

2005
Abstract of the Minutes

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS
The Reformed Church in the United States

Spring Meeting
March 15-16, 2005
Grace Reformed Church
Rapid City, SD

Special Meeting
September 27, 2004
Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD

DIRECTORY	4-10
Officers of Classis (4)	
Permanent Committees (4)	
Classical Guidelines (4)	
Directory of Ministers (5-6)	
Directory of Elders (6-8)	
Students Under Care (8)	
Directory of Churches (9-10)	
SERVICES	11
ORGANIZATION	11
RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND NEW CHURCHES	11
STANDING COMMITTEES	12
PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS	12-25
Executive Committee (12-18)	
Missions (19-20)	
Publications (20)	
Christian Education (20)	
Interchurch Relations (21)	
Candidates and Credentials (22-23)	
REPORTS OF OFFICERS	24-28
President's Report on the State of the Church (24-25)	
Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes (25-26)	
Executive Committee's Report on its Minutes (26)	
Executive Committee of Synod's Report (26)	
Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Opinion (27-28)	
PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS	29
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS	29
MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS	29
Appendix (41-42)	
REPORT FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES	30
ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES AND VISITORS FROM OTHER CHURCHES	30

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS	30-36
Heidelberg Youth Camp (30-32)	
Reformed Resource Center (33-36)	
Investigate Membership of Ministers (36)	
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS	37-40
Education and Student Aid (37)	
Benevolence (37)	
Examination and Licensure (37)	
Judicial (37-38)	
Ministerial Aid (38)	
Missions (38)	
Nominations (39)	
Publications (39)	
Services (39)	
Minutes of Synod (39)	
Finances (39-40)	
Overtures (40)	
ADJOURNMENT	40
APPENDICES	41-42
Membership and Financial Statistics (41-42)	
Necrology of Ruben Bertsch (43)	
Standing Rules of South Central Classis (44-46)	
Index of Resolutions and Positions (47-49)	
SPECIAL CLASSIS MEETING MINUTES	50-52

2005 DIRECTORY

OFFICERS OF CLASSIS

PRESIDENT	The Reverend Mr. Ron Morris
VICE-PRESIDENT	The Reverend Mr. Maynard Koerner
STATED CLERK	The Reverend Mr. David Fagrey
TREASURER	Elder Spencer Gross 723 E. 2 nd Ave. Mitchell, SD 57301

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(Underlined indicates chairman)

Missions	<u>R. Morris</u> , D. Rogers, M. Burbback, G. Maassen.
Publications	<u>D. Kingswood</u> , H. Hart, L. Ochsner, S. Powell.
Christian Education	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , J. Blair, L. Streyle.
Interchurch Relations	<u>W. Embree</u> , G. Sawtelle, R. Stetler, S. Powell.
Candidates & Credentials	<u>M. Koerner</u> , H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, D. McPherson, S. Gross.
Executive Committee	<u>R. Morris</u> , S. Gross, D. Fagrey
Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>R. Gallimore</u> , J. Blair, M. Powell.
Reformed Resource Center	Administrator - H. Hart. Curator: Greg Van Holland.

2005 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING**

Budget	Guideline	Per Communicant (1060)
Reserve Fund	\$1,060.00	1.00
Classical Dues	\$7,000.00	6.60
Reformed Resource Center	\$2,800.00	2.64
Greeley Home Missions	\$16,650.00	15.71
Vermillion Home Missions	\$10,800.00	10.20
Calhan Home Missions	\$18,000.00	16.98
Blue Cliff	\$6,000.00	5.66
Limon	\$6,000.00	5.66

Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 8,480.00	8.00
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Total	\$76,790.00	72.45

** These guidelines were approved through executive circular volume 20, Number 1, after Classis adjourned.

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DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

COLORADO

CALHAN, CO 81007 (719) 347-2881
High Plains Reformed Church
657 7th St. (mail: 555 Boulder St., Calhan Co. 80808)
Worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday school at 9:00 a.m.
Stated supply: Elder Sam Powell (wife, Susan)

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80918 www.trinityrcus.com 719) 590-1477
Trinity Covenant RCUS
We meet at 2511 N. Logan Ave at Grace PCA (mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr.)
Worship: 11:30AM. Sun school: 1:00PM. Wed. Bible: 7:00PM at 6050 Del Paz Dr.
Pastor: C.W. "Bud" Powell, Jr. (wife, Penny)

GREELEY, CO 80631 www.greeleyrcus.org 970) 336-9927
Grace RCUS, 1501 10th Ave
Worship 11AM, Sunday school 10AM
Pastor: Gene Sawtelle (wife, Sharon)

KARVAL, CO 81063 (719) 775-8842
Blue Cliff Community RCUS
Blue Cliff Community Building (mail: 2600 State Road 71, Ordway, CO 81063)
Worship: 12:15PM; Sunday School 11:00AM
Pastor: Matthew Powell (wife, Andrea).

LIMON, CO 80828 (719) 775-8842
Providence Reformed Chapel

725 Michigan Ave. (mail: P.O. Box 848)
Worship: 9:00AM; Sunday School: 10:30AM
Stated supply: Rev. Matthew Powell

NEBRASKA

LINCOLN, NE 68521 (402) 477-7289

St. John's RCUS, 1101 South 26th St.
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM.
Pastor: Maynard Koerner (wife, Marcia)
Web-site: www.stjohnrcus.inetnebr.com

SUTTON, NE 68979 (402) 773-4218

Emmanuel RCUS, 110 South Way Ave (mail: PO Box 362)
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: Dan Rogers (wife, Kelani).

SUTTON, NE 68979 (402) 773-4330

Hope RCUS, 311 E. Hickory (mail: PO Box 372)
Worship: 10:30AM; Sunday School 9:15AM; Family Bible Study 6:30PM (2nd & 4th Sun.)
Pastor: Darrell Kingswood (wife, Lori)

SOUTH DAKOTA

MENNO, SD 57045 (605) 387-2816

Zion RCUS, 220 South Pine
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: Hans Kalkman (wife, Gerda)

MITCHELL, SD 57301 www.gracereformed.com (605) 996-7439

Grace RCUS, 1021 South Davison (mail: PO Box 252)
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor: Ron Morris (wife, Sherrie)
Web-site:

RAPID CITY, SD 57701 www.gracercus.org (605) 399-1711

Grace RCUS, 5626 North Haines Ave (2 miles north of I-90 on Haines)
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:15 AM; Sunday Night 6:00 PM
Pastor: David Fagrey (wife, Bonnie)

SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106 www.trinityrcus.org (605) 339-3887

Trinity RCUS, 7301 S. Louise Ave (mail: 3309 E. 31st St)
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM, Bible Study 6:00 PM
Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

Web-site

VERMILLION, SD 57069

(605) 624-4337

Providence RCUS, 830 E. Madison

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM, Wed. Bible: 7:30 PM

Pastor: Robert Grossmann (wife, Polly)

WYOMING

ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901

(307) 362-5107

Providence RCUS, 9th and Pearl (mail: 1007 Ninth St.)

Worship: 10AM, Sunday School 11:30AM

Pastor: Jon Blair (wife, Wendy)

SERVICES

- The body met for worship on Tuesday March 15, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. with the Reverend Mr. Dan Rogers conducting and the Reverend Mr. Jon Blair preaching from Galatians 5:16-18 with a sermon entitled "Walk in the Spirit."
- At 9:45 a.m., Wednesday March 16, 2004 the Reverend C.W. Powell gave a devotion from John 14:1-9.
- Closing devotions on March 16, 2004 were led by Dave McPherson.
- Each session of Classis was opened and closed with prayer, including thanksgiving for our meals, and each meal was followed with an expression of appreciation to those who prepared and served the meals.
- The body concluded the session by confessing the Apostles' Creed in unison, praying the Lord's Prayer in unison, the President pronouncing the apostolic benediction, and all singing the doxology.

ORGANIZATION

The President of Classis, the Reverend Mr. Ron Morris, called the body to order March 15th, 2005, at 8:30 p.m. The sessions were well attended by all delegates, the opening roll call showing 13 Ministers and 12 Elders present and the closing roll call showing 13 Ministers and 12 Elders.

Elders Melvin Burbach and Jim Rydell were appointed tellers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President	The Reverend Mr. Ron Morris
Vice-President	The Reverend Mr. Maynard Koerner
Stated Clerk	The Reverend Mr. David Fagrey
Treasurer	Elder Mr. Spencer Gross

The President appointed the Reverend Matthew Powell to be the Reformed Herald reporter.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA, SERVICES AND ORDER OF THE DAY

The Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day were adopted by the Classis

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

New Ministers: Matthew Powell and Dan Rogers

New Churches: High Plains RCUS, Calhan, CO

STANDING COMMITTEES

The President appointed the following Standing Committees (the chairman's name is underlined):

Benevolence	<u>D. Rogers</u> , R. Honaker
Education and Student Aid	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , D. McPherson.
Examination and Licensure	<u>M. Koerner</u> , H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, S. Gross, D. McPherson.
Finances	<u>M. Powell</u> , S. Gross.
Ministerial Aid	<u>D. Kingswood</u> , E. Ochsner.
Missions	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , R. Stetler.
Overtures	<u>J. Blair</u> , J. Rydell.
Publications	<u>G. Sawtelle</u> , D. Ribbens.
Services	<u>H. Hart</u> , Myron Koerner.
Judicial	<u>W. Embree</u> , S. Powell.
Nominations	<u>Van Stedum</u> , G. Maassen.
Minutes of Synod	<u>R. Morris</u> , M. Burbach.

Presentation and referral of overtures, reports and communications

All pertinent overtures and materials were given to the Overtures Committee for dispersal to the appropriate Standing Committees. The Permanent Committee reports were referred to the appropriate Standing Committees.

PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee's (*referred to Overtures*)

Executive Circulars Volume 19, Numbers 1-8

Number 1

June 3, 2004

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention.

