

OFFICERS OF CLASSIS

PRESIDENT	Reverend Mr. Jon Blair
VICE-PRESIDENT	Reverend Mr. Matthew Powell
STATED CLERK	Reverend Mr. George Horner
TREASURER	Elder Scott Velgersdyk
	3608 S. Anita Ave.
	Sioux Falls, SD, 57103

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(Underlined indicates chairman)

Missions:	<u>R. Morris</u> , R. Grossmann, T. Grassmid, S. Velgersdyk, M. Burbach
Publications	<u>M. Koerner</u> , D. Fagrey, E. Starks
Christian Education	<u>J. Vusich</u> , C.W. Powell, H. Hart, G. Van Holland, L. Arnold
Interchurch Relations	<u>M. Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, T. Schieffelin, D. Mettler, G. Horner
Candidates & Credentials	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , M. Powell, D. Kingswood, D. Ehly, F. Hofmann, S. Gross
Executive Committee	<u>J. Blair</u> , G. Horner, A. Haller
*Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>L. Johnson</u> , S. Henry, D. Fagrey, D. Kingswood, R. Gallimore
*Special Committee	F. Hofmann, J. Frey

2013 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

	Guideline	per Communicant (1069)
Classical Expense Fund	\$ 9,000	\$ 8.42
Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 8,018	\$ 7.50
New Geneva Seminary	\$ 6,414	\$ 6.00
Missions (inclusive)	\$ 82,200	\$ 76.89
 Total	 \$105,632	 \$ 98.81

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DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

COLORADO

COLORADO SPRINGS (www.trinityrcus.com)

Trinity Covenant RCUS. Phone: (719) 590-1477.

Mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918.

Location: Grace Presbyterian Church, 2511 N. Logan Ave.

Worship: 11:30AM. Sunday school: 1:35PM.

Pastor: C.W. "Bud" Powell, Jr. (wife, Penny)

GREELEY (www.reformedgreeley.org)

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(970) 336-9927**.

Mail: 1505 10th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631. Location: 1501 10th Ave.

Worship 9:30 AM.

Pastor: Jon Blair (wife, Wendy)

LIMON

Providence RCUS. Phone: **(719) 775-8842**.

Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828. Location: 725 Michigan Ave.

Worship: 10:00AM. Sunday school: 11:30AM.

Pastor: Kevin Carroll (wife, Tammy)

NEBRASKA

LINCOLN (www.stjohnsrcus.com)

St. John's RCUS. Phone: **(402) 476-1827**

Mail and location: 1101 South 26th St. Lincoln, NE 68502

Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM.

Pastor: Lee Johnson (wife, Jenny Jo).

OMAHA

Heritage Reformed Church **(402) 699-4774**

Mail: 11814 S 34th St. Bellevue, NE 68123

Location: 2202 Washington St. Bellevue, NE 68502

Pastor: Scott Henry (wife: Maria).

SUTTON

Emmanuel RCUS. Phone: **(402) 773-4218**

Mail: PO Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979. Location: 110 South Way Ave.

Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM

Pastor: Joe Vusich (wife, Gioia, pronounced JOY-uh)

SUTTON

Hope RCUS. Phone: **(402) 773-4330**. dlkingswood@altell.net

Mail: PO Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979. Location: 311 E. Hickory.

Worship: 10:30AM; SS: 9:00AM

Pastor: Darrell Kingswood (wife, Lori).

SOUTH DAKOTA

MENNO

Zion RCUS. Phone: **(605) 387-5536**

Mail & Location. Location: 220 South Pine St. Menno, SD 57045

Worship: 10:30 AM

Pastor: Travis Grassmid (wife, Charity)

MITCHELL (www.gracereformed.com)

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(605) 996-2803**

Mail: PO Box 252, Mitchell, SD 57301. Location: 1021 S. Davison.

Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM, Evening Study:5PM

Pastor: Ron Morris (wife, Sheri)

RAPID CITY (www.gracereformedrapidcity.com)

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(605) 399-1711.**

5626 Haines Ave. Rapid City, SD 57701

Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM; Bible Study Sunday 6:00 PM

Pastor: David Fagrey (wife, Bonnie)

SIOUX FALLS (www.trinityrcus.org)

Trinity RCUS. Phone: **(605) 553-7971.**

Mail and Location: 7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Worship: 10:00 AM.

