

2006
Abstract of the Minutes

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

The Reformed Church in the United States

Spring Meeting
March 27-29, 2006
Providence Reformed Church
Rock Springs, WY

DIRECTORY	4-10
Officers of Classis	
Permanent Committees	
Classical Guidelines (page 4)	
Directory of Ministers	
Directory of Elders	
Students Under Care	
Directory of Churches	
SERVICES	11
ORGANIZATION	11
STANDING COMMITTEES	12
PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS	12-23
Executive Committee (12-18)	
Missions (19-20)	
Publications (20)	
Christian Education (21)	
Interchurch Relations (21)	
Candidates and Credentials (22-23)	
REPORTS OF OFFICERS	24-29
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 (27)	
Executive Committee of Synod’s Report (27)	
Treasurer’s Report and Auditor’s Opinion (27-29)	
PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS	29
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS	29-30
MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS	30
Appendix (42-43)	
REPORT FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES	30
ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES AND VISITORS FROM OTHER CHURCHES	30
SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS	30-37
Heidelberg Youth Camp (30-32)	
Reformed Resource Center (33-36)	
Investigate Membership of Ministers (36-37)	

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS	37-41
Education and Student Aid (37)	
Benevolence (37)	
Examination and Licensure (38)	
Judicial (38)	
Ministerial Aid (38-39)	
Missions (39)	
Nominations (39)	
Publications (40)	
Services (40)	
Minutes of Synod (40)	
Finances (40-41)	
Overtures (41)	
ADJOURNMENT	41
APPENDICES	42-49
Membership and Financial Statistics (42-43)	
Standing Rules of South Central Classis (44-46)	
Index of Resolutions and Positions (47-49)	

2006 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> , C.W. Powell, D. Rogers, G. Maassen.
Publications	<u>D. Kingswood</u> , H. Hart, L. Ochsner.
Christian Education	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , J. Blair, D. Mettler, T.Schieffelin.
Interchurch Relations	<u>S. Powell</u> , B. Grossmann, W. Embree, R. Stetler.
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> , M. Powell, D. Rogers.

2006 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

	Guideline	Per Communicant (1071)
Classical Dues	\$7,000.00	\$6.54
Missions	\$39,145.00	\$36.55
Benevolence	\$12,000.00	\$11.20
Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 8,568.00	\$8.00
Total	\$66,713.00	\$62.29

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

BLAIR, Jon (Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY)
1007 Ninth Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 362-5107. jeblair1@juno.com

EMBREE, Warren (Associate, St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
3410 Gregory Court, Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 474-9129. wembree@neb.rr.com

FAGREY, David (Grace RCUS, Rapid City, SD)
5626 N. Haines Ave. Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 399-1716; Office (605) 399-1711; dfagrey@juno.com

GROSSMANN, Robert (Providence RCUS, Vermillion, SD)
818 Madison, Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 624-4337. Fax: same as phone; rcusbob@juno.com

HART, Howard (Emeritus, St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
1705 N. Minnesota, Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 995-1964. howardehart@juno.com

KINGSWOOD, Darrell (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)
P.O. Box 372. Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 773-4462. dlkingswood@alltel.net

KOERNER, Maynard (St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
3930 Mason Dr., Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 477-7289. maykoerner@alltel.net

MORRIS, Ron (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD)
505 S. Davison, Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 996-7439. ronm@mitchelltelecom.net

POWELL, C.W. Jr. (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)
6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 590-1477. Fax: 719-573-5398. rcusbud@ureach.com

POWELL, Matthew (Blue Cliff RCUS, Karval, CO)
490 G. Avenue, Limon, CO 80828
(719) 775-8842. mattpowell74@gmail.com

ROGERS, Dan (Emanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)
P.O. Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 773-4287. danrog@juno.com

SAWTELLE, Gene (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)
1505 10th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 336-9927. elgrande64@juno.com

VAN STEDUM, Herman (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
3309 E. 31st St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 339-3887. hermanvs@sio.midco.net

ELDERS PRIMARIUS

CONNELLY, Jim (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)
26779 WCR 45 ½, Kersey, CO 80644
(970) 330-4774. jimco12@mindspring.com

GALLIMORE, Roger (Grace RCUS, Rapid City, SD)
4511 Elk Creek Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769
(605) 787-9134. myonlycomfort@msn.com

GROSS, Spencer (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD)
723 E. 2nd, Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 996-1919. thunehdw@qwest.net

HOFMANN, Fred T. (Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)
2411 Road 1, Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 773-5474. fhofman@mainstaycomm.net

HUBER, Loren (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)
119 Road B, Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 773-5281. loren.huber@fbfs.com

JOHNSON, Jess (St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
7030 Colby, Lincoln, NE 68505
(402) 464-0776. stuart@inetnebr.com

LEE, Larry (High Plains RCUS, Calhan, CO)
P.O. Box 304, Calhan, CO 80808
(719) 347-2604.

MAASSEN, Gary (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
717 Parkview Blvd. Brandon, SD 57005
(605) 582-6469. g_maassen@alliancecom.net

RYDELL, Jim (Providence RCUS, Vermillion, SD)
309 S. Crawford Rd., Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 624-2130. jim.rydell@sd.usda.gov

SCHIEFFELIN, Ted (Blue Cliff RCUS, Karval, CO)
725 11th Street, Limon CO 80828
(719) 775-2791. schieffelin@netecin.net

STARKS, Earl (Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY)
112 Mountain Rd., Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 382-5279. earlstarks@lycos.com

STETLER, Richard (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)
2339 Stepping Stones Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 634-0767. hrstetler@adelphia.net

STREYLE, Larry (Zion RCUS, Menno, SD)
43220 282nd St. Menno, SD 57045
(605) 387-5648.

ELDERS SECUNDUS

BLARE, Rusty (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD)
38844 272nd, Corsica, SD 57328
(605) 946-5018. rblare@siouxvalley.net

FREEMAN, Brian (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs)
3741 Sonoran Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80922
(719) 387-0278. bfreeman@mitre.org

GRIESS, Ardell (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)
305 N. Roy, Sutton, NE 68975
(402) 773-4463.

HENSON, Charlie (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
309 Third Ave. Brandon, SD 57005
(605) 582-6350. chenson@alliancecom.net

HONAKER, Richard (Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY)
453 Quadrant Dr. Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 362-6305. richardhhonaker@aol.com

McPHERSON, David (Grace RCUS, Rapid City, SD)
1303 Evergreen Drive, Sturgis, SD 57785
(605) 720-1517. mcpinc@gwtc.net

METTLER, Daniel (Zion RCUS, Menno, SD)
450 W. Douglas St., Menno, SD 57045
(605) 387-5765. Fax: 605-387-2353. dmettler@mettlerinc.com

OCHSNER, Lon (Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)
32331 Road S., Saronville, NE 68975
(402) 773-5209. lo22919@navix.net

POWELL, Sam (High Plains RCUS, Calhan, CO)
555 Boulder St. Calhan, CO 80808
(719) 347-2881. spowell@ureach.com

SAVAGE, John (Blue Cliff RCUS, Karval, CO)
19600 County Road E, Ordway, CO 81063
(719) 446-5461. savageranch@plains.net

