5. That the Guideline for the Building Fund be set at \$3.00.
6. That the Guideline for Student Aid be set at \$4.00.
7. That the Guideline for Hope Haven be set at \$2.00.
8. That the Guideline for MARS be set at \$2.00.
9. That the Guideline for NGTS be set at \$2.00.
10. That Synod reimburse Licentiate Michael McGee \$435.42 for airfare, car rental and mileage to Synod.
11. That Synod grant honorariums to Rev. Chuck Snyder (\$1,000.00) and Mr. Mike Brabo (\$600.00), and that Synod reimburse Rev. Chuck Snyder (\$624.02) and Mr. Mike Brabo (\$380.18) for travel expenses.
12. That the Synod of the RCUS consent to the assignment of the loan and mortgage of the Synod on the parsonage in Minneapolis, MN, to Redeemer Reformed Church, and to release Peace Reformed Church of Gamer, IA, from liability or responsibility under the loan and mortgage.
13. That the Guideline for Home Missions be set at \$44.00.
14. That the Guideline for Foreign Ministries be set at \$6.00.
15. That the Guideline for Ministerial Relief be set at \$45.00.
16. That the Guideline for Diaconal Ministries be set at \$1.00.
17. That the Guideline for Publishing be set at \$20.00.
18. That the Guideline for Benevolences be set at \$20.00.
19. [Take note] That the Treasurer be instructed to return checks received for non-approved institutions or causes to the senders.

20. [Take note] That the Synod encourage delegates from parent churches overseeing daughter churches or chapels to report their membership and financial statistics separately in order to ensure uniform reporting practices.

T. Mayville, M. Voytek, H. Kalkman, J. Kroese, R. Kusler, C. Beck, C. Greiman

Summary of Guidelines	
Synodical Dues	\$8.00
Debt Reduction	5.00
Home Missions	44.00
Foreign Ministries	6.00
Ministerial Relief (for retired pastors)	45.00
Diaconal Ministries	1.00
Publishing	20.00
Benevolence	20.00
Student Aid	4.00
Building Fund	3.00
Ministerial Aid Fund (investment)	15.00
Dordt College (non-budget item)	2.25
Hope Haven (non-budget item)	2.00
MARS (non-budget item)	2.00
NGTS (non-budget item)	2.00
TOTAL (per communicant)	\$179.25

F. Judicial

Recommendations:

1. That Synod erect a special committee composed of members of the four classes to study this issue [proposed amendment to Article 48 of the RCUS Constitution] and report back next year.
2. That the definition of the boundary of the Covenant East Classis be as follows: The Covenant East Classis shall be composed of churches east of the eastern borders of ND, SD, NE, KS, OK and TX [This removes the phrase "with the exception of Kansas City" from the original boundary definition for this classis].
3. That the Synod add Standing Rule 22 as follows: "Each year the Synod of the RCUS will pay for the services of at least two American Sign Language interpreters to interpret the proceedings of Synod. The interpreters are to be chosen by the consistories of the deaf churches of the RCUS."

G. Ministerial Aid

Recommendations:

1. That ministerial aid for Rev. Norman Jones in the amount of \$1,300.00 per month be approved.
2. That ministerial aid for Rev. Chester Ploeger in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month be approved.
3. That ministerial aid for Mrs. Donald Vance in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month be approved.
4. That ministerial aid for Mrs. Marjorie Duckett in the amount of \$900.00 per month be approved.
5. That ministerial aid for Mrs. Marie Stuebbe in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month be approved.
6. That ministerial aid for Mrs. Vivian Stuebbe in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month be approved.
7. That ministerial aid for Rev. Robert Sander in the amount of \$1,300.00 per month be approved.
8. That ministerial aid for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month be approved.
9. That ministerial aid for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month be approved.
10. That ministerial aid for Rev. Howard Hart in the amount of \$1,250.00 per month be approved.
11. That the current investment policy of holding 50 percent of the MAF assets in mutual funds and 50 percent in bank CDs be continued.
12. That the Synod continue to fund the MAF with a guideline of \$15.00 per communicant member.

D. Fagrey, W. Haddock, W. Brice, D. Larson, G. Stewart

H. Minutes of Classes

Recommendations:

1. That the minutes of the Northern Plains Classis be approved with the following exceptions:

A. Spring Meeting 2001

- (1) Table of Contents, page numbering (pp. 49–63) is incorrect;
- (2) p. 2, full name of Rev. N. Jones not given when first used;
- (3) p. 4, full name of Rev. S. Richert not given when first used;
- (4) p. 8, mention is made of the "past president" three times with no name given;
- (5) p. 11, the term "Agenda" is missing;
- (6) p. 26, Item 12: no explanation is given about an overture to obtain benevolence money;
- (7) p. 39, numbering of recommendations is not clear;
- (8) pp. 83–5, four reports are not signed;
- (9) p. 99 is placed between pp. 89 and 90;
- (10) p. 95, recommendation 1 of "Education" report is not clear as to how it was divided; and
- (11) p. 97 is blank.