The consistory of Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD is requesting benevolent aid for the Rev. Hans Kalkman. Rev. Kalkman is experiencing difficulty from the Immigration and Naturalization Service regarding his permit into this country from Canada. He has been informed by the INS that he must re-apply in person in Montreal and that this process could take anywhere from two to six months. Also, there will be filing fees as well as other legal fees. Rev. Kalkman has gotten a lawyer who will assist him in re-applying. The consistory at Menno met in a special session and voted unanimously to retain the services of Rev. Kalkman for up to six months, even if that means that he must be out of the country for that duration of time. They are also requesting the amount of \$2000 to help defray Rev. Kalkman's legal fees.

Recommendation : That Classis provide \$2000 of benevolent aid to Rev. Hans Kalkman.

Number 2

July 15, 2004

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There are four items that need your attention:

A. A Call to licentiate Dan Rogers.

The Executive Committee has received a call to licentiate Dan Rogers from Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE, and his acceptance of the call.

B. A Call to licentiate Matthew Powell.

The Executive Committee has a received a (still waiting for the hard copy) call to licentiate Matthew Powell from Blue Cliff Community Church, Karval, CO, and Providence Reformed Chapel, Limon, Co, as well as his acceptance of the call.

C. Special Classis Meeting

The President has called for a special Classis meeting to be held at Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, on Monday, September 27, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to administer ordination exams to Dan Rogers and Matthew Powell. More particulars will follow under a different circular.

D. The Incorporation of Calhan.

The Executive Committee has received the paper work for incorporation (see RCUS Constitution, article 9) from High Plains Reformed Church, Calhan, Co.

Recommendation #1: That the call and acceptance of Dan Rogers be declared in order, and be approved pending approval of his ordination exam.

Recommendation #2: That the call and acceptance of Matthew Powell be declared in order, and be approved pending approval of his ordination exam.

Recommendation #3: That the paper work for the incorporation of High Plains Reformed Church be declared in order and be approved.

Number 3

October 12, 2004

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention:

A. Ordination of Matthew Powell.

The Executive Committee received a request from the Consistory of Blue Cliff Community Church, Karval CO, that Matthew Powell be ordained and installed as their pastor on October 24, 2004 by a committee consisting of Rev. C.W. Powell and Rev. Gene Sawtelle.

Recommendation : That a committee consisting of the Reverend Messrs. C.W. Powell and Gene Sawtelle and the elders of Blue Cliff Community Church ordain and install Matthew Powell as pastor of Blue Cliff Community Church on October 24, 2004.

Number 4

November 18, 2004

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

The Executive Committee received the following from Rev. Robert Grossmann:

“Dear Brothers of the Executive Committee, I would like to tender my resignation from the Candidates and Credentials Committee of the South Central Classis. Since my son James is under the care of Classis as a student for the ministry, and will become a candidate for our ministry in the spring of 2006 if all goes according to schedule, it seems best that I not be on this Committee for the present time. I would respectfully recommend that Rev. Koerner would be a good replacement for me on this Committee. Sincerely yours in Christ, Rev. Robert Grossmann.”

Recommendation : That Classis appoint Maynard Koerner to replace Bob Grossmann as chairman of the Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Number 5

December 16, 2004

Esteemed Fathers and brothers,

Below is one item for your information: a report from the Candidates and Credentials Committee, which is self-explanatory.

CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

November 1, 2004

Your Committee met by telephone at 9:10 P.M. CST to administer an orthodoxy and intentions examination to Rev. Jim Connally, a minister of the CRCE who is attending Grace Reformed Church in Greeley, CO, and who wishes to transfer his ministerial credentials to the RCUS and find a place of service in our Denomination. Rev. Connally is 56 years old, is married with two grown children, and served a CRCE congregation in Greeley before it dissolved. He also operates a personally-owned business that sells commercial light fixtures and bulbs. His church membership and ministerial credentials are held by a CRCE in Madison, WI. The peculiar rules of the CRCE require that Mr. Connally's church membership cannot be transferred without losing his ministerial credentials, if those credentials are not transferred at the same time.

Rev. Connally came into the Reformed Faith in recent years after growing up a nominal Lutheran, and living for some time in an independent evangelical church. He joined with the CRCE in Greeley, and served as an elder, before being pressed into service as an assistant to the pastor. When the pastor left the congregation, Mr. Connally was appointed to serve as pastor of the congregation and then was ordained by the CRCE Synod at the congregation's request. Rev. Connally has had no formal preparation for the ministry, has studied neither of the original languages and is not well-read in Reformed theology or literature. He has studied R.J. Rushdooney's INSTITUTES OF BIBLICAL LAW.

During the examination, which consumed about one hour and twenty minutes, it became clear that Mr. Connally is a devoted Calvinist with healthy views on most subjects where he understands the issues involved. It also became apparent, however, that his knowledge of Reformed theology is neither broad nor deep, as was shown by the fact that many of the issues and nuances of Reformed theology were outside of his familiarity. This brother would agree with statements of our Creeds, but really is not equipped to teach and defend them well. One of the Elders on our Committee accurately remarked that Rev. Connally had a very good examination, for a ruling elder, but that it was not up to our standards for ministers. The unanimous decision of our Committee was to recommend that Rev. Connally be advised to undertake theological studies in a Seminary approved by the RCUS before he be examined for the ministry by our Classis (extent and duration of these studies would be worked out with the Candidates and Credentials Committee).

Since Mr. Connally was ordained in circumstances in which the normal Reformed/Presbyterian standards for ministers, and especially those which would be parallel to standards of the RCUS, were not applied, we recommend that his ordination not be received by the RCUS until such time as he would be better prepared to meet our standards. It seems that there are two courses of action open to Mr. Connally. He might continue his present membership in the CRCE, including his ministerial credentials, while he undertakes seminary studies, or he might request a transfer to the RCUS, leave his CRCE pastoral credentials behind, and then seek licensure and ordination in the RCUS after the seminary studies are completed. Lest someone claim that we would be re-ordaining a previously ordained man, Classis might take the position that since the first ordination was quite irregular, it was invalid from our perspective right from the start. While neither of these options is without its problems, and the Committee would be happy to receive other recommendations, we do believe that some provision must be made for this brother to be better prepared to serve as a minister in the RCUS, since he seems quite convinced that that is how he should serve the Lord.

Respectfully submitted, R. Grossmann, H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, D. McPherson,
S. Gross.

Number 6
January 13, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and brothers,

The Executive committee received a communication from the Candidates and Credentials Committee, recommending that Andrew McIntyre be added to the list of students under care for South Central Classis. The communication is as follows:

Executive Committee:

The Candidates and Credentials Committee of South Central Classis received a copy of the request from the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Church RCUS to take Mr. Andrew McIntyre under care of Classis as a student for the ministry. The committee has communicated with Mr. McIntyre as to his intentions. The committee finds the request to be in order. The committee will be advising Mr. McIntyre as to his progress towards taking a licensure exam.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee of South Central Classis therefore recommends that the name of Andrew McIntyre be added to the list of students under care for South Central Classis.

Respectfully submitted,

Maynard Koerner, Chairman, Herman Van Stedum, David Fagrey, Spencer Gross,
Dave McPherson

Recommendation : that the name Andrew McIntyre be added to the list of students under care for South Central Classis.

Number 7

January 20, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

A. My first item is for your information. Both Matthew Powell and Dan Rogers have been duly ordained and installed. Please note the following two reports:

Executive Committee,

Licentiate Dan Rogers was ordained and installed as pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church, RCUS, Sutton, Nebraska during a worship service for that purpose November 7, 2004, 6:00 p.m. The charge do the minister was given by the Reverend Mr. Darrell Kingswood, the charge to the congregation was given by the Reverend Mr. Maynard Koerner, and the Reverend Dr. Warren Embree conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,

(for the committee)

Warren C. Embree

Dear Ron [Morris, President of Classis]

This is to certify that Matthew E. Powell was duly ordained to the ministry of the RCUS under the authority of the South Central Classis of the RCUS by a committee erected under the authority of said classis.

This ordination took place on October 24, 2004.

His credentials should be sent to him at

Matthew Powell
P.O. Box 972
Limon, CO 80828

B. 2005 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.

1. Date and Time.

The spring meeting of Classis will commence on Tuesday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. with a worship service.

2. Statistics and Credentials.

You will find enclosed with this mailing one set of forms consisting of Membership and Financial Statistics and Credentials of Elders to Classis. According to the Standing Rules of Classis (#2 & #3) these are to be forwarded to the Stated Clerk no later than **two weeks** before the Classis meets. This means they **must** be in the Clerk's hands by **March 1, 2005**. It would, however, be appreciated by the Clerk if these documents can get to him as early as possible.

3. Parochial Reports.

According to Standing Rule #2 Parochial Reports are to be sent to the President **two weeks** before Classis (by **March 1, 2005**). It would, however, be appreciated by the President if these reports can get to him as early as possible.

4. Reports and Recommendations of Permanent and Special Committees.

According to Standing Rule #17 the Reports of the Permanent and Special Committees are to be completed and mailed to all the Consistories of all the Churches **four weeks** prior to the Classis Meeting, thus by **February 15, 2005** with **two copies** to be sent to the Stated Clerk. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee.

5. Accommodations.

Please fill out enclosed Lodging request forms and send in as soon as possible.

6. Miscellaneous.

The Schedule of Services, Order of the Day, and Agenda.

7. Committees.

Missions	<u>H. Kalkman</u> , R. Morris, M. Koerner, M. Burbback, G. Maassen
Publications	<u>D. Kingswood</u> , H. Hart, T. Schieffelin, L. Ochsner.
Christian Education	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , J. Blair, L. Streyle.
Interchurch Relations	<u>W. Embree</u> , G. Sawtelle, J. McClay.

