

2008
Abstract of the Minutes

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

The Reformed Church in the United States

Spring Meeting
March 25-26, 2008
Grace Reformed Church
Rapid City, SD

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OFFICERS OF CLASSIS

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

PERMANENT COMMITTEES
(Underlined indicates chairman)

Missions D. Rogers, P. Henderson, C.W. Powell, G. Maassen, L. Huber.
Publications J. Blair, D. Rogers, A. Greiss.
Christian Education D. Kingswood, C.W. Powell, R. Morris, J. Connelly, D. DeGroot.
Interchurch Relations B. Grossmann, M. Powell, D. DeGroot, E. Starks.
Candidates & Credentials M. Koerner, D. Fagrey, P. Henderson, D. Mettler, S. Heinbigner, J. Savage.
Executive Committee R. Morris, S. Gross, D. Fagrey

***Heidelberg Youth Camp** R. Gallimore, M. Powell, S. Henry, B. Freeman.
***Committee to investigate whether charges are warranted as a response to a complaint:**
 M. Koerner, W. Embree, J. Blair, S. Gross, D. Mettler, D. McPherson.
 Alternates: S. Henry and G. Maassen.

*Special Committee

2008 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

	Guideline	Per Communicant (1032)
Classical Dues	\$8,000.00	\$7.75
Missions	\$26,977.00	\$26.14
Greeley (\$12,257)		
Vermillion (\$5,720)		
Limon (\$9,000)		
Heidelberg Seminary	\$8,256	\$8.00
New Geneva Seminary	\$4,128	\$4.00
 Total	 \$47,361	 \$45.89

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DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

COLORADO

COLORADO SPRINGS (www.trinityrcus.com)

Trinity Covenant RCUS. Phone: **(719) 590-1477**.
We meet at Grace PCA, 2511 N. Logan Ave (mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. 80918)
Worship: 11:30AM. Sunday school: 1:00PM.
Pastor: C.W. "Bud" Powell, Jr. (wife, Penny)

GREELEY (www.reformedgreeley.org)

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(970) 336-9927**.
1501 10th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631 (mail: 1505 10th Ave)
Worship 10:00 AM
Pastor: Jon Blair (wife, Wendy)

KARVAL

Blue Cliff Community RCUS. Phone: **(719) 775-8842** or **446-5225**.
Mail: 490 G. Ave., Limon, CO 80828
Worship: 12:00PM
Pastor: Matthew Powell (wife, Andrea).

LIMON

Providence RCUS. Phone: **(719) 775-8842**.
Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828.
Worship: 9:00AM
Pastor: Matthew Powell (wife, Andrea)

NEBRASKA

LINCOLN (www.stjohnrcus.inetnebr.com)

St. John's RCUS. Phone: **(402) 477-7289**
1101 South 26th St. Lincoln, NE 68502 (mail: 3930 Mason Dr. 68521)
Worship: 10:30 AM; S. School 9:30 AM. June – August Worship: 10AM. No SS.
Pastor: Maynard Koerner (wife, Marcia)

SUTTON

Emmanuel RCUS. Phone: **(402) 773-4218**
110 South Way Ave. (mail: PO Box 362) Sutton, NE 68979
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: Dan Rogers (wife, Kelani).

SUTTON

Hope RCUS. Phone: **(402) 773-4330**.
311 E. Hickory (mail: PO Box 372), Sutton, NE 68979
Worship: 10:30AM; S.School 9:00AM; Family Bible Study 6:30PM (2nd & 4th Sun.)
Pastor: Darrell Kingswood (wife, Lori)

SOUTH DAKOTA

MENNO

Zion RCUS. Phone: **(605) 387-2816**
220 South Pine (mail: P.O. Box 387), Menno, SD 57045
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: Scott Henry (wife, Maria)

MITCHELL (www.gracereformed.com)

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

RAPID CITY (www.rcusrapidcity.com)

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(605) 399-1711**.
5626 North Haines Ave. Rapid City, SD 57701
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)

Trinity RCUS. Phone: **(605) 339-3887**.
7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (mail: 3309 E. 31st St. 57703)
Worship: 10:00 AM
Pastor: Herman Van Stedum (wife, Phyllis)

VERMILLION (www.providencereformed.com)

Providence RCUS. Phone: **(605) 624-4337**.
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

Providence RCUS. Phone: **(307) 362-5107**.
9th and Pearl (mail: 1007 Ninth St.), Rock Springs, WY 82901.
Worship: 10AM, Sunday School 11:30AM
Pastor: Paul Henderson (wife, Tina).

SERVICES

- The body met for worship on Tuesday, March 25 at 6:45 p.m. with Rev. Maynard Koerner conducting and Rev. Robert Grossmann preaching from 2 Thessalonians 3:13-15 with a sermon entitled “Patience in Church Discipline.”

- At 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 26, Rev. Herman Van Stedum led the body in a devotion from Hebrews 12:20-29.
- Closing devotions on Wednesday, March 26 at p.m. were led by Elder Dave McPherson, who read from Romans 8:31-39 and led the body in prayer.

ORGANIZATION

The President of Classis, Rev. Ron Morris, called the body to order on Tuesday March 25th, 2008, at 8:05 p.m. The body had business until 9:25 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

The President appointed Rev. Bud Powell to be the Reformed Herald reporter.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Benevolence	W. Embree, H. Van Stedum, F. Hofmann.
Education and Student Aid	D. Kingswood, J. Blair, D. Mettler.
Examination and Licensure	M. Koerner, H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, S. Gross, D. McPherson; S. Heinbigner.
Finances	S. Gross P. Henderson, D. McPherson.
Ministerial Aid	D. Rogers, J. Connelly, J. Rydell.
Missions	S. Henry, D. Rogers, D. DeGroot.
Overtures	R. Grossmann, D. Kingswood, J. McClay.
Publications	W. Embree, Bud Powell, J. Savage
Services	C.W. Powell, S. Henry, D. Mettler.
Judicial	H. VanStedum. H. Hart, D. DeGroot.
Nominations	P. Henderson, R. Grossmann, J. Connelly
Minutes of Synod	M. Powell, D. Fagrey, E. Starks.

PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee's (*referred to Overtures*)

Executive Circulars Volume 22, Numbers 1-4

Number 1

March 31, 2007

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

We failed to act on a matter relating to this year's Synod Executive Committee's report to the Classes. We were required to vote on whether to amend article 41 of the Constitution, having to do with bringing charges against a Teacher of Theology. Article 41 presently reads this way: "If four ministers and four elders of the Church present to" Last year's Synod (see Abstract of the 260th Synod, page 72) voted to amend article 41 to read as follows: "If *two* ministers and *two* elders of the church, *representing two different Classes*, present to"

In order for any amendment of the Constitution to take effect it must have the concurrence of two-thirds of the Classes (Article 197). A simple majority vote is all that would have been required had we voted on this at Classis, but since we are voting on this matter by means of this circular letter, only one no vote or objection will kill this circular, in which case Classis will inform Synod that it took no action.

The Executive Committee recommends support for this proposed amendment.

Recommendation: That the South Central Classis concur with Synod's vote to amend article 41.

