

2009  
Abstract of the Minutes

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

The Reformed Church in the United States

Spring Meeting  
March 23-24, 2009  
Trinity Reformed Church  
Sioux Falls, SD

Special Meeting  
October 14-15, 2008  
Ogallala, NE

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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. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.
	Mitchell, SD 57301

## PERMANENT COMMITTEES

*(Underlined indicates chairman)*

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

## 2009 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

	Guideline	per Communicant (1062)
Classical Expense Fund	\$8,000.00	\$7.53
Missions	\$25,751.00	\$24.25
Greeley (\$11,031)		
Limon (\$9,000)		
Vermillion (\$5,720)		
Heidelberg Seminary	\$5,310	\$5.00
New Geneva Seminary	\$4,248	\$4.00
Total	\$43,309	\$40.78

## **MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

BLAIR, Jon (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)

1505 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Greeley, CO 80631

(970) 336-9927. [jwblair83@msn.com](mailto:jwblair83@msn.com)

EMBREE, Warren (Associate, St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)

3410 Gregory Court, Lincoln, NE 68521

(402) 474-9129. [wembree@neb.rr.com](mailto:wembree@neb.rr.com)

FAGREY, David (Grace RCUS, Rapid City, SD)

5626 N. Haines Ave. Rapid City, SD 57701

(605) 399-1711. Home: 399-1716. [dfagrey@juno.com](mailto:dfagrey@juno.com)

GROSSMANN, Robert (Providence RCUS, Vermillion, SD)

818 Madison, Vermillion, SD 57069

(605) 624-4337. Fax: same; [rcusbob@juno.com](mailto:rcusbob@juno.com)

HART, Howard (Emeritus, St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)

1705 N. Minnesota, Mitchell, SD 57301

(605) 995-1964. [howardehart@juno.com](mailto:howardehart@juno.com)

HENDERSON, Paul (Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY)

1007 Ninth Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901

(307) 382-6696. [hendorcus@yahoo.com](mailto:hendorcus@yahoo.com)

HENRY, Scott (Zion RCUS, Menno, SD)

P.O. Box 387, Menno, SD 57045

(605) 387-2816. [shenry3@goldenwest.net](mailto:shenry3@goldenwest.net)

HORNER, George (without a charge)

4673 S. Mariposa Dr., Englewood, CO 80110

(303) 304-9301. [george.horner@comcast.net](mailto:george.horner@comcast.net)

KINGSWOOD, Darrell (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)

P.O. Box 372. Sutton, NE 68979

(402) 773-4330. [dlkingswood@windstream.net](mailto:dlkingswood@windstream.net)

KOERNER, Maynard (without a charge)

4800 S. Shields Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Cell: 402-314-6443. [maykoerner@gmail.com](mailto:maykoerner@gmail.com)

MORRIS, Ron (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)

415 N. Joseph, Tea, SD 57064

(605) 553-7971. [rmorris@sio.midco.net](mailto:rmorris@sio.midco.net)

POWELL, C.W. Jr. (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)

6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918

(719) 590-1477. Fax: 877-815-6984. [budpow@ureach.com](mailto:budpow@ureach.com)

POWELL, Matthew (Providence RCUS, Limon, CO)

490 G. Avenue, Limon, CO 80828

(719) 775-8842. [mattpowell74@gmail.com](mailto:mattpowell74@gmail.com)

ROGERS, Dan (Emanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)

P.O. Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979  
(402) 773-4287. [danrog@juno.com](mailto:danrog@juno.com)

SYMS, George (Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD)  
505 S. Davison, Mitchell, SD 57301  
(605) 996-7439. Office: 996-2803. [star5177@yahoo.com](mailto:star5177@yahoo.com)

VAN STEDUM, Herman (Emeritus, Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)  
602 E. Willow, Harrisburg, SD 57032  
(605) 213-0405. [hermanvs@sio.midco.net](mailto:hermanvs@sio.midco.net)

### **ELDERS PRIMARIUS**

BINDERT, Shane (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)  
4600 S. Briarwood Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
(605) 331-6906. [spirebindert@sio.midco.net](mailto:spirebindert@sio.midco.net)

GRIESS, Ardell (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)  
305 N. Roy, Sutton, NE 68979  
(402) 773-4267.

GROSS, Spencer (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD)  
723 E. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mitchell, SD 57301  
(605) 996-1919. [thunehdw@midconetwork.com](mailto:thunehdw@midconetwork.com)

HALLER, Albert (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)  
113 Flat Iron Street, Windsor, CO 80550  
(970) 686-6563. [alberth@frii.com](mailto:alberth@frii.com)

HEINBIGNER, Steve (St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)  
5018 Aylesworth Ave., Lincoln, NE 68504  
(402) 440-3915. [swh1fb@aol.com](mailto:swh1fb@aol.com)

GRIESS, Curt (Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)  
710 S. Saunders Ave., Sutton, NE 68979  
(402) 773-4764.

McCLAY, Jean (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)  
1254 Atoka Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
(719) 574-3225. [jbmccclay@comcast.net](mailto:jbmccclay@comcast.net)

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

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

SAVAGE, John (Providence RCUS, Limon, CO)  
19600 County Rd E., Ordway, CO 80163  
(719) 446-5461. [savageranch@plains.net](mailto:savageranch@plains.net)

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

VAN HOLLAND, Greg (Providence RCUS, Vermillion, SD)  
30626 446<sup>th</sup> Ave., Mission Hill, SD 57046  
(605) 665-0136. [greg@teamcssi.com](mailto:greg@teamcssi.com)

**ELDERS SECUNDUS**

BERG, Joshua (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs)  
3854 Smoke Tree Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
(719) 599-5774; [Joshua.a.berg@gmail.com](mailto:Joshua.a.berg@gmail.com)

CONNELLY, Jim (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)  
26779 WCR 45 ½, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 330-4774. [jimco12@mindspring.com](mailto:jimco12@mindspring.com)

DAVIS, Bob (St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)  
1101 N. 202<sup>nd</sup> St., Eagle, NE 68347  
(402) 781-2362. [prcdrcus@windstream.net](mailto:prcdrcus@windstream.net)

DEWALD, Lyle (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD)  
1808 Thomsen, Mitchell, SD 57311  
(605) 990-2024.

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

HOFMANN, Delary (Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)  
1803 Road 1, Sutton, NE 68979  
(402) 773-4843.

HONAKER, Richard (Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY)  
453 Quadrant Dr., Rock Springs, WY 82901  
(307) 362-6305. [rhonaker@wyoming.com](mailto:rhonaker@wyoming.com)

KOERNER, Myron (Zion RCUS, Menno, SD)  
P.O. Box 471, Freeman, SD 57029  
(605) 925-7195. [mymkoern@gwtc.net](mailto:mymkoern@gwtc.net)

RIBBENS, Don (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)  
303 Clay, Saronville, NE 68979  
(402) 469-4147.

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

SCHIEFFELIN, Ted (Providence RCUS, Limon, CO)  
P.O. Box 521, Limon CO 80828-0521  
(719) 775-2791. [ted.schieffelin@gmail.com](mailto:ted.schieffelin@gmail.com)

ZEEB, Charles (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)  
709 Alder Lane. Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
(605) 338-9101. [tuscanjoe@sio.midco.net](mailto:tuscanjoe@sio.midco.net)

## **STUDENTS UNDER CARE**

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

## **DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES**

### **COLORADO**

#### **COLORADO SPRINGS ([www.trinityrcus.com](http://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](http://www.reformedgreeley.org))**

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

#### **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](http://www.stjohnrcus.inetnebr.com))**

St. John's RCUS. Phone: **(402) 477-7289**  
11101 South 26<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68502 (mail: 3930 Mason Dr. 68521)  
Worship: 10:30 AM; S. School 9:30 AM. July & August Worship: 10AM. No SS.  
Pastor: vacant.

#### **SUTTON**

Emmanuel RCUS. Phone: **(402) 773-4218**  
110 South Way Ave. Sutton, NE 68979 (mail: PO Box 362).  
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: 10:30 AM; S. School 9:00 AM; Family Bible Study 6:30 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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: George Syms (wife, Debbie)

**RAPID CITY** ([www.rcusrapidcity.com](http://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](http://www.trinityrcus.org))

Trinity RCUS. Phone: **(605) 331-0500**.  
7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (mail: 415 N. Joseph Ave. Tea, SD 57064)  
Worship: 10:00 AM.  
Pastor: Ron Morris (wife, Sheri)

**VERMILLION** ([www.providencereformed.com](http://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**.  
9<sup>th</sup> 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 Monday, March 23 at 6:45 p.m. with Rev. Jon Blair conducting and Rev. George Syms preaching from 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 with a sermon entitled “Always Abounding in the Work.”
- At 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 24, Randy McGinnis, candidate for licensure, gave a devotion from Titus 2:6-15 and led the body in prayer
- Closing devotions on Tuesday, March 24, at p.m. were led by Elder Shane Bindert, who read from Psalm 100 and led the body in prayer.