SHRIVER, Ed (St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
700 Glen Arbor Circle, Lincoln, NE 68512
(402) 423-9287. edshr@yahoo.com

TALLMAN, Phil (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)
1438 39th Ave., Greeley, CO 80634
(970) 352-5244. susan.tallman@comcast.net

VAN PEURSEM, Dan (Providence RCUS, Vermillion, SD)
205 S. Crawford Rd., Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 624-6368. dpeursem@usd.edu

LICENTIATES

HENRY, SCOTT.
P.O. Box 353, Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 624-4708. prorege37@msn.com

STUDENTS UNDER CARE

CONNELLY, Jim (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)
26779 WCR 45 ½, Kersey, CO 80644
(970) 330-4774. jimco12@mindspring.com

GROSSMANN, James
6846 W. Lode, Worth, IL 60482
(219) 614-3228. jms_grssm_@hotmail.com

McINTYRE, Andrew (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs)
4655 Sleepy Hollow Circle South, Colorado Springs, CO 80917
(719) 213-4985. mcintyrefamily@adelphia.net

POWELL, Sam (High Plains RCUS, Calhan, CO)
555 Boulder St. Calhan, CO 80808
(719) 347-2881. spowell@ureach.com

STETLER, Richard (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)
2339 Stepping Stones Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 634-0787. hrstetler@adelphia.net

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

COLORADO

CALHAN (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 (www.trinityrcus.com) (719) 590-1477

Trinity Covenant RCUS.
We meet at 2511 N. Logan Ave at Grace PCA (mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. 80919)
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 (www.reformedgreeley.org) (970) 336-9927

Grace RCUS, 1501 10th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631.
Worship 11AM, Sunday school 10AM
Pastor: Gene Sawtelle (wife, Sharon)

KARVAL (719) 775-8842

Blue Cliff Community RCUS (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
Pastor: Matthew Powell

NEBRASKA

LINCOLN, NE (www.stjohnrcus.inetnebr.com) (402) 477-7289

St. John's RCUS, 1101 South 26th St. Lincoln, NE 68502.
Worship: 10:30 AM; S. School 9:30 AM. July & August call for time of service.
Pastor: Maynard Koerner (wife, Marcia)

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; S. 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
Licentiate: Scott Henry (wife, Maria)

MITCHELL (www.gracereformed.com) (605) 996-7439
Grace RCUS, 1021 South Davison (mail: PO Box 252), Mitchell, SD 57301.
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor: Ron Morris (wife, Sherrie)

RAPID CITY (gracercus.org) (605) 399-1711
Grace RCUS, 5626 North Haines Ave
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM; Bible Study Sunday 6:00 PM
Pastor: David Fagrey (wife, Bonnie)

SIOUX FALLS (www.trinityrcus.org) (605) 339-3887
Trinity RCUS, 7301 S. Louise Ave (mail: 3309 E. 31st St. 57103)
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM, Bible Study 6:00 PM
Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

VERMILLION (605) 624-4337
Providence RCUS, 830 E. Madison. Vermillion, SD 57069.
Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM, Wed. Bible: 7:30 PM
Pastor: Robert Grossmann (wife, Polly)

WYOMING

ROCK SPRINGS (307) 362-5107
Providence RCUS, 9th and Pearl (mail: 1007 Ninth St. 82901)
Worship: 10AM, Sunday School 11:30AM
Pastor: Jon Blair (wife, Wendy)

SERVICES

- The body met for worship on Monday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. with the Reverend Mr. Ron Morris conducting and the Reverend Mr. Herman Van Stedum preaching from 1 Peter 3 with a sermon entitled “A Reasonable Confession.”
- At 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 28, Scott Henry preached a sermon on Ephesians 4:11-12.
- At 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 29, Sam Powell preached a sermon on Psalm 130.
- Closing devotions on Wednesday, March 29 were led by Earl Starks.
- 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 27th, 2006, at 8:30 p.m. The sessions were well attended by all delegates, the opening roll call showing 10 Ministers and 13 Elders present and the closing roll call showing 10 Ministers and 13 Elders.

First time elders Jim Connelly and Brian Freeman 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 Elder Ted Shieffelin to be the Reformed Herald reporter.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The President appointed the following Standing Committees

Benevolence	<u>D. Rogers</u> , E. Starks, S. Powell.
Education and Student Aid	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , G. Sawtelle, D. Mettler.
Examination and Licensure	<u>M. Koerner</u> , H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, S. Gross, D. McPherson.
Finances	<u>D. Rogers</u> , S. Gross, L. Huber.
Ministerial Aid	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , J. Connelly, J. Rydell.
Missions	<u>R. Morris</u> , J. Blair, G. Maassen.
Overtures	<u>D. Kingswood</u> , J. Rydell, L. Ochsner.
Publications	<u>H. Van Stedum</u> , L. Ochsne, R. Stetler.
Services	<u>G. Sawtelle</u> , D. Metterl, G. Maassen.
Judicial	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , R. Morris, T. Schieffelin.
Nominations	<u>M. Powell</u> , E. Shriver, R. Stetler.
Minutes of Synod	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , D. McPherson.

PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee's (*referred to Overtures*)

Executive Circulars Volume 20, Numbers 1-8

Number 1

March 17, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention. We failed to adopt guidelines for 2005.

Recommendation: That the following guidelines for 2005 be adopted:

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
Total	\$76,790.00	72.45

Number 2
September 29, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

A. Resignation of Rev. Hans Kalkman.

Your Committee has received the following documents and has found them to be in order:

- (1) Resignation of Rev. Hans Kalkman from Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD, dated August 11, 2005.
- (2) Acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Hans Kalkman from the Consistory of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, dated September 12, 2005.

The opening paragraph of Rev. Kalkman's letter of resignation is sufficient to explain the reason for his resignation: "Dear Brothers and Sisters, It is almost a year ago that I left you for Canada in order to get the immigration troubles sorted out. What initially only looked to be a matter of a few months has grown into a year, and the difficult thing is that I still cannot give a reasonable estimate how much longer it is going to take."

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the above documents regarding the resignation and acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Hans Kalkman be found in order.
2. That the pulpit of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, be declared vacant as of October 16, 2005.

Number 3
November 8, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

A. A request that Jim Connelly be placed under care of Classis

The executive committee has received a recommendation from the Candidates and Credentials Committee that Mr. Jim Connelly be placed under care of Classis as a student for the ministry. The Candidates and Credentials Committee interviewed Mr. Connelly and found him to meet the qualifications for a student under care. He assured the

committee that he is committed to preparing himself for the ministry according to the requirements established by the Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION: That Mr. Jim Connelly be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.

Number 4

December 1, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

B. Rev. Hans Kalkman's request to transfer his ministerial credentials.

The Executive Committee received the following letter from Rev. Hans Kalkman, addressed to the South Central Classis: "Dear brothers, Since I have resigned, as minister from my charge, Zion Reformed Church of Menno South Dakota, and since my resignation is accepted by the Consistory of said Congregation and approved by you, I respectfully request that you transfer my ministerial credentials to the Church of which I have accepted their call, namely, the Canadian Reformed Church of Calgary Alberta Canada. The mailing address of this church is: The Canadian Reformed Church of Calgary, Box 24, Site 8 RR 6, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2M-4L5. With brotherly greetings in Christ, Rev. Hans Kalkman."