Number 2

April 18, 2007

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

In connection with the report of the special committee appointed by Classis to assess the situation at High Plains Reformed Church, Calhan, CO the executive committee received a request that the pulpit of High Plains Reformed Church be declared vacant as of May 1, 2007. Elder Sam Powell's last Sunday in the pulpit will be April 29, 2007. The request from the special committee is as follows:

"Your committee's concluding "assessment of the situation at High Plains Reformed Church" is that the church is in a position to go forward with the call of a pastor. The congregation and Consistory are committed to the work there as a mission church in the RCUS. They do need and will be asking for assistance from the Classis, both in the calling of a pastor and for pulpit supply in the interim (per Constitution Article 69). Since time is of the essence, it is our view that the pulpit should be formally declared vacant as of May 1st."

Recommendation: That the pulpit at High Plains Reformed Church, Calhan, CO be declared vacant as of May 1, 2007.

Number 3

September 22, 2007

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The Executive Committee received the following email from Rev. Dan Rogers, chairman of Classis Home Missions:

"Phil Tallman – an elder from Greeley, stepped down from his position because of health reasons. Phil was also on the SCC Home Missions Committee. Our committee is recommending that he be replaced by Elder Loren Huber from Hope Church in Sutton, since Loren is also on the Synod Home Missions Committee. If this is acceptable, can this be done by executive circular? If so, please make it so! God Bless, Dan Rogers."

Recommendation: The Executive Committee recommends that Classis approve this request from the SCC Home Missions Committee that elder Loren Huber replace elder Phil Tallman on the SCC Home Missions Committee.

Number 4

January 28, 2008

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The 2008 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.

1. Date and Time: Classis will begin Tuesday, March 25, at 6:45 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 11, 2008**. 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 11, 2008**). 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 25, 2008** with **one copy** to be sent **to the Stated Clerk**. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee.
 5. PLEASE SEND AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF ALL REPORTS TO THE CLERK.
 6. Accommodations: Please fill out enclosed Lodging request forms and send in ASAP.
 7. Miscellaneous: The Schedule of Services, Order of the Day, and Agenda.
8. Committees.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Missions | <u>D. Rogers</u> , P. Henderson, C.W. Powell, G. Maassen, L. Huber ** |
| Publications | <u>D. Kingswood</u> , P. Henderson, D. Griess. |
| Christian Education | <u>C.W. Powell</u> , J. Blair, T. Schieffelin. |
| Interchurch Relations | <u>B. Grossmann</u> , M. Powell, E. Starks, H. Yoder. |
| Candidates/Credentials | <u>H. Van Stedum</u> , M. Koerner, D. Fagrey, D. McPherson, S. Gross, J. Johnson. |
| Executive Committee | <u>R. Morris</u> , S. Gross, D. Fagrey |
| Heidelberg Youth Camp | <u>R. Gallimore</u> , M. Powell, S. Henry, B. Freeman. |
- ** replaced P. Tallman by executive circular 22:3.

Respectfully Submitted,

President Rev. Ron Morris, Stated Clerk Rev. David Fagrey, Elder Spencer Gross

MISSIONS

(referred to Standing Missions)

Calhan, CO

Over the past year, the Home Missions Committee has been in contact with High Plains Reformed Church in Calhan, Colorado. A special committee consisting of Rev. Jon Blair, Rev. Dan Rogers, and Elder Phil Tallman was appointed by Classis and met with the congregation and Consistory on April 15th, 2007. Following the meeting, a report was given to the Executive Committee of Classis highlighting the challenges the church faced, their attitude toward the

RCUS, and a recommendation for the future. The committee concluded “*that the church is in a position to go forward with the call of a pastor.*”

Throughout the year the church received pulpit supply from a number of men in SCC as well as from elsewhere. Members of the Home Missions Committee filled the pulpit at least 3 times. During that time a number of men showed varying levels of interest in the pulpit vacancy, yet no one formally accepted the call. The last visit by a committee member was on November 4th, 2007. During this entire time, there was never and discussion or mention of the possibility of High Plains Reformed Church leaving the RCUS, yet on January 6th they voted to do just that.

The rest of this report is based on conversations that have since taken place with Elder Larry Lee from High Plains Reformed Church in Calhan, CO and Reverend Scott Seder of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

First, the congregation of High Plains RCUS has voted to leave the RCUS and to pursue membership in the OPC. This was not because of any doctrinal disagreements with the RCUS or any issues with the ministers or churches of the RCUS. Although they have been disappointed and frustrated to continue to have a vacant pulpit, according to Elder Lee they are not angry with anyone in the RCUS about it. They do not believe that anyone in the RCUS is at fault for the pulpit remaining vacant.

Rather than blame, Elder Lee shared that they just finally got to the point where something had to be done. At the same time the Lord provided a minister from the OPC, Rev. Scott Seder, to fill the pulpit. It began to appear that this was the direction that High Plains should consider.

Mr. Lee said that they virtually talked to everyone in the congregation about things before they had a vote on January 6th to leave the RCUS and pursue the OPC. The vote to leave was 13-3 in favor, while the vote to pursue the OPC was 15-0 with one abstaining. Since then, one deacon’s family (the Babcocks) has left the congregation.

Mr. Lee indicated that a letter concerning their actions had been sent to the Executive Committee of South Central Classis while Rev. Seder was working on the necessary paperwork to pursue membership in the OPC. According to Rev. Seder, a committee from Presbytery will meet in April to examine the viability of the work in Calhan. From the report, the Presbytery will make a decision at their May meeting to determine whether to make High Plains a mission church of the OPC; they meet the first week of May in Carson, ND.

Rev. Seder indicated that the church will most likely call him to be their pastor. In addition he said that he is available to talk to anyone who might have concern as to what has taken place. Rev. Seder believes that God has led this congregation in a different direction, but not necessarily in a wrong direction.

Financially, Elder Larry Lee said that they would not expect to receive financial support from Classis or Synod because of the action they have taken. According to the Treasurers of both SCC and the RCUS Synod, financial support of \$14,400 per has ceased.

Some of the concerns of the Home Missions Committee as to what has taken place with High Plains Reformed Church would be as follows: Why was this decision made without input from the RCUS? As is stated in the RCUS Home Missions Manual, section II, “*Any major decisions shall be made only after consultation with the Classis Missions Committee.*” Is leaving one denomination for another with whom we have fraternal relations, truly reflective of Reformed Polity? Why was Rev. Seder not brought into the RCUS, since he apparently was willing to do so?

A request for High Plains to send representatives to the spring meeting of SCC was made, but they have informed us that they will not be able to attend. Because of this the Executive Committee of SCC thought it best to have the Home Missions Committee visit the congregation some time before our March meeting. However after more discussion, it was

determined that it would be best to discuss this at our Classis meeting, with or without representatives from Calhan.

Greeley, CO

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
(Psalm 133:1). Truly this describes the overall attitude and labors of the saints of Grace Reformed Church at Greeley, Colorado.

I, Rev. Paul Henderson, was able to meet with the Pastor and Consistory for about two hours on Saturday, February 23, and to teach and preach on Sunday. I am grateful for the hospitality of the Blair family, and the friendliness and encouragement from the congregation and Consistory during my time there.