### **ORGANIZATION**

The President of Classis, Rev. Ron Morris, called the body to order on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009, at 8:00 p.m. The President informed the body that, due to inclement weather, the Stated Clerk (Rev. David Fagrey) had been inhibited from attending the Classis meeting. The President appointed the Reverend Mr. Warren Embree as clerk *pro tempore*. The body elected David Fagrey as Stated Clerk and the President appointed Embree as clerk *pro tem* for the remainder of the Classical sessions. The body had business until 9:00 p.m. The President called the body to order on Tuesday, March 24 at 8:00 a.m. and the body had business until Tuesday evening.

### **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. George Syms to be the Reformed Herald reporter.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Benevolence	D. Kingswood, D. Rogers, A. Griess
Education and Student Aid	C.W. Powell, H. Hart, C. Griess
Examination and Licensure	M. Koerner, H. Van Stedum, D. Fagrey, P. Henderson, S. Gross, D. Mettler, J. Savage
Finances	S. Gross, J. Blair, J. McClay
Ministerial Aid	D. Rogers, A. Hallar, S. Bindert
Missions	S. Henry, D. Rogers, D. McPherson
Overtures	J. Blair, S. Henry, S. Heinbigner
Publications	W. Embree, Bud Powell, G. Van Holland
Services	H. Hart, H. Van Stedum, S. Bindert
Judicial	G. Syms, W. Embree, G. Van Holland
Nominations	R. Grossmann, P. Henderson, A. Griess
Minutes of Synod	M. Powell, D. Fagrey, E. Starks

### **PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee (*Referred to Overtures*)

### **Executive Circulars Volume 23, Numbers 1-9**

## Number 1

May 10, 2008

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There are two items that need your attention.

- A. The executive committee received the following report, dated May 8, 2008, from the special committee to investigate whether charges are warranted as a response to a complaint:

Esteemed Brethren:

At the 2008 Spring Classis meeting held at Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, South Dakota the South Central Classis erected a special committee in response to a complaint received from a member of the Blue Cliff congregation. The mandate given to the committee was to “investigate whether charges are warranted”.

Classis appointed the following to this committee: Rev. Maynard Koerner, chairman, Rev. Warren Embree, Rev. Jon Blair, Elder David McPherson, Elder Spencer Gross and Elder Daniel Metter, with Rev. Scott Henry and Elder Gary Maassen as alternates.

The committee attempted to fulfill its mandate as quickly as possible. There were difficulties scheduling a trip to Colorado due to inclement weather, illness, and scheduling conflicts. On May 5 and 6, 2008 the committee met at Limon, CO. The committee which actually traveled and met with the members of the two congregations was composed of the following: Rev. Maynard Koerner, chairman, Rev. Jon Blair, Rev. Scott Henry, Elder Daniel Metter, and Elder Gary Maassen.

The committee determined to make itself available to all of the members of the joint charge of Blue Cliff RCUS and Providence RCUS of Limon. The committee met on Monday, May 5 from 1:00 pm until 10:00 pm and again on Tuesday, May 6 from 10:00 am until 6:30 pm. The committee first met with the Spiritual Council and gave an opportunity to answer the complaint. The committee then met individually with all of the member families, with one or two exceptions, as well as some interested friends of the congregation. The committee also received some written statements from members who were not able to be present, primarily college students. The committee also met at length with Pastor Matthew Powell. The committee concluded by meeting with the Spiritual Council a second time and presented its findings.

As a result of this investigation your committee presents the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that charges are not warranted.

Grounds:

A. Relative to specific doctrinal concerns raised, the committee found the doctrinal position of Rev. Matthew Powell to be in accord with the Scriptures as summarized in the Three Forms of Unity.

B. The committee found that there was not sufficient basis to support the accusations in the complaint with respect to Rev. Matthew Powell’s pastoral relationship with the congregation.

2. We recommend that this report be circularized.

Respectfully, Rev. Maynard Koerner, chairman, J. Blair, S. Henry, D. Mettler, G. Maassen

- B. The executive committee received a letter from the stated clerk of the Presbytery of the Dakotas, indicating that the Presbytery of the Dakotas is willing to receive High Plains Reformed Church in Calhan, CO as a congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and therefore requests a letter of dismission from our Classis in accordance with our decision at our Spring Classis meeting (March 25-26, 2008), "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." In accordance with our decision to dismiss the church at Calhan, the executive committee will send a letter of dismission to the Presbytery of the Dakotas. The letter on behalf of the Presbytery of the Dakota's reads in part:

"We regret that the Calhan church has chosen to leave the RCUS and wish they could have remained. We desire to be co-workers with you in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that He will be glorified in the church at Calhan as well as in the RCUS and the OPC. Please continue to pray for us and for the church in Calhan that it will be a faithful witness to the truth of God in a sinful world. We are indebted to you for all that you have put into that congregation and will seek to be faithful stewards of His resources. We remember you in our prayers and rejoice in our fellowship in the gospel. We pray that brotherly love, peace, purity, and unity may increase among us all."

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the South Central Classis concur with the recommendations of the special committee's report to investigate whether charges are warranted.

## **Number 2**

August 27, 2008

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention.

- A. The Call, Acceptance, and Resignation of Rev. Ron Morris.

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

- (1) Call of a minister from Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD, no date, to Rev. Ron Morris, Mitchell, SD.
- (2) Letter from Rev. Ron Morris, stating his acceptance of the call from Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD, dated July 16, 2008.
- (3) Resignation of Rev. Ron Morris from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, dated July 31, 2008, effective August 31, 2008.
- (4) Acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Ron Morris from the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, dated August 9, 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Having examined the particulars of said call in accordance with article 28, the executive committee recommends that Classis approve this call, and that the pulpit of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD be declared vacant as of August 31, 2008.

## **Number 3**

September 30, 2008

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention.

A. 2008 Special Classis Meeting of South Central Classis on October 14 in Ogallala, NE.

According to article 90 of our Constitution, "A special meeting of Classis may be called at any time by the President ... specifying the particular business to be transacted.... At least two weeks before the time of such meeting the Stated Clerk shall notify the members by circular of the time and date of meeting, and the items of business properly before the body."

President Ron Morris is hereby calling for a special Classis meeting to take place two weeks from today on Tuesday, October 14, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Grey Goose Motel in Ogallala, Nebraska. A conference room will be reserved for business. A block of rooms will be reserved for Tuesday evening, if needed, and each delegate will be responsible to pay for his own lodging.

The business to be transacted will consist of dealing with complaints and appeals from members of the Blue Cliff and Limon congregations.

#### PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS,

- I. Services.
- II. Organization.
  - A. Roll Call
  - B. Defining the Bar of the House
- III. Adoption of Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day.
- IV. Calling up of complaints and appeals (see articles 157, 168-169)

#### PROPOSED ORDER OF THE DAY

- 1:00 p.m. Business
- 3:25-3:45 p.m. Recess
- 3:45 p.m. Business
- 5:30: Supper
- 6:30: Business if necessary

#### **Number 4**

October 11, 2008

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention.

A. The Call, Acceptance, and Resignation of Rev. George Syms.

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

- (5) Call of a minister from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, dated September 11, 2008, to Rev. George Syms, Kansas City, Missouri.

- (6) Letter from Rev. George Syms, stating his acceptance of the call from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD dated September 12, 2008.
- (7) Resignation of Rev. George Syms from Northland Reformed Church, Kansas City, Missouri, dated September 12, 2008, effective October 31, 2008.
- (8) Acceptance of the resignation of Rev. George Syms from the Consistory of Northland Reformed Church, Kansas City, Missouri, dated September 15, 2008.
- (9) The credentials of Rev. George Syms from Covenant East Classis, dated October 7, 2008.

The Executive Committee has also received word that the Candidates and Credentials Committee is satisfied with their interview (*Coloquim Doctum*) of Rev. George Syms.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Having examined the particulars of said call in accordance with article 28, the executive committee recommends that Classis approve this call, and that Rev. George Syms be received and added to the rolls as a minister of the South Central Classis.

**Number 5**

November 15, 2008

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention.

A. The Installation of Rev. George Syms.

Rev. George Syms has requested that his installation committee consist of Rev. Bill Haddock and Rev. Howard Hart, along with the consistory of Grace Reformed Church in Mitchell, SD, and that it take place on Sunday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That a committee, consisting of Rev. Bill Haddock (Chairman), Howard Hart, and the consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD install Rev. George Syms as pastor of Grace Reformed on Sunday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m; and that said committee report back to the executive committee after the installation has taken place.