Candidates & Credentials	<u>M. Koerner*</u> , H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, D. McPherson, S. Gross
Executive Committee	<u>R. Morris</u> , S. Gross, D. Fagrey
Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>R. Gallimore</u> , J. Blair, H. Van Stedum.
Reformed Resource Center	Administrator - H. Hart (2 yrs) Curator –J. Johnson

*By a circular letter (19:4) Classis agreed to replace Bob Grossman with Maynard Koerner.

8. Special Committee:

Membership for Ministers of the Word R. Morris, R. Grossmann, H. Hart, C. Hensen

Number 8

February 19, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

According to the by-laws, I am to send out overtures that were received 4 weeks prior to the Spring Classis meeting. I received 3 such overtures.

- 1) From Elder Spencer Gross: A request to set the guideline for Heidelberg Seminary at \$8.00 per communicant member for the calendar year 2005.
- 2) From Elder Spencer Gross: A request to keep the “Classis Expense Fund” at \$7,000.
- 3) From Elder Spencer Gross: A request to reduce the Reserve Fund Guideline from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per communicant member.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Ron Morris	The Reverend Mr. David Fagrey	Mr. Spencer Gross
Stated Clerk		President Elder Member

MISSIONS

(referred to Standing Missions)

March 12, 2005

South Central Classis

Brethren,

Our classis home missions chairman, Hans Kalkman, is currently out of the country. I have written a "bare bones" missions report to make you aware of our mission works and to get their financial requests rolling. Much thanks to Rev. Maynard Koerner who traveled to Colorado to do visitations.

Grace Reformed Church of Greeley, CO

Rev. Gene Sawtelle reports that the congregation in Greeley currently has an average attendance of about 50. They have a communicant membership of 35 in 23 families. They have purchased the property (church building and parsonage) they have been using and are ahead of schedule on repayment of debt. The members indicate a positive attitude about the condition of the church. They are very confident that the work can become self-supporting in time. They are taking a 10% reduction per year. After loan is paid off (approximately 3 years) they plan to take larger reductions. Rev. Sawtelle has times when his health limits him. Currently he is fulfilling the pastoral duties. The consistory was positive concerning his work. Pastor Sawtelle plans to continue so long as his health will permit. They are requesting \$15,095 from both classis and synod for 2006.

High Plains Reformed Church of Calhan, CO

Elder Sam Powell reports that they currently have about 55 in attendance with a communicant membership of 26 in 10 families. The attitude among the members is very positive. Everyone who was part of the core group at the beginning is still with the church. They are confident that the work will be able to become self-supporting soon. With the debt reduction offering of around \$17,000 they received this past year they were able to pay off their \$20,000 loan to Synod. They believe they will have the remainder of the loan paid off in 3 years and then will be able to reduce support from Classis and Synod by a considerable amount. They request a 20% reduction in support for 2006. They are requesting \$14,400 from both classis and synod for 2006.

Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion, SD

Rev. Robert Grossmann reports that things are going well in Vermillion. The congregation is faithful in attendance and is spiritually in good health. They currently have five covenant youth in confirmation and all are expected to be confirmed. Rev. Grossmann continues his radio ministry across a five state area and has received numerous enquiries. The congregation became debt free this past year as they paid off the parsonage. They now have a very nice facility and parsonage that they own. In addition to the ministry of the word, the congregation is supporting Heidelberg Theological Seminary which conducts classes in their facility. They are taking a 10% reduction in aid this year. They are requesting \$9720 from both classis and synod in 2006.

Recommendations:

1. That Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO be given \$15,096 from SCC for 2006.
2. That SCC overture synod on behalf of Greeley for \$15,096 in 2006.
3. That High Plains Reformed Church, Calhan, CO be given \$14,400 from SCC for 2006.
4. That SCC overture synod on behalf of Calhan for \$14,400 in 2006.
5. That Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD be given \$9,720 from SCC for 2006.

6. That SCC overture synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$9,720 in 2006.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of Chairman Hans Kalkman,

Rev. Ron Morris

Publications

(referred to Standing Publications)

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your Permanent Publications Committee had no business brought before it during the past year, and therefore did not meet and did no business.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Kingswood (chairman), H. Hart, T. Shieffelin, L. Ochsner

Christian Education

(referred to Education and Student Aid)

Dear Brothers:

The Permanent Christian Education Committee of South Central Classis had no business come before it, therefore, your committee did not meet and did no business.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Howard Hart, Chairman, Rev. Jon Blair, Elder Spencer Gross

Interchurch Relations

(referred to Overtures)

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

Only the chairman of the committee was active this year, never having called a meeting or requested input. This is not unusual for this committee as most of the matters are assigning delegates to sister denominations and sending invitations.

During the past year, the Reverend Mr. Maynard Koerner was delegate to the Spring Meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas (OPC) and the Fall Meeting of the Presbytery of the Central United States

(OPC). He will report at the appropriate time at the Classis meeting. The Reverend Mr. Herman Van Stedum was delegate to Classis Central of the URC. He will report at the Classis meeting. A letter of fraternal greetings was sent to the Presbytery of the Dakotas (OPC) Fall Meeting, as no delegate was able to go.

Invitations to attend the Spring Meeting of South Central Classis were sent to the Reverend Messrs. Peter Kloosterman (URC), Archibald Allison (Dakota-OPC), Mark Harrington (Central US-OPC), Richard Aasman (CanRef), and Bruce Parnell (RPCNA).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren C. Embree".

Warren C. Embree, Chairman
(for the committee)

Candidates and Credentials
(referred to Examination and Licensure)

Esteemed Brethren:

This report will deal with the activities of the committee since the last meeting of Classis which was a special meeting to give ordination exams to Matthew Powell and Dan Rogers.

The committee gave an examination on orthodoxy and intent by phone to Mr. Jim Connelly of Greeley, CO. He was advised to do some additional study. The committee will continue to work with him to prepare him for a licensure exam in the future.

The chairman of the committee, Rev. Robert Grossmann, resigned and Rev. Maynard Koerner was appointed to replace him as chairman.

The committee received a request from the Trinity-Covenant Reformed Church of Colorado Springs, CO to place Mr. Andrew McIntyre on the roll of students under care of Classis. Following contact with Mr. McIntyre concerning his intentions the committee recommended that he be placed under care of Classis as a student for the ministry. This was done by Classis through Circular letter.

The committee was given an assignment by the 2004 Spring Meeting of Classis “to work in conjunction with the Consistory of St. John’s RCUS in Lincoln, NE in working with Rev. Davis concerning his ministerial status.”

Rev. Koerner met with Rev. Davis shortly after the 2004 Spring Meeting of Classis and discussed the options before him. On February 25, 2005 Rev. Koerner and Rev. Embree again met with Rev. Davis. Rev. Davis will be submitting a specific request to Classis concerning his ministerial status. The Classis will need to deal with his request and provide specific direction to Rev. Davis if needed.

Students Under Care

Committee members Rev. Herman Van Stedum and Elder Spencer Gross met with Mr. James Grossmann. On February 3, 2005 committee chairman Rev. Maynard Koerner met with Richard Stetler, Andrew McIntyre, Sam Powell, and Ted Scheifelin. Following are brief reports concerning their progress.

James Grossmann

Mr. Grossmann has determined to take his final year of seminary training in the span of two years. This will help him to progress in his studies. He understands the need to work hard at his sermon delivery. He remains strongly convinced of his call to preach the gospel. He has been encouraged to seek a summer assignment.

Richard Stetler

Richard appears to be progressing well with his studies at New Geneva Theological Seminary. He is due to graduate in May of 2006. He remains convinced of his call to the ministry. He feels compelled to preach the gospel. On occasion he has the opportunity to exhort in an RCUS church.

Both Richard and his wife have had some health difficulties this past year and he requests that these be remembered in prayer. Richard has had a flare up with Crohn's disease which is under control at this time. His wife has recently undergone knee surgery.

Andrew McIntyre

Mr. McIntyre was previously a student under care. He had requested that he be removed from the list of students under care as he had determined to pursue membership in another denomination. Since that time he has become convinced that the RCUS is indeed where he is at home and where he would like to pursue the ministry. He has graduated from New Geneva Theological Seminary. He has submitted and discussed with Rev. Koerner some of the issues that he has struggled with in the past. After careful thought and with the advise of the Candidates and Credentials Committee, he has concluded that he is not ready to undergo a licensure exam at this time. He plans to pursue some further study. The Committee will need to assign some specific areas that need to be addressed. Mr. McIntyre desires to remain on as a student under care of Classis. He has indicated a strong willingness to work with the Committee to help him to prepare for a licensure exam in the future.

Sam Powell

Mr. Powell is progressing well with his studies at New Geneva Theological Seminary. He is due to graduate in the Spring of 2007. He is also currently serving as stated supply at the High Plains Reformed Church, Calhan, CO. His ministry is being received quite well. The Consistory is very satisfied and give him high marks. Mr. Powell remains convinced of his call to the ministry.

Ted Schieffelin

Mr. Schieffelin is no longer taking any seminary courses. He has determined that he does not believe that he has a call to preach the gospel. He has requested that his name be removed from the list of students under care of Classis. He understands that the amount he has received in tuition aid \$1,400.00 becomes a loan that he is responsible to repay to Synod.

Recommendation #1: That the name of Ted Schieffelin be removed from the list of students under care of Classis.

Respectfully submitted,

Maynard Koerner, David Fagrey, Herman Van Stedum, Spencer Gross, and Dave McPherson

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President's Report on the State of the Church

Brethren,

The Psalmist writes in Ps 103:15-18, “As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. 17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, 18 To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.”

From this passage we learn that God’s mercy is not like a man’s life. For a man’s life is limited. It comes to an end. But God’s mercy is limitless. It is everlasting upon those who fear the Lord and do his commands.