B. Special Meeting (September 11, 2001)

- (1) p. 6, the Stated Clerk did not sign the minutes; and
- (2) p. 17, report on Tracy Gruggett's licensure is unclear and submitted on yellow lined paper.

C. Special Meeting (December 15, 2001)

- (1) p. 4, adjournment to 2001 spring meeting should be 2002;
- (2) p. 4, minutes are not signed by the Stated Clerk;
- (3) p. 11, two excuses are on small scratch paper sheets;
- (4) pp. 12–3, "Can a third party make an excuse for others?" and
- (5) p. 17, Excuses report submitted on irregular sized paper.

2. That the minutes of the South Central Classis be approved with the following exceptions:
 - A. Spring meeting 2002 minutes are missing the addresses of officers;
 - B. p. 7, withdrawn motion reworded;
 - C. p. 12, line 31 error reading "Romans chapter can...";
 - D. p. 13, line 35 error reading "Blair adopted the report...";
 - E. p. 15, incorrect spelling of Apostles' Creed; and
 - F. Irregular paper used for documents 68l and 68m and overtures 4 and 5.
3. That the minutes of the Covenant East Classis be approved with the following exceptions:
 - A. A letter from the Clerk of Classis to the Clerk of Synod (dated April 11, 2002) is not signed;
 - B. p. 51, the membership and statistics report is not signed;
 - C. p. 61, the 2001 membership and statistics report is not signed.

4. That the minutes of the Western Classis be approved.

D. Kingswood, S. Richert, N. Jones, C.W. Powell, G. Mall, K. Armbruster

I. Missions

Recommendations:

1. That support for Covenant RCUS in Watertown, SD, be reduced to \$13,125.00 for 2002.
2. [Defeated] That support for Covenant Reformed Chapel in Chico, CA, be increased by

\$3,600.00 for 2002 for health insurance.

3. That the High Plains Reformed Chapel of Calhan, CO, be recognized as a home missions work of the RCUS.

4. That \$12,333.00 be budgeted for support of High Plains Reformed Chapel of Calhan, CO, for 2002, with support starting June 1 and an additional \$200.00 per month be budgeted for housing, if needed.

5. That Blue Cliff Reformed Church be given a loan of \$20,000.00 from Synod to purchase a parsonage in Calhan, CO.

6. That Article 4, paragraph 1, in the Home Missions Manual be changed to read, "and will be drawn from the Permanent Classical and Synodical Home Missions Committees."

7. [Take note] That the work in NW Arkansas avail itself of the \$18,000.00 budgeted for new works after a positive missions assessment.

8A. That Synod commit itself to supporting deaf missions.

8B. [Defeated] That deaf missions come under the oversight of the SHMC.

9. That Synod budget \$5,000.00 for Deaf Reformed Ministries, and that these monies come out of Benevolence.

10. That Synod budget \$2,000.00 for training deaf reformed ministers and elders.

11. That the Standing Home Missions Budget for 2003 be set as follows:
- A. That support for Grace RCUS of Greeley, CO, be set at \$18,580.00.
 - B. That support for Redeemer RCUS of Minneapolis, MN, be set at \$12,225.00.
 - C. That support for Covenant RCUS of Watertown, SD, be set at \$10,635.00.
 - D. That support for Grace Reformed Chapel, San Ramon, CA, be set at \$22,200.00.
 - E. That support for Covenant Reformed Chapel, Chico, CA, be set at \$11,386.00.
 - F. That support for Providence Reformed Chapel, Vermillion, SD, be set at \$14,460.00.
 - G. That support for Rehoboth Chapel, LA Basin, be set at \$11,360.00.
 - H. That support for First RCUS, Yuba City, CA, be set at \$13,160.00.
 - I. That support for High Plains Reformed Chapel, Calhan, CO, be set at \$18,000.00.
 - J. That \$18,000.00 be budgeted for new works.
 - K. That \$3,500.00 be budgeted for committee expenses.

12. [Take note] That the Home Missions Budget be set at \$153,506.00 (including \$7,000.00 for Deaf Reformed Ministries).

13. That the annual Home Missions Debt Reduction Offering on the Day of Prayer in 2002 be designated for First Reformed Church, Yuba City, CA.