Pastor: vacant

VERMILLION (www.providencereformed.com)

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

Mail and location: 830 E. Madison. Vermillion, SD 57069.

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

Pastor: Robert Grossmann (wife, Polly)

TEXAS

SHERMAN (shermanreformed.net)

Christ The King RCUS. Phone **(903) 375-5266**

Mail: 122 Willow Ridge Dr. Sherman, TX 75029

Location: Texoma Room, Hampton Inn, Corner Hwy 75 & 82

Worship: 10AM, Sunday School following.

Pastor: Neale Riffert (wife, Mary Elizabeth)

WYOMING

CASPER

Christ Reformed Church. Phone (307) 277-5901

Mail: 157 Forget Me Not, Casper, WY 82604

Meeting: 71 Curtis St. Evansville, WY

Worship: 9:30AM, Sunday School 11:30AM

Pastor: Matthew Powell (wife: Andrea)

ROCK SPRINGS (www.providencerocksprings.org)

Providence RCUS. Phone: **(307) 362-5107.**

1007 9th St. Rock Springs, WY 82901.

Worship: 10AM, Sunday School 11:45AM

Pastor: George Horner (wife, Mary Jo)

SERVICES

- The body opened its meeting with a devotion on Rom.1:1-17 and prayer by the President of Classis, Rev. Jon Blair, at 3:17 pm. on March 18th.
- The body met for its worship service on Monday March 18th, at 6:45 pm, conducted by Rev. Maynard Koerner, with Rev. Kevin Carroll (candidate for licensure) preaching a sermon on Exodus 2:11-22, entitled: “Faithfully serving God means _____”.
- At 9:47 a.m., Tuesday, March 19th, Rev. Robert Grossmann presented a devotion from I Cor.1:1-9 with singing of “Great is Thy Faithfulness “and prayer.
- Closing devotions on Tuesday, March 19th at 7:10 p.m. were presented by Elder Harold Yoder who read from and commented on Proverbs 1:1-7 and led the body in prayer.
- All sessions of Classis were opened and closed with prayer. Prayers were also offered for the requests that arose from parochial reports of ministers and other business of Classis, such as for retired ministers, widows and churches in fraternal relationships.

ORGANIZATION

The President of Classis, Rev. Jon Blair, called the body to order on Monday, March 18th 2013, at 3:17 p.m. The body conducted business until Supper at 5:30 pm. The opening roll showed 13 ministers and 11 elders present, *a quorum*. The bar of the house was defined as the first 8 rows on either side of the center aisle. The President appointed Rev. Joe Vusich and Elder Daniel Mettler as tellers. A motion was made from the floor to suspend the reading of the Standing Rules, which carried by the required 2/3 majority. The following delegates were nominated and elected as the officers of the Classis this year: Rev. Jon Blair as President, Rev. Matthew Powell as Vice-President. Rev. George Horner as Stated Clerk, and Elder Scott Velgersdyk as Treasurer. The President appointed Elder Earl Starks as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*. The Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day, included a special order to examine Rev. Kevin Carroll for licensure on Tuesday, were adopted.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS

The following fraternal delegates were present for all or part of the classis meeting and granted time to address the body: Rev. Leonard Coppes from the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas, Rev. David Reese along with Elder Shawn Stickel, from the RPCNA Midwest Presbytery. Visitors to the Classis included Rev. Ryan Kampen of the Manitoba Classis of the Canadian American Reformed Churches and Rev. Neale Riffert, pastor of Christ the King Reformed Church (RUCS), as well as Nick Hedgpeth, both from Sherman, TX. Mr. Hedgpeth is a student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. Introduced as candidate for licensure was Rev Kevin Carroll, a minister of the Rocky Mountain Presbytery of the PCA. Introduced as first time elder delegates were Lou Arnold from Trinity Covenant RCUS in Colorado Springs, CO, and Scott Velgersdyk from Trinity RCUS in Sioux Falls, SD.