**Number 6**

February 3, 2009

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention

B. 2009 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

- 1. Date and Time: The spring meeting of Classis will commence on Tuesday, March 24, at 6:45 p.m. with a worship service.
- 2. The Schedule of Services, Order of the Day, and Agenda: see attachments.
- 3. Statistics and Credentials: You will find attached 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 10, 2009. It would, however, be appreciated by the Clerk if these documents can get to him as early as possible.

4. Parochial Reports: According to Standing Rule #2 Parochial Reports are to be sent to the President (NOT THE CLERK) two weeks before Classis (by March 10, 2009). It would, however, be appreciated by the PRESIDENT if these reports can get to him as early as possible.
5. 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 24, 2009 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.
6. PLEASE SEND AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF ALL REPORTS TO THE CLERK.
7. Accommodations: Elder Gary Maassen will be reserving a block of hotel rooms. Please email Rev. Morris ([rmorris@sio.midco.net](mailto:rmorris@sio.midco.net)) and let him know if you would prefer to find your own lodging. The Sioux Falls church will assume that all delegates will be arriving in time for supper at 5:30 p.m. Please inform Rev. Morris if you plan on obtaining your own supper.
8. Licensure Exam for Randy McGinnis.

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

Randy is prepared to submit a theological paper and an exegetical paper.

Rev. Fagrey will be in contact with Randy concerning the original languages.

We also have a written exam for Randy on the constitution and we will schedule for him to preach a sermon.

#### 9. Committees:

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. De Groot, 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

#### Number 7

February 12, 2009

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There are two items that need your attention:

A. 2009 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Executive Committee received a request to change the dates of our Spring Classis meeting from March 24-25 to March 23-24. Classis will then start on Monday instead of Tuesday. The agenda and order of the day will remain the same, with Tuesday's business moving to Monday and Wednesday's business moving to Tuesday. Neither the Executive Committee nor the host church has any problem with this proposed change.

B. The resignation of Rev. Maynard Koerner from St. John's.

The Executive Committee received the resignation of Rev. Maynard Koerner from St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, dated January 31, 2009, effective March 31, 2009. We also received the acceptance of said resignation from the Consistory of St John's Reformed Church, dated January 31, 2009. Both documents were found to be in order.

Rev. Koerner is resigning in order to accept the full-time position of professor/administrator of Heidelberg Theological Seminary. For our information Rev. Koerner sent us his employment agreement with Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Spring Meeting of Classis be held on March 23-24 instead of March 24-25.
- (2) That the resignation of Rev. Maynard Koerner be accepted and the pulpit of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE be declared vacant as of March 31, 2009.

### Number 8

February 19, 2009

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Executive Committee received an objection from Rev. Matthew Powell to recommendation #2 of Executive Circular 23.7.

### Number 9

February 23, 2009

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

C. The transfer of members of Blue Cliff Community Reformed Church.

The Executive Committee received notice of the dissolution of Blue Cliff Community Reformed Church of Karval, CO. According to article 14\* Classis now has jurisdiction over its members and shall transfer them to the congregation which they may select. The Executive Committee received signed letters from all the members of Blue Cliff, requesting that their membership be transferred to Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO. The letters all read as follows:

To the Executive Committee of the South Central Classis  
Rev. David Fagrey, Clerk:

Dear Gentlemen



We, the undersigned, are members of Blue Cliff Community Reformed Church of Karval, CO. At the annual congregational meeting held on February 1, 2009, we voted without dissent to dissolve the Blue Cliff congregation and transfer all of its members and assets to Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO. As required by Article 14 of the RCUS constitution, we now request that you so transfer us.

Yours in Christ,

Sign

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Classis in accordance with article 14 transfer all the members and assets of Blue Cliff Community Reformed Church of Karval, CO to Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO.

Respectfully submitted on all circulars,

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

## **MISSIONS**

*(Referred to Standing Missions)*

### **Greeley, CO**

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Rev. C.W. Powell, Rev. Dan Rogers and Elder Loren Huber met with Rev. Jon Blair and his wife Wendy, the Consistory, and members of Grace RCUS. The meetings were conducted to allow for each group to share their perceptions on the direction and health of the church. Though each group saw things from their own perspective, what we found was a consistent report on the state of the church.

In general things are going well at Grace, the congregation is spiritually healthy, and stable. The marks of the church are present, the people are teachable, and there is a desire for spiritual growth. Rev. Blair mentioned that within in the congregation there is a “seriousness about the faith.” All parties reaffirmed Rev. Blair’s calling to the church in Greeley.

Recently the church has undergone a surge in attendance with a number of families now involved in membership classes. Most of these families home school their children and their presence has greatly increased the size of the Sunday school classes. The average attendance at Sunday worship is between 70 and 80.

The consistory has recognized the increased workload on Rev. Blair, mostly due to membership classes, and has worked to relieve him of other duties. Nine children are in catechism classes, with more on the horizon.

Financially the congregation is doing well and expects that 2010 will be their last year on mission support. The church’s building debt has been reduced to \$28,000 and the consistory would like to thank the classis, synod, and churches that have helped them pay down this debt.

Overall our assessment of Grace RCUS is positive and we recommend that classis and synodical support continue.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. C.W. Powell, Rev. Dan Rogers & Elder Loren Huber

### **Limon, CO**

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Rev. Dan Rogers and Elder Lon Ochsner visited with Rev. Matt Powell, members of the consistory, and lay people from Providence Reformed Church in Limon, Colorado.

Most members of South Central Classis are aware that 2008 was a difficult year for Providence. The result of the special fall classis meeting left many in the congregation upset and uncertain about what the Lord was doing. Yet as the book of Romans reminds us, "...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

According to Rev. Powell, Elder Ted Shieffelin, and Deacon Rick Carducci, God has used the events of the past year to unify and grow the church. They described how their church was "strengthened by the trials," "refreshed" by the changes, and brought "closer" in their fellowship. "*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*" (Romans 11:33). Rev. Powell continues to work part-time (computer work) to supplement his income. Although the church receives support from classis, it is financially doing well, despite the departure of a number of members last year.

One change at the end of 2008 was the decision of the congregation of Blue Cliff Community RCUS in Karval, Colorado to dissolve their status as a separate church and transfer their members to Limon. Though this request still needs to be approved by classis, the addition of these members has been a blessing to both groups. Over the last few months the church has averaged about 50 for the Sunday morning worship service, sometimes even 60. In addition the church has had a number of regular visitors, the return of a family that moved from the area, and anticipates an adult baptism and profession of faith.

Overall, the assessment of Providence Reformed Church is encouraging and it is recommended that the church continue to be supported by South Central Classis. In addition, an overture has been forwarded to Classis to encourage the congregations of SCC to designate the offering of the 2009 Day of Prayer for Missions for Providence's building debt of \$4,500.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Dan Rogers & Elder Lon Ochsner

## **Vermillion, SD**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Elder Gary Maassen and Rev. Dan Rogers met in Vermillion, SD with Rev. Robert Grossmann, members of the Consistory, and members of the Providence Reformed Church congregation.

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, and many are "eager to learn." The worship, Sunday school, and Bible study times offered each week are well attended. Rev. Grossmann continues to be heard through a weekly radio message, broadcast throughout the region. Recently a family from Yankton began attending because of the broadcast.

The church continues to see steady but slow growth. Although the church is frequented by a number of college students from the University of South Dakota, the church has been blessed by the addition of a number of "solid families." One of the observations of a member of the consistory was that Rev. Grossmann "speaks to the people," which provides for learning but also good fellowship. Rev. Grossmann continues to teach at Heidelberg Theological Seminary, serve on various committees in the RCUS, and write articles for a number of publications.

The congregation continues to be active, growing, and generous. Giving was very good in 2008 and the church continues to cut back the amount of mission support they receive.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Dan Rogers & Elder Gary Maassen

## **The Future of SCC Home Missions**

It is the recognition of the SCC Home Missions Committee that it is the Lord who grows churches, though we plant, water and seek to sow the Word. This past year has yielded little in our hope to plant a church in either Denver, CO or Omaha, NE. Advertising in Omaha produced only a few telephone calls that did not lead to any other contacts. Since then, a number of members of the Home Missions Committee have conversed about the possibility of pursuing the old path – the path of sending a man to the prospective area. Not only would this be more of the Biblical model of church planting, it also would serve to answer the question we received most, "who do I contact in Omaha?"

In addition to Denver and Omaha, it has also been brought to our attention that both Casper and Gillette Wyoming are two of the fastest growing towns in the west. Casper is a city of 55,000 and Gillette a town of 30,000. Neither city has a Reformed or Presbyterian Church, although I was recently informed that there is a Bible study in Gillette which is considering the PCA. Like our church in Rock Springs, both communities are very dependent on the natural gas and mining industries.