14. That Synod approve the Foreign Ministries budget as follows:

Congo Work:	
Elder/pastor support	\$7,000.00
Kinshasa Aid	7,000.00

Publishing	1,000.00
Building and diaconal aid	2,000.00
Kenya Work:	
Church Support	9,000.00
Publishing	2,000.00
International Radio	14,000.00
Committee expenses:	
Travel to Kenya	4,000.00
Travel to Europe (Holland/Germany)	1,000.00
Committee Expense in U.S.	1,200.00
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$48,200.00

15. That the FMC be instructed to meet by November 1, 2002, for the purpose of organizing itself better.

16. That the FMC be directed to form a subcommittee to investigate the advisability of sending a full-time missionary to Kenya for the training of ministers and elders in the FRCK and report with recommendations to the 257th Synod.

17. That the subcommittee of the FMC assess the suitability of Mr. Kurt Schimke for a call to the Kenya work and that the Lodi and Blue Cliff communications be referred to this committee.

18. That Rev. Paul Treick's report on the "Reformed Faith and Life — French" ministry be printed in the *Reformed Herald*, and that the congregations be exhorted to keep the safety of Rev. Eric Kayayan and his family in prayer.

19. That the Permanent FMC be instructed to seek volunteers to establish a cultural/economic development organization for work in certain areas of the Congo.

20. [Take note] Concerning the FMC Special Report "Analysis of RCUS Mission Work in Kenya," take note.

M. Koerner, R. Morris, J. Blair, R. Grossmann, G. Williams

J. Nominations

Recommendations (Underlining indicates convener. Asterisks denote deacons):

Permanent Committees

Archives	<u>J. Fluck</u> , J. Stuebbe, R. Wegis
Board of Trustees	<u>C. Loucks</u> , J. Stuebbe, J. West, A. Dockter, L. Griess, R. Dockter
Christian Education	H. Bowen, G. Stewart (3 years) D. Kingswood, J. Liesveld (2 years) <u>G. Horner</u> , D. Dawn, D. Kauk, H. DeGroot (1 year)

Diaconal Ministries T. Gruggett, R. DeLong (3 years)
C. Beilby, J. Bender (2 years)
D. Clark, C. Mehlhaff, J. Van Tol* (1 year)

Editorial Advice C.W. Powell (3 years)
S. Richert, L. Kauk (2 years)
L. Gross (1 year)

Executive V. Pollema, P. Treick, F. Walker, E. Merz, R. Fay

Foreign Ministries M. Voytek, D. Schlegel, K. Hamilton (3 years)
D. Schnabel, J. Blair (2 years)
R. Grossmann, H. Yoder, H. Kalkman (1 year)
Diaconal liaisons: T. Gruggett, J. Bender
Radio representatives: P. Treick, N. Riffert

Home Missions R. Morris, J. DeBoer, W. Lingenfelter (3 years)
T. Ochsner, B. Richards, D. Roe (2 years)
S. Richert, B. Borgwardt (1 year)

Interchurch Relations R. Potter, T. Mayville (3 years)
G. Syms, J. Kroese (2 years)
J. Sawtelle, R. Spitzer, Rev. M. Koerner (1 year)

Ministerial Relief H. Opp, S. Moore*, J. Saavalainen (3 years)
W. Haddock, D. McPherson, F. Krivohlavek (2 years)
L. Goehring, G. Williams (1 year)

Publications W. Brice, H. Hart, J. Johnson, C. Henson (3 years)
G. Mancilas, G. Mall, D. Fagrey (2 years)
P. Henderson, H. Kalkman, D. McPherson (1 year)

Web Site D. Roe, F. Walker, T. Wilcox, D. Speranza

Special Committees

2002 Family Convention S. Powell, H. Van Stedum, H. Yoder, J. McClay, D. Dawn, R. Morris

2005 Family Convention M. Koerner, H. Yoder, J. McClay, D. Dawn, S. Powell, C. Pennington

Confer with Dordt College R. Grossmann, J. DeBoer, G. Syms, C. Greiman, C. DeBoer

Covenant Education C.W. Powell, H. Opp, G. Horner, D. Kauk

Research eBooks G. Mancilas, D. Roe, J. Fluck, J. Jones, C. Esparza

Research Hymnals D. Clark, W. Brice, C.W. Powell, S. Powell, D. Mettler

Study Nomination of Officers W. Embree, G. Williams, J. Sawtelle, T. Gruggett, R. DeJong

Study RCUS Seminary J. Merica, M. Koerner, M. Newman, R. Potter, R. Spitzer, J. DeBoer

G. Sawtelle, H. Opp, T. Gruggett, J. McClay, L. Griess, R. Dockter

K. Overtures

Referrals:

Excuses from delegates were referred to Standing Excuses. Requests for student aid were referred to Standing Education and Student Aid. Requests for ministerial aid were referred to Standing Ministerial Aid. Financial matters were referred to Standing Finances. Requests for benevolent aid were referred to Standing Benevolence. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or Standing Rules and requests for interpretation or clarification of its articles were referred to Judicial. Requests for publications were referred to Publications. Matters relative to Synod's relationship with other Reformed churches and organizations were referred to Ecumenical.