Rev. Hans Kalkman's new address, should anyone desire to contact him:

Rev. Hans Kalkman
407a- 799 Calahoo Road
Spruce Grove, AB
T7X-2T1

RECOMMENDATION: That Classis grant Rev. Hans Kalkman's request to transfer his ministerial credentials to the Canadian Reformed Church of Calgary Alberta Canada.

Number 5

December 5, 2005

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There are two items that need your attention:

A. A request from Mr. Scott Henry to be taken under care of Classis.

The Executive Committee has received a letter from Scott Henry, requesting that his status as a student under care be transferred from the Western Classis to the South Central Classis. The Executive Committee has also received, and found to be in order, Scott Henry's letter of Dismissal from the Western Classis.

- B. A request that Mr. Scott Henry be allowed to serve as stated supply.

In light of the vacant pulpit in Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, the executive committee has received a request from the consistory of Zion Reformed Church that student for the ministry Mr. Scott Henry be allowed to serve as stated supply. Zion Reformed Church intends to issue a call to Mr. Henry to be their pastor, but must wait to do so until January 2006, in accordance with the requirement of article 18 that a congregation cannot issue a call to a student for the ministry until the latter half of his senior year of seminary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Mr. Scott Henry be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.
4. That Mr. Scott Henry be allowed to serve Zion Reformed Church as stated supply.

Number 6
January 11, 2006

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention, and it concerns the 2006 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY.

In light of the fact that there are going to be two licensure examinations, which will most likely extend Classis at least one day, the executive committee thought it would be good if Classis convened a day early, on Monday March 27, instead of on Tuesday, March 28, thus suspending Standing Rule #22, that Classis convene on the 4th Tuesday of March. Providence Reformed Church is willing and ready to host Classis a day earlier.

It is a moot point to say that a two-thirds vote is needed to suspend Standing Rule #22, since only one objection can kill this circular letter.

RECOMMENDATION: That Classis suspend standing rule #22 by convening its spring meeting on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. with a worship service.

Number 7
January 30, 2006

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There are three items that need your attention.

A. The call of Mr. Scott Henry.

The executive committee has received the following documents and has found them to be in order:

- (1) Call of a minister from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, dated January 11, 2006 to Mr. Scott Henry, Vermillion, SD.
- (2) Letter from Mr. Scott Henry, stating his intent to accept the call from Zion Reformed Church if he is licensed by the South Central Classis.

B. The retirement of Rev. Gene Sawtelle.

The executive committee received the following documents and has found them to be in order:

- (1) Resignation of Rev. Gene Sawtelle from Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO, dated January 17, 2006. In his letter to his consistory, Rev. Sawtelle stated, "After 43 years it is time to retire. Declining health requires. God's people must have a shepherd who can be far more active and energetic than your humble servant. Please accept my resignation to be effective May 31, 2006."
- (2) Acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Gene Sawtelle from Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO, dated January 17, 2006.

C. 2006 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY.

1. Date and Time: The spring meeting of Classis will commence on Monday, March 27, 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 13, 2006**. 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 13, 2006**). 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 27, 2006** 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. PLEASE SEND AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF ALL REPORTS TO THE CLERK.
5. Accommodations: Please fill out enclosed Lodging request forms and send in ASAP.
6. Miscellaneous: The Schedule of Services, Order of the Day, and Agenda.

7. Committees.

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.

8. Special Committee: **Membership for Ministers of the Word** R. Morris, R. Grossmann, H. Hart, C. Hensen. The report from this committee was distributed at last year's spring classis meeting, but the body voted not to take action on the report until 2006 Spring Classis meeting.

9. Licensure examinations: The Candidates and Credentials Committee has scheduled two licensure exams.

The Executive Committee proposes the following schedule for the examinations:

Piety and Intent	15 minutes	Gross
English Bible	15 minutes	Van Stedum
Historical Philosophy	15 minutes	Fagrey
Apologetics	15 minutes	Fagrey
Church History	15 minutes	Koerner
Hermeneutics	15 minutes	Fagrey
Prolegomena-doctrine of Scripture	20 minutes	Fagrey
Theology proper-doctrine of God	20 minutes	Van Stedum
Anthropology	20 minutes	Koerner
Christology	20 minutes	Koerner
Soteriology	20 minutes	Fagrey
Ecclesiology	20 minutes	Koerner
Eschatology	20 minutes	Van Stedum
Creeds	15 minutes	Gross
Practica	20 minutes	McPherson

Original Languages: Fagrey (prior to Classis)
Exegetical Papers: Fagrey (prior to Classis)
Sermon assignment: Koerner (delivered at Classis with manuscript submitted prior to Classis)
Constitution: Fagrey (written exam to be submitted prior to Classis)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Classis approve Mr. Scott Henry's call when he sustains his licensure exam.
2. That Classis approve the resignation of Rev. Gene Sawtelle, and declare the pulpit at Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO, vacant as of May 31, 2006.

Number 8
February 27, 2006

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 keep the guideline for Heidelberg Seminary at \$8.00 per communicant member for the calendar year 2006.
- 2) From Elder Spencer Gross: A request to keep the "Classis Expense Fund" at \$7,000.
- 3) From Elder Spencer Gross: A request to drop the Reserve Fund from the guidelines.
- 4) From the Spiritual Council of Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO: a request for ministerial aid for Rev. Gene Sawtelle in the amount of \$1200 per month beginning June 1, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Ron Morris
President

The Reverend Mr. David Fagrey
Stated Clerk

Mr. Spencer Gross
Elder Member

MISSIONS

(referred to Standing Missions)

Grace Reformed Church of Greeley, CO

On November 3rd, 2005, Home Missions Chairman Ron Morris was able to meet with the consistory of Grace Reformed Church of Greeley at their building in Colorado. Rev. Gene Sawtelle reported that the congregation in Greeley currently has 36 communicant members and 17 non-communicant members. Two members are in confirmation, with 5 in catechism. Greeley was recently reported as the fastest growing city in the US. It is a bedroom community for Denver and Ft. Collins with an abundance of less expensive housing. However, there have been many costly layoffs. It is said to have the lowest per capita income for the general area. There are big housing projects to provide housing for the Denver jobs but no new payroll jobs in the city of Greeley. Greeley is about 50 miles from Denver and has about 80,000 citizens. Greeley is also a college town and there is potential for a student ministry there. Because of the particular situation of Greeley's economy, there is also a high Hispanic population with a potential for ministry among Hispanic peoples. The Greeley work has been blessed with good buildings. Currently, they owe about \$151,000 on the church building and the parsonage. They are working on making the facility more handicapped accessible. Currently they publish their presence in the Greeley Tribune with an ad that includes the sermon title, text and other information. They currently have 4 elders and 2 deacons. Rev. Sawtelle has decided to retire from the ministry at the end of May so they will need a new minister. May God provide for this vital work in northern Colorado. They are requesting \$13,586 from Synod and Classis which is a 10% reduction from last year's request.