In many ways, we see God’s faithful mercy upon the congregations of the South Central Classis of the RCUS. Among our mission works we see God’s word faithfully preached. Greeley has received a special blessing from the Lord in that they were able to purchase their historic building and parsonage as a continuing witness of the Reformed faith in northern Colorado. In Calhan, a fire has been lit there to shine the truth of God’s word in an area that is in need of the uncompromised gospel. In Vermillion, the saints have been faithful and in addition to the gospel being preached, a seminary for the training of men of God is sinking in it’s roots and is confidently waiting to see God’s increase.

As I read the parochial reports, many of our congregations report growth and encouragement. Some, such as Lincoln, are seeing new growth as old wounds heal and stability sets in. Some of our congregations, such as Rapid City and Mitchell, have seen new physical developments in building additions and/or parsonage upgrades. Other congregations have said good bye to former controversies while some deal with continued problems. This should not surprise us, for we are told in the Scriptures that Satan prowls as a hungry lion, seeking whom he may devour. We should not be naive. There always has been controversy in the church and there always will be until the Lord returns and sets all things straight. So we must fight the good fight and hold up the hands of our brethren who are in the midst of the battle.

We have seen some new faces added to our rolls. Limon/Blue Cliff has Matt Powell preaching that duel charge while his brother Sam is exhorting in Calhan. Dan Rogers has taken the responsibility at Sutton Immanuel and has been tending to that congregation in an effective way.

Our Reformed Resource Center continued to do its work under the oversight of Rev. Howard Hart. We had a winterum in which Rev. Tracy Gruggett gave a very informational lecture on the New Perspective on Paul. It was video taped and it is recommended that anyone who is interested in this controversial issue should check out this tape.

In conclusion, I believe that the congregations of SCC of the RCUS are unique in this contemporary culture of ours. As we look around and see the seeker friendly mind set prevail in so many areas of the modern church, some of us could get discouraged. We see these congregations grow while at the same time see Bible knowledge and understanding of basic Christian doctrines erode. Some statistics indicate that as many as 90% of modern evangelicals do not believe the most basic doctrines of the Christian faith. Some might be tempted to give up. But this is not our calling. God has always had a remnant. We must keep preaching and never compromise the message. Let us stand firm. As Paul exhorted Timothy, “Preach the Word!” And that is my exhortation to you. Do not compromise. Be faithful to your calling. And wait for that pronouncement from the Lord Jesus, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” Amen

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Morris

Classis Action: The report is to be spread in the minutes, printed in the Abstract, and sent to the Reformed Herald

Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes

March, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The following items refer to duties performed by myself, which reference either the spring 2004 Abstract or Circulars that have been sent since the spring 2004 meeting.

1. Page 39 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Benevolence report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
2. Page 40 of the Abstract, Recommendation #3 of the Standing Benevolence report requesting aid from Synod for Trinity Covenant, RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
3. Page 39 of the Abstract, Recommendation #8, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for James Grossmann, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
4. Page 39 of the Abstract, Recommendation #5, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for Richard Stetler, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
5. Page 39 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for Ted Schieffelin, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
6. Page 39 of the Abstract, Recommendation #3, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for Sam Powell, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
7. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Kay Savage, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
8. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.

9. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #3, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Rev. & Mrs. Howard Hart, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
10. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #4, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
11. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Calhan's 2005 obligation, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
12. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #5, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Greeley's 2005 obligation, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.
13. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #7, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Vermillion's 2005 obligation, a letter was sent April 3, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
David Fagrey

Classis Action: The report was approved

Execute Committee's Report on its Minutes

The clerk moved that Executive Circulars Volume 19, Numbers 1 – 8 constitute the Execute Committee's Report on its Minutes.

Classis Action: The motion carried.

Executive Committee of Synod's Report

The Clerk read the report.

Classis Action: Take note

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Com. #	Guide Lines	Received	Over	Short
South Central Classis	*1051	\$77,877.76	\$78,125.98	\$284.22	

Church					
Trinity Covenant					
Colorado Springs	44	\$3,266.56	\$3,414.13	\$146.98	
Blue Cliff					
Limon	19	\$1,559.04	\$1,410.37		\$148.677
St. Johns RCUS					
Lincoln, NE	75	\$5,568.00	\$5,568.00		
Emmanuel RCUS					
Sutton, NE	150	\$10,987.52	\$11,134.50	\$146.98	
Hope RCUS					
Sutton, NE	237	\$17,594.88	\$17,590.13		\$4.75
Zion RCUS					
Menno, SD	177	\$13,140.48	\$13,136.94		\$3.54
Grace Reformed					
Mitchell, SD	71	\$5,271.04	\$5,271.04		
Grace Reformed					
Rapid City, SD	52	\$3,786.24	\$3,859.96	\$73.72	
Trinity Reformed					
Sioux Falls, SD	111	\$8,240.64	\$8,123.1		\$117.54
Providence Reformed					
Rock Springs, WY	33	\$2,449.92	\$2,566.51	\$116.59	
Grace Reformed					
Greeley, CO	27	\$2,004.48	\$2,004.48		
Providence Reformed					
Vermillion, SD	19	\$1,410.56	\$1,410.37		\$.19
High Plains Reformed					
Calhan, CO	19	\$1,410.56	\$1,410.37		
Providence Reformed					
Limon, CO	17	\$1,187.84	\$1,262.08	\$77.27	
Totals of all Income		\$77,877.76	\$78,125.98	\$284.22	

*Budget based on 1049 members, but 1051 reported

Budget Expenditures

	Budget	Paid	Balance
Reformed Resource Center	\$3,000.00		
Rev. Howard Hart		\$2,000.00	
Virginia Hoeflinger		\$500.00	
Jess Johnson		\$200.00	
Training & Retreat		\$195.86	
Fund Balance			\$104.14
Blue Cliff	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Providence Reformed, Limon	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Grace Reformed, Greeley	\$18,580.00	\$18,580.00	

Providence Reformed, Vermillion	\$11,511.00	\$11,511.00	
High Plains Reformed Chapel, Calhan	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	
Heidelberg Reformed Seminary	\$6,294.00	\$6,294.00	
Reserve Fund	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Classis Expense	\$7,000.00		
Mileage		\$4,327.94	
Honorarium		\$400.00	
Telephone		\$224.24	
Printing	\$214.43		
Zion Reformed	\$2,000.00		
Fund Balance			(\$166.62)
TOTALS	\$77,885.00	\$76,447.47	\$1,437.52

*\$2000.00 for Zion Reformed Menno

Reserve Fund Special Gift	\$1,022.20	\$477.93	\$544.27
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Guidelines

	Budget	Received	Over	Short
Reformed Resource Center	\$3,000.00	\$3,095.84	\$95.84	
\$2.85 per com.				
Classical Dues	\$7,000.00	\$7010.52	\$10.52	
\$6.68 per com.				
Missions	\$48,361.00	\$48,644.03	\$182.98	
\$45.84 per com.				
Reserve Fund	\$1,500.00	\$1,539.92	\$39.92	
\$1.43 per com.				
Benevolence	\$12,000.00	\$12,097.60	\$97.60	
\$11.44 per com.				
Heidelberg Seminary	\$6,294.00	\$6,151.36		(\$142.64)
\$6.00 per com.				
Guidelines Total	\$77,877.76	\$78,125.98	\$284.22	
(\$74.24 per com.)				

Total Income \$78,125.98
(Based on 1049 Communicant Member)

Checkbook

Beginning Balance	\$15,989.03
Ending Balance	\$17,782.53
Mutual Fund	\$1,800.00

Total \$19,582.53

Classis Action: The report was referred to Finances

PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

The Ministers of the Word individually read their reports, giving an account of their labors and the status of their charges.

Classis Action: On all the reports – take note

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS (ARTICLE 81, RCUS ONSTITUTION)

The President addressed the Questions of Article 81 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States to the Elder Delegates of each congregation.

The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?* All answered, “Yes.”
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?* All answered, “Yes.”
3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*
 - a. *Is visitation faithfully performed ?* All answered, “Yes.”
 - b. *Is Christian discipline exercised according to the constitution ?* All answered, “Yes.”
4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper properly administered in accordance with the constitution?* All answered, “Yes.”
5. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:*
 - a. *Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving ?* All Answered, “Yes.”
 - b. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Classis treasurer ?* All answered, “Yes.”
 - c. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving ?* All answered, “Yes,” except Fred Hofmann who answered, “No.”
 - d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered, “Yes.”
6. *Are the church records properly kept?* All answered, “Yes.”
- 7a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?* All answered, “Yes.”
- 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?* All answered, “Yes.”

REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

The Stated Clerk handed out the report of the statistics as they were sent to him. This report appears in the Appendix to this Abstract.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Reports From Classis' Fraternal Delegates

Rev. Maynard Koerner read his report as a fraternal delegate to the Spring Meeting of the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas meeting at Freeman, SD.

Rev. Herman Van Stedum read his report as an observer to the meeting of the Classis Central, United Reformed Churches in North America, at Hills URC in Hills, MN.

Classis Action: Take note.

Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches and Visitors

- Fraternal delegate Rev. Terry Thole, pastor of OPC Church in Winner, SD, gave his address to the body.
- Rev. Wes White, pastor of the PCA Church in Spearfish, SD, addressed the body as an observer from the PCA.
- Rev. Larry Johnson, pastor of the URC in Doon, IA addressed the body as an observer from the URC.
- Ray Schnabel addressed the body concerning Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Heidelberg Youth Camp

Heidelberg Youth Camp Report
February 19, 2005

A meeting of the Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee was held February 19, 2005. Committee members present were Elder Roger Gallimore, chair; Rev. Herman Van Stedum of the South Central Classis; and Rev. Mike McGee, Elder Tom Ochsner and Elder Chester Beck of the Northern Plains Classis. Rev. McGee opened in prayer. HYC 2005 will be held July 25-29 at Camp Bob Marshall in the Black Hills.