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

The body welcomed back to this Classis the Rev. Scott Henry, serving as pastor of the recently established mission work in Omaha, NE – Heritage Reformed Church, under the oversight of St. John’s RCUS in Lincoln, NE. There were no new churches to be received.

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The President made the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

Benevolence	J. Vusich, L. Johnson, G. Van Holland
Education and Student Aid	S. Henry, M. Koerner, D. Ehly
Examination and Licensure	R. Grossmann, M. Powell, D. Kingswood, F. Hofmann, D. Fagrey, S. Gross
Finances	M. Koerner, S. Gross, M. Burbach
Ministerial Aid	T. Grassmid, J. Connelly, D. Oliver
Missions	R. Morris, E. Starks, D. Ehly
Publications	C.W. Powell, M. McGee, S. Velgersdyk
Services	M. Powell, H. Hart, L. Arnold
Judicial	L. Johnson, C.W. Powell, D. Mettler
Nominations	K. Kingswood, D. Fagrey, H. Yoder
Minutes of Synod	M. McGee, G. Horner, L. Arnold

PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS

The items were distributed to the Standing Committees as determined by the Executive Committee (the Overtures Committee was abolished by the 2012 Classis). The actions taken on the permanent committee recommendations are found in the section that contains the Standing Committee reports.

EXECUTIVE CIRCULARS VOLUME 27 NUMBERS 1-11

Number 1 – May 30, 2012

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

The Executive Committee has received an invitation from Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO. to host the 2013 Spring meeting of Classis (according to Standing Rule #22 the dates would be March 18-19, but actual dates will be announced later).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Committee recommends that Classis accept the invitation and that the 2013 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis be held at Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO.

Number 2 – Nov 21, 2012

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

There is one item that needs your attention:

Your Executive Committee has received, from the SCC Home Missions Committee, the following attached assessment report of the mission work in Casper, Wyoming that seeks to be an RCUS church plant. The report is self-explanatory regarding the history of this work and the circumstances that led to the assessment visit by the SCC Home Missions Committee on Oct 29, 2012 and, in consequence, this positive report.

Please read the attached report.

The Executive Committee, on the basis of this Home Missions Committee Assessment Report regarding the work in Casper Wyoming, makes the following recommendations (of that report) :

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the South Central Classis of the RCUS give its approval to begin a church plant in Casper, Wyoming, under the oversight of the Consistory of Providence Reformed Church (RCUS), Rock Springs, WY.
2. That the South Central Classis of the RCUS financially support this work at \$30,000 per year starting in January of 2013. Note: we (Home Missions Committee) have communicated with the Treasurer of the SC Classis and he has informed us that we do have extra funding in our missions budget to fund this project without impacting any other missions projects.
3. That the South Central Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS to recognize the Casper work as a mission work and grant aid with an additional \$30,000 per year.

Number 3 - Dec 20, 2012

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

- A. The Call and Acceptance of Rev. Matthew Powell as Associate Pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY, to labor in the SCC mission work in Casper, WY.
(see Executive Circular 27.2)

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

- (1) Letter of call of a Minister (Associate Pastor) from Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY, dated December 18, to Rev. Matthew Powell, Limon, CO.
- (2) Letter from Rev. Matthew Powell stating his acceptance of the call from Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY, dated December 19, 2012.
- (3) Letter of resignation by Rev. Matthew Powell to the Consistory of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO, dated December 19, 2012. (Rev. M. Powell had given notice earlier contingent upon his receiving the anticipated call.)
- (4) A letter of acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Matthew Powell from the Consistory of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO, dated December 19, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

Having examined the particulars of said call in accordance with article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, the Executive Committee recommends that Classis approve this call of Rev. Matthew Powell to serve as Associate Pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY.

Number 4 – Dec 25, 2012

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

- A. The pulpit of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO will be vacant as of Jan 20, 2013, the effective date of Rev. Matthew Powell's resignation from that charge.
(He expects to begin his labors as pastor of the new Classis mission work in Casper, Wyoming effective Jan 20, 2013).