Recommendations:

1. [Take note] Concerning the letter from the IPCM, take note.
2. That Overture 21 [request for a loan for \$20,000.00 for Blue Cliff Community Church] be forwarded to Standing Missions.
3. That Overtures 23 and 24 (correspondence from Blue Cliff Community Church, Karval, CO, and Providence Reformed Church, Lodi, CA) be referred to Standing Missions.
4. [Take note] Concerning the Report of the Board of Trustees of the Synod, take note.
5. That congregations who have written particular congregational histories be urged to forward these to the chairman of the Archives Committee.
6. That Synod form a special committee, which shall report to the 257th Synod, to examine the feasibility, procedures, and criteria necessary to the establishment of an RCUS seminary, giving particular attention to the petition of Heidelberg Theological Seminary to serve as the denomination's seminary.

P. Treick, L. Gross, J. Saavalainen, J. DeBoer, S. Henry, F. Krivohlavek

Further action of Synod:

[Defeated] That the Synod provisionally list Heidelberg Theological Seminary and City Seminary of Sacramento as institutions worthy of receiving benevolent monies from the RCUS and that such listing be granted until otherwise withdrawn.

L. Publications

Recommendations:

1. That a special order be set for Wednesday so that the first order of business following the noon meal would be a presentation by the Christian Education Committee on the publication of the Sunday school curriculum, and that this presentation be limited to thirty minutes.
2. That the *Reformed Herald* subscription cost be set at \$10.00 per year per family.
3. That the editor of the *Reformed Herald* be given an expense account of \$1,500.00 to include equipment upgrade expense.
4. That the Rev. Paul Treick be nominated to serve as editor of the *Reformed Herald*.
5. That Synod create a Special Hymnal Committee to research the publication or availability of a new hymn book that incorporates both singability and theological and confessional accuracy, and that the committee solicit recommended Psalm and hymn selections from congregations.
6. [Take note] That this project [acquiring samples of certificates] be continued.
7. That the following book titles in the RCUS Book Depository inventory include a one-paragraph synopsis providing the size, binding, number of pages, contents, audience and application to be composed by the author or an appointed reviewer:
 - Heidelberg Catechism (appointed reviewer);
 - Three Forms of Unity (appointed reviewer);
 - RCUS Government Documents (appointed reviewer);
 - Directory of Worship (appointed reviewer);
 - History of the Eureka Classis, 1910–1985* (appointed reviewer);
 - You Shall Be My People* (R. Grossmann);
 - The Reformed Church in the United States* (appointed reviewer);
 - Study Helps on the Heidelberg Catechism* (N. Jones);
 - Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still* (P. Treick);
 - Our God and His People in the Old Testament* (P. Treick);
 - Confirmation Handbook (appointed reviewer);
 - Christian Living in the Home Workbook* (P. Treick);
 - How to Handle Trouble* (P. Treick);
 - Creation Pamphlet (appointed reviewer);
 - Reformed Church Government* CD (F. Walker);and that Synod appoint the author or reviewer to provide a summary of each book title listed above.
8. That each summary be presented to the RCUS Web Site Committee for posting to the RCUS web site.
9. [Defeated] That Synod approve a \$150.00 honorarium for the proofing of the *Three Forms of Unity* in audio format.
10. [Defeated] That Synod approve the production of 200 cassette albums of the *Three Forms*

of Unity.

11. [Defeated] That Synod approve the production of 200 CD jewel case sets of the *Three Forms of Unity*.
 12. [Ruled out of order] That Synod approve \$4,000.00 for the initial production, design inserts, packaging, and shipping of the *Three Forms of Unity* in audio format.
 13. That the editor of the *Reformed Herald* be allowed to accept advertisements based upon guidelines to be established by the Permanent Publications Committee.
 14. That a budget of \$1,800.00 to maintain the denomination's web site be approved for the next synodical year. This budget consists of \$1,200.00 for our web engineer, \$360.00 for web hosting and \$240.00 for software maintenance (if needed).
 15. [Take note] That Synod implement the following:
 - A. That the stated clerk of each classis provide to the Web Site chairman, in electronic form, an updated roll of ministers, elders, and churches following its spring meeting.
 - B. That the clerk of each consistory notify the Web Site chairman of any changes in the information listed on the web site for their particular charge.
 - C. That Synod encourage ministers to submit audio tapes of their sermons and articles in electronic form for the web site.
 - D. That Synod encourage the members of the RCUS to submit to the Web Site chairman "position papers" or other important historical documents they may have in electronic form and not yet published on the web site.
 - E. That the members of the RCUS be encouraged to use and promote the RCUS email discussion group.
 16. That the Permanent Publications Committee research the layout, graphic design and printing costs for the Sunday school curriculum and report to the 257th Synod with a recommendation and timetable for publication.
 17. That \$5.00 be included in the Publications Guideline in anticipation of printing the Sunday school curriculum next year.
 18. That the Permanent Publications Committee recommend enhancements to our ability to sell our materials out of the bookstore.
 - 19A. That the Permanent Publications Committee print 500 modern version hardback catechisms (\$3,517.00).
 - 19B. [Defeated] That the Permanent Publications Committee print 500 modern version paperback catechisms (\$1,072.00).
- H. Bowen, D. Roe, G. Mancilas, J. Johnson, C. Henson, B. Borgwardt