High Plains Reformed Church of Calhan, CO

On February 8, 2006, Classis Home Missions Chairman Ron Morris had a conference call with the consistory of High Plains Reformed Church of Calhan, CO. Elder Sam Powell and the consistory reported that they have an average attendance of about 50 - 55 on a Sunday morning. They currently have 52 baptized members: 36 communicant and 16 unconfirmed children. They have a 9:00 am Sunday School and 10 am Sunday morning worship. They also have a Sunday evening Bible study. They had 8 youth confirmed last year and 1 person join by profession of faith. They have a few more families visiting and expressing an interest in joining. Calhan is more and more transitioning from a rural town to a bed-room community for Colorado Springs. Many families have at least one spouse traveling into the Springs for work. As far as their buildings go, they have paid off their loan for the parsonage that they received from Synod. They have about \$118,000 in debt remaining on the parsonage which averages out to be about \$1042.86/month. The parsonage is worth an estimated \$165,000. The actual church building is a former Lutheran building which they own debt free. They have done some cosmetic work on the church building which consists of painting and landscaping, sheet rocking and texturing. The old building has been completely remodeled and rewired. There are some issues facing this congregation. The consistory believes that the problems have been identified and they are working on them. Because they are unsure about the problems that they have, they have

asked to not take a reduction in funding for 2007. They are requesting the same amount which is \$14,400 each from Classis and Synod.

Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion, SD

On February 10, 2006, Home Missions Chairman Ron Morris was able to meet in Vermillion with Rev. Robert Grossmann and Elder Dan Van Persum. They reported that things are going well in Vermillion. The congregation is faithful in attendance and are spiritually in good health. This last year they confirmed five covenant youth. They also had two adult baptisms and one profession of faith. The Vermillion congregation currently has 23 communicant members and 31 baptized members. An encouraging sign is the fact that they have two Chinese students from the local college, the University of South Dakota, as regular attenders. The facilities there are quite nice and are paid for. The parsonage is large and right next to the church building. The church building is very nice and was given to the RCUS from the CRC . The local congregation has made many improvements on the facilities. They installed a new sprinkler system for the church lawn and hope to re-shingle the parsonage this year. Rev. Grossmann does a weekly radio program on an AM station that broadcasts to a 5 state region. They have had some positive feedback from these broadcasts. They are requesting a 10% reduction in funding for 2007 which is \$8720 from both Classis and Synod.

Recommendations:

1. That Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO be given \$13,586 from SCC for 2007.
2. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Greeley for \$13,586 in 2007.
3. That High Plains Reformed Church, Calhan, CO be given \$14,400 from SCC for 2007.
4. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Calhan for \$14,400 in 2007.
5. That Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD be given \$8,720 from SCC for 2007.
6. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$8,720 in 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ron Morris, Rev. Dan Rogers, Elder Melvin Burbach, Elder Gary Maassen.

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, S. Powell, 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:

The committee corresponded by e-mail several times over the past year, which is adequate for the work entrusted to it.

The Reverend Mr. Matt Powell attended Presbytery of the Rockies in Denver, CO. His report is attached. The Reverend Mr. Herman Van Stedum was delegate to the presbytery of the Dakotas in Bridgewater, SD. The Reverend Mr. Robert Grossman was delegate to Central Classis, URCNA, in Pella, IA. Each of these men will give a report during Classis at the appropriate time. The chairman has a copy of the minutes of the Central Classis meeting held in Pella, IA, and copies can be made if requested.

As we were unable to send a delegates, letters of fraternal greetings were sent to Classis Alberta (CanRef) and the Reverend Mr. Mark Harrington of Central Presbytery of the OPC.

Invitations to the South Central Spring 2006 meeting were sent to the following fraternal representatives:

The Reverend Mr. Mark Harrington, Central Presbytery OPC
The Reverend Mr. Archibald Allison, Presbytery of the Rockies, OPC
The Reverend Mr. Bruce Parnell, RPCNA
The Reverend Mr. Richard Aasman, CanRef

An invitation to send an observer was sent to:
The Reverend Mr. Todd Joling URCNA

As of the time of this report, the only invitation received has been for a delegate to the Central Classis meeting of the URCNA in Waupun, WI. Since this Classis meeting is the week before our own meeting, no South Central delegate has been found to attend.

Respectfully Submitted, Sam Powell, Chairman, Warren Embree, Gene Sawtelle, Richard Stetler

CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS *(referred to Examination and Licensure)*

Esteemed Brethren:

Your committee has conducted several items of business throughout the year by phone and email. In addition to dealing with students under care the committee had one item referred to it from last year. The reference was concerning the Internship Program presented by the Reformed Resource Center. There is a recommendation concerning this item.

Your committee, primarily through the chairman, has had contact with the following students under care.

James Connelly

Mr. Connelly is pursuing self study. He has received a reading list from the Candidates and Credentials Committee. He is working on memorizing the Heidelberg Catechism. He is also investigating courses to take in Greek and Hebrew. Mr. Connelly serves as an Elder with Grace Reformed at Greeley, CO. He plans to be present at the Spring Classis meeting.

James Grossmann

Mr. Grossmann did an internship this past summer with Sioux Falls, Vermillion and Menno under the supervision of Rev. Van Stedum. Rev. Van Stedum reports that Mr. Grossmann has made good progress in his studies. He was able to preach on occasion and teach bible studies as well as assist with VBS. Discussions were also conducted concerning an understanding of the call to the ministry. Mr. Grossmann is scheduled to graduate from seminary at the end of the current school year. There is a possibility that Mr. Grossmann will be doing an internship this summer with Salem-Ebenezer RCUS in Wisconsin.

Scott Henry

Mr. Henry is in his final year of seminary and is scheduled to graduate this May. He has been serving the pulpit at Menno and has received a call. Mr. Henry's work in Menno has been well received. He has a good understanding of the call to the ministry.

Andrew McIntyre

Mr. McIntyre continues to be convinced of the call to the ministry. He has completed his seminary course of study. He has the desire to solidify his thinking on some issues prior to making application for an examination for licensure and is continuing to work on his studies. He is currently serving as an Elder at Trinity RCUS Colorado Springs. Mr. McIntyre plans to attend the Spring Classis meeting.

Sam Powell

Mr. Powell continues to serve the High Plains RCUS at Calhan, CO as well as pursuing his studies at New Geneva Theological Seminary. Mr. Powell reports that his labors at Calhan have only strengthened his conviction of the call to the ministry. His wife is also very comfortable with her husband's pursuit of the ministry. With the advice of the committee Mr. Powell has applied to receive his licensure examination.

Richard Stetler

Mr. Stetler is scheduled to graduate from seminary at the end of the current school year. He has asked to not receive his licensure examination until later this year. He remains convinced, with the support of his wife, of the call to the ministry. He is willing to await the Lord's will in this regard. Mr. Stetler serves as an Elder with Trinity RCUS in Colorado Springs. He plans to attend the Spring Classis meeting.