1. HYC 2004 evaluation results were reviewed. The following changes for HYC 2005 were made following this review:

- ❑ The Monday night overview lesson was eliminated and instead will be conducted in cabin groups by the counselors. Plus, the first Heidelberg Youth Cup competition will begin following icebreakers.
 - ❑ The senior panel discussion will be changed such that questions and answers will be done in small groups.
 - ❑ Due to the time and resources needed to adequately organize HYC, there will be a registration deadline of July 8. Registrations will not be taken after July 8.
2. The 2004 finance report was reviewed, which showed a net gain of \$894.02. The gain was a result of greater than expected enrollment last year and the large number of registration spaying the late fee.
 3. The proposed 2005 budget was reviewed. The 2005 camper fees will again be \$125 per camper. However, if the registration and payment are received by June 10, the camper fee is \$113. The camp remains in good financial position, which is sufficient to cover expenses incurred prior to they start of camp. Please note that the cost of the committee meeting, video productions of the lessons and all the promotion are paid by HYC and not by the Classis.
 4. The theme for HYC 2005 will be *Set Apart*. All lessons will center on how God's people are a holy nation and a royal priesthood in all of life. The following lessons will be given:
 - ❑ Male/Female Roles – God created us male and female with very specific roles, responsibilities and abilities. This lesson reviews how God calls us we are to conduct ourselves according to our gender.
 - ❑ Getting Married – Contemporary dating habits are simply not consistent with the Biblical worldview. This lesson describes how we are set apart in our process of finding a spouse.
 - ❑ The Church – Young people are set apart in the body of believers. This lesson reviews how young people fit into the church and their responsibility to edify others in the body of Christ.
 - ❑ The Arts – A look back in history would reveal that Christianity permeated the arts in nearly every way. This is not true today. This lesson examines the Christian perspective of art and what needs to be done to again influence the arts.
 - ❑ Our Conduct – In a world full of profanity, trash-talking and selfish behavior, Christians should clearly stand out as being different. This lesson gives instruction on proper conduct and manners so that we will indeed be set apart.
 - ❑ Vocation (Seniors Only) – How are we set apart in the workplace? This lesson examines the Biblical worldview of excellence in work.
 - ❑ Recreation (Juniors Only) – In a society driven by the pursuit of recreation, how is the Christian set apart? This lesson puts recreation in its proper context.

In addition to the lessons, the following texts were agreed upon for the eveing worship services – Genesis 1:28 (Tuesday), Romans 12:2 (Wednesday), 1 Peter 2:9 (Thursday).
 5. Rev. McGee volunteered to recruit speakers for each of the lessons and worship services.
 6. Elder Ochsner closed the meeting in prayer.

Recommendations:

1. That Classis approve the 2005 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.
2. That Classis approve the report as a whole of the Heidelberg Youth Camp.

Camp Budget 2005

Balance Forward

\$3,934.80

(130 campers – 42 adults)

(130 campers – 42 adults)

Revenue	Actual 2004	Budget 2005
Camp Fees	\$14,949.78	\$14,950.00
Gifts	\$50.00	\$50.00
Worship Offering	\$727.98	\$700.00
Interest	\$2.06	\$10.00
Camp Store Sales	\$595.00	\$600.00
	_____	_____
Total Revenue	\$16,324.82	\$16,310.00
Expense		
Facility Use	\$8,976.96	\$9,000.00
Food	\$1,955.43	\$2,100.00
T-Shirts	\$1,720.00	\$2,050.00
Crafts	\$245.04	\$250.00
Supplies	\$449.15	\$500.00
Promotion	\$206.49	\$500.00
Custer State Park Fees	\$69.00	\$70.00
Postage	\$62.37	\$70.00
Administration	\$481.86	\$500.00
Equipment	\$233.23	\$250.00
Camp Store Supplies	\$303.29	\$320.00
Worship Offering	\$727.98	\$700.00
	_____	_____
Total Expense	\$15,430.80	\$16,310.00
	_____	_____

Revenue less Expense	\$894.02	\$0.00
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Summary

Balance Forward	\$3,934.80	\$4,828.82
Total Revenue	\$16,324.82	\$16,310.00
Total Expense	\$15,430.80	\$16,310.00
Ending Balance	\$4,828.82	\$4,828.82

Proposed 2005 fees @\$113 per camper. Adult volunteers continue to be free. \$50 per child not attending as campers. Each non-participating congregation in Northern Plains and South Central Classis to set out a plate for contributions to the camp.

Classis Action: The report as a whole was adopted.

Report of the Administrator of the Reformed Resource Center

Rev. Howard Hart, Administrator

January 25, 2005

Your servant submits the following report for this Classical year.

A. **ACTIVITIES:** Your servant was involved in the following activities this Classical year as Administrator of the RRC and TIM programs.

1/ The Hoeflinger Memorial Library is available on floppy disks and continues to function as a lending library. The discs are available to members of the denomination. The Library has been moved to Heidelberg Seminary. When the books have been placed in the seminary building your servant will inspect the library.

2/ The "Training in Ministry" program was implemented.

A/ An Internship program was submitted. Please note that this program was given to the Candidates and Credentials Committee for examination. I trust that we will approve this program this Classical year.

B/ A Ministerial Retreat for the Midwest RCUS Ministers meeting at Mitchell, South Dakota was held on August 9-10, 2004. Fourteen pastors met at Grace Reformed Church. Two Orthodox Presbyterian pastors attended.

Pastor Howard Hart lectured on "Biblical Theology and Preaching Christ – The Preaching Matrix of Biblical Theology."

Principle Donald Mitchell, of the Mitchell Christian High School in Mitchell, South Dakota, lectured on "Christian Perspectives With Youth."

Pastor Steven Richert lectured on "Preaching with Freshness."

The lectures were well received and the pastors present remarked how helpful the lectures were. We are grateful for their time and energy. A video of these lectures is available.

C. A Winterum Retreat was held January 31, 2005 for Ministers and Elders at Grace Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD.

Pastor Tracy Gruggett lectured on "Imputation."

A video of these lectures is available.

We are always thankful for our busy pastors as they give of their time and talent for these retreats.

D/ We are planning for two more retreats this Classical year at Mitchell, SD on August 15-16, 2005 and January 30, 2006. We are open for suggestions and volunteers. We need three lectures.

E/ The Administrator of the RRC and TIM programs is presenting a 20-page document on "Guidelines for Examination for Licensure and Ordination." I spent a number of hours on this task. I believe the Candidates and Credentials Committee was to examine this document for possible use in the examination of candidates for our ministry. I have noted that some of the material has "popped-up" here and there in some of the Classical examinations this past year.

B. **VIDEOS:** The following videos are available:

1. "Apologetics - What We Think Before We Think" This is a four lecture course by Pastor R. Grossmann and Pastor H. Hart. Pastor Hart wrote a workbook to be used with the four lectures. Three copies of the originals are available to the churches and individuals. Pastor Grossmann's book on this subject is also available. There is also a video from New Geneva Seminary made in 2000.
2. "Hermeneutics - How To Study The Bible" by Pastor Hart. This is a five lecture series that shows people what the principles of Biblical interpretation are and how to use them. Pastor Hart produced a workbook to be used with the lectures.
3. "Theological Basis of confirmation and Catechetical Instruction" by Rev. R. Grossmann. This is an hour lecture. There is also an audiocassette available. This talk appears in a recent Reformed Herald.
4. "Reasons and Methodology of Catechetical Instruction" by Rev. H. E. Hart. This is an hour lecture that was given at a minister's retreat. There is a audiocassette available.
5. "The Seeker Sensitive Movement" by Rev. G. Horner. This is an hour lecture given at a minister's retreat. There is an audiocassette available.
6. "Studies in the Book of Daniel" by Pastor Hart. This is a twelve-lecture series video with a workbook.
7. "Kohlbrugge" by Rev. N Hoeflinger. This is a lecture given at an October 3, 1996 minister's retreat.

8. "A Conversation with Chester and Grace Ploeger. 11 The Ploeger's reflect on their many years in the RCUS. (Taped February 18, 1997)
9. "Reformed Hermeneutics" by The Rev. Robert Grossmann. There are three lectures in this video which gives a Reformed perspective on our approach to Scripture.
10. "Homiletics" is a video study by the Rev. Howard E. Hart with David Fagrey that gives ministers of the Word a way to analyze their sermons. Pastor Hart gives the essential parts to a sermon and Pastor Fagrey, gives a sermon presentation that underlines this method of structuring sermons. There is another video on this topic from the seminar at New Geneva Seminary in 2000
11. "A Pastor's Approach to His Congregation - Puritan/Covenantal" by the Rev George Syms. This lecture was delivered at the RCUS Ministerial Retreat in Watertown, SD September 6, 1999.
12. "Answering The Dilemmas Facing The Reformed In Bearing Witness" by the Rev. Jim Sawtelle. This is a lecture given at the RCUS Minister's Retreat in Watertown SD September 6, 1999.
13. "RCUS History" by the Rev Robert Grossmann and the Rev. Howard E. Hart. This 7-lecture video covers the history of our denomination in this country and surveys our roots in Germany. There is introductory material on why we are to study Church History by Pastor Hart. There is a second video made at New Geneva Seminary in 2000.
14. "Classis South Central of the RCUS opening Worship Service and Opening Session at Rock Springs, WY on October 11, 1999." This video has the Rev. C.W. Powell leading the worship service, and the Rev. Howard E. Hart preaching on John 1:14. The session of Classis South Central is opened by the Rev. Dorman Savage with the Rev. George Horner Stated Clerk. Some of the opening business is recorded.
15. "Lectures on Daniel" by the Rev. Howard E. Hart
16. "Hallowed Be Thy Names" a video on the Old Testament names of God. This is a 13-lecture presentation on the basic names of God by the Rev. Hart.
17. Lectures on the Constitution of the RCUS by Pastor Hart given at a seminar at New Geneva Seminary in 2000.
18. Lectures on the RCUS Directory of Worship by Pastor Savage made at Now Geneva Seminary in 2000.
19. "Definition of the Covenant" by Pastor Hart. A lecture that was given at the 2000 Minister's Retreat in Watertown, SD.
20. "The Covenant" A Lecture that was given by Pastor George Syms at the 2000 Minister's Retreat in Watertown, SD.
1. "The Covenant and the Canons of Dordt." A lecture given by Pastor Grossmann at the 2000 Minister's Retreat at Watertown, SD.
2. The 2001 Minister Conference given at Grace Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD. The tape contains devotions by the Rev. Darrel Kingswood on Romans 1,7,8; Dr. Warren Embree on "The Necessity and Content of Theological Education;" The Rev. Ron Morris on "How to Survive the Pastorate;" The Rev. David Dawn on "Surviving Church Discipline."
3. The 2002 Minister's Retreat given at Grace Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD. Reflecting Upon 50 years of Ministry" by OPC Minister Rev. G.I. Williamson. "War and the Muslim Holy War" by the Rev. Norman Jones. "Pastoring to the Local Community" by the Rev. Randy Klynsma.
4. The Winterum for Ministers and Elders of January 2003. "The Sin Against the Holy Spirit" by Howard Hart. "Comments on the Theology of Norman Shepherd" by Norman Jones.