Grace Reformed began with a Bible study under the direction of the late Rev. Dorman Savage, in the late 90's, and was later organized under Rev. Gene Sawtelle's loving and faithful leadership in 2000. After laboring there for 6 plus years, the pastorate was 'turned over' to the Rev. Jon Blair. Rev. Blair acknowledges that he is truly grateful for the faithful and diligent labors of Rev. Sawtelle, who was used by God to set this body of believers on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, as taught in the Reformed faith! {Q's & A's 19 & 21 }

The Rev. Blair's labors, according to his Consistory, have continued faithfully to build upon the solid foundation already laid. God is indeed at work in them all, both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Again, the overwhelming sense of 'family unity' was noticed and was a source of encouragement. The men on the Consistory - Elders Jim Connelly, Albert Haller and Deacons Warren Nuss and Daniel Thomas all have a strong desire to see God's kingdom and the Gospel ministry advance and prosper in this area; although they are all going to miss the faithful diligence and leadership of Elder Phil Tallman, who will be re-locating to the far nor-eastern corner of these United States [Vermont!] Phil is doing well after his prostate surgery! He extends his many thanks for all your prayers on his behalf.

The church is also doing well financially. Giving continues to improve, and the saints there are showing themselves to be cheerful and faithful in their desire to see this work become self-sustaining. They have also expressed their thankfulness to God for the RCUS churches that have generously supported them through the *Day of Prayer for Missions* offering. Their three-year (3) budget is sound and conservative; and we are grateful to God that they will be able to take the scheduled decrease of Synodical and Classical support this year. They also have plans to continue to fix and maintain the church facility and parsonage.

The church receives an average of 20 or so visitors per month. As always, some stay, some play, and some stray! The ones that stay have found sweet fellowship and a sure & strong commitment to the truth. The congregation thus, continues to see the blessed fruit of their labors.

As always there is the ongoing desire to see all of the saints more involved in attending to the means of grace on Sunday, and to the fellowship of the saints. The Elders and Pastor have been diligent to encourage and challenge the saints in these holy purposes. As we all know, this truly is and always will be an ongoing battle within the Body of Christ.

All in all, the work that God is doing in Greeley, Colorado is prospering! The ups and downs that they have experienced have not deterred nor disheartened these folks. They continue to press on, that they might lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of them; *they are pressing* toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. May the Lord continue to shine His favor upon them as they carry on there in Northern Colorado.
Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Paul H. Henderson

Karval & Limon, CO

The following report mostly concerns Providence Reformed Chapel in Limon, Colorado, but because of the joint charge it also concerns Blue Cliff Community Church in Karval, Colorado. On February 20th, 2008, Rev. Dan Rogers and Elder Lon Ochsner met with Rev. Matt Powell and Elder Ted Schieffelin in Limon, Colorado. The purpose for the visit was to evaluate and assess the desire of Providence Reformed Church of coming under the oversight of SCC Home Missions.

To this point, both Blue Cliff RCUS and Providence Reformed Church have been established congregations in the RCUS who have received benevolent funds as supplemental support. In January, 2008, Rev. Matt Powell contacted the Home Missions Committee about changing support from Classis and Synod benevolence support to Classis and Synod home missions support. According to the Synodical Home Missions manual, the following assessment was necessary.

Providence consists of seven families that range from young to middle age. They are committed to the reformed faith, the RCUS, and have already been received as a viable congregation of the RCUS. According to Rev. Powell and Elder Shieffelin, the church is united as a body and committed to the spread of the gospel as a reformed body. There remains an excitement for growth and a desire for Providence to have an impact in the Limon community. Accordingly, Rev. Powell works part time both to support his family, but also to make contact with people in the community.

Elder Ted Shieffelin said that Rev. Powell remains an encouragement to the congregation, providing energy and direction, but also willing to receive correction and accountability. Likewise, Rev. Powell was encouraged by his Consistory's support and steadfastness to make wise, though sometimes hard, decisions.

Limon is a town of about 2,500, including the surrounding community, rural, and independent. Close to half of the population attends the Catholic, Methodist, or Baptist Church, but there is still a large population that is unreached. The church has one elder and one deacon, owns its own building, and has made provision for the pastor to purchase a home. Financially the church is doing well and has been able to pay its guidelines each year. The church did obtain a loan of \$10,000 from the RCUS in 2007 to make building repairs and improvements.

Recently a divisive issue within the church required the involvement of Classis, although it was eventually resolved, the outcome of that case led to a 25% drop in income. Because of this, the church was only able to pay their classical and synodical dues for 2007 and will not be able to take a reduction in support.

Overall, the assessment of Providence Reformed Church is a positive one and it is recommended that the church be brought under the oversight of the SCC Home Missions Committee. The approval of such a change would eliminate funding for both churches from the benevolence fund, and begin funding from missions in the amount of \$1,500 for Providence Reformed Church.

Vermillion, SD

On February 12th, 2008 Elder Gary Maassen and Rev. Dan Rogers met in Vermillion, SD with Rev. Robert Grossmann and members of the Providence Reformed Church Consistory.

The first part of the meeting was a discussion with Rev. Grossmann concerning the overall well-being of the church. According to Rev. Grossmann the work in Vermillion remains productive and encouraging. The worship, Sunday school, and Bible study times offered each week are well attended and reflective of the congregation's desire for the word. Rev. Grossmann continues to produce a weekly radio message, broadcast throughout five states, which has not

only brought a Biblical and reformed message to those who rarely hear one, but has also added to PRC's membership. Two new families joined in 2007 with another ready to do so soon.

One of the challenges of ministry in Vermillion is the presence of a liberal university. Providence was originally started by the CRC to offer a place of worship for the reformed students who attended the University of South Dakota. Yet as was discovered, a church gains little stability by the coming and going of college students; thus the challenge of growing a reformed church in a liberal community. Yet what man cannot do, God can and does do. He has kept the church and continues to add to it according to His will. The Consistory of PRC gave a similar report to that of Rev. Grossmann, adding that they continue to be pleased with His work and ministry.

Regarding the future, the committee asked Rev. Grossmann about his thoughts on retirement. Not surprisingly, the thought of retirement is a distant one for Rev. Grossmann, who said he would "work as long as he is able." However he did mention cutting back on the number of classes that he teaches at Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Overall the congregation seems to be spiritually healthy, active, and generous. Giving was very good in 2007 and the church is getting closer to the point of being self-supporting. Although the church has requested the same amount of support for 2009, \$5720, they are well ahead of the ten-year home mission's schedule.

Regional Home Missions

Although the committee hoped to do more in the Denver and Omaha areas, the main progress made was in a demographic study of both areas. Omaha seems to be the best opportunity based on the number of NAPARC churches in the area, but Denver remains a viable field because of population. Our hope for this year is to promote the RCUS in one or both of these areas through local newspapers, the RCUS website, the Reformed Herald, and World Magazine. At the same time we also recognize that our denomination has had an increase in vacant pulpits. And so we struggle with pursuing mission works when we cannot fill every pulpit. Thus as we seek to plant churches the question arises as to whether we should also take a more active stance in recruiting seminary students to consider the RCUS? In consideration of this, we believe it would be wise to ask the Candidates and Credentials Committee to be more active in recruiting ministers from approved seminaries.