The reports of the students under care which are required according to Art. 18 will be available at the Classis meeting.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee has received 4 applications from students to be examined for licensure. They are Richard Stetler, Scott Henry, Sam Powell, and James Grossmann. Scott Henry has received a call from Zion Reformed RCUS of Menno, SD. He has indicated his desire to accept this call. Sam Powell has been serving the High Plains RCUS at Calhan, CO for more than two years. Though Mr. Powell has a full year remaining until he will graduate from seminary, it is the opinion of the committee that he should be examined at this time according to Art. 21 of the RCUS constitution. Mr. Powell has assured the committee that he will complete his studies. This would give him a more appropriate standing as he pastors a congregation full time. In a recent communication, Richard Stetler has requested to not be examined at the Spring meeting of Classis but at a later time this summer or fall. James Grossmann has also indicated that receiving his licensure exam at a latter date would be preferable. The committee therefore plans to proceed with the licensure exams of Scott Henry and Sam Powell at the Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis, meeting at Rocksprings, WY on March 27-29.

It will be necessary to schedule a special meeting of Classis latter this summer or fall to do additional exams.

Your committee makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the South Central Classis at its Spring meeting, March 27-29, proceed with the licensure exam of student Scott Henry.

Recommendation 2: That the South Central Classis at is Spring meeting, March 27-29, proceed with the licensure exam of student Sam Powell according to the provision of Art. 21 of the RCUS constitution.

Recommendation 3: That the examinations take be conducted according to the proposed special orders of the agenda and according to the following schedule:

Piety and Intent	15 minutes	Gross
English Bible	15 minutes	Van Stedum
Historical Philosophy	15 minutes	Fagrey
Apologetics	15 minutes	Fagrey
Church History	15 minutes	Koerner
Hermeneutics	15 minutes	Fagrey
Prolegomena-doctrine of Scripture	20 minutes	Fagrey
Theology proper-doctrine of God	20 minutes	Van Stedum
Anthropology	20 minutes	Koerner
Christology	20 minutes	Koerner
Soteriology	20 minutes	Fagrey
Ecclesiology	20 minutes	Koerner
Eschatology	20 minutes	Van Stedum
Creeds	15 minutes	Gross
Practica	20 minutes	McPherson

Original Languages: Fagrey (prior to Classis)

Exegetical Papers: Fagrey (prior to Classis)

Sermon assignment: Koerner (delivered at Classis with manuscript submitted prior to Classis)

Constitution: Fagrey (written exam to be submitted prior to Classis)

Recommendation 4: That ministers of South Central Classis should consult the guidelines for an Internship Program presented by the Reformed Resource Center when they are requested to be a supervising pastor for an intern.

Respectfully submitted: Rev. Maynard Koerner, chairman, Rev. David Fagrey, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Elder Spencer Gross, and Elder David McPherson.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President's Report on the State of the Church

In the Apostle Paul's concluding remarks in his first epistle to the Corinthians he writes, "But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:8-9). It is interesting to see how Paul views his stay in Ephesus. We know from Acts 19 that when he arrived there a huge riot broke out among the local silversmiths who protested Paul's presence and his message. When they heard what Paul was teaching "they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians!' So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord." Yet when Paul is describing his stay in Ephesus to the Corinthians he acknowledges that there are many adversaries but at the same time says that a great and effective door had been opened for the gospel. What an interesting way to view problems in the ministry. Paul viewed his problems as an opportunity to witness God at work!

This past year has offered us some opportunities to witness God at work, not only through trials but also through encouraging reports. As I read the parochial reports I read of growth in some of our assemblies as well as improvements on the physical properties of our congregations. Regarding our mission works, we see that God has been at work in our three mission congregations. In Vermillion, God has brought students from China to the University of South Dakota. They have been attending our mission work there and are hearing the word of God preached. God only knows the impact that will have for the future of those students. In Greeley, Rev. Gene Sawtelle has labored faithfully, but has come to the point where he needs to retire from the pastorate. May God bless Rev. Sawtelle as he makes the transition and may God send the right man there to carry on the work of the gospel in that area. The Calhan congregation is also witnessing God at work as they work to establish a Reformed witness in that part of the world. And while we are on the subject of missions, perhaps it is time to think a little more pro-actively about missions in our classis. Two of our three current works are taking reductions in financial assistance and in a few years will be off completely. Where shall we go next for missions in the SSC? I believe we need to consider the larger cities within our boundaries. Omaha and Denver are a couple that come to mind.

Another ministry of the SSC is our Reformed Resource Center. This got it's impetus when Rev. Norman Hoeflinger's large theological library was donated to classis. Since that time it has been added to, especially various videos presentations given by different ministers of our denomination during youth camps or at retreats. The library has been moved from Lincoln to Vermillion and placed under the care of Heidelberg Theological Seminary where it has a much greater chance to be effectively used. During this classis meeting we need to decide what to do with the RRC. Should it be kept as its own separate entity or should it be given fully over to Heidelberg? May God give wisdom as we make this decision.

All in all we have been blessed by the Lord this past year. As it has been said, "God is there and He is not silent." May God continue his blessing in the coming year.

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

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The following items refer to duties performed by myself, which reference either the spring 2005 Abstract or Circulars that have been sent since the spring 2005 meeting.

1. Page 37 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Benevolence report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
2. Page 37 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 March 21, 2005.

3. Page 37 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for Richard Stetler, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
4. Page 37 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Education and Student Aid, concerning repayment of funds by Ted Schieffelin, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
5. Page 37 of the Abstract, Recommendation #3, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for Sam Powell, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
6. Page 37 of the Abstract, Recommendation #5, of the Standing Education and Student Aid, requesting aid due from Synod for Sam Powell, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
7. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendation #4, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Kay Savage, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
8. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
9. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Rev. & Mrs. Howard Hart, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
10. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendation #3, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
11. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendation #6, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Calhan's 2006 obligation, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
12. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #4, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Greeley's 2006 obligation, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
13. Page 41 of the Abstract, Recommendation #8, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Vermillion's 2006 obligation, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
14. Page 38 of the Abstract, directly underneath recommendation #3, of Standing Judicial, requesting Synod to clarify article 32, a letter was sent March 21, 2005.
15. On April 18, 2005, I sent a letter on behalf of South Central Classis to Senator John Thune on behalf of Rev. Hans Kalkman.
16. On December 14, 2005, a letter of dismissal on behalf of Rev. Hans Kalkman was sent to Classis Alberta of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Respectfully submitted, David Fagrey

Classis Action: The report was approved

Execute Committee's Report on its Minutes

The clerk moved that Executive Circulars Volume 20, 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	1060	\$76,797.00	\$77,147.33	\$350.33	
Church					
Trinity Covenant					
Colorado Springs	38	\$2,753.10	\$2,753.10		
Blue Cliff					
Limon	18	\$1,304.10	\$1,304.10		
St. Johns RCUS					
Lincoln, NE	86	\$6,230.70	\$6,230.72		\$0.02
Emmanuel RCUS					
Sutton, NE	148	\$10,722.60	\$10,722.60		
Hope RCUS					
Sutton, NE	229	\$16,591.05	\$16,591.05		
Zion RCUS					
Menno, SD	177	\$12,823.65	\$12,839.58	\$15.93	
Grace Reformed					
Mitchell, SD	72	\$5,216.40	\$5,216.40		
Grace Reformed					
Rapid City, SD	49	\$3,550.05	\$3,550.05		
Trinity Reformed					
Sioux Falls, SD	111	\$8,041.95	\$8,091.08	\$49.13	
Providence Reformed					
Rock Springs, WY	34	\$22,463.30	\$2,463.30		
Grace Reformed					
Greeley, CO	35	\$2,535.75	\$2,821.00	\$285.25	
Providence Reformed					
Vermillion, SD	19	\$1,376.55	\$1,376.55		
High Plains Reformed					
Calhan, CO	27	\$1,956.15	\$1,956.15		
Providence Reformed					
Limon, CO	17	\$1,231.65	\$1,231.65		
Totals of all Income		\$76,797.00	\$77,147.33	\$350.33	

- Budget based on 1060 members
- Last year overpayment of \$116.59 applied to this year.