Thus we are left with the following questions: do we pursue church planting only in reaction to outside interest or do we purposefully send men into cities to see what the Lord does? It seems that the Lord has blessed both approaches in the past, and so we should not limit ourselves to one or the other. Therefore it is the opinion of the SCC Home Missions Committee that we should set aside more money this year and in the years to come to explore both options.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Grace Reformed Church of Greeley, CO be given \$9,928.00 from SCC Home Missions for 2010.
2. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Greeley for \$9,928.00 for 2010.
3. That Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO be given \$9,000 from SCC Home Missions for 2010.
4. That Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion, SD be given \$5,000 from SCC Home Missions for 2010.
5. That SCC overture Synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$5,000 in 2010.
6. That SCC set aside \$20/Communicant member in 2010 for future Home Mission works.

Respectfully, Rev. D. Rogers, C.W. Powell, P. Henderson, Elders G. Maassen and L. Huber

**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, Rev. Jon Blair (chairman), D. Rogers, A. Griess

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*(Referred to Education and Student Aid)*

Brethren,

At last years 'Spring Meeting' the Permanent Christian Education Committee was "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" (Standing Overtures Committee, recommendation 13a, page 31 of the 2008 Abstract of the Minutes). With reference to the president's report, the concern expressed was "the continual seepage of people from many of our congregations."

Given this concern the president's report then focused on the role of demographics, ethnicity and theological (reformed) heritage with respect to cohesion and continuity within the RCUS in the past and

how this has changed in our present day. Young people are moving away from rural areas (demographics), drifting from their sense of ethnic identity (ethnicity) and "have been incorporated into the mainstream of American life." Along with these two trends the president's report identified a third and more troubling issue. And that issue is the fact that many of our young people are leaving behind their Reformed heritage."

As mentioned above your Permanent Christian Education Committee was given the mandate to study these matters. This is, of course, a very broad mandate. In the president's report it was suggested that we might study this matter by asking "each congregation to submit the names of those who have left our Church over the past, say, 10 years." We would then "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."

That, in a nut shell, was the mandate given to the committee. We did not formally meet as a committee. But as chairman I have had a number of discussions with several of the committee members with respect to the matter before us. As a result of these discussions we have tried to think through the "concern expressed in the President's report on the state of the Church" and believe that if we are to study this matter carefully we must focus our attention on what the president refers to as "the mainstream of American life" and how the cultural pressures of our day influence and shape the way many people view the whole question of theological conviction and their theological heritage. These two issues are inseparably related.

And thus, it would be very beneficial if we as leaders of the church had a better understanding of the cultural influence and power of what is being referred to in our day as "post modern thought." The "mainstream of American life" is dominated by the 'postmodern' worldview and as a result our young people are facing the forces and pressures of post modern thought and how all this relates to their theological/ reformed heritage. As we face this reality there are no quick fixes or easy answers.

The mandate given to this committee is entirely appropriate. We need to study. We need to take seriously our calling to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" as we "cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" (2 Corinthians 10:5). In this way, we will be better equipped to help those who are in many ways unwittingly exposed to the pressures of postmodern thought in mainstream American life.

To help us in this study there are a number of books that we may find useful. As a committee, as we have endeavored to study this matter before us, we have found the following titles to be particularly relevant to the matter at hand:

- "No Place For Truth: Or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?" (1993)
- "God In The Wasteland: The Reality of Truth in a World of Fading Dreams" (1994)
- "Losing Our Virtue: Why The Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision" (1999)
- "Above All Earthly Powers: Christ in a Postmodern World" (2005)
- "The Courage To Be Protestant: Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World"  
(all of the above are written by David F. Wells)
- "Christ & Culture Revisited" (2008)
- "Becoming Conversant With The Emerging Church: Understanding a Movement and Its Implications" (2005)
- "The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism" (1996)  
(all of the above are written by D.A. Carson)

As is evident, this is a preliminary committee report. This whole matter requires further serious and in-depth study. Your committee looks to the wisdom and guidance of Classis as to how we are to proceed in our study.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. D. Kingswood, C.W. Powell, R. Morris, J. Connelly, D. De Groot

## **INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**

*(Referred to Overtures)*

The Honorable South Central Classis  
Reformed Church in the U.S.

Esteemed Brothers in Christ,

Your Interchurch Relations Committee has not met during the past year since there was no business that called for a meeting that the chairman is aware of.

The chairman has written invitations to the Stated Clerks of the Classis Central USA of the United Reformed Churches, and the Dakota Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, inviting them to send fraternal delegates to our spring meeting. To this point we have received word that the Classis Central of the URC will have a delegate at our meeting, the Lord Willing.

This report was written by the chairman.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Grossmann, Mathew Powell, Dick DeGroot, Earl Starks.

P.S. The Interchurch Relations Committee report omitted the fact the Rev. Herman Van Stedum was delegated to the OPC Presbytery meeting last Spring at Volga, SD, and will report at our upcoming Classis meeting.

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Classis Action: Classis took note of this report when it was read on the floor.

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## **CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS**

*(referred to Examination and Licensure)*

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Committee presents the following report and recommendation for your consideration.

### Student Under Care

Mr. Jim Connelly remains a student under care. A reading assignment for his study has been assigned with Rev. Fagrey and Rev. Henderson being available to work with him concerning his studies. He will be submitting a report which will be available at Classis. The standing Examination and Licensure Committee will need to visit with Mr. Connelly at Classis concerning his status as a student under care.

### Examination

Mr. Randy McGinnis has applied for a licensure exam. Mr. McGinnis is a student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and has working with St. John's Reformed Church of Lincoln, NE as a part intern. The Committee is prepared to administer a partial exam. Mr. McGinnis has requested some additional time to finish his language and exegetical paper assignments. The Committee does not plan to recommend licensure until all of the requirements are completed.

The committee has asked Rev. Van Stedum and Elder Spencer Gross to assist with the examination.

Licensure Exam for Randy McGinnis.

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

Mr. McGinnis has submitted a theological paper and has taken a written exam on the constitution. He is prepared to preach a sermon at Classis.

Recommendation: That Mr. Randy McGinnis be given a partial exam at the Spring meeting of South Central Classis, March 23-24, 2009.

Respectfully, M. Koerner, chairman, D. Fagrey, P. Henderson, S. Heinbigner, J. Savage, D. Mettler

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **President's Report on the State of the Church**

Beloved in the Lord, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. In Psalm 133 we read, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing — life forevermore." John Calvin, commenting on this passage, says that David is praising God for a time of peace and unity following a time of division in the nation of Israel. Calvin writes, "The hand of God was wonderfully seen, and most unexpectedly, in the concord which ensued among them, when these who had been inflamed with the most violent antipathy cordially coalesced."

It is a good thing when we can experience unity. But unity is not something that simply happens. It is something for which we must work. As Christians we sometimes have to determine to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, even if we vehemently disagree with them regarding some matter.

This is not some idea or concept in the abstract. It is something that we as Christians face every day. We have had some division in our Classis in the past. We have had our disagreements. But in the midst of our disagreements, I would like to believe that we have maintained a love for each other. This is not because we are such good people; it is because God is a gracious and merciful God. He deserves all the credit for any unity we have today and any unity that we will have in the future. Nevertheless, we must labor for this unity and always determine to love one another.

With this in mind, I would like to address a few issues. First of all, email. I both love and loath email. I love it because with the push of a button a communication can be sent to dozens, if not hundreds, of people. I also loath email because with a push of a button a communication can be sent to dozens, if

not hundreds, of people. In other words, sometimes an email can be misread, misunderstood and misinterpreted. Nuances, figures of speech, or tongue-in-cheek phrases can be misconstrued and can even bring offense. For this reason we need to be very careful with what we say and how we say things on email. I am thankful for electronic communication; it makes the job of communicating news to our congregations or things such as denominational committee work much easier. However, like any tool, it can cause damage if not used wisely.

Another thing I would like to address in the spirit of unity is the situation with many of our young people. In my President's Report last year I mentioned the "continual seepage of many of our young people from our congregations." This matter was taken up by Classis and a Special Committee was erected to look into this situation. That Committee will report to this Classis meeting with some recommendations. Without getting into that report, I would like to broach one particular issue that is not in the Committee's report: the role of fathers in the lives of our children. I want to be very clear here. I am not saying that if a young person grows up in our denomination and then leaves, it is because he or she had a dysfunctional father. There are many reasons why a young person may leave and the Committee's report will point out some of these things. What I am saying is that there is no way God will bless us as a Church if our fathers don't perform their roles as spiritual leaders of their families. This situation is not unique to the RCUS. Many men from a variety of denominational backgrounds have neglected their roles as spiritual leaders. This is why movements such as Promise Keepers became popular a few years ago. It addressed a deficiency and a need in the Church of Jesus Christ. Promise Keepers had its problems and I don't mean to be endorsing it. However, maybe we need a Promise Keepers-like movement in our Church today. Perhaps we need a summit or a Men's Retreat where the men of the RCUS could meet for a time of mutual encouragement and biblical instruction; a time of encouragement to our men to be godly husbands and fathers and to "step to the plate" and be the men God has called them to be. Don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying that we don't have godly men in our Church; we do. But this is an area where we need continual encouragement lest we drift away from our roles as spiritual leaders in the home.