RECOMMENDATION

That the pulpit of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO, be declared vacant effective Jan 20, 2013.

Number 5 –Dec 26, 2012

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention:

- B. The Call and Acceptance of Rev. Scott Henry as Associate Pastor of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, to serve as missionary pastor to Omaha.
(see Home Missions #6, pg. 40 of 2012 SCC Abstract)

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

- (5) Letter of call of a Minister (Associate Pastor) from St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, dated December 09, 2012 to Rev. Scott Henry, Lancaster, CA.
- (6) Letter from Rev. Scott Henry stating his acceptance of the call from St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, dated December 21, 2012.
- (7) Letter of resignation by Rev. Scott Henry to the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Lancaster, CA, dated December 23, 2012, such resignation to be effective Jan 27, 2013.
- (8) A letter of acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Scott Henry from the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Lancaster, CA, dated December 23, 2012.

- (9) A letter from Rev. Scott Henry to the Western Classis of the RCUS, asking to be dismissed from the Western Classis of the RCUS to the South Central Classis of the RCUS, effective Jan 27, 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Having examined the particulars of said call in accordance with article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, the Executive Committee recommends that Classis approve this call of Rev. Scott Henry as Associate Pastor of St. John's Reformed Church to serve as missionary pastor to Omaha.
2. That Rev. Scott Henry be received and added to the roll of Ministers of the South Central Classis effective Jan 27, 2013.

Number 6 –Jan 15, 2013

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

There is one item that needs your attention:

The Dismissal of Rev. George Syms to the Northern Plains Classis.

- A. Rev. G. Syms has received and accepted the call to serve the Covenant RCUS in Watertown, SD, and was installed as Pastor of that charge by a committee of the Northern Plains Classis on Jan 4, 2013.
 1. On Aug 17, 2012, your Clerk sent to the Classis a communique regarding Rev. Syms improved health and his serving, as a yet retired minister, as pulpit supply to Covenant RCUS, Watertown, SD. Rev. Syms communicated to your Executive Committee his anticipation of receiving a call to serve that charge. Then, in early October, 2012, Rev. Syms requested release from retirement in order to enter the active ministry, having received and accepted a call from Covenant Reformed Church, and requested also dismissal to the Northern Plains Classis contingent upon the approval of his call. Your Executive Committee determined that in the best interests of Rev. Syms he ought not be released from his retirement with its associated ministerial and benevolence aid, until his call was duly approved by the Northern Plains Classis.
 2. No separate documentation of the approval of the call was received from the Northern Plains Classis, although, in communication with Rev. Syms, he indicated that it was in process.
 3. On Jan 11, 2013, the Executive Committee of SCC received from the Northern Plains Classis, following a requests by your SCC Clerk, documentation which notified of both the approval of the call to Rev. Syms call, effected on Dec 27, 2012, as well as of His installation on Jan 4, 2013 as pastor of Covenant RCUS, Watertown, SD.
 4. Since it is irregular to install a minister still on the roll of another classis, your EC sent a communique to the NPC encouraging diligence in observing proper protocol in such matters.

5. Since Rev. Syms is now in fact installed as an active pastor in the Northern Plains Classis he ought be dismissed to the Northern Plains classis as a Minister of the Word, acknowledging thereby also his release from retirement.
6. As once again, Praise the Lord, an actively serving Minister of the Word, Rev. Syms no longer needs the ministerial aid (\$1600.month) nor the benevolence aid (\$400./month) granted him by Synod in 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Rev. George Syms be dismissed to the Northern Plains Classis and removed from the roll of South Central Classis where he is currently listed as a Minister of the Word (retired).
- (2) That Classis petition Synod to cease retirement and benevolence aid to Rev. Syms effective Jan 4, 2013.

Number 7 –Jan 16, 2013

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

There is one item that needs your attention:

The Resignation of Rev. Mike McGee from the Grace RCUS charge in Mitchell, SD.