5. From the 2003 Minister Retreat. "The Openness of God" by Professor C.W. Powell. "Instructing for Church Membership" by the Rev. Maynard Koerner.
6. From the 2004 Winterum for Ministers and Elders. "New Perspectives on Paul" by the Rev. Tracy Grugget. "God's Covenant and the Reformed Practice of Confirmation" by Dr. Robert Grossmann.
7. From the 2004 Minister's retreat as noted above.
8. From the 2005 Winterum as noted above.

D. FUTURE PLANS:

1/ We plan on "running" two more retreats this Classical year.

2/ I am writing a manual for teaching church history from the Apostle Peter to 2005. I am teaching Church History at the Mitchell Christian School and I am using the first draft of this manual. The structure has sections on, I. A Synopsis of the Lesson; II. Looking Back (to the previous lesson); III. Looking at this lesson (a chapter in the Church in History by B.K. Kuiper); and IV. Discuss/Decide Section. I am looking toward publication of these materials in 2007. There is interest in the project.

3/ I am preparing Lessons on the Old Testament for Freshmen in High School. Much of it will be based on material I wrote for Synod. I will be teaching Old Testament at the Mitchell Christian School this coming Fall and Winter as well as Church History.

4/ I plan to give one or two lectures at our Minister's Retreat again this year. I am open for suggestions and topics.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1/ That a curator for the Hoeflinger Memorial Library be appointed by Classis

2/ Take note that the treasurer of Classis be aware that Mrs. Hoeflinger is to receive a check of \$500.00 each January. Classis determined at the 2000 Spring Meeting to keep this yearly honorarium without a termination date.

3/ Take note that Pastor Hart has one more year of service as Administrator of the RRC and TIM. He has served 9 years for this project

4/ That Classis approve the outline of the Internship Program.

5/ That Classis approve the "Guidelines for Examinations for Licensure and Ordination."

Warm Regards in Christ,
Rev. Howard E. Hart, Administrator

Classis Action: Recommendation 1 was adopted. On Recommendations 2-5, take note. The report was adopted.

Special Committee to Investigate Membership of Ministers

The report was distributed but the body voted not to take action on the report until the next Classis meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Education and Student Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the clerk inform Ted Schieffelin and Synod of the previous action in order that an agreement might be made concerning the repayment of funds spent by Mr. Schieffelin on seminary education.
2. That Classis overture Synod for student aid for Richard Stetler for the sum of \$3,320 for tuition and books.
3. That Classis overture Synod for student aid for Sam Powell for the sum of \$4,700 for tuition and books.
4. That we take note of Howard Hart's overture concerning clarification of article 192.
5. That we petition synod to pay Sam Powell \$524.79 for tuition approved by synodical circular 257-A for the school year 2003-2004, but was not paid due to a misunderstanding by the treasurer.

Classis Action: All the recommendations and the report were adopted..

Benevolence

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. From Overture #8, that Classis South Central overture Synod on behalf of Mrs. Amy Stevens for aid in the amount of \$1000.00 per month.
2. From overture #13, that Blue Cliff Community Reformed Church of Karval, CO be granted benevolent aid from the funds of Classis South Central in the amount of \$500.00 per month, and that Providence Reformed Chapel of Limon, CO be granted aid in the amount of \$500 per month from the funds of Classis South Central.
3. That Classis overture Synod to provide benevolent aid in the amount of \$8700 to Trinity Reformed Church of Colorado Springs for the next synodical year.

Classis Action: All the recommendations and the report were adopted.

Examination and Licensure

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the name of Ted Schieffelin be removed from the list of students under care of Classis.
2. That Classis approve for use the "Guidelines for Examination for Licensure and Ordination" presented by the Reformed Resource Center.

3. That the Internship Program presented by the Reformed Resource Center be referred to the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee for study and implementation and report back next year.

Classis Action: All the recommendations and the report were adopted.

Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Robert Davis be honorably retired from the ministry of the word and that his name be removed from the roll of ministers.
2. That, while this does not officially remove his credentials, he may occasionally preach but refrain from all other pastoral duties.
3. That the Consistory of Trinity RCUS continue to work with the advisor from the URC to resolve the issue and, should these members desire to leave, that they join with a URC congregation before starting a new one.

Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted. After recommendation #2 was adopted a motion passed that Classis petition Synod to clarify article 32 in the case of a minister who has behaved honorably and yet for one reason or another does not receive a call for three years, with the consequence that his name cannot remain on the roll of ministers, according to article 32. Does the removal of the said minister from the rolls mean that he is stripped of his ministerial credentials?

Ministerial Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1000 per month for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger for the next synodical year.
2. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1250 for Rev. Howard Hart for the next synodical year.
3. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1000 per month for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann for the next synodical year
4. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1000 per month for Kay Savage for the next synodical year.

Classis Action: All the recommendations and the report were adopted.

Home Missions

The committee brought the recommendations:

1. That Rev. Blair be urged to make his power point program on his trip to Africa available to the churches in electronic form so that each congregation may have opportunity to view it.
2. That Classis take note of the fact that the 2005 Budget from Classis for the Calhan home mission was misstated in the 2004 abstract of Classis.
3. That Grace Reformed Church of Greeley be given \$14,985.00 from South Central Classis for 2006.
4. That South Central Classis overture Synod Home Missions on behalf of Greeley for \$14,985.00 in 2006.

5. That High Plains Chapel of Calhan be given \$14,440.00 from South Central Classis for 2006.
6. That South Central Classis overture Synod on behalf of Calhan for \$14,440.00 in 2006.
7. That Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion be given \$9,720.00 from South Central Classis for 2006.
8. That South Central Classis overture Synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$9,720.00 in 2006.

Classis Action: All the recommendations and the report were adopted.

Nominations

The committee brought the following and recommendations:

Missions R. Morris, D. Rogers, M. Burbback, G. Maassen.
Publications D. Kingswood, H. Hart, L. Ochsner, S. Powell.
Christian Education C.W. Powell, J. Blair, L. Streyle.
Interchurch Relations W. Embree, G. Sawtelle, R. Stetler, S. Powell.
Candidates & Credentials M. Koerner, H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, D. McPherson, S. Gross.
Executive Committee R. Morris, S. Gross, D. Fagrey
Heidelberg Youth Camp R. Gallimore, J. Blair, M. Powell.
Reformed Resource Center Administrator - H. Hart. Curator: Greg Van Holland.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Publications

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. Take note that Permanent Publications committee received no business that required action.
2. Take note that City Seminary “would appreciate Classes expressing their own interest and making provisional plans for their families to receive it.” “For ten dollars per household” City Seminary would “continue to mail *Leben* to every household” in the South Central Classis.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Services

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That South Central Classis extend a hearty thank you to Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD for their gracious and warm hospitality in hosting the Spring Meeting of Classis.
2. That the above thank you be read to the congregation the next Lord’s Day.

Classis Action: The recommendations and the report were adopted.

Minutes of Synod

The committee reported having received no business that required action.

Classis Action: the report was adopted

Finances

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That mileage be paid according to the following amounts:
Robert Grossmann: \$176.00
Maynard Koerner: \$253.00
Spencer Gross: \$123.20
Gene Sawtelle: \$209.31 (plus lodging)
Ewald Ochsner: \$159.28
Richard Stetler: \$209.00
Matthew Powell: \$210.20
Herman Van Stedum: \$30.80
Sam Powell: \$182.60
Richard Honaker: \$263.13 (plus lodging)
TOTAL: \$1816.52
2. From overture 1, that the guideline for Heidelberg Theological Seminary be set at \$8.00 per communicant for the calendar year 2005.
3. From overture 2, that the "Classis Expense Fund" remain at \$7,000.
4. From overture 3, that Classis reduce the Reserve Fund guideline from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per communicant member.

Classis Action: All the recommendations were adopted. The report was adopted.

Overtures

The committee brought the recommendations:

1. That overtures 1-3 from Spencer Gross be referred to standing Finances.
2. That overtures 4-7, requests for ministerial aid for Phyllis Grossmann, Kay Savage, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hart, and Virginia Hoeflinger respectively be referred to standing Ministerial Aid.
3. That the request for benevolent aid for Amy Stevens, be referred standing Benevolence.
4. That the letter from Andrew McIntyre be referred to standing Education and Student Aid.
5. That the letter from City Seminary be referred to standing publications.
6. Take note that the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee's report was read.
7. Take note that all the approved actions of all the executive circular letters were carried out.
8. That Blue Cliff's request for benevolence be referred to standing Benevolence.
9. That Howard Hart's overture be referred to standing Education and Student Aid.
10. That Rev. Robert Davis be excused from all sessions of Classis.
11. That Rev. Hans Kalkman be excused from all sessions of Classis.