M. Special Judicial

Statement of the main issue: Mr. John Arendt, an elder in the Carbondale charge, requested a two-year sabbatical from his service on the Spiritual Council in January 2000. During this two-year period, allegations of sin and criminal conduct arose against him. These matters were never prosecuted in the civil courts or in the courts of the church, and to this day remain only allegations. When Mr. Arendt requested to resume his work on the Spiritual Council in January 2002, he was informed by the Spiritual Council that he was disqualified from service. Mr. Arendt complained to the Spiritual Council that this determination had been reached without giving him due process or the right to defend himself in trial. The Spiritual Council maintained its position, and Mr. Arendt brought the matter before the Covenant East Classis as a complaint against the Spiritual Council. The Classis' Judicial Committee ruled that the complaint was "regular" but not "ready for hearing." Instead, it proposed to the Classis that a special investigative committee be erected to look into various allegations involved therein. The Classis approved this recommendation. Mr. Arendt's complaint is that the Classis has refused to abide by the Constitution by not hearing his complaint at its first meeting after his complaint was filed, and has thereby shown disregard for his name, reputation and office in the church. He asks that Synod declare that the Covenant East Classis acted unconstitutionally and that his status as an active elder be recognized by the Spiritual Council of Covenant Reformed Church, Carbondale, Pennsylvania.

The Special Committee of Synod finds the following:

1. The complaint of Mr. John Arendt against the Covenant East Classis is regular and in order.
2. The committee heard both parties via Mr. Arendt's written complaint and the written report of the committee to defend the Covenant East Classis. Articles 168 and 169 specify that complaints shall be heard and that a predetermined amount of time will be given to the complainant and the defendant, with the complainant opening and closing. This could not be done in person because of Mr. Arendt's unavoidable absence. Although the Constitution requires appellants to be present for the adjudication of their cause (Art. 164), it does not require complainants to be present. However, the committee did meet briefly with the Committee to Defend the Covenant East Classis.
3. That the Covenant East Classis did err in ruling the complaint of Mr. Arendt not "ready for hearing." The regularity of a complaint has to do with the Constitutional requirements having been met (Art. 151). "Ready for hearing" means that all the documents and witnesses are at hand to be heard. The Classis, however, determined that the complaint was not ready for hearing because it believed it necessary to conduct its own investigation into matters raised in the complaint. The Constitution does not give a higher judicatory the option of conducting an investigation in order to make the complaint ready for hearing.
4. That the Covenant East Classis did err in not hearing the complaint of Mr. Arendt. Article 153 requires that a complaint be "heard" by the higher judicatory "at its next session." Article 169 (per Art. 157) specifies the particulars involved in the hearing of a case, viz., the reading of relevant papers before the higher judicatory, the hearing of the parties themselves, opportunity for the delegates of the higher judicatory to discuss the matter, and a vote on each specification. The records of the Covenant East Classis do not show that the complaint was heard as defined by the Constitution.
5. Your committee took a roll call vote on each specification listed in the complaint. The

committee voted to sustain seven of the nine specifications in the complaint. The detailed results of the voting are part of the committee's report.

6. Regarding Mr. Arendt's request for the Spiritual Council of the Carbondale church to recognize his active status, the committee makes no determination. This is the matter that was to be decided by Mr. Arendt's original complaint to the Covenant East Classis. It should be determined by the Classis.

7. Your committee determined that the Covenant East Classis is constitutionally required to hear Mr. Arendt's complaint. The case is, therefore, remanded to the Covenant East Classis for a hearing at its next session, but no later than November 15, 2002.

Recommendation: That the report of the Special Judicial Committee be adopted.

F. Walker, N. Riffert, H. Hart, R. Fay, D. Mettler

XVI. Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

On motion it was determined that "The 256th Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States express its hearty gratitude to God for Emmanuel Reformed Church for its 'work of faith,' 'patience of hope,' and, especially its 'labor of love' in hosting this year's Synod. We thank you for your delicious cuisine and opening your homes to all the delegates. We are thankful also for your willingness to do this cheerfully and without grudging. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless your homes, your church and your community to the glory of God," and that this expression of appreciation be printed in the bulletin of Emmanuel Reformed Church the Sunday following Synod.