- A. By a duly constitutional process, precipitated by an irresolvable incompatibility between the Pastor and the Consistory on a particular issue, and by mutual consent, and for the welfare of both the Congregation and the Pastor and family, Rev. McGee resigned his pastorate and the Consistory and Congregation accepted it, effective Dec 30, 2012.
 1. Prior to circularizing Rev. McGee's resignation and the dissolution of that pastoral relationship, your Executive Committee interviewed, via separate conference calls, the Consistory of Grace RCUS, Rev. McGee, and as well the other RCUS ministers, Rev. Robert Grossmann, Rev. Ron Morris, and Rev. George Syms, who each had direct involvement in the precipitating issue, in order that we might gain a helpful understanding of the circumstances that resulted in this mutually agreed "best-interest" resolution.
 - a. The incompatibility was rooted in differing understandings of "equal" yoking in marriage. As was explained by former ministers of this congregation, the history, including presently, of this German reformed church includes marriages uniting spouses of which one has affiliation with the Roman Catholic church. It was the performing of such a marriage, basically, that brought to light the incompatibility at issue.
 - b. All the other involved ministers, one doing the premarital counseling with the involved couple, one actually performing the wedding, also spoke with Rev. McGee, and all are content that his resignation is the best resolution given the incompatibility.

- c. The relationship between Rev. McGee and the Consistory/congregation remains one of fellowship in the Lord and mutual respect.
- d. Both Rev. McGee and the Consistory are content with this resolution, and neither seeks any sort of further action, both seeking to move forward in the hope of having been further sanctified by the Lord of the church through this difficult situation.
- e. Your Executive Committee has encouraged both Rev. McGee and the Consistory to review, from a Scriptural perspective, their respective actions within the pastoral relationships in order to be edified and strengthened in their respective callings as church officers. We also encouraged the Consistory and Rev. McGee to winsomely seek those who do not confess the doctrines we so dearly hold to become likeminded with us in the true faith.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That the pastoral relationship between Rev Mike McGee and Grace Reformed Church in Mitchel, SD be dissolved and that pulpit declared vacant on the effective date of the resignation, Dec 30, 2012.

Number 8 – Jan 29, 2013

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

There are two items that need your attention:

1. The Executive Committee's recommendation of Executive Circular 27.7:
That the relationship between Rev. Mike McGee and Grace Reformed Church in Mitchell, SD be dissolved and that pulpit declared vacant on the effective date of the (Rev. McGee's) resignation, Dec. 30, 2012.
 was, by objection, not passed, and thus became a matter, constitutionally, to be considered at an actual meeting of classis. Although no special meeting of Classis was requested, your Executive Committee did consider proposing an earlier date for the Spring Classis meeting for the sake of expediting this matter, but due to the proximity of the scheduled (standing rule #22) date, this turned out not to be feasible.
2. 2013 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO
 1. Date and Time: The Spring Meeting of Classis will commence on **Monday, March 18**, at 6:45 pm. with a worship service.
 2. For The Schedule of Services; Order of the Day, and Agenda: see attachments.
 3. Statistics and Credentials: You will find attached with this circular one set of forms consisting of Membership and Financial Statistics and Credentials of Elders to Classis. **Both membership and financial statistics are to be in accordance with the calendar year – report statistics as of Dec 31, 2012.** According to the Standing Rules of Classis (#2&3) these are to be forwarded to the Stated Clerk no later than **two weeks** before Classis meets. This means they must be in the Clerk's hands by **March 4, 2013.** It would, however, be appreciated by the Clerk if these documents would be returned, completed, to him as early as

possible. They may be sent as an attachment to an e-mail to the clerk:
rcusgeorge@gmail.com.