Classis Action: All the recommendations and the report were adopted.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were read at the beginning and end of business on Wednesday.

Classis Action: All corrections were made and final approval was given.

ADJOURNMENT

The body adjourned to the 2006 Spring Classis meeting according to Standing Rule 22. The next Spring Classis is scheduled to be held in Rocks Springs, WI.

APOSTLE’S CREED, LORD’S PRAYER, BENEDICTION, DOXOLOGY

The President led the body in reciting the Apostle’s Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. He pronounced the benediction and the body sang the Doxology.

APPENDICES

2004 MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

	Colorado Springs, CO Trinity Covenant	Greeley, CO Grace Reformation	Blue Cliff Community Karval, CO	High Plains Reformed Calhan, CO	Providence Reformed Limon, CO	John's Reformed Lincoln, NE St	Emmanuel Reformed Sutton, NE	Sutton, NE Hope Reformed
Number of Elders	2	3	2	3	1	4	3	4
Number of Deacons	1	2	2	2	1	4	3	4
Communicant Members Last Year	45	24	18	19	16	75	150	237
Received by Confirmation	1	2	0	0	0	1	5	4
Received by Letter of Transfer	2	4	0	4	2	6	2	1
Received by Profession of Faith	4	5	3	5	0	10	0	0
Total Members Received	7	11	3	9	2	17	7	5
Total Old/New Members	52	35	21	28	18	92	157	242
Lost by Dismissal	11	0	0	1	0	4	5	7
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
Lost by Death	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	4
Total Members Lost	14	1	2	1	1	6	9	13
Communicant Members This Year	38	34	19	27	17	86	148	229
Unconfirmed Members	11	16	6	21	15	27	29	66
Total Baptized Members	49	50	25	48	32	113	177	295
Number of Families	26	23	5	11	6	47	76	106
Number of Children in SS	11	15	6	17	12	17	37	69
Number of Adults Baptized	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Number of Infants Baptized	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	1
Total Number of Baptism	1	0	0	1	1	5	0	1
Number Received Lord's Supper	38	35	19	26	17	78	136	211
Times Lord's Supper Served	11	4	4	3	4	6	4	6
2004 Financial Statistics								
Receipts from Regular Offerings	63316	72562	21103	42,618	18288	70635	58874	134992
Receipts from Special Offerings	0	1955	0	195	0	9807	27094	16536
Receipts from other sources	9065	51954	24802	52987	5000	3005	11641	13196
Total Receipts	72381	126471	45905	95800	23288	83447	97609	164724
Budgeted Synodical Funds	9186	5465	2869	3790	3302	15149	12066	47117
Budgeted Classical Funds	2919	2004	1421	1410	1262	5568	11134	17590
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	370	1955	262	0	0	2293	474	2835
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	1000	260	120	0	0	3056	1920	3498
Other General Expenses	51745	114046	47633	92684	22202	70196	62802	81212
Total Disbursements	65220	123730	52305	97884	26766	96262	88396	152252

Value of Church Building	0	192000	0	152000	40000	110000	522000	400000
Value of Parsonage	0	158000	0	165000	0	99100	157000	60000
Improvements on Church Property	0	8292	0	5987	0	14022	10252	16593
Present Property Debts	0	160170	0	120405	15000	0	0	0
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	32516	0	34255	2000	0	0	0
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	209	228	159	199	194	202	80	199
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	66	84	79	74	74	74	74	74
Total Giving to RCUS	275	393	238	274	268	307	158	273

	Zion Reformed Church	Memo, SD	Grace Reformed	Mitchell, SD	Rapid City, SD	Grace Reformed	Trinity Reformed	Sioux Falls, SD	Providence Reformed	Vermillion, SD	Rock Springs, WY	Prudence Reformed	TOTAL 2004	TOTAL 2003	Percent Change
Number of Elders	4	3	2	5	2	3	41	39	5%						
Number of Deacons	4	2	2	5	1	0	33	34	-3%						
Communicant Members Last Year	177	71	51	112	19	33	1049	1045	0%						
Received by Confirmation	6	0	2	0	0	2	23	21	10%						
Received by Letter of Transfer	0	0	0	7	0	0	28	36	-22%						
Received by Profession of Faith	0	0	1	1	0	0	29	22	32%						
Total Members Received	6	0	3	8	0	2	80	79	1%						
Total Old/New Members	183	71	54	120	19	35	1127	1124	0%						
Lost by Dismissal	2	5	5	4	0	1	45	53	-15%						
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	1	1	0	5	0	0	15	26	-42%						
Lost by Death	3	0	0	0	0	0	14	8	75%						
Total Members Lost	6	6	5	9	0	1	74	87	-15%						
Communicant Members This Year	177	72	49	111	19	34	1060	1049	1%						
Unconfirmed Members	32	32	41	52	11	11	370	372	-1%						
Total Baptized Members	209	104	90	163	30	45	1430	1421	1%						
Number of Families	92	35	23	60	12	18	540	537	1%						
Number of Children in SS	40	30	30	40	4	7	335	326	3%						
Number of Adults Baptized	0	0	6	1	0	0	10	1	900%						
Number of Infants Baptized	0	1	0	5	2	1	15	22	-32%						
Total Number of Baptism	0	1	6	6	2	1	25	23	9%						
Number Received Lord's Supper	166	72	49	110	19	34	1010	1039	-3%						
Times Lord's Supper Served	4	6	8	6	4	12	82	78	5%						

2004 Financial Statistics

Receipts from Regular Offerings	95718	80550	190752	131602	42016	56766	1079792	951050	14%
Receipts from Special Offerings	20860	0	0	7175	11946	1194	96762	179173	-46%
Receipts from other sources	2240	0	0	1900	24774	0	200564	186116	8%
Total Receipts	118818	80550	190752	140677	78736	57960	1377118	1316339	5%
Budgeted Synodical Funds	34382	14775	10301	21343	3672	6540	189957	178303	7%
Budgeted Classical Funds	13137	5384	3860	8123	1410	2567	77789	80107	-3%
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	9740	0	1760	3571	0	0	23260	14632	59%
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	0	1498	2912	0	1194	15458	23062	-33%
Other General Expenses	59619	0	137929	79040	69110	53941	942159	892237	6%
Total Disbursements	116878	20159	155348	114989	74192	64242	1248623	1188341	5%
						170000		3051946	
Value of Church Building	500000	260000	449000	423946	250000	*	3298946		8%
Value of Parsonage	75000	130000	182700	140000	100000	0	1266800	1198060	6%
Improvements on Church Property	4107	0	191800	2513	5386	0	258952	151390	71%

Present Property Debts	0	44000	121625	149629	0	62944	673773	639405	5%
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	0	75580	24045	5862	5340	179598	98116	83%
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	194	208	202	192	193	198	181	171	6%
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	74	76	76	73	74	78	74	77	-4%
Total Giving to RCUS	268	284	312	298	267	276	277	261	6%

*church and parsonage

NECROLOGIES

Ruben Bertsch

Ruben was born June 3, 1918 at the family farm in Freeman, SD to Emanuel and Henrietta (Stohler) Bertsch. He was the oldest boy and the third of fifteen children. He was baptized and confirmed in the Johannesthal congregation of Menno, SD (RCUS). He grew up and worked on the family farm in Freeman, SD. On Feb. 11, 1945 he married Hattie Stobner, and they moved to the Forbes, ND area where he farmed and did carpentry work. To this union three children were born, Gerald, Marlys, and Myra. Ruben was an elder and Sunday school teacher in the Leola, SD (Oranien, RCUS) congregation. In May of 1967, Ruben moved Hattie to Loveland, CO for health reasons. There Ruben worked for Eastman Kodak in maintenance. It was here that Ruben was instrumental as an elder at Peace Reformed Church. Besides canvassing neighborhoods in his spare time, Ruben mortgaged his own home for the construction of the church building which he worked on in the evenings and on Saturdays. On July 4, 1978 Hattie went to be with the Lord after 33 years of marriage. On June 2, 1979 Ruben married Ruth Gann and to this union Ruth brought two sons, Richard and Larry Gann. Ruben was committed to the Reformed faith all his life. Even at the end of his life when Greeley, CO (Grace RCUS) was organized as a particular congregation he was listed as a charter member. Ruben was 86 years old when he went home to be with his faithful Savior Jesus Christ on Dec. 15, 2004.

STANDING RULES

1. Classical dues shall be due on the first of December and are to be paid not later than the Thirty-First of December of the current year (1960, '64, '68, '87).
2. The Parochial Reports and Statistics shall be forwarded two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis; the Parochial Reports to the President of the Executive Committee and the statistics to the Stated Clerk (1976, '77, '87).
3. The writ of certification for delegate elders for the Classical year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis.
4. All congregations shall present an accurate report on confirmation instruction, Sunday School and weekday school. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire Catechism before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include Bible history, Catechism, Bible readings and the study of books and contents of the Bible; also singing, and preferably, Psalm-hymns.
5. The Standing Rules shall be read during the second session of the Spring Meeting (1932, '87).
6. If pastors, elders, and members of congregations request information from the Executive Committee of Classis concerning constitutional matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented to the parties concerned only in written form and relevant only to the item in question (1933).
7. Delegate travel to Classis meetings shall be paid at the rate of twenty-two cents (.22) per running mile to each charge, if travel is by automobile. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare (1965, '74, '80, '83, '94).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at twenty cents (.20) per running mile, also if several ride together in one car; or if by public transportation, the actual fare (1936, '54, '74, '80, '94).

9. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Classis whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Classis or have been properly excused by Classis (1937, '67).