Budget Expenditures

	Budget	Paid	Balance
Reformed Resource Center	\$2,800.00		
Rev. Howard Hart		\$2,000.00	
Virginia Hoeflinger		\$500.00	
Training & Retreat		\$230.00	
Fund Balance			\$70.00
Blue Cliff	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Providence Reformed, Limon	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Grace Reformed, Greeley	\$16,650.00	\$16,650.00	
Providence Reformed, Vermillion	\$10,800.00	\$10,800.00	
High Plains Reformed Chapel, Calhan	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	
Heidelberg Reformed Seminary	\$8,480.00	\$8,480.00	
Reserve Fund	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Classis Expense	\$7,000.00		
Mileage		\$2,202.40	
Honorarium		\$400.00	
Postage		\$63.90	
Printing		\$238.57	
Fund Balance			\$4095.13
TOTALS	\$76,730.00	\$71,564.50	\$5,165.76
Reserve Fund Special Gift	\$477.93	\$72.00	\$405.93

Guidelines

	Budget	Received	Over	Short
Reformed Resource Center	\$2,800.00	\$2,806.50	\$6.50	
\$2.64 per com.				
Classical Dues	\$7,000.00	\$7,205.95	\$205.95	
\$6.60 per com.				
Missions	\$45,450.00	\$45,550.89	\$100.89	
\$42.89 per com.				
Reserve Fund	\$1,060.00	\$1,154.52	\$22.33	
\$1.00 per com.				
Benevolence	\$12,000.00	\$12,004.92	\$4.92	
\$11.32 per com.				
Heidelberg Seminary	\$8,480.00	\$8,480.00		
\$8.00 per com.				
Adjustment due to fractions			\$9.74	
Guidelines Total	\$76,797.00	\$77,147.33	\$350.33	
(\$72.45 per com.)				

Total Income	\$77,147.33
(Based on 1060 Communicant Member)	
	Checkbook
Beginning Balance	\$17,782.53
Interest Income	\$97.57
Carry Over	\$(116.59)
Bank Charges	\$(88.77)
Fund Balance	\$5,485.79
Total Checking	\$23,160.53
Mutual Fund	\$1,800.00
Total	\$24,960.53

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, except Rev. Gene Sawtelle’s, which was referred to Judicial.

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,” except Sam Powell who answered “no.”
 - 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 Earl Starks and Lon Ochsner who answered, “No.”

- d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered, "Yes," except Earl Starks who answered "no."
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 as will be corrected.

REPORTS FROM CLASSIS' FRATERNAL DELEGATES

- Rev. Robert Grossmann gave his report as an observer to the Central Classis of the United Reformed Churches.
- Rev. Matthew Powell gave his report as fraternal delete to the Presbytery of the Dakotas.

Classis Action: Take note.

Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches and Visitors

- Fraternal delegate Rev. John Louwerse gave his address. Grossmann gave a response.
- Fraternal delegate Rev. Bob Hemphill gave his address. Sawtelle gave a response.
- Ray Schnabel addressed the body concerning Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS **Heidelberg Youth Camp**

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.

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expense	\$15,430.80	\$16,310.00

Revenue less Expense \$894.02 \$0.00

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

February 20, 2006

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 still available on floppy disks and should continue 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 continue to use this program.

B/ A Ministerial Retreat for the Midwest RCUS Ministers meeting at Mitchell, South Dakota was held on August 15-16, 2005. Twelve pastors met at Grace Reformed Church. Two Orthodox Presbyterian pastors attended.

Pastor Howard Hart lectured on "The Biblical Concept of Beauty."

Pastor Dale Clark lectured on "Modern Trends In Understanding Paul and Justification."

The lectures were well received and the pastors present remarked how helpful the lectures were. We are grateful for their time and energy.

C. 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 is continuing to use and 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 the past few Classis meetings.

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.

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.
21. "The Covenant and the Canons of Dordt." A lecture given by Pastor Grossmann at the 2000 Minister's Retreat at Watertown, SD.
22. 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."
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. From the 2003 Minister Retreat. "The Openness of God" by Professor C.W. Powell. "Instructing for Church Membership" by the Rev. Maynard Koerner.
26. 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.
27. From the 2005 Minister's retreat as noted above.

D. FUTURE PLANS:

I believe that the RRC should be dissolved.

Reasons: A. The long range plan of RRC was to eventually establish a Bible School or a Seminary of the RCUS. That goal has partially been met with the establishing of Seminaries in Sacramento and Vermillion.

B. The above mentioned institutions are best suited for the Training in Ministry program of Classis South Central.

C. Some of our churches and Heidelberg Seminary have been running very successful retreats for minister and office bearers. These may easily take the place of our retreats.

D. The RRC has not received requests for writing programs for the Classis and its committees.

E. Therefore, I believe that the RRC has served its usefulness over the past ten years and need not continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1/ That a curator for the Hoeflinger Memorial Library be given an honorarium of \$200.
- 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 served as Administrator of the RRC and TIM for 10 years.
- 4/ That Classis continue to use the outline of the Internship Program.
- 5/ That Classis continue to use the “Guidelines for Examinations for Licensure and Ordination.”
- 6/ That the RRC be dissolved.
- 7/ That South Central Classis’ Permanent Committee on Christian Education have oversight of the Hoeflinger Memorial Library that is presently housed at Heidelberg Seminary.
- 8/ That the funds used for the operation of the RRC be taken off the Classical guidelines.

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

Classis Action: All recommendations were adopted, except take note on Recommendations 3-5, and a substitute motion for recommendation one. The report was adopted.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE MEMBERSHIP OF MINISTERS

The South Central Classis of the RCUS erected a committee to look into the issue of a minister’s membership in the local congregation. Your committee has not conducted any formal meetings on this, but we have conversed about it on at least two occasions. One occasion was at the minister’s winterim held in Mitchell, SD in January 2004. Providentially, Rev. G. I. Williamson of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) was speaking at that meeting and we asked him about his opinion, as well as that of the OPC, and we are grateful for his thoughts regarding this issue.

The question is, where does a minister register his membership? Is he a member of a local congregation or is he only a member of classis? It has been the practice in certain quarters of the RCUS that a minister is only a member of classis. But what happens if, hypothetically, a minister’s credentials are revoked by classis due to some act of discipline? Where does he now belong? This could be exacerbated if a minister who was deposed happened to remain in the same vicinity. It could happen that a local congregation holds the membership of a pastor’s wife and children, but not the pastor. In this case, the consistory would have some amount of authority regarding the family, but not the former minister. He could miss church regularly and there is nothing the church can officially do; he is no longer a member anywhere.