Recommendations:

1. That the South Central Classis of the RCUS determine the constitutionality of and make a recommendation about the decision of High Plains Reformed Church in Calhan, Colorado to leave the RCUS and pursue membership in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
2. That Grace Reformed Church of Greeley, CO be given \$11,031.00 from SCC Home Missions for 2009.
3. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Greeley for \$11,004.00 for 2009.
4. That SCC Classis recognize Rev. Matt Powell's four years of service at Providence Reformed Church as fulfillment of the requirement that Home Mission's Pastors have five years experience in the ministry.
5. That Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO be given \$750/month for 2008 from SCC Home Missions and that all SCC benevolent aid cease.
6. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Limon for \$750/month from Synod Home Missions for 2008 and that all Synodical benevolent aid cease.
7. That Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO be given \$9,000 from SCC Home Missions for 2009.
8. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Limon for \$9,000 for 2009.

9. That Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion, SD be given \$5,720 from SCC Home Missions for 2009.
10. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$5,720 in 2009.
11. That Candidates and Credentials Committee of SCC, or those appointed by them, seek new ministerial candidates at approved seminaries within their bounds by letter or personal visit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dan Rogers, Rev. C.W. Powell, Rev. Paul Henderson, Elders Gary Maassen, Loren Huber

PUBLICATIONS

(referred to Standing Publications)

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

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

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Darrell Kingswood, P. Henderson, D. Griess.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(referred to Education and Student Aid)

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee did not meet and did nothing and spent nothing.

Respectfully submitted, C.W. Powell, J. Blair, T. Schieffelin.

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

(referred to overtures)

Esteemed Brothers,

Your Interchurch Relations Committee received invitations to provide fraternal delegates to the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas, and to the Classis Central of the URC. Greetings were sent, but not a delegate to the URC Classis because of distance (the meeting was held in Indiana). Rev. Matthew Powell represented us to the meeting of the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas and will present his report to Classis.

Invitations have been sent to the Presbytery of the Dakotas, to the Classis Central of the URC, to the area Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, and to the Manitoba area Classis of the Canadian Reformed Churches to provide delegates to our Spring Meeting in Rapid City. As of this date, the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas has responded that Rev. Thole of Winner, SD, will be their delegate to our meeting.

This report was compiled by the Committee chairman. He has consulted sporadically with other members of the Committee during the year, but no meetings have been held.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Robert Grossmann

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

Esteemed Brethren:

Your committee has conducted its business by means of phone calls and some personal contacts. There was a minimum amount of business for the committee this year. We have one student under care, Mr. Jim Connelly.

At its regular meeting in March of 2007, the South Central Classis referred the request received from Randy McGinnis to be placed on the roll of students under care of Classis. Committee Members Van Stedum, Koerner, Gross and Johnson met with Mr. McGinnis at the annual meeting of Synod. The meeting with him was positive. Since that time Mr. McGinnis has had some concerns as to his ability to continue with his studies and also meet his family needs. As a result Mr. McGinnis has withdrawn his request. Mr. McGinnis continues to take courses from Heidelberg Theological Seminary and plans to graduate in 2009. He will also be doing a part time internship with St. John's Reformed Church.

Mr. Jim Connelly remains on the roll of students under care of Classis. Mr. Connelly is not able to continue to attend any classes at Heidelberg Theological Seminary primarily due to his wife's health condition. His plan is to continue with a program of self-study. The committee plans to meet with Mr. Connelly during the Classis meeting.

Respectfully, M. Koerner, H. Van Stedum, D.Fagrey, S. Gross, D. McPherson, J. Johnson.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS **President's Report on the State of the Church**

Beloved brethren, grace to you and peace, from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the 5th time that I have had the honor of addressing you as the President of the South Central Class of the Reformed Church in the United States. In the past I have tried to base my reports upon the various parochial reports that you have submitted as well as some observations that I have made. I would like to try to do this again.

First of all, a word about parochial reports. Article 81 of the RCUS Constitution says in part, "At the spring meeting every pastor shall present a written parochial and full statistical

report. . . The parochial report shall contain a full account of the spiritual and temporal condition of the charge and of the labors of the pastor, the President or any member of the Classis shall ask the pastor and the elder such questions as may be requisite to elicit additional information.”

These reports are to be a reflection of what exactly is going on in the various congregations. Since we don't view ourselves as a collection of independent congregations but rather as one Church, we have concerns for our brothers and sisters in each and every congregation. We want to rejoice with those who are rejoicing and weep with those who weep. Therefore, the parochial reports are not intended to be sermons or devotionals but rather a report of the activities of the congregation. If Classis does not know what is happening in a certain congregation, Classis cannot help a certain congregation. Please keep your parochial reports as informational as possible.

Next, I would like to address two issues that I believe are real problems facing us. The first one is the continual seepage of people from many of our congregations. This is especially true of many of our young people. In the past, many of our congregations were made up of rural, ethnically German people with a strong and long Reformed heritage. These three things -- demographics, ethnicity and theological heritage - helped to foster a cohesion and continuity.

This, however, is changing or possibly a more accurate statement would be that this has changed. Young people are leaving the rural areas in droves. In some of our communities, entire graduating high school classes leave their hometowns to go to school or find jobs and they never return except for brief visits. This loss of people is felt in the communities at large as schools are forced to either consolidate or even close down and the average attendance of churches continually shrinks.

In addition to this demographic fact, our young people do not consider themselves ethnically German in any way, shape or form. Whereas their grandparents may have grown up speaking German and hearing it spoken often, the young people often could not identify one single German word. They have been incorporated into the mainstream of American life and don't think in ethnic terms. Therefore, when they do leave a town, they don't try to find other rural, German type people to associate with or attend church with.

But in addition to the demographic and cultural issues, a third issue is more troubling. This is the fact that many of our young people are leaving behind their Reformed heritage. It is a fact that many of our young people move to places where there are no RCUS congregations and are forced to change churches for that reason. But more troubling is the fact that many of our young people move to places where there are RCUS congregations but they choose not to remain in the RCUS. Why is this? Why are they forsaking the Church that their parents, grand parents, great grand parents and even great great grand parents helped to build? I don't have an answer for this but I believe it is a question that we must answer. Perhaps we should erect a special committee to look into this matter. We could ask each congregation to submit the names of those who have left our Church over the past, say, 10 years. This committee should contact these people and survey them. Find out, in a non-threatening way, why they left the Church. Once we can answer the question of why they are leaving, perhaps we can address the reason that they are leaving.