On motion it was determined that a committee of four, composed of Messrs. Riffert, Treick, Fluck and the elder from Modesto, visit Westminster Theological Seminary in California as per its request.

On motion it was determined that the Abstract of the 256th Synod be dedicated to the memory of Rev. Donald Vance.

XVII. Adjournment

The final roll call showed 42 ministers and 33 elders present, a quorum.

On motion it was determined that the 256th Synod of the RCUS adjourn to the 257th Synod of the RCUS to begin May 19, 2003, at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee of Synod and circularized to the members.

The Clerk read the minutes. The President declared the minutes approved as corrected. Elder Larry Griess led closing devotions.

The assembly confessed its faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed and prayed the Lord's Prayer. The President pronounced the benediction, and the body joined together in singing the doxology.

The business of the 256th Synod concluded at 10:45 PM on Thursday, May 23, 2002.

APPENDIX

Standing Rules

Note: The Standing Rules of Synod were adopted in 1986 and amended in the bracketed years.

1. The fiscal year of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from February 1st to January 31st of the following year. The synodical dues shall be due on the first of January and are to be paid not later than the thirty-first of January of the current fiscal year. [1991]

2. The statistics of the Classes shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod two weeks before the session of Synod.

3. The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the session of Synod.

4. The Standing Rules shall be read during the second session of the annual Synod meeting. This rule may be suspended by a two-thirds' vote of Synod.

5. A pastor and his elder delegate to Synod shall be paid twenty-two cents (\$.22) per running mile; when there is but one elder delegate, if he drives his own car, he shall be paid twenty cents (\$.20), and if he rides with another person he shall be paid two cents (\$.02) per mile. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Synod they shall be granted full fare. [1996]

6. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Synod at twenty cents (\$.20) per running mile, also if several ride together in one car, or if by public transportation, the actual fare. [1996]

7. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Synod whose congregations have paid the synodical dues in full to the Synod Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Synod or have been properly excused by Synod.

8. The President of Synod shall receive four hundred fifty dollars (\$450), the Stated Clerk shall receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and the Treasurer one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the synodical year. An amount equal to 10 percent of the Stated Clerk's honorarium will be available for the Stated Clerk to use for secretarial help. The Editor of the *Reformed Herald* shall receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000), the Book Depository Manager shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300), and the Subscription Manager shall receive five hundred dollars (\$500) for the synodical year. [1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998]

9. The monies sent to the Synod Treasurer shall be made out in check form to the REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.

10. The Stated Clerk of Synod shall prepare an abstract of the synodical minutes, including a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Synod, and shall publish the same. Each Stated Clerk of Classis shall prepare an abstract of classical minutes and shall send one copy to each minister, elder delegate and congregation of Synod. [1987, 1989, 1990]

11. The Synod shall have Permanent Committees as follows:

A. Archives

B. Board of Trustees

C. Christian Education

D. Diaconal Ministries

E. Editorial Advice

F. Executive

G. Foreign Ministries

H. Home Missions

I. Interchurch Relations

J. Ministerial Relief

K. Publications

L. Web Site

and the Standing Committee of Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees. [1989, 1992, 1996, 1999]

12. The complete Synod statistics shall be duplicated by the Stated Clerk each year at the Synod's expense.

13. Nominations for all officers of Synod and the editor of the *Reformed Herald* 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. [1997]

14. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Synod shall be completed and mailed to the Consistories of all the churches and the Treasurer of Synod at least three weeks before the meeting in which these recommendations are to be presented to Synod session. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Synod by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Synod. All reports, overtures and correspondence must be submitted on 8½" x 11" white paper, and all reports must be signed by a majority of the committee members. [1992, 2000]

15. The services of Synod shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circularized before Synod.

16. Students for the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States shall be urged by Synod to attend only such seminaries which are listed as institutions worthy of receiving benevolent monies from the Reformed Church in the United States. Only students who attend institutions so listed shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian ministry. Each student receiving student aid must affirm his commitment to pursuing ordination in the RCUS each year before receiving student aid. His affirmation must be signed, dated, witnessed and sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod, who will forward a copy of the same to the chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee of the student's Classis. [2001]

17. It shall be the practice of the Reformed Church in the United States to require each candidate for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. This internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least five years in the Reformed Church in the United States. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidate and Credentials Committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the Reformed Church in the United States. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed. [1995]

18. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod four weeks in advance of Synod shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Synod at any time. The members of the Overtures Committee of Synod shall meet during a recess on Tuesday morning immediately

after "X. Membership and Financial Statistics" until the call of the chair, and shall make the initial distribution of papers upon the resumption of business. [1998]

19. The spring meeting of the Classes shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod. [1987]

20. The annual session of Synod shall begin each year on the evening of the third Monday of May unless Ascension Day occurs in that week, in which case it shall begin on the evening of the second Monday in May, and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. The Order of the Day of Synod shall provide for a service of worship on Monday evening and for committee work on Tuesday evening. [1992, 1998]

21. The Executive Committee of Synod is charged with overseeing contact with groups expressing interest in the RCUS, and with developing materials that will facilitate uniform presentations to such groups. [1997, 2000]

22. Each year the Synod of the RCUS will pay for the services of at least two American Sign Language interpreters to interpret the proceedings of Synod. The interpreters are to be chosen by the consistories of the deaf churches of the RCUS. [2002]

Necrologies

Gibbons, Ernest Woodrow (1912–2001) was born May 27, 1912, in Springfield, MO. He married Eunice, his wife of sixty-seven years, in Claude, TX, on March 1, 1934, and to this union were born one son and three daughters. Ernest came to the faith as an adult and it was his great joy to see his children and his children's children following in the faith and serving the Lord in his church. His son, two sons-in-law, two grandsons and the husband of a granddaughter all serve as ministers of the gospel. Three grandsons also serve the Lord as elders and another two grandsons serve as deacons. Ernest spent his early years as a trucker, primarily hauling logs in the western states of Arizona and California. In his later years he owned and operated used car businesses in northern California and Oklahoma City, OK. Ernest served the Lord as an elder in Faith Reformed Church, RCUS, in Anderson, CA, from 1968 until 1975, and in Knox Presbyterian Church, OPC, in Oklahoma City, OK, for more than twenty years. The Lord called his servant home on December 24, 2001, at the age of eighty-nine years, seven months and twenty-seven days.

Heinbigner, Walter Leroy (1932–2002) was born November 9, 1932, in Bayard, NE, to Herbert and Pauline (nee Scheidt). Walter was baptized December 14, 1932, at the Peace Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, Minatare, NE, and was confirmed March 30, 1947, at St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE. He married Eleanor Bauer on June 5, 1955, at Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE, joining the church that year. The Lord blessed this union with three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Walter was a charter member of St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, NE, where he also served as an elder. Walter was a Korean War veteran, and eventually retired as a truck driver with Fleming Foods after thirty-seven years of service. Walter went to be with the Lord on April 10, 2002, at the age of sixty-nine years, five months and one day.

Koppenhofer, Eldon A. (1919–2001) was born June 18, 1919, in Henry County, Ohio. On November 21, 1945, he married Amelia Busch, who died in 1974. He married Eleonora Miller Hoops on December 11, 1976. Eldon had one daughter by his first marriage, and he was loved as a father by the children of his second wife. Eldon worked as a farmer, a rural mail carrier, and an employee of the Filling Memorial Home of Mercy in Napoleon. He was a World War II Army veteran, and a member of a local school board. Eldon was a charter member of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, serving often as an elder. He retired from the consistory only when his voice became impaired. As a result of complications from surgery, Eldon went to be with the Lord on December 21, 2001, at the age of eighty-two years, six months, and three days.

Ochsner, Eugene (1912–2001) was born September 20, 1912, in Anajew, Ukraine, Russia, to Jakob and Clara (Irmshler) Ochsner. Eugene's family escaped the Russian revolution in 1920 by moving to Switzerland. It was there that he received his formal education. In 1921 two of his brothers moved to the United States. The family followed in 1927 and took up farming, first in Quinn and later in Isabel, SD. On September 28, 1939, Eugene married Tillie Ackerman. God blessed this union with two daughters and three sons. A few years later the family moved to Sutton, NE, where they joined the Hope Reformed Church. Eugene worked as a farm employee for three years, then at the local elevator for two years, before becoming an inspector for the Naval Ammunition Depot near Clay Center, NE. He later transferred to the Grand Island Ordnance plant. After his retirement in 1972, he kept active with small carpentry jobs and woodworking. He was a true blessing to this congregation for not only his leadership

as an elder, but also for his warm smile, cheerful outlook on life, and his love for the Lord. Eugene was called home by his Lord on June 14, 2001, at the age of eighty-eight years, eight months and twenty-four days.