On another note, it is with some sadness that we acknowledge the closing of one of our congregations at Blue Cliff, Colorado. The congregation at Blue Cliff worshiped there for some 30 years and served as a home base for our Regional Home Missionary, Dorman Savage. Blue Cliff helped oversee other mission works in Colorado and in contributed in an important way to much of the continuing work in Colorado. We are thankful that the entire congregation has voted to merge with our congregation in Limon as they preach the gospel to that community.

Speaking of preaching the gospel, we are at a time when we have a pastor shortage in the RCUS. As ministers and elders in the RCUS, we should make it our goal to help find prospective pastors from our own ranks. If you know of a young man who you believe may have the gifts to be a pastor, talk to him and encourage him to consider the ministry. Who knows, you may have your replacement sitting in the pew of your congregation!

In conclusion, having read the various Parochial Reports and getting a sense of what is happening in our congregations, I see that there is growth. This growth is not always measured numerically nor is it easy growth. Real, Christian growth is often gained spiritually through trials and temptations, victories and even defeats. But, most of all, growth is gained through the faithful preaching of the Word. Something that I can say without fear of contradiction is that if you hear a sermon from a minister of the RCUS, you are hearing a sermon from someone who believes that the Bible is the very Word of God and should be respected and adored. It is through the preaching of the Word that the people of God are strengthened and nurtured. Always be faithful to the preaching of God's holy, infallible Word and may we long to hear those words at the end of the day, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Ron Morris

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

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### **Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The following items refer to duties performed by myself, which include reference either to the spring 2008 Abstract or Circulars that have been sent since the spring 2008 meeting.

1. Page 28 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Benevolence report requesting benevolent aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
2. Page 28 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2 of the Standing Benevolence report requesting benevolent aid from Synod in the amount of \$725 per month for Trinity Covenant, RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
3. Page 30 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Rev. Howard Hart, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
4. Page 30 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
5. Page 30 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, 2008.
6. Page 30 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, 2008.
7. Page 30 of the Abstract, Recommendation #5, of the Standing Ministerial Aid report requesting aid from Synod for Rev. Herman Van Stedum, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
8. Page 30 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Missions requesting from Synod \$11,031 for 2009 for Grace Reformed Church of Greeley, CO, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
9. Page 30 of the Abstract, Recommendation #6, of the Standing Missions requesting from Synod \$750 per month for 2008 for Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
10. Page 30 of the Abstract, Recommendation #7, of the Standing Missions requesting from Synod \$9000 for 2009 for Providence Reformed Church of Limon, CO, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
11. Page 30 of the Abstract, Recommendation #10, of the Standing Missions requesting from Synod \$5,720 for 2009 for Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion, SD, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
12. Page 31 of the Abstract, Recommendation 13b, of the Standing Overtures, requesting that Synod add a question to the Constitutional Questions to elders, a letter was sent March 29, 2008.
13. Page 29 of the Abstract, Recommendation #6, of the Standing Judicial committee, that High Plains RCUS, Calhan, CO be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Dakotas OPC, a letter of dismissal was sent May 10, 2008. A letter of receipt, dated May 22, 2008, was received from the Presbytery of the Dakotas.
14. At our special Classis meeting in Ogallala, NE, October 14-15, 2008, Classis decided to grant Mrs. Kay Savage her request for transfer to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Calhan, CO. A letter of dismissal was sent on October 29, 2008. A letter of receipt, dated November 10, 2008, was received from High Plains OPC in Calhan.



15. At our special Classis meeting in Ogallala, NE, October 14-15, 2008, Classis decided to grant Clinton and Cathleen Clark their request for transfer to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Calhan, CO. A letter of dismissal was sent on October 29, 2008. A letter of receipt, dated November 10, 2008, was received from High Plains OPC in Calhan.
16. On November 18, 2008 a letter was sent to Lance and Paula Brundage, informing them that by the action of Classis their appeal to Classis was sustained and they were granted an administrative erasure.
17. In regards to Executive Circular 23.4, dated October 11, 2008, the recommendation passed that Rev. George Syms be received and added to the rolls as a minister of the South Central Classis. His credentials were received from Covenant East; and a letter of receipt, dated December 8, 2008, was sent to the clerk of Covenant East Classis.
18. A letter requesting a licensure exam was received in February 2009 from Randy McGinnis.

Respectfully submitted, David P. Fagrey

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Classis Action: The report was adopted

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### Executive Committee's Report of Synod

The clerk *pro tem* read the report.

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Classis Action: Take Note

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### Executive Committee's Report on Their Minutes

The report was read. A paragraph with respect to a start date for Classis was referred to Standing Judicial.

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

	Com. #	Guide Lines	Received	Over	Short
<b>South Central Classis</b>	1032	\$47,358.48	\$47,553.45	\$194.97	
<b>Church</b>					
Trinity Covenant					
Colorado Springs	43	\$2,457.39	\$2,457.00		
Blue Cliff					
Limon	22	\$1,009.58	\$1,056.00	\$46.42	
St. Johns RCUS					
Lincoln, NE	99	\$4,543.11	\$4,543.12	\$0.01	
Emmanuel RCUS					
Sutton, NE	128	\$5,873.98	\$5,873.98		
Hope RCUS					
Sutton, NE	200	\$9,178.00	\$9,178.00		
Zion RCUS					
Menno, SD	164	\$7,525.96	\$7,525.96		
Grace Reformed					
Mitchell, SD	71	\$3,258.19	\$3,258.19		
Grace Reformed					
Rapid City, SD	61	\$2,799.29	\$2,799.29		
Trinity Reformed					
Sioux Falls, SD	124	\$5,690.36	\$5,690.56	\$0.20	

Providence Reformed Rock Springs, WY	32	\$1,468.48	\$1,560.26	\$91.78
Grace Reformed Greeley, CO	41	\$1,881.49	\$1,881.54	\$0.05
Providence Reformed Vermillion, SD	24	\$1,101.36	\$1,103.76	\$2.40
Providence Reformed Limon, CO	23	\$1,055.47	\$1,009.58	\$45.89
Anonymous Giving			\$100.00	\$100.00
<b>Totals of all Income</b>	1032	\$47,358.48	\$47,553.45	\$194.97

**Budget based on 1032 communicant members**

\*Reported 32 communicants paid for 34

\*\*Reported 23 communicants paid for 22

**Budget Expenditures**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Over/Short</b>
<b>Providence Reformed, Limon</b>	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	
<b>Grace Reformed, Greeley</b>	\$12,227.00	\$12,227.04	\$0.04
<b>Providence Reformed, Vermillion</b>	\$5,720.00	\$5,720.00	
<b>Heidelberg Reformed Seminary</b>	\$8,256.00	\$8,256.00	
<b>New Geneva Seminary</b>	\$4,128.00	\$4,128.00	
<b>Classis Expense</b>	\$8,000.00		
Mileage		\$8,789.01	
Honorarium		\$400.00	
Printing		\$287.35	
Missions		\$54.00	
<b>Fund Balance</b>		\$9,530.36	(\$1,530.36)
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$47,331.00	\$48,861.44	(\$1,530.44)

**Guidelines**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Over</b>	<b>Short</b>
<b>Classical Dues</b>	\$8,000.00	\$7,764.75		\$235.25
\$7.75 per com.				
<b>Missions</b>	\$26,977.00	\$27,007.77	\$30.77	
\$26.14 per com.				
<b>Heidelberg Seminary</b>	\$8,256.00	\$8,264.01	\$8.01	
\$8.00 per com.				
<b>New Geneva Seminary</b>	\$4,128.00	\$4,132.02	\$4.02	
\$4.00 per com				
<b>Guidelines Total</b>	\$47,358.48	\$47,553.45	\$194.97	
(\$45.89 per com.)				
<b>Total Income</b>		\$47,553.45		
(Based on 1032 Communicant Members)				

	<b>Checkbook</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$24,698.50
<b>Interest Income</b>	\$113.96
<b>Bank Charges</b>	\$(506.52)
<b>Deposits</b>	\$47,553.45
<b>Checks</b>	(\$48,861.44)
<b>Total Checking</b>	\$22,770.03

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Classis Action: The report was referred to Finances

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### PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

The Ministers of the Word individually read their reports.

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Classis Action: On all the reports – take note.