The second issue that I want to address is that of our pastors. I have just completed my 9th year serving in the South Central Classis. In those 9 years I have served on 7 special committees which had to deal with a pastor who was having problems in his congregation or a congregation which was having a problem with their pastor. Given the fact that we only have 14 charges in our Classis, this means that roughly half of our churches have had major pastoral issues in the past 9 years. What is interesting to me is that not in one of those 7 cases was it necessarily an issue of a man's theology. Rather, it was usually a matter of the man's temperament or ability to work with people. I believe that we do a good job of screening men in

their theology during their licensure and ordination exams. Therefore, we are pretty unified in our doctrine. But we must do a better job in screening a man's temperament. There are cases where a man simply should never have become a pastor. But there are other instances where a man should not be the pastor of a particular congregation. It is like fire and gunpowder: there is going to be an explosion. Therefore, Classis must not only determine if a man is fit to be a pastor, but Classis must also try to determine if a man is going to be a good fit for a particular congregation. This is one of the reasons that the parochial reports are important. We need to know about a congregation before we agree to allow a man to take a call there.

These issues that I have spoken of could be seen as problems. But, like with anything in life, it is a matter of perspective. We can view these negatively as problems and wring our hands about them, or we can see them as opportunities to improve ourselves. Let us deal with these opportunities and may the Lord bless us as we endeavor to build up the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Humbly Submitted,

Ron Morris

Classis Action: The report is to be spread in the minutes, printed in the Abstract, and sent to the Reformed Herald. The report was also referred to overtures.

Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes

March 2008

The following items refer to duties performed by myself, which reference either to the spring 2007 Abstract or Circulars that have been sent since the spring 2007 meeting.

1. Page 33 of the Abstract, Recommendation #5 of the Standing Benevolence report requesting aid from Synod for Trinity Covenant, RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
2. Page 33 of the Abstract, Recommendation #4, of the Standing Benevolence report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
3. Page 33 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for Jim Connelly, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
4. Page 33 of the Abstract, Classis Action, of the Standing Education and Student Aid requesting aid from Synod for Sam Powell, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
5. Page 33 of the Abstract, Recommendation #3, of the Standing Examination and Licensure requesting dismissal of Licentiate Sam Powell to the Western Classis, a letter of dismissal was sent to the Clerk of the Western Classis, dated March 28, 2007.
6. Page 35 of the Abstract, Recommendation #3, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Kay Savage, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
7. Page 34 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.

8. Page 35 of the Abstract, Recommendation #5, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Rev. & Mrs. Howard Hart, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
9. Page 35 of the Abstract, Recommendation #4, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
10. Page 35 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Calhan's 2008 obligation, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
11. Page 35 of the Abstract, Recommendation #4, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Greeley's 2008 obligation, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
12. Page 35 of the Abstract, Recommendation #6, of the Standing Missions requesting aid from Synod for 50% of Vermillion's 2008 obligation, a letter was sent March 29, 2007.
13. Concerning Executive Circular 22:1, the following was sent in a letter (April 18, 2007) to the Synod stated clerk: "This letter is to inform you that the South Central Classis passed the following recommendation via circular letter: That the South Central Classis concur with Synod's vote to amend article 41."

Respectfully submitted, David P. Fagrey

Classis Action: The report was adopted

Execute Committee's Report on its Minutes

The clerk read the report and moved that it along with Executive Circulars Volume 22, Numbers 1 – 4 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	1044	\$66,782.44	\$63,864.52		\$917.92
Church					
Trinity Covenant					
Colorado Springs	39	\$2,457.39	\$2,457.00		\$0.39
Blue Cliff					
Limon	21	\$1,323.21	\$1,071.00		\$252.21
St. Johns RCUS					
Lincoln, NE	97	\$6,111.97	\$6,111.00		\$0.97
Emmanuel RCUS					
Sutton, NE	129	\$8,128.29	\$8,127.00		\$1.29
Hope RCUS					
Sutton, NE	202	\$12,728.024	\$12,728.02		

Zion RCUS				
Menno, SD	174	\$10,963.74	\$10,963.74	
Grace Reformed				
Mitchell, SD	70	\$4,410.70	\$4,410.70	
Grace Reformed				
Rapid City, SD	54	\$3,402.54	\$3,402.00	\$0.54
Trinity Reformed				
Sioux Falls, SD	114	\$7,183.14	\$7,183.16	\$0.02
Providence Reformed				
Rock Springs, WY	32	\$2,016.32	\$2,016.32	
Grace Reformed				
Greeley, CO	40	\$3,520.40	\$3,520.40	
Providence Reformed				
Vermillion, SD	22	\$1,386.22	\$1,386.22	
High Plains Reformed				
Calhan, CO	28	\$1,764.28		\$1,764.28
Providence Reformed				
Limon, CO	22	\$1,386.22	\$157.96	\$1,228.26
Anonymous Giving		\$330.00	\$330.00	
Totals of all Income	1044	\$66,782.44	\$63,864.52	\$2,917.92

Budget based on 1044 members

Budget Expenditures

	Budget	Paid	Over/Short
Blue Cliff	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
Providence Reformed, Limon	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
Grace Reformed, Greeley	\$13,586.00	\$13,586.04	\$0.04
Providence Reformed, Vermillion	\$8,720.00	\$8,720.00	
High Plains Reformed Chapel, Calhan	\$14,440.00	\$13,236.63	<1203.37>
Heidelberg Reformed Seminary	\$8,352.00	\$8,352.00	
New Geneva Seminary	\$4,176.00	\$4,872.00	\$696.00
Classis Expense	\$7,500.00		
Mileage		\$3,948.91	
Honorarium		\$400.00	
Postage		\$0.00	
Printing		\$233.73	
Conference Call		\$0.00	
Lodging		\$0.00	
Fund Balance			\$2,417.36
Permanent Education Fund	\$477.93	\$0.00	<477.93>
TOTAL	\$66,251.93	\$62,349.35	\$2,924.72

Guidelines

Budget	Received	Over	Short
-	22		

Classical Dues \$7.19 per com.	\$7,500.00	\$7,491.45	\$8.55
Missions \$35.20 per com.	\$36,746.00	\$35,129.02	\$1,616.98
Benevolence \$8.62 per com.	\$9,000.00	\$8,777.13	\$222.87
Heidelberg Seminary \$8.00 per com.	\$8,352.00	\$7,784.00	\$568.00
New Geneva Seminary \$4.00 per com	\$4,176.00	\$3,800.00	\$376.00
Guidelines Total (\$63.01 per com.)	\$65,774.00	\$62,981.60	\$2,792.40
Total Income (Based on 1044 Communicant Members)		\$62,981.60	
	Checkbook		
Beginning Balance	\$24,400.11		
Interest Income	\$388.68		
Bank Charges	\$(117.97)		
Fund Balance	\$27.68		
Total Checking	\$24,698.50		

Classis Action: The report was referred to Finances

PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

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

Classis Action: On all the reports – take note.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS (ARTICLE 81, RCUS ONSTITUTION)

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

The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?* All answered, “Yes.”
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?* All answered, “Yes.”
3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*

- a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?* All answered, "Yes," except Rob Alexander and Fred Hofmann 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," except for John Savage who answered "no."
 - b. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* All answered, "Yes."
 - c. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving?* All answered, "Yes," except Fred Hofmann and John Savage who answered "no."
 - d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered, "Yes."
6. *Are the church records properly kept?* All answered, "Yes."
- 7a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?* All answered, "Yes," except Rob Alexander who answered, "N/A."
- 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?* All answered, "Yes," except Rob Alexander who answered, "N/A."