Ochsner, Milton (1926–2001) was born January 23, 1926, to Calvin and Rosina (Hoerth) Ochsner of rural Artas, SD. On August 25, 1946, he married Ruby Huber West of Zeeland, ND. The Lord blessed this union with one son and one daughter. Following their marriage, Milton continued farming northwest of Artas until his retirement in 2000. He was a member of the Artas Reformed Church and later the First Reformed Church in Herreid. Milton faithfully served the Artas Church as a deacon and choir member. In 1997 Milton became an elder of the Artas Reformed Church, serving faithfully for its final year. Milton was also a member of the Farm School Board, Zeeland Elevator Board, Herreid School Board, Campbell County Commissioner, Campbell County Clinic Board and Selective Service Board. The Lord called Milton to his eternal rest on August 15, 2001, at the age of seventy-five years, six months and twenty-three days.

Olivier, Marvin L. (1930–2001) was born March 1, 1930, near Stickney, SD, to Paul and Ida (Star) Olivier. After attending local schools, 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 policeman in Berlin, Germany, with an honorable discharge in September 1953. He then took a position with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Western Area Power Administration), where he worked as a groundman, truck driver, lineman, and eventually a foreman, for forty-two years until his retirement in 1992. Marvin was united in marriage to Irene Dykstra on June 4, 1954, at Corsica, SD. Marvin and Irene raised their four children in the Corsica and Armour, SD, area before moving to Pierre in 1960. Marvin was a member of the Hope Reformed Church of Pierre, SD, where he served as an elder for many years. After a long struggle with cancer, Marvin went to be with the Lord on April 25, 2001, at the age of seventy-one years, one month and twenty-four days. He died professing his trust in the only comfort in life and in death, to belong to the faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Opp, Rudolph (1916–2001) was born March 20, 1916, to John and Elizabeth (Neuharth) Opp at Eureka, SD. Rudy was a lifelong member of the Reformed Church. He was baptized on May 28, 1916, at the Glueckstal Reformed Church. On June 29, 1930, he professed his faith through confirmation. As an adult, he served as treasurer, deacon and elder of the Oranien Reformed Church of Leola for forty-eight years. He will always be remembered for his great love for the youth. On April 24, 1939, Rudy was united to Thelma Freeman in holy marriage. The Lord blessed their marriage with five children, nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one step grandchild, and one step great-grandchild. Together Rudy and Thelma farmed in the Eureka area until they moved to Leola in 1943. In 1995, they moved to Aberdeen. In addition to his church and family responsibilities, Rudy also served with the Kenwood Manor, the Leola Hospital Board, the Spring Township School Board, the Better Leola Club, the Leola Country Club and as caretaker and treasurer for the Green Mound Cemetery. The Lord called him to his home in heaven on June 14, 2001, at the age of eighty-five years, two months and twenty-five days.

Schroeder, Harold A. (1933–2001) was born on December 23, 1933, in Henry County, OH. On November 15, 1958, he married Joann K. Rettig. The Lord blessed this union with two sons. Harold was a Korean War veteran, serving in the U.S. Army as a corporal. After his discharge, he worked as a carpenter for thirty-five years before taking a position in the maintenance department in the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Archbold, OH. Harold was

a charter member of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, serving at various times as deacon, elder, and president of the congregation. He was an advisory member on the Building Committee when the church was built. He was often a delegate to Classis and Synod. Service in Christ's Church was at the center of Harold's life. Harold had been fighting leukemia for five months when he was killed in a tragic automobile accident with a semi-trailer. Harold is dearly missed by his family and the congregation. The Lord called His servant home on December 14, 2001, at the age of sixty-seven years, eleven months, and twenty-one days.

Vance, Rev. Donald R. (1947–2001) was born on April 8, 1947, in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, son of James E. and the late Gladys Marie Chambers Vance. He graduated from Huron Park High School, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada. He married Joan M. Gustafson on June 8, 1974, in Willmar, MN, and was blessed with one daughter.

After working various jobs, the Lord called Donald into the gospel ministry. For his training, he attended the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. Later, he studied at the University of Toronto and then at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, where he received his B.A. degree. He was then awarded a Master of Divinity degree from the Reformed Episcopal Seminary.

Don began his ministry in 1980 by working as a representative for the World Home Bible League out of their Toronto, Canada, office. In 1986, he was called by the Odessa Charge of the Reformed Church in the United States to serve as its pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry there on May 17, 1987. In 1990 he accepted a call to serve the Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD. After eight years of service, he accepted the call to serve the Salem-Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI, in 1998. At the time of his death, he was serving as the Stated Clerk for the Covenant East Classis in addition to his pastoral labors. He had a love for singing and was active in the church choir. He had served as the camp director for the Covenant East youth camp for three years.

Don died unexpectedly of a heart attack on September 24, 2001, at the age of fifty-four years, six months and sixteen days. A note in the funeral bulletin read, "Don loved the Lord and God's people from the very depth of his soul. He was not only a pastor, but also a friend to anyone who knew him. His family and friends will dearly miss him. We rejoice that Don is now present with his Lord and King."

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