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### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS (ARTICLE 81, RCUS ONSTITUTION)

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

The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?* All answered, "Yes."
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?* All answered, "Yes."
3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*
  - a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?* All answered, "Yes."
  - b. *Is Christian discipline exercised according to the constitution?* All answered, "Yes."
4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the constitution?* All answered, "Yes."
5. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:*
  - a. *Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?* All Answered, "Yes."
  - b. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* All answered, "Yes."
  - c. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving?* All answered, "Yes," except John Savage who answered "no."
  - d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered, "Yes," except John Savage 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.

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Classis Action: The report was adopted as will be corrected.

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## **REPORTS FROM CLASSIS' FRATERNAL DELEGATES**

Van Stedum gave an oral report as fraternal delegate to the Presbytery Meeting of the Dakota Presbytery, OPC meeting at Volga.

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Classis Action: Take note.

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## **ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES AND VISITORS**

- Fraternal delegate Rev. Doug Barnes, from Classis Central, URC, addressed the body. Rev. Robert Grossmann gave a response.
- Fraternal delegate Rev. Randy Klynsma, from the Dakota Presbytery, OPC, addressed the body. Rev. Matthew Powell gave a response.
- Rev. Maynard Koerner addressed the body as a representative of Heidelberg Theological Seminary.
- Rev. C.W. Powell addressed the body as a representative of New Geneva Theological Seminary.

## **EXAMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES**

The body gave a partial licensure exam to Randy McGinnis.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Heidelberg Youth Camp**

#### **Heidelberg Youth Camp Report February 16, 2009**

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A meeting of the Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee was held February 16, 2009. Committee members present were Elder Roger Gallimore, chair; Rev. Matt Powell and Rev. Scott Henry and Rev. Mike McGee, Rev. Richard Stetler, Elder Ron Abbink and Elder Jon Bender of Northern Plains Classis. Rev. McGee opened in prayer. HYC 2009 will be held July 20-24 at Camp Bob Marshall in the Black Hills.

1. The 2008 finance report was reviewed, which showed a net gain of \$13.53. The camp account remains in good shape with a balance of \$3,494.77. Camp fees will increase to \$139 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 \$159. It was noted that there is a need for improving the sound system for junior hall and senior hall. Congregations are asked to either

contribute a sound system that they may have available and/or raise contributions to support the sound system improvement. All responses can be directed to Rev. Mike McGee.

2. HYC 2008 was reviewed. It was noted that the evaluation results were about as stellar as evaluations get. However, the following changes for HYC 2009 were made following the review:
  - Drop the HYC Cup and replace it with a Game Night for Tuesday night with several game options available.
  - A cabin competition will be held. A panel of counselors will determine winning cabins based on teamwork, camper's attitude, timeliness, chores performance. A girl's cabin and a boy's cabin will be selected.
  
3. The theme for HYC 2009 will be *Our Reborn Identity*. This theme recognizes the need to kill off the old man of sin, bringing to life the new man in Christ, our role as prophet, priest and king and our need for lifelong training as Christians. The following lesson topics will be given:
  - Seeking and Speaking the Truth
  - Laying Yourself on the Line
  - Fighting the Battle
  - The Old Identity
  - The New Identity
  - Lifelong Training Camp
  
4. Rev. Scott Henry volunteered to recruit speakers for each of the lessons and worship services. Those that had volunteered to take on tasks are reminded of their duties for 2009:
  
5. The offering was discussed. It was decided that the offering will Rev. Thomas Mayville's missionary efforts at Knox Theological Seminary in Uganda.
  
6. Elder John Bender closed the meeting in prayer.

**Camp Budget 2009**

<b>Balance Forward</b>	\$ 3,481.24	
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Actual 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Budget 2009</u></b>
Camp Fees	\$18,344.00	\$19,820.00
Gifts	\$ 10.00	\$ -
Worship Offering	\$ 1,211.21	\$ 1,000.00
Interest	\$ 2.37	\$ -
Camp Store Sales	\$ 661.72	\$ 660.00
T-Shirt Sales	\$ 145.00	\$ -
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$20,374.30	\$21,480.00
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Facility Use	\$10,620.00	\$12,040.00
Food	\$ 3,889.56	\$ 3,900.00
T-Shirts	\$ 2,595.60	\$ 2,600.00
Crafts	\$ 335.89	\$ 300.00
Supplies & Equipment	\$ 926.42	\$ 700.00
Promotion	\$ 172.34	\$ 200.00

Custer State Park Fees	\$ 156.00	\$ 180.00
Administration	\$ 189.00	\$ 200.00
Camp Store Supplies	\$ 354.75	\$ 360.00
Worship Offering	\$ 1,121.21	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$20,360.77</u>	<u>\$21,480.00</u>
<b>Revenue Less Expense</b>	\$ 13.53	\$ -
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ 3,494.77	

*Proposed 2009 fees @\$149 per camper. After June 1 the fee will be \$169.  
Adult volunteers continue to be free. Fees are based on 131 campers and 36 adults.*

Recommendations:

1. That Classis approves the 2009 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.
2. That Classis approves the report as a whole of the Heidelberg Youth Camp.
3. That Classis takes note of the need for a sound system.
4. That Classis takes note of the importance of submitting registration forms, payments and volunteer lists in a timely manner.

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Classis Action: Recommendations 1-2 carried. Take note on Recommendations 3-4.

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**Committee to investigate whether charges are warranted**

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Classis Action: The committee was dissolved.

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**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 \$1,200.00 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 for salary support for teaching at New Geneva Seminary.

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Classis Action: Both recommendations and the report were adopted.

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**Education and Student Aid**

The committee reported having received from Overtures the Permanent Christian Education Committee Report. The committee recommended that Classis take note of the Permanent Christian Education Committee Report.

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Classis Action: Classis took note and adopted the report.

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### **Examination and Licensure**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the partial exam of Randy McGinnis be found satisfactory with the following exceptions, Hermeneutics, Doctrine of Scripture, Christology, Ecclesiology and Creeds, and that he be required to complete the language requirements and retake the exam in the areas noted.
2. That student Jim Connelly be encouraged to continue with his studies. Take note.

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Classis Action: Recommendation #1 was adopted. On #2 take note. The report was adopted.

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### **Finances**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. Overture 10 part 1 from consistory of (Emmanuel Reformed Church) New Geneva Seminary guideline be \$4.00.
2. Overture #2 from Grace Reformed Church (Mitchell) Heidelberg Theological Seminary guideline be \$5.00.
3. Travel: Rev. Jon Blair 365.04  
Rev. George Syms 46.20  
Ardell Griess 204.60  
Rev. Mat Powell 475.20  
Rev C.W. Powell 256.41  
Steve Heinbigner 132.00  
James Connelly 429.00  
Rev. Maynard Koerner 66.00
4. Classis Expense Fund 8,000 7.53
5. Guidelines for 2009 43,278 40.75

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Classis Action: The recommendations and the report were adopted.

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### **Judicial**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. Regarding item 12: That the Emmanuel American Reformed Church, Denver, Co., be informed that the Rev. Mr. George Horner is in his present capacity “in service to the church” per Article 32 of the Constitution of the RCUS; therefore, in light of our ecclesiastical relationship his status continues until such time as that service ceases plus three years.
2. Regarding items 13 and 14, the resignation of Rev. Maynard Koerner and the acceptance of the same: The committee recommends that, these documents be declared in order, and that the pulpit of St. John’s RCUS be declared vacant as of March 31, 2009.
3. Regarding item 10, the Committee recommends that the request of Rev. Mr. Embree to be honorably retired be postponed until the next spring meeting of Classis.
4. Regarding the matter referred from the Executive Committee’s report on the minutes, the committee recommends that the Classis replace the word “Tuesday” with “Monday” everywhere it appears in Standing Rule 22.

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Classis Action: The recommendations and the report were adopted.

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### Ministerial Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations for requesting Ministerial Aid from Synod:

1. Rev. Howard Hart, \$1,550 per month.
2. Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, \$1,200 per month.
3. Mrs. Kay Savage, \$1,000 per month.
4. Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, \$1,000 per month.
5. Rev. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,500 per month.

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Classis Action: The recommendations along with the report were adopted.

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### Home Missions

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Grace Reformed Church of Greely, Co be given \$9,928.00 from S.C.C. Home Missions for 2010.
2. That S.C.C. overture Synod on behalf of Grace RCUS Greely, Co for \$9,928.00 for 2010.
3. That Providence Reformed Church of Limon, Co be given \$9,000.00 from S.C.C. Home Missions for 2010.
4. That Providence Reformed Church of Vermillion, SD be given \$5,000.00 from S.C.C. Home Missions for 2010.
5. That S.C.C. overture Synod on behalf of Vermillion for \$5,000 for 2010.
6. That S.C.C. set aside \$20 per communicant member in 2010 for future Home Mission works.
7. That S.C.C. designate Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009 as a day of special offering to be given to Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO in order to reduce their building debt.

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Classis Action: The recommendations and the report were adopted.