4. Parochial Reports: According to Standing Rule #2, Parochial Reports are to be **sent to the President** (NOT THE CLERK!) **two weeks** before Classis meets- thus the President is to receive them by **March 4, 2013**. It would be appreciated by the President if these reports are received by him as early as possible.
5. Reports and Recommendations of Permanent and Special Committees: according to Standing Rule #17, the Reports of Permanent and Special Committees are to be completed and **sent to all the Consistories of all the churches of South Central Classis four weeks** prior to the Classis meeting, thus by **February 18, 2013**, with **one copy** (e-mail attachment) sent to the Stated Clerk. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only by the Executive Committee of Classis, by written request.
6. Be reminded that the delegate elders will be called upon to answer the Article 81 (RCUS Constitution) questions as they relate to their respective congregations.
7. Any overtures, especially including those requesting financial aid, are to be sent to the Clerk ASAP. Those received 4 weeks prior to the classis meeting (by Feb 18th) will be circularized.
8. Accommodations: Please e-mail Elder Ted Schieffelin ted.schieffelin@gmail.com or via cell: 719-760-0772 and let him know if you desire housing with a family (very limited). A block of rooms has been arranged at the Holiday Inn Express (I-70 exit 359). The booking link for our group: [Reformed Church Group March 18 and 19, 2013](#)
You may also book online @ www.hiexpress.com/limonco and use the code RCG in the Group Code Field, or call [800-465-4329](tel:800-465-4329) and mention the group code RCG, or contact the hotel directly at [719-775-9416](tel:719-775-9416) and mention the group Reformed Church.
Providence Reformed Church will assume that all delegates will be arriving in time for supper at 5:30 pm. unless the delegates communicate otherwise to Ted Schieffelin.
9. Committees: *underlined indicates chairman*

Missions:	<u>R. Morris</u> , R. Grossmann, T. Grassmid, D. DeGroot, M. Burbach
Publications	<u>M. Koerner</u> , D. Fagrey, E. Starks
Christian Education	<u>J. Vusich</u> , C.W. Powell, H. Hart, J. Rydell, J. Berg
Interchurch Relations	<u>M. Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, T. Schieffelin, C. Melham, G. Horner
Candidates & Credentials	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , M. Powell, D. Kingswood, R. Gallimore, F. Hoffmann, S.Gross
Executive Committee	<u>J. Blair</u> , G. Horner, A. Haller
*Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>L. Johnson</u> , D. Fagrey, D. Kingswood, M. McGee, R. Gallimore
*Special committee	A. Haller, D. Wilson

Number 9 –Feb 6, 2013

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

There is one item that needs your attention:

As you know from recent circulars 27.7 and 27.8, Rev. Mike McGee had resigned from the Grace RCUS Mitchell, SD, pastorate and that Consistory had accepted it effective Dec. 30, 2012. Because the recommendation of Executive Circular 27.7, dated Jan 16, 2013, to dissolve that pastoral relationship was not passed, neither the Mitchell consistory nor Rev. Mc. Gee have been allowed, nor will be, to pursue another pastoral relationship until action by the March 18-1, 2013 Classis meeting. Via recent communication, both objectors to circular 27.7 have indicated that they do not desire to impede the official dissolution of that pastoral relationship and do not object to the following recommendations. Therefore, to expedite this trying situation for both the Mitchell consistory and Rev. McGee so that both parties can immediately move on to future calls, your Executive Committee makes the following

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That the pastoral relationship between Rev. Mike McGee and the Grace Reformed Church be dissolved and that pulpit declared vacant effective Feb 20, 2013 (the date this action would be approved).
- (2) That Classis, at its scheduled March 18-19 meeting, discuss situation for the sake of further understanding. This will include the opportunity for delegates to ask for information concerning events and issues leading to the resignation, for the Mitchell Consistory and Rev. McGee to respond, as well as for the body to interact on the core issues that led to the dissolution of this pastoral relationship.

Number 10 –Feb 11, 2013

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

There is one item that needs your attention:

The installation of Rev. Scott Henry:

The Executive Committee has received the following request from the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE:

The Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, respectfully requests that a committee of Installation be established for the purpose of installing Rev. Scott Henry as pastor of Heritage Reformed Church in Omaha, NE (this is the RCUS mission work under the oversight of St. John's RC). We further request that the members of this committee be Rev. Lee Johnson, Rev. Ron Morris, Rev. Darrell Kingswood and the elders of St. John's Reformed Church. The installation is to take place during a 6 pm service at St. John's Reformed Church on March 10, 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

That a committee, consisting of Rev. Lee Johnson (chairman), Rev. Ron Morris, Rev. Darrell Kingswood, and the elders of St. John's Reformed Church of Lincoln, NE, install Rev. Scott Henry as pastor