The following issues should be taken into consideration:

- 1) Ministers, according to the constitution of the RCUS, are members of the "Church" which implies a member in good standing of a local congregation. (Art. 1, 27).
- 2) The Order of Dordt (1578) ruled that ministers were members of a local congregation and therefore could be a delegate to classis.
- 3) The voting members of classis are only members of classis because the local congregation delegated them, according to historic Reformed polity.
- 4) The Presbyterian form of government has the minister's credentials in the presbytery, but this does not prohibit his membership from being in a local congregation.

It may be helpful to view a minister's credentials and his membership in a local congregation as separate issues. Our recommendation is that ministers of the word should be members of a local congregation while keeping their ministerial credentials with the classis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ron Morris
Rev. Robert Grossmann
Rev. Howard Hart

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Education and Student Aid

The committee brought the following recommendation:

1. That Classis overture Synod for student aid for Sam Powell in the amount of \$4,700 for tuition (\$4,320) and books (\$380).

Classis Action: The recommendation and report were adopted.

Benevolence

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. From overture 10, that Classis overture Synod to provide benevolent aid in the amount of \$8700 to Trinity Reformed Church of Colorado Springs, CO, for the next synodical year.
2. From Overture 12, that Classis overture Synod on behalf of Mrs. Amy Stevens for aid in the amount of \$1000.00 per month.
3. 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.

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

Examination and Licensure

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That recommendation 3 of the permanent candidates and credentials committee report be approved.
2. That recommendation 1 of the permanent committee report be approved.
3. That the licensure exam of Scott Henry be sustained.
4. That Rev. Herman Van Stedum be appointed to supervise an internship with Scott Henry.
5. That upon the request of Sam Powell we recommend that his licensure exam not be administered at this time.
6. That the South Central Classis suggest the name of Ted Schieffelin to the board of New Geneva Seminary as a possible board member.
7. Take note with regard to overture 16.
8. Take note with regard to recommendation 4 from the report of the permanent candidates and credentials committee.
9. That when the Home Missions committee visits the Calhan congregation they include two members from the permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee.

Classis Action: Beside the take notes, all the recommendations and the report were adopted.

Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis declare that its action of removing Mr. Robert Davis's name from the roll of ministers of Classis be understood as removing Mr. Davis's ministerial credentials by Administrative Erasure and is not to be considered an act of discipline. (This means that should Mr. Davis seek ministerial credentials in the RCUS, he would have to go through whatever restoral process Classis would require).
2. That Mr. Sam Powell's request that he be given a letter stating that his status at Calhan, CO, be considered that of an "Exhorting Elder," in order to qualify him for the treatment by the U.S. IRS of religious workers be granted through a letter signed by the Stated Clerk of Classis.
3. That the Rev. Gene Sawtelle be dismissed to the Western Classis of the RCUS with our request that he be received by the Western Classis as of June 1, 2006.
4. That the South Central Classis formally express by this motion its hearty thanks to Almighty God for giving us the faithful labors of our dear Brother, Rev. Gene Sawtelle. We are thankful for his labors within the borders of the South Central Classis and on its behalf. May God honor his servant with joy and peace during his retirement.

Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

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 \$1350 per month 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 Mrs. Kay Savage for the next synodical year.
5. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1200 per month for Rev. Gene Sawtelle beginning in June, 2006.

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

Home Missions

The committee brought the recommendations:

1. That Grace Reformed Church of Greeley be given \$13,586.00 from South Central Classis for 2007.
2. That South Central Classis overture Synod Home Missions on behalf of Greeley for \$13,586.00 in 2007.
3. That Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion be given \$8,720.00 from South Central Classis for 2007.
4. That South Central Classis overture Synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$8,720.00 in 2007.
5. That High Plains Chapel of Calhan be given \$14,440.00 from South Central Classis for 2007.
6. That South Central Classis overture Synod on behalf of Calhan for \$14,440.00 in 2007.
7. That the permanent home missions committee reestablish the missionary at large program to be funded by guideline dollars with the goal of establishing mission works in areas such as Denver or Omaha, with a working program to be presented at the next Spring Classis meeting.

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

Nominations

The committee brought the following and recommendations:

Missions	R. Morris, C.W. Powell, D. Rogers, G. Maassen.
Publications	<u>D. Kingswood</u> , H. Hart, L. Ochsner.
Christian Education	<u>C.W. Powell</u> , J. Blair, D. Mettler, T.Schieffelin.
Interchurch Relations	<u>S. Powell</u> , B. Grossmann, W. Embree, R. Stetler.
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	R. <u>Gallimore</u> , M. Powell, D. Rogers.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Publications

The committee reported receiving no business that required action.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Services

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That South Central Classis extend our most sincere appreciation to Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY, and to the host families, for the very gracious and loving care that has been given to us during the sessions. Your labor of love on our behalf has been deeply appreciated as you have hosted the spring classis meeting. May God bless you for making our stay so comfortable and memorable.
 2. That our expression of thanks 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: \$360.80
Maynard Koerner: \$321.00
Spencer Gross: \$369.60
Gene Sawtelle: \$138.16
Dave McPherson: \$201.08
Richard Stetler: \$185.68
Matthew Powell: \$176.00
Sam Powell: \$195.80
Trinity Covenant Church: \$177.32
Loren Huber: \$607.00
Daniel Mettler: \$360.80.
TOTAL: \$3093.44
2. From overture 1, that the reserve fund for Classis be reduced to zero for the current classical year
3. From overture 2, that the guideline for Heidelberg Theological Seminary remain at \$8.00 per communicant for the current classical year.
4. From overture 3, that the Classis Expense Fund remain at \$7,000.
5. That the financial records of Classis South Central be audited before the Spring Classis Meeting convenes.
6. That the Classis Treasurer be reminded to pay the Classis officers for their services.

7. That standing rules 7 & 8 be amended so that mileage be reimbursed at \$.33 per mile.
8. That the Classis guidelines be set as follows:

		Per Communicant (1071)
Classical Dues	\$7,000.00	\$6.54
Missions	\$39,145.00	\$36.55
Benevolence	\$12,000.00	\$11.20
Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 8,568.00	\$8.00
-----	-----	
Total	\$66,713.00	\$62.29

Classis Action: Beside a take note on recommendation 6, all recommendations and the report were adopted.

Overtures

The committee brought the recommendations:

1. That overtures 1-3 from Spencer Gross be referred to standing Finances.
2. That overtures 4-8, requests for ministerial aid for Phyllis Grossmann, Kay Savage, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hart, Virginia Hoeflinger, and Rev. Gene Sawtelle respectively be referred to standing Ministerial Aid.
3. That overture 9 be referred to Standing Missions.
4. That overture 10 be referred to Standing Benevolence.
5. That Richard Stetler's excuse for Monday evening be approved.
6. That Larry Lee be excused from all sessions of Classis.
7. Take notes that all actions taken with reference to Hans Kalkman have been dealt with by executive circular.
8. Take note that all the approved actions of all the executive circular letters were carried out.
9. Take note that all actions taken with reference to Scott Henry (except licensure) have been dealt with by executive circular.
10. That overture 11 be referred to standing education and student aid.
11. That overture 12, requesting aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens be referred to standing benevolence.
12. That overture 13 be referred to standing benevolence.
13. That overture 14 regarding synodical judicial committee recommendation #3 (page 74 of the Abstract of the Minutes, 259th Synod) be referred to standing judicial.
14. Take note that the report of the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee was received.
15. That overture 15 be referred to standing judicial.
16. That overture 16 be referred to standing Examination and Licensure
17. That Warren Embree be excused from all sessions of Classis.