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### Nominations

**Missions:** D. Rogers, G. Syms, S. Henry, S.Gross, L. Huber

**Publications:** J. Blair, D. Rogers, A. Griess

**Christian Education:** D. Kingswood, C.W. Powell, J. Connelly, D. DeGroot

**Interchurch Relations:** R. Grossmann, M. Powell, D. DeGroot, E. Starks

**Candidates & Credentials:** M. Koerner, D. Fagrey, C.W. Powell, D. Mettler, S. Heinbigner, J. Savage

**Execute Committee:** R. Morris, D. Fagrey, S. Bindert

**Heidelberg Youth Camp:** R. Gallimore, M. Powell, S. Henry, B. Freeman

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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### Overtures

The committee brought the following recommendations:



1. That Overture 1 be referred to Standing Services.
2. That Overture 2 be referred to Standing Services.
3. That Overture 3 be referred to Standing Ministerial Aid.
4. That Overture 4 be referred to Standing Ministerial Aid.
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 Benevolence.
9. That Classis take note of the Interchurch Relations Permanent Committee Report, after it is read on the floor.
10. That Overture 10 be referred to Standing Judicial.
11. That Overture 11 be referred to Standing Judicial.
12. That Overture 12 be referred to Standing Judicial.
13. That Overture 13 be referred to Standing Judicial.
14. That Overture 14 be referred to Standing Judicial.
15. That Overture 15 be referred to Standing Publications.
16. That Overture 16 be referred to Standing Finances.
17. That Overture 17 be referred to Standing Missions.
18. That the Executive Circulars remain with Standing Overtures.
19. That Classis take note of the fact that there are no irregularities in the Executive Circulars from 2008.
20. That Overture 18 be referred to Standing Services.
21. That Overture 19 be referred to Standing Services.
22. That Overture 20 be referred to Standing Benevolence.

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Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

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### **Publications**

The committee brought the following Recommendations:

1. That the Classis overture Synod to produce another printing of the New Trinity Hymnal.
2. The Permanent Committee reported no business – take note

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Classis Action: Recommendation #1 was adopted. On #2 take note. The report was adopted.

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### **Services**

The following referrals and recommendations were brought to the committee's attention:

1. That the request for excuses from all sessions of Classis of Pastors David Fagrey and Elder Primarius Dave McPherson be granted #(1) of Overtures.
2. That the request of excuses from all sessions of Classis of Pastor Paul Henderson and Primarius Elder Earl Starks be granted #(2) of Overtures.

3. That the request of an excuse from all sessions of Classis of Pastor George Horner be granted # (18) of Overtures.
4. That the invitation of Zion Reformed of Menno, SD to hold the 2010 Spring Meeting of Classis South Central be accepted # (19) Overtures.
5. That Classis South Central express its deepest appreciation for the wonderful hospitality provided for us by members and officers of Trinity Reformed Church of Sioux Falls, SD. Thank you for a job well done.

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Classis Action: The recommendations and the report were adopted.

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### Minutes of Synod

After reviewing the 2008 Synodical Abstract, the Synodical Executive Committee's Report to the Classes and the Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes, the committee found no discrepancies or omissions.

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Classis Action: the report was adopted

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### ADJOURNMENT

The body adjourned to the 2010 spring Session of Classis to meet at Menno, South Dakota.

### APPENDICES

#### MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 2008

	Colorado Springs, CO Trinity Covenant	Greeley, CO Grace Reformed	Blue Cliff Community Karval, CO	Providence Reformed Limon, CO	Lincoln, NE St John's Reformed	Emmanuel Reformed Sutton, NE	Sutton, NE Hope Reformed
Number of Elders	4	2	2	1	4	3	4
Number of Deacons	2	2	1	1	4	3	4
Communicant Members Last Year	43	41	22	22	99	128	200
Received by Confirmation	5	0	0	1	2	5	0
Received by Letter of Transfer	6	2	0	0	0	1	0
Received by Profession of Faith	4	2	0	1	0	0	11
Total Members Received	15	4	0	1	2	6	11
Total Old/New Members	58	45	22	23	101	134	211
Lost by Dismissal	2	1	6	0	4	0	0
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	3	1	0	5	1	3	1

Lost by Death	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total Members Lost	5	2	6	5	5	4	1
Communicant Members This Year	53	43	16	18	96	130	210
Unconfirmed Members	20	12	5	13	29	28	50
Total Baptized Members	73	55	21	31	125	158	260
Number of Families	26	27	6	8	51	77	99
Number of Children in SS	13	14	4	15	19	28	50
Number of Adults Baptized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Infants Baptized	2	3	0	2	2	3	0
Total Number of Baptism	2	3	0	2	2	3	0
Number Received Lord's Supper	47	42	16	22	78	119	170
Times Lord's Supper Served	12	4	12	12	6	6	6

**Financial Statistics**

Receipts from Regular Offerings	81,369	91,396	22,154	33,823	96,524	90,110	167,956
Receipts from Special Offerings	891	19,579	0	375	1,507	37,270	13,087
Receipts from other sources	8,700	24,680	1,625	11,211	0	0	1,324
Total Receipts	90,960	135,655	23,779	48,272	98,031	127,380	182,367
Budgeted Synodical Funds	8,480	10,409	4,431	396	21,939	28,417	44,298
Budgeted Classical Funds	1,973	1,882	11,071	1,009	4,543	5,874	9,178
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	930	0	240	0	263	2,529	689
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	0	125	3,668	150	721	5,622
Other General Expenses	65,319	130,555	21,452	37,267	68,377	94,995	123,961
Total Disbursements	76,061	142,846	37,319	42,340	95,272	132,536	183,748
Value of Church Building	0	192,000	0	40,000	110,000	522,000	600,000
Value of Parsonage	0	158,000	0	0	99,100	157,000	60,000
Improvements on Church Property	0	3,225	0	2,760	0	5,332	14,111
Present Property Debts	0	39,360	0	4,800	0	0	0
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	30,911	0	3,600	5,000	0	0
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	198	254	201	18	222	220	221
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	45	46	49	46	46	46	46
Total Giving to RCUS	264	300	715	64	270	271	271

	Zion Reformed Church	Menno, SD	Mitchell, SD Grace Reformed	Rapid City, SD Grace Reformed	Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls, SD	Vermillion, SD Providence Reformed	Rock Springs, WY Providence Reformed	TOTAL 2008
Number of Elders	4	3	2	5	2	2	38	
Number of Deacons	4	2	2	5	1	1	32	
Communicant Members Last Year	164	71	61	124	24	32	1064	
Received by Confirmation	3	3	1	3	0	0	23	
Received by Letter of Transfer	2	0	6	5	3	4	29	
Received by Profession of Faith	6	0	2	4	0	0	30	
Total Members Received	11	3	9	12	3	4	81	
Total Old/New Members	175	74	70	136	27	36	1112	
Lost by Dismissal	1	1	3	5	2	1	26	
Lost by Erasure or Discipline	5	0	1	3	0	0	23	
Lost by Death	3	0	0	1	0	0	5	
Total Members Lost	9	1	4	9	2	1	54	
Communicant Members This Year	166	77	66	127	25	35	1062	
Unconfirmed Members	30	25	41	62	15	16	346	
Total Baptized Members	196	102	107	189	40	51	1408	
Number of Families	85	29	37	66	12	19	542	

Number of Children in SS	23	25	28	58	7	13	297
Number of Adults Baptized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Infants Baptized	0	2	1	3	1	2	21
Total Number of Baptism	0	2	1	3	1	2	21
Number Received Lord's Supper	156	72	64	130	27	33	976
Times Lord's Supper Served	4	6	6	6	4	12	96

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**Financial Statistics**

Receipts from Regular Offerings	128,861	99,706	166,565	184,509	80,466	70,058	1313497
Receipts from Special Offerings	17,624	39,070	0	8,149	4,815	255	142622
Receipts from other sources	2,165	1,532	0	1,514	11,364	0	64115
Total Receipts	148,650	140,308	166,565	194,172	96,645	70,313	1523097
Budgeted Synodical Funds	35,301	15,283	13,572	27,367	5,296	3,000	218189
Budgeted Classical Funds	7,526	3,258	2,799	5,691	1,134	1,560	57498
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	25,266	897	2,400	1,865	2,400	0	37479
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	2,000	0	7,081	7,422	0	0	26789
Other General Expenses	87,230	110,295	127,333	111,617	61,650	82,061	1122112
Total Disbursements	157323	129,733	153,185	153,962	70,480	86,621	1461426
Value of Church Building	500000	275,000	515,000	750,000	300,000	170,000	3666771
Value of Parsonage	75,000	155,225	185,000	159,000	125,000	d	1173325
Improvements on Church Property	10,858	5,225	0	8,349	368	0	50228
Present Property Debts	0	39,914	65,192	0	0	38,825	188091
Debt Payments in the Past Year	0	828	28,325	0	0	8,752	77416
Giving to Synod Per Communicant	213	215	222	221	221	94	205
Giving to Classis Per Communicant	45	46	49	46	47	49	54
Total Giving to RCUS	410	261	308	282	368	143	294

**NECROLOGIES**

**Clifford E. Mettler**

Clifford E. Mettler was born on June 26, 1925 a few miles northeast of Menno, SD. He was baptized as an infant, and 14 years later he was confirmed by Rev. Bodenman at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD. Clifford remained a life long member of Zion RCUS where he faithfully served in the office of elder. Clifford passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2008 at Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD. He was one week shy of his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the time of his death.