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. Matthew Powell, who attended the Spring 2007 meeting of the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas, gave his report.

ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES AND VISITORS

- Fraternal delegate Rev. Terry Thole, from the OPC, Presbytery of the Dakotas, addressed the body. Rev. Howard Hart gave a response.

- Rev. Robert Grossmann brought greetings from Classis Central of the United Reformed Churches of North America.
- Elder Ray Schnabel addressed the body concerning Heidelberg Theological Seminary.
- C.W. Powell gave a report concerning New Geneva Theological Seminary.
- OPC pastor Roger Gibbons addressed the body.
- Elder Gallimore addressed the body concerning the campaign in South Dakota to outlaw abortion as a means of birth control.

EXAMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

There were no examinations

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Heidelberg Youth Camp

Heidelberg Youth Camp Report February 18, 2008

A meeting of the Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee was held February 18, 2008. Committee members present were Elder Roger Gallimore, chair; Rev. Matt Powell, Rev. Scott Henry and Elder Brian Freeman of the South Central Classis; and Rev. Steve Richert, Elder Alan Fickbaum and Elder Keith Lorenzen of Northern Plains Classis. Rev. Powell opened in prayer. HYC 2008 will be held July 21-25 at Camp Bob Marshall in the Black Hills.

1. The 2007 finance report was reviewed, which showed a net loss of \$1,077.44. The loss was almost entirely due to having 16 more adults than projected. While it was certainly a benefit to have the additional volunteers, it did add to facility use, food and T-shirt costs. Plus, 12 more cots were purchased to accommodate the additional volunteers. Plus, a BBQ grill was purchased to more readily accommodate the annual cookout, thereby saving on singed arm hairs of our older pastors. Nonetheless, the camp account remains in good shape with a balance of \$3,481.24. Camp fees will increase to \$137 per camper. It was pointed out that even with this increase; HYC continues to be an overwhelming bargain. Camper registrations and fees received after June 1 will be \$155.
2. HYC 2007 evaluation results were reviewed. It was noted that the evaluation results were about as stellar as evaluations get. However, the following changes for HYC 2008 were made following the review:

- Remind the speakers to prepare lessons such that the lessons are engaging and appropriate for the age group to which they are assigned. The person recruiting the speakers will provide this reminder and Roger will include this reminder with a follow-up email.
 - Direct the contact person at each church to inform any students that will be driving may not participate in the traditional all-night campfire on the last night and that they are required to observe the normal lights out time. This message will be reinforced at camp.
3. The theme for HYC 2008 will be *Seasoned Service*. This theme of Christian service will first lay the foundation that our service arises from the Gospel. God first loved us and gave His only begotten Son as a propitiation for our sins. We are then to live thankfully for such redemption and that includes a life of service. The objective for each lesson is to give each camper the practical tools for living thankfully before the LORD in a life of service. The following lesson topics will be given:
 - Service Produced by the Gospel
 - Being Prepared to Serve
 - Service in the Church
 - Service in the Home
 - Service in the Community
 - Service in the Workplace
 4. Rev. Scott Henry volunteered to recruit speakers for each of the lessons and worship services.
 5. The offering was discussed. It was decided that the offering will support the Vote Yes efforts in South Dakota to pass a ballot initiative aimed at eliminating the use of abortion as a means of birth control. It was disclosed that Roger is serving on the board of the South Dakota Vote Yes effort.
 6. Elder Alan Fickbaum closed the meeting in prayer.

Recommendations:

1. That Classis approves the 2008 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.
2. That Classis approves the report as a whole of the Heidelberg Youth Camp.

Camp Budget 2008

Balance Forward \$4,558.68

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Actual 2007</u>	<u>Budget 2008</u>
Camp Fees	\$18,717.00	\$19,865.00
Gifts	\$670.00	\$200.00
Worship Offering	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Interest	\$5.21	\$5.00

Camp Store Sales	\$944.09	\$950.00
T-Shirt Sales	\$ 231.00	\$ 250.00
Total Revenue	\$21,567.30	\$22,270.00

Expenses

Facility Use	\$11,850.00	\$12,030.00
Food	\$3,430.91	\$3,600.00
T-Shirts	\$2,981.94	\$3,000.00
Crafts	\$331.25	\$400.00
Supplies	\$467.45	\$500.00
Promotion	\$218.11	\$250.00
Custer State Park Fees	\$59.00	\$70.00
Postage	\$15.42	\$20.00
Administration	\$170.41	\$200.00
Equipment	\$1,044.28	\$550.00
Camp Store Supplies	\$625.97	\$650.00
Worship Offering	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
T-Shirt Sales Expense	\$450.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$22,644.74</u>	<u>\$22,270.00</u>
Revenue Less Expense	(\$1,077.44)	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$3,481.24	

*Proposed 2008 fees @ \$137 per camper for those who register and pay by June 1.
After June 1 the fee will be \$155. Adult volunteers continue to be free.
This is an increase of \$14 from 2007. Fees are based on 145 campers and 45 adults.*

Classis Action: The report as a whole was adopted.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Benevolence

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis overture Synod on behalf of Mrs. Amy Stevens for aid in the amount of \$1000.00 per month.
2. That Classis overture Synod to provide benevolent aid in the amount of \$725 per month to Trinity Reformed Church of Colorado Springs, CO, for the next synodical year, if needed.

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

Education and Student Aid

The committee reported having no business brought.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Examination and Licensure

The committee brought no recommendations.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Finances

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That mileage be paid according to the following amounts:
Jim Connelly: \$264; Scott Henry: \$231; Maynard Koerner: \$382.80; Spencer Gross: \$181.50; Paul Henderson: \$165; Jean McClay: \$314.82; Dan Rogers: \$313.83; Herman Van Stedum; \$39.60; Earl Starks: \$165; Robert Grossmann: \$264; Matt Powell: \$257.40.
2. That the Classis expense fund be raised to \$8000 for the next classical year.
3. That the following guidelines be approved:

		Per Communicant (1032)*
Classical Dues	\$8,000.00	\$7.75
Missions	\$26,977.00	\$26.14
Greeley (\$12,257)		
Vermillion (\$5,720)		
Limon (\$9,000)		
Heidelberg Seminary	\$8,256	\$8.00
New Geneva Seminary	\$4,128	\$4.00
Total	\$47,361	\$45.89

*This figure reflects the fact that Classis voted to dismiss High Plains Reformed Church, Calhan, CO to the OPC.

Classis Action: These three recommendations and the report were adopted.

Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. The following recommendation was divided.
 - 1A. That the following answer be given to the following question: "Is it appropriate for pastors or elders in the RCUS to take calls from members of other congregations complaining about their pastors or elders," the answer is, "Yes, in extraordinary circumstances it is proper to seek counsel and advice from other pastors if Matthew 18 has been fulfilled. According to articles 83, 91, 121 the executive committee may be called in or step into a situation for advice."