Classis Action: Beside the take notes, all recommendations and the report were adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

The body adjourned to the 2007 Spring Classis meeting according to Standing Rule 22.

APPENDICES
2005 MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

	Colorado Springs, CO Trinity Covenant	Greeley, CO Grace Reformed	Blue Cliff Community Karval, CO	High Plains Reformed Calthan, CO	Providence Reformed Limon, CO	Lincoln, NE St John's Reformed	Emmanuel Reformed Sutton, NE	Sutton, NE Hope Reformed
Number of Elders	3	4	2	3	1	4	3	4
Number of Deacons	2	2	2	2	1	4	3	4
Communicant Members Last Year	38	35	19	27	17	86	148	233
Received by Confirmation	0	0	2	8	4	3	0	8
Received by Letter of Transfer	2	2	0	0	0	4	0	2
Received by Profession of Faith	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total Members Received	7	2	2	9	4	7	0	10
Total Old/New Members	45	37	21	36	21	93	148	243
Lost by Dismissal	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	12
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Lost by Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
Total Members Lost	3	1	1	0	0	1	10	16
Communicant Members This Year	42	36	20	36	21	92	138	226
Unconfirmed Members	17	17	4	16	12	27	33	53
Total Baptized Members	59	53	24	52	33	119	171	279
Number of Families	25	23	6	11	7	49	70	105
Number of Children in SS	16	10	5	12	11	20	34	64
Number of Adults Baptized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Infants Baptized	0	1	1	1	1	2	4	0
Total Number of Baptism	0	1	1	1	1	2	4	0
Number Received Lord's Supper	41	34	20	36	21	84	131	208
Times Lord's Supper Served	12	4	12	4	12	6	6	6
Financial Statistics								
Receipts from Regular Offerings	69,285	55,171	22,186	45,036	29,956	64,933	51,131	128,258
Receipts from Special Offerings	26,479	18,085	2,178	5,241	0	30,490	33,361	5,836
Receipts from other sources	9,359	36,939	6,599	40,565	6,600	17,410	101	1,915
Total Receipts	105,123	110,195	30,963	90,842	36,556	112,833	84,593	136,009
Budgeted Synodical Funds	7,790	7,255	3,306	5,366	3302	17,808	12,848	41,013
Budgeted Classical Funds	2,753	2,821	1,410	1,956	1262	6,231	10,723	16,591
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	0	2,503	385	0	0	2,007	1,714	818
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	26,504	7,583	2,260	0	1,605	684	5,081	8048
Other General Expenses	53,784	87,998	27,850	76,124	29,279	90,830	65,358	76,759
Total Disbursements	90831	108,160	35211	83,446	35448	117560	95724	143229
Value of Church Building	0	192,000	0	152000	40000	110000	522000	400000
Value of Parsonage	0	158,000	0	165000	0	99100	157000	60000
Improvements on Church Property	0	588	0	8,395	1,229	27,856	5,332	0
Present Property Debts	0	146,481	0	115,828	13,910	10,000	0	0
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	13,689	0	5,541	2,272	5,000	0	0
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	185	207	174	199	194	207	87	176
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	66	81	74	72	74	72	72	71
Total Giving to RCUS	251	359	268	271	268	303	171	250

	Zion Reformed Church	Mitchell, SD Grace Reformed	Rapid City, SD Grace Reformed	Sioux Falls, SD Trinity Reformed	Verillion, SD Providence Reformed	Rock Springs, WY Providence Reformed	TOTAL 2005	TOTAL 2004	Percent Change
Number of Elders	4	3	2	5	2	3	43	41	5%
Number of Deacons	4	2	2	5	1	1	35	33	6%
Communicant Members Last Year	177	71	49	111	19	34	1049	1049	0%
Received by Confirmation	0	2	3	3	4	0	37	23	61%
Received by Letter of Transfer	0	0	6	7	0	0	23	28	-18%
Received by Profession of Faith	0	0	0	1	2	1	10	29	-66%
Total Members Received	0	2	9	11	6	1	70	80	-13%
Total Old/New Members	177	73	58	122	25	35	1134	1127	1%
Lost by Dismissal	5	2	2	11	2	0	38	45	-16%
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	1	0	1	3	1	0	14	15	-7%
Lost by Death	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	14	-29%
Total Members Lost	7	3	3	14	3	0	62	74	-16%
Communicant Members This Year	170	70	55	108	22	35	1071	1060	1%
Unconfirmed Members	34	33	38	45	8	11	348	370	-6%
Total Baptized Members	204	103	93	153	30	46	1419	1430	-1%
Number of Families	91	40	29	59	11	19	545	540	1%
Number of Children in SS	26	32	27	38	4	3	302	335	-10%
Number of Adults Baptized	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	-50%
Number of Infants Baptized	2	1	3	2	0	0	18	21	-14%
Total Number of Baptism	2	1	3	2	2	0	20	25	-20%
Number Received Lord's Supper	157	70	54	106	24	33	1019	1010	1%
Times Lord's Supper Served	4	6	8	6	4	12	102	82	24%

Financial Statistics

Receipts from Regular Offerings	98,509	83,280	122,293	142,950	42,371	66,289	1021648	1079792	-5%
Receipts from Special Offerings	31,505	4,399	0	8,142	4,755	10,905	181376	96,762	87%
Receipts from other sources	1,955	0	0	9,535	21,475	0	152453	200,564	-24%
Total Receipts	131,969	87,679	122,293	160,627	68,601	77,194	1355477	1377118	-2%
Budgeted Synodical Funds	45,179	14,830	10,025	22,446	3,886	791	195845	189,957	3%
Budgeted Classical Funds	12,836	5,216	3,550	8,091	1,376	2,347	77163	77,789	-1%
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	6,383	0	1,660	1,985	0	250	17705	23,260	-24%
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	0	600	4,405	0	550	57320	15,458	271%
Other General Expenses	60,777	0	90,316	123,663	57,121	91,822	931681	942,159	-1%
Total Disbursements	125175	20,046	106,151	160590	62383	95760	1279714	1248623	2%
Value of Church Building	500000	260000	493,900	445,143	0	*	3115043	3298946	-6%
Value of Parsonage	75000	130000	200,970	147,000	0	0	1192070	1266800	-6%
Improvements on Church Property	9000	0	0	0	3,507	0	55907	258,952	-78%
Present Property Debts	0	40,000	138,500	105,967	0	57,468	628154	673,773	-7%
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	0	20,380	43,662	0	8,079	98623	179,598	-45%
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	255	209	205	202	205	23	187	181	3%
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	73	73	72	73	72	69	74	74	-1%
Total Giving to RCUS	364	282	310	293	277	100	277	277	0%

*church and parsonage

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 (.33) 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, 2006).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at twenty cents (.33) per running mile, also if several ride together in one car; or if by public transportation, the actual fare (1936, '54, '74, '80, '94, 2006).
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

(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.