**Edor K. Streyle**

Edor K. Streyle was born August 7, 1910 on the family farm near Menno, SD. He was baptized on October 23, 1910, and was confirmed on June 7, 1925 by Rev. William Buetell at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD. Edor remained a life long member of Zion Reformed Church serving in the office of both deacon and elder. During his term as an elder, Edor often read a sermon on Sunday morning in the absence of Rev. William Korn, who was preaching at one of the other two churches he served along with Zion Reformed Church. Edor passed into glory on December 29, 2008, where he now rests from his labors.

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of March opening with a worship service at 7:00 p.m., but if the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of March (1987, 2001, 2002, 2009).

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.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CLASSIS MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting was to deal with complaints and appeals from members of the Blue Cliff and Limon congregations.

### **REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**

Special Meeting of Classis

October 14-15, 2008

Grey Goose Lodge, Ogallala, NE

#### **Minutes of the Sessions**

##### **I. Services.**

The President, Rev. Ron Morris, called the body to order at 1:00 p.m. on October 14, 2008.

Rev. Dan Rogers read Psalm 133 and led the body in prayer.

##### **II. Organization.**

###### **A. Roll Call**

The Clerk, Rev. David Fagrey, read the roll. Opening Roll call showed 12 Ministers and 9 elders present. The President declared a quorum.

##### **IV. The Calling Up of Complaints and Appeals**

The Executive committee was appointed to examine the complaints and appeals against the Spiritual Council of Limon and Blue Cliff.

The Executive Committee recommends that the following items be considered regular and proper and that they be heard by Classis: a. The Complaint by Rev. Robert Grossmann on behalf of Mrs. Kay Savage against the Spiritual Council of Limon/Blue Cliff; b. The Complaint by Clinton and Kathy Clark against the Spiritual Council of Limon/Blue Cliff; c. The Appeal of Mrs. Kay Savage of the action taken against her by the Spiritual Council of Limon/Blue Cliff; d. The Appeal of Clinton and Kathy Clark of the action taken against them by the Spiritual Council of Limon/Blue Cliff; e. The Appeal of Lance and Paula Brundage of the action taken against them by the Spiritual Council of Limon/Blue Cliff.

The clerk read item #1a: the complaint of Rev. Grossmann.

Grossmann presented the appellant's opening statement.

Matt Powell presented the case of the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council.

Grossmann presented the appellant's closing statement.

Members of the body were given opportunity to be heard.

Elder Ted Schieffelin read the Spiritual Council minutes pertaining to this case.

Morris called for a roll call vote on item #1a, Specification 1: "Did the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council wrongly deny a request for transfer of Mrs. Kay Savage to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Calhan, CO?"

The clerk called the roll, which showed 17 Yes and 2 No. The complaint of Rev. Grossmann was sustained.

Rev. Warren Embree moved to table the final disposition of Grossmann's complaint until after the body hears the appeal of Mrs. Kay Savage. Seconded and carried.

The clerk read item #1b: the complaint of Clinton and Cathleen Clark.

Jim Sawtelle presented the appellant's opening statement.

Matt Powell presented the case of the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council.

Sawtelle presented the appellant's closing statement.

Members of the body were given opportunity to be heard.

Bud Powell moved to proceed to a roll call vote on item #1b. Seconded and carried.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 1: "Did the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council wrongly deny a request for transfer of Clinton and Cathleen Clark to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Calhan, CO?"

The vote showed 20 Yes and 0 No. The specification was sustained.

The clerk called the roll for specification 2: "Did the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council overstep their constitutional responsibilities in the handling of the Clarks' request of transfer?"

The vote showed 13 Yes, 4 No, and 3 Present. The Specification was sustained.

Embree moved to table the final disposition of the Clarks' complaint until after the body hears the appeal from the Clarks. Seconded and carried.

The clerk read item #1c: the appeal from Mrs. Kay Savage.

Grossmann presented the appellant's opening statement.

The chair ruled a portion of Grossmann's presentation out of order.

Matt Powell presented the case of the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council.

Grossmann presented the appellant's closing statement.

Members of the body were given opportunity to be heard.

Koerner moved to proceed to a roll call vote on item #1c. Seconded and carried.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 1: "Was the decision of guilt unjust?"

The vote showed 14 Yes, 3 No, and 2 Present. Specification 1 was sustained.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 2: "Was the sentence of excommunication too harsh?" The vote showed 19 Yes, 0 No. Specification 2 was sustained.

Embree moved to table the final disposition of this appeal until tomorrow morning. Seconded and carried.

Morris called the order of the day at 9:10 p.m.

## **II. Organization. Wednesday, October 15, 2008.**

Morris called the body to order at 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Darrell Kingswood opened with prayer.

**a. Roll Call**

The clerk read the roll. The roll showed 11 Ministers and 8 elders present. The President declared a quorum.

**IV. The Calling Up of Complaints and Appeals**

Embree moved to consider the disposition of both the complaint of Robert Grossmann and the appeal of Mrs. Kay Savage. Seconded and carried.

Koerner moved that Mrs. Kay Savage be censured for her untrue statements, and that her request for transfer to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Calhan, CO be granted; and that a communication be sent to the session in Calhan informing them of our action. Seconded and carried.

In accordance with article 169, the following errors were entered on the record: The Spiritual Council of Limon and Blue Cliff erred in not granting Mrs. Kay Savage her request for transfer. They also erred in their decision to find Mrs. Savage guilty of breaking the ninth commandment, not having sufficient evidence to prove the specific lies they charged her with. The Spiritual Council of Limon and Blue Cliff erred in their sentence of excommunication, in that it was too harsh.

The clerk read item #1d: the appeal of Clinton and Cathleen Clark.

Sawtelle presented the appellant's opening statement.

Matt Powell presented the case of the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council.

Sawtelle presented the appellant's closing statement.

Members of the body were given opportunity to be heard.

Grossmann moved to proceed to a roll call vote on item #1d. Seconded and carried.

Division was called. Division showed 10 Yes and 9 No. The chair was sustained.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 1: "Did the Limon and Blue Bliff Spiritual Council fail to substantiate the alleged charges against the Clarks?" The vote showed 10 Yes, 7 No, and 3 Present. Specification #1 was sustained.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 2: "Did the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council act in "undue haste" in charging the Clark's with rebelliousness?"

The vote showed 10 Yes, 8 No, and 2 Present. Specification 2 was sustained.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 3a: "Did the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council fail to demonstrate a reasonable indulgence?" The vote showed 5 Yes, 13 No, and 2 Present. Specification 3a was defeated.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 3b: "Did the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council demonstrate a manifest prejudice?"

The vote showed 1 Yes, 18 No, and 1 Present. Specification 3b was defeated.

Grossmann moved to handle the disposition of the Clarks' complaint and their appeal at the same time. Seconded and carried.

Grossmann moved to censure the Clarks for contumacy and that their request for transfer to the OPC church in Calhan, CO. be granted; and that a communication be sent to the session in Calhan informing them of our action. Seconded and carried.

In accordance with article 169, the following errors were entered on the record: The Limon and Blue cliff Spiritual Council erred in not granting the Clarks' request for transfer. They also failed to substantiate the alleged charges against the Clarks. Classis censured the Clarks for contumacy because they refused to show up to their trial to defend themselves against the alleged charges.

The clerk read item #1e: the appeal of Lance and Paula Brundage.

Embree presented the appellant's opening statement.  
Matt Powell presented the case of the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council.  
Embree presented the appellant's closing statement.  
Members of the body were given opportunity to be heard.

The clerk called the roll for Specification 1: "Did the Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council fail to follow the proper procedures of erasure according to Article 119?"

The vote showed 16 Yes, 1 No, and 1 Present. Specification 1 was sustained.

In accordance with article 169, the following errors were entered on the record: The Limon and Blue Cliff Spiritual Council erred in not following the proper procedures of erasure, according to Article 119. The Spiritual Council erred in making a non-judicial case into a judicial matter. Therefore, they erred in giving the Brundages a judicial erasure instead of an administrative erasure.

Koerner moved that members of the Brundage family be erased from the rolls of the Limon and Blue Cliff charge by administrative erasure. Seconded and carried.