1B. That the following answer be given to the following question: “Is it appropriate for the executive committee to involve itself in disciplinary matters in a congregation without the approval of the Spiritual Council of that congregation, in a matter that the Spiritual Council is already addressing,” the answer is, “Yes, according to articles 83, 91, 121.

1C. That the following answer be given to the following question: “Is it appropriate for a committee to encourage other members of the congregation to be present at a meeting over a disciplinary matter, without the knowledge of the Spiritual Council (informing them only after the other people have already been contacted),” the answer is, “No, they need to be invited.”

1D. That the following answer be given to the following question: “Is it appropriate for a committee of this nature to hear accusations against a pastor or elder without that pastor or elder present to hear the accusations himself,” the answer is, “Yes, if there is a prior arrangement to talk to members then the Pastor then both.”

1E. That the following answer be given to the following question: “Is it appropriate for a committee to make recommendations to the parties involved but then omit those recommendations from their report to Classis,” the answer is, “Yes, but it depends upon the sensitivity of the issue.”

2. That all papers in connection with Rev. Herman Van Stedum’s retirement be declared in order.
3. That Rev. Herman Van Stedum be honorably retired, and be placed on the roll of retired ministers.
4. That the pulpit of Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD be declared vacant as of August 31, 2008.
5. That the item of a call for Van Stedum to be Pastor Emeritus be returned to Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, for action by the congregation.
6. That High Plains RCUS, Calhan, CO be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Dakotas OPC and that upon reception by the OPC the church be removed from the roll of churches of Classis.

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 \$1350 per month for Rev. Howard Hart for the next synodical year.
2. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1200 per month for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger for the next synodical year.
3. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1000 per month for Mrs. Kay Savage for the next synodical year.
4. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1000 per month for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann for the next synodical year.

5. That Classis request aid from Synod in the amount of \$1500 per month for Rev. Herman Van Stedum, starting in September 2008.

Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

Home Missions

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the South Central Classis of the RCUS determine the constitutionality of, and make a decision about, the decision of High Plains Reformed Church in Calhan, Colorado to leave the RCUS and pursue membership in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church
2. That Grace Reformed Church of Greeley be given \$11,031.00 from South Central Classis for 2009.
3. That Classis overture Synod Home Missions on behalf of Greeley for \$11,004.00 in 2009.
4. That Classis recognize Rev. Matt Powell's four years of service at Providence Reformed Church as fulfillment of the requirement that Home Mission's Pastors have five years experience in the ministry.
5. That Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO be taken under care as a home mission church, and be given \$750 per month for 2008 from SCC, and that all SCC benevolent aid cease.
6. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Limon for \$750 per month from Synod Home Missions for 2008.
7. That Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO be given \$9,000 from SCC for 2009.
8. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Limon for \$9,000 for 2009.
9. That Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion be given \$5,720.00 from South Central Classis for 2008.
10. That South Central Classis overture Synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$5,720.00 in 2009.
11. That the Candidates and Credentials Committee of SCC, or those appointed by them, seek new ministerial candidates at approved seminaries within their bounds by letter or personal visit.

Classis Action: All the recommendations, except 1 which was referred to the Standing Judicial, and the report were adopted.

Nominations

Missions	<u>D. Rogers</u> , P. Henderson, C.W. Powell, G. Maassen, L. Huber.
Publications	<u>J. Blair</u> , D. Rogers, A. Greiss.
Christian Education	<u>D. Kingswood</u> , C.W. Powell, R. Morris, J. Connelly, D. DeGroot.
Interchurch Relations	<u>B. Grossmann</u> , M. Powell, D. DeGroot, E. Starks.
Candidates & Credentials	<u>M. Koerner</u> , D. Fagrey, P. Henderson, D. Mettler, S. Heinbigner, J. Savage.
Executive Committee	<u>R. Morris</u> , S. Gross, D. Fagrey
Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>R. Gallimore</u> , M. Powell, S. Henry, B. Freeman.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Overtures

The committee brought the recommendations:

1. That overture 1 be referred to standing Missions.
2. That overture 2 be referred to standing Judicial.
3. That overture 3 be referred to standing Finances.
4. That overture 4 be referred to standing Benevolence.
5. That overture 5 be referred to standing Ministerial Aid.
6. That overture 6 be referred to standing Ministerial Aid.
7. That overture 7 be referred to standing Ministerial Aid.
8. That overture 8 be referred to standing Ministerial Aid.
9. That overture 9 be referred to referred to standing Benevolence.
10. That overture 10 be referred to standing Ministerial Aid.
11. That the executive circulars remain with standing Overtures.
12. That overture 12 be referred to standing Finances.
13. a. That the Permanent Christian Education Committee be mandated to study why many young people leave the RCUS, keeping in mind the concern expressed in the President's report on the state of the church.
b. That Classis overture Synod to add a question to the Constitutional Questions to elders as follows: "Is the relationship between the pastor and consistory, and the pastor and congregation in your charge fruitful and handled with good will?"
14. That Classis officially express its thanksgiving to God for the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. C.W. Powell over a period of 50 years, and his forty years as a pastor in the RCUS. We commend our brother for his zeal and competence in many areas of ministry, from elementary teaching to seminary professor, with a constant service in the ministry of the Word and sacraments over these years. May God bless him with additional years of service and health for him and his beloved helpmeet Penny.
15. That the South Central Classis officially express its thanksgiving to God for His gift to us of the ministry of His servant, the Rev. Herman Van Stedum, who has served His Lord in the ministry of the Gospel with distinction and joy. We praise God for him and his wife Phyllis and express our sorrow that he has now found it necessary to retire after 38 years in the ministry of the RCUS.
16. That Classis take note of the fact that there are no irregularities in the executive circulars from 2007.
17. That Classis take note of the Interchurch Relations Permanent Committee Report after it is read on the floor.

Classis Action: All recommendations, except take note on 11, 16, and the report were 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 the following announcement be included in the bulletin of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD: “The South Central Classis extends thanks to the officers and members of Grace Reformed Church for their love, hospitality, and fellowship during our Spring Classis meeting, March 25-26 2008. You are wonderful!”

Classis Action: The recommendation and the report were adopted.

Minutes of Synod

The committee reported having received no business that required action.

Classis Action: the report was adopted

ADJOURNMENT

The body adjourned to the 2009 Spring Classis meeting according to Standing Rule 22.