10. The President of the Executive Committee of Classis shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), and the Treasurer shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the Classical year (1960, '61, '65, '78, '84, '87, '90, 2003).

11. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and designated for which fund and how much for each fund (1957).

12. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to advance the actual fare for public transportation to qualified candidates preaching trial sermons in our vacancies (1958, '87).

13. The Stated Clerk shall prepare for publication an abstract of the Classis minutes. The Spring Abstract shall include a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Classis (1959, '87, '90).

14. The Classis shall have Permanent Committees as follows: Executive, Missions, Christian Education, Candidates and Credentials, Interchurch Relations, and Publications; and the Standing Committee of Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees (1961, '80, '85, '87, '91).

15. Nominations for all officers of Classis shall be made by secret ballot. All names appearing on the nominating ballot shall be candidates and, if there is no election on the first electing ballot, on each succeeding ballot the two candidates with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped until there is an election. (1962, '80, '87, '88).

16. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the Spring Meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge and sent to the Stated Clerk (1963, '87).

17. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to all the Consistories of all the churches, with two copies to be sent to the Stated Clerk, four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis to which these reports and recommendations are to be presented. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis (1963, '70, '79, '82, '87, '90).

18. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and these proposed services shall be circularized before Classis (1966, '72).

19. Students that are under the care of Classis shall be urged to attend only such seminaries approved by Classis. Only students who attend approved institutions shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian Ministry (1978, '87).

20. Classis shall require candidates for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. The internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least 5 years in the RCUS. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidates and Credentials committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the RCUS. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed (1979, '87, '95).

21. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of the Classis meeting shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at anytime (1986, '87).

22. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod and shall start the 4th Tuesday of March opening with a worship service at 7:00 p.m., but if the 4th Tuesday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet the 3rd Tuesday of March. (1987, 2001, 2002).

23. Members of Classis submitting reports, overtures, and correspondence to Classis which will either be circularized or printed in Classis Minutes and Abstracts and which express personal opinions potentially offensive or slanderous against another brother or sister or to other members of Classis, shall govern themselves by I Peter 4:8 (1991).

24. All requests for reimbursement of expenses be made on the standard reimbursement form. Letters of explanation may be appended but do not substitute for reimbursement forms. Receipts must be attached (1997).

**INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS
OF THE
SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**

(Spring 1986, Abstract p. 110)

The body voted "South Central Classis" as the official name for Classis.

(Spring 1987, Abstract p. 5)

The following guidelines were adopted by Classis for delegates from the Classis to corresponding bodies:

1. ATTENDANCE: Be present at as many of the sessions as possible, register arrival with the Stated Clerk, hold private conversations with as many delegates as possible, and try to establish good relations between the Classis and the church which is being visited.
2. PREPARATION: Request reports, agendas, etc. from the Church which is being visited, be prepared to address actions taken by Classis or Synod, and take the current Abstract.
3. ADDRESSING THE BODY: Have a prepared address to present, seek to commend the body in the spirit of Philippians 4:8, inform the body of significant developments in the Classis and Synod, keep personal remarks to a minimum, and make clear which remarks are personal, and try to avoid negative criticisms. If a rebuke is needed refer the matter to the Interchurch Relations Committee.
4. STANDING COMMITTEES: Attend as many Standing Committee meetings as possible.
5. DECISIONS: Get as many copies of reports as possible and report any significant actions taken by the body.
6. REPORT: The report is to be sent to the Interchurch Relations Committee within one month of the meeting and is to include all actions taken by the body as well as any comments which the delegate thinks would be helpful to the Committee and Classis.
7. EXPENSES: Travel expenses are to be paid by the Classis and should be submitted to the Interchurch Relations Committee and the Classis Treasurer.

(Fall 1987, Abstract p. 5)

That all reports from the Permanent Committee's be on 8 1/2" by 11" paper in order to better fit the Minutes.

(Fall 1987, Abstract p.9)

That as soon as it is conveniently possible after each meeting of the South Central Classis, the Clerk of Classis send an Abstract of the Classis minutes to each Classis delegate. This Abstract does not have to be in a formally published form.

(Spring 1988, Abstract p. 23)

The Classis does not see any theological problem with using one or many cups for communion; in light of the uncertainties concerning the transmission of AIDS, it may be advisable to use individual cups.

(Spring 1989, Abstract p. 25)

That the Classis use a double entry ledger for Classis records.

(Spring 1989, Abstract pp. 27-28)

The following procedures be used in calling an organizing pastor to a new mission work:

- a. The Consistory overseeing the mission work shall select a pastoral candidate in consultation with the members of the mission work and the Classis Home Missions Committee.
- b. The members of the proposed mission work, under the supervision of the Consistory, shall vote on calling the candidate.
- c. The Consistory shall extend the call.
- d. The organizing pastor shall work under the oversight of the Consistory as long as the work is unorganized.
- e. The mission work shall be under the oversight of the Classis Home Missions Committee as long as it has the status of a Mission Church.

(Spring 1990, Abstract p. 27)

That all congregations - new and old - should see themselves as actively involved in the whole ministry of the church and should strive to meet the annual guidelines for giving.

(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 20)

That a congregation requiring voting members to sign the constitution of a local congregation is not contradictory with the Constitution of the RCUS or Scripture.

(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 21)

That the Permanent Home Missions Committee of Classis and the Permanent Foreign Missions Committee of Classis be combined into one Permanent Missions Committee, allowing either interest to be addressed by Classis.

(Fall 1991, Abstract p. 22)

That no official stance be taken on the matter of fundraising.

That no constitutional impediment is found regarding using the word "Presbyterian" in the name of one of our churches.

(Spring 1992, Abstract p. 41)

All bills submitted to the Treasurer must be signed by the one submitting the bill.

The Treasurer should inform the Finance Committee of those churches that have failed to pay their Classical dues.

(Spring 1997, Abstract p. 33)

That the position papers of the Reformed Church in the United States be declared to be pastoral and advisory, giving the present consensus of the RCUS regarding the teaching of Scripture, and are of lesser authority than the Three Forms of Unity and the Constitution. Recommendations which make judicial decisions in connection with such papers are binding.

SPECIAL CLASSIS MEETING
Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell SD
September 27, 2004

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

I. Organization

A. Call to order and opening prayer.

The President, Rev. Ron Morris, called to the body to order at 12:55 p.m. and led the body in prayer.

B. Roll Call (Document #1)

The Reverend Mr. David Fagrey, stated clerk, read the roll. 11 ministers and 12 elders were present. The President declared a quorum.

C. Defining the Bar of the House

The President declared the first 6 pews either side of the center aisle as the Bar of the House.

II. Adoption of Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day. (Document #2)

The Reverend Mr. Warren Embree moved adoption of the Agenda and Order of the Day. Seconded and Carried.

III. Ordination Examination

Grossmann presented Dan Rogers to the body to undergo his Ordination Examination.

Grossmann examined in Apologetics & Philosophy for 20 minutes.

There were questions from the floor.

Fagrey examined in doctrine of Scripture for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Van Stedum examined in the sacraments for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Elder Spencer Gross examined in practica for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Fagrey moved to amend the order of the day to finish Dan Roger's exam. Seconded and Carried.

Elder Dave McPherson examined in RCUS distinctives for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Grossmann moved that the exam be arrested. Seconded and Carried.

The President appointed a finance committee.

The body recessed at 3:35 p.m.

The President called the body to order at 3:50 p.m.

Grossmann presented Matthew Powell to the body to undergo his Ordination Examination.

Grossmann examined in Apologetics & Philosophy for 20 minutes.

There were questions from the floor.

Fagrey examined in doctrine of Scripture for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Van Stedum examined in the sacraments for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Elder Spencer Gross examined in practica for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Elder Dave McPherson examined in RCUS distinctives for 20 minutes

There were questions from the floor.

Grossmann moved that the exam be arrested. Seconded and Carried.

Rev. Powell moved to recess until the call of the chair.

The President called the body to order at 7:25 p.m.

Grossmann moved reception of the Candidates and Credentials Committee report and consideration of the items seriatim. Seconded and Carried.

Grossmann moved that the ordination exam of Dan Rogers be sustained. Seconded and Carried.

Grossmann moved to grant Dan Roger's request (Document #3) that his internships at Emmanuel RCUS be counted fulfilling his internship requirement. Seconded and Carried.

Grossmann moved to grant the request of the Consistory of Emmanuel RCUS (Document #4) that Dan Rogers be Ordained and Installed as minister of Emmanuel RCUS, and that the date be circularized to Classis. Seconded and Carried.

Grossmann moved that the ordination exam of Matthew Powell be sustained. Seconded and Carried.

Grossmann moved adoption of the report as a whole. Seconded and Carried.

Rev. Jon Blair led the body in a prayer of thanksgiving for Dan Rogers.

Rev. Gene Sawtelle led the body in a prayer of thanksgiving for Matthew Powell.

The body extended the right hand of fellowship to Dan Rogers and Matthew Powell.

Koerner moved that all delegates unable to attend this Special Classis meeting be excused. Seconded and Carried.

The Finance Committee gave its report.

Gross moved that all monetary requests be granted. Seconded and Carried.

IV. Other Business

Grossmann moved to put a note of appreciation in the bulletin of Grace Reformed Church, thanking them for hosting Classis.

V. Reading of the Minutes and Adoption of Minutes.

Clerk read the minutes

The President declared the minutes approved as corrected.

VI. Adjournment (including Motion to Adjourn).

Grossmann moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of Classis. Seconded and Carried.

A. Roll Call.

Clerk read the roll.

Roll call showed 11 ministers and 12 elders present. A quorum.

B. Closing Prayer.

Elder Sam Powell led the body in prayer, praying especially for Rev. Hans Kalkman

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

The body confessed the Apostles' Creed in unison.

The body prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The President pronounced the Apostolic Benediction.

The body sang the Doxology in unison.