APPENDICES

2007 MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

	Colorado Springs, CO Trinity Covenant	Greeley, CO Grace Reformed	Karval, CO Blue Cliff Community	High Plains Reformed Calhan, CO	Limon, CO Providence Reformed	Lincoln, NE St John's Reformed	Sutton, NE Emmanuel Reformed	Sutton, NE Hope Reformed
Number of Elders	2	2	2	2	1	4	3	4
Number of Deacons	2	2	1	1	1	4	3	4
Communicant Members Last Year	40	40	21	19	22	97	129	203
Received by Confirmation	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	6
Received by Letter of Transfer	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

Received by Profession of Faith	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	0
Total Members Received	10	3	1	0	1	5	3	8
Total Old/New Members	50	43	22	19	23	102	132	211
Lost by Dismissal	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	4	2	0	0	0	2	2	9
Lost by Death	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Total Members Lost	7	2	0	3	0	3	4	11
Communicant Members This Year	43	41	22	16	23	99	128	200
Unconfirmed Members	20	9	6	0	14	32	29	49
Total Baptized Members	63	50	28	16	36	131	157	249
Number of Families	23	22	10	8	9	54	66	96
Number of Children in SS	26	8	5	0	12	18	25	59
Number of Adults Baptized	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Infants Baptized	0	2	3	0	1	2	2	3
Total Number of Baptism	0	2	4	0	1	2	2	3
Number Received Lord's Supper	43	39	22	16	23	87	121	175
Times Lord's Supper Served	11	4	12	2	11	6	6	5

Financial Statistics

Receipts from Regular Offerings	69,585	82,319	23,916	25,072	29,474	86,114	80,826	151,070
Receipts from Special Offerings	1,430	25,408	655	546	1,496	3,150	27,268	16,752
Receipts from other sources	10,837	27,595	5,875	28,867	14,250	0	3,110	5,850
Total Receipts	81,852	135,322	30,446	54,544	45,220	89,264	111,204	173,572
Budgeted Synodical Funds	8,317	8,816	2,132	7,718	4,357	21,400	11,842	44,338
Budgeted Classical Funds	2,457	2,520	373	0	1,140	6,111	8,127	12,728
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	930	0	100	0	115	454	0	0
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	0	240	0	410	270	3,142	4,015
Other General Expenses	57,377	109,617	24,578	43,504	23,733	60,438	84,630	101,528
Total Disbursements	69,081	120,953	27,423	51,220	29,755	88,673	107,741	162,609
Value of Church Building	0	192,000	0	152,000	40,000	110,000	522,000	400,000
Value of Parsonage	0	158,000	0	165,000	0	99,100	157,000	60,000
Improvements on Church Property	0	4,079	0	0	6,222	0	5,332	0
Present Property Debts	0	65,318	0	104,724	8,500	5,000	0	0
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	25,467	0	6,419	7,163	5,000	0	0
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	208	220	101	40	189	220	92	222
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	61	63	17	0	50	63	63	64
Total Giving to RCUS	293	283	124	40	255	288	155	286

	Zion Reformed Church	Manno, SD	Mitchell, SD Grace Reformed	Rapid City, SD Grace Reformed	Sioux Falls, SD Trinity Reformed	Vermillion, SD Providence Reformed	Rock Springs, WY Providence Reformed	TOTAL 2007
Number of Elders	4	3	2	5	2	3	39	
Number of Deacons	4	2	2	5	1	1	33	
Communicant Members Last Year	175	70	54	114	22	32	1044*	
Received by Confirmation	0	5	0	5	0	0	19	
Received by Letter of Transfer	0	0	3	8	3	2	30	
Received by Profession of Faith	1	0	4	4	1	0	18	
Total Members Received	1	5	7	17	4	2	67	
Total Old/New Members	176	75	61	131	26	34	1105	
Lost by Dismissal	3	2	0	6	0	1	18	
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	6	0	0	1	2	1	29	
Lost by Death	3	2	0	0	0	0	10	
Total Members Lost	12	4	0	7	2	2	57	
Communicant Members This Year	164	71	61	124	24	32	1048**	
Unconfirmed Members	32	25	40	59	12	13	340	

Total Baptized Members	196	96	101	183	36	45	1387
Number of Families	82	38	34	68	11	18	539
Number of Children in SS	25	22	27	43	9	10	289
Number of Adults Baptized	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Number of Infants Baptized	1	1	5	11	1	2	34
Total Number of Baptism	1	1	5	12	2	2	37
Number Received Lord's Supper	157	70	60	124	24	30	991
Times Lord's Supper Served	4	6	7	6	4	12	96

Financial Statistics

Receipts from Regular Offerings	112,680	92,250	154,757	181,343	50,244	76,754	1216404
Receipts from Special Offerings	30,553	55,969	0	16,762	4,286	7,345	191620
Receipts from other sources	2,762	0	0	1,381	19,767	2,223	122517
Total Receipts	145,995	148,219	154,757	199,486	74,297	86322	1530500
Budgeted Synodical Funds	37,106	15,448	11,906	24,387	4,743	7,058	209568
Budgeted Classical Funds	10,964	4,410	3,402	7,183	1,370	2,016	62801
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	14,494	1,069	4,368	2,101	500	0	24131
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	0	0	4,848	0	0	12925
Other General Expenses	82,779	71,620	123,931	160,112	61,542	71,483	1076872
Total Disbursements	145343	92,547	143,607	198631	68655	80557	1386795
Value of Church Building	500000	275,000	515,000	490,771	300000	170000	3666771
Value of Parsonage	75,000	150,000	185,000	162,068	125000	include d	1336168
Improvements on Church Property	5,000	8,000	5,729	0	5,625	17,421	57408
Present Property Debts	0	38,000	88,282	0	0	N/A	309824
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	3,843	32,624	67,039	0	N/A	147555
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	212	220	220	214	216	220	197
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	63	63	63	63	62	63	59
Total Giving to RCUS	358	299	364	295	301	284	279

*This is the correct number from the previous year even though the numbers do not add up to 1044.

**The figure we are using for guidelines is 1032, to reflect the fact that Classis dismissed High Plains RCUS.

NECROLOGIES

Herbert Schnabel Obituary

10/30/1915 – 3/18/2007

Herbert Schnabel was born October 30, 1915 in Emery, SD to August and Albina (Mettler) Schnabel. He was baptized in 1915 and was confirmed at the Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD on July 5, 1931 by the Rev. William Huenemann and remained a faithful member of the Reformed Church of the U.S. throughout his life. He was a member of the Hope Reformed Church in Emery, and the Zion Reformed Church, in Menno. In 1974, he became a charter member of Grace Reformed Church Mitchell, SD serving as a deacon and on various committees of the church. On August 31, 1940 he was united in marriage to Elsie Saylor at Garner, IA. Following their marriage, they lived in Bridgewater, SD for 11 years and moved to Mitchell, SD in 1951. He was employed by Intercounty Electric for 23 years. For the past 30 years he worked as a massage technician and was a member of the American Massage Therapy Association. He remained faithful to the Lord until the end expressing to a radiologist in the presence of his pastor and a son “I have something better than radiation, I have Christ.”

He is survived by his three sons, Raymond and wife Juanita, Brandon, SD; Dennis and wife Connie, Mitchell, SD; Roger and wife Carol, Mitchell, SD; 8 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren; one brother, Gideon Schnabel, Rosemount, MN; and one sister Mrs. Aaron (Emma) Koerner, Freeman, SD

His parents, his wife Elsie, 4 brothers and 2 sisters preceded him in death.

Elmer Neuharth

Elmer Neuharth served as an elder at Zion Reformed Church, Menno in the 1980's. Elmer passed away on Friday, December 7, 2007, at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno, SD, at the age of 83.

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 thirty-three 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 thirty-three 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.

(Spring 2007, Abstract)

That Classis nominations Committee regularly consider the workload borne by Classical delegates during the year and refrain from recommending that Executive Committee members be appointed as chairman of a permanent or special committee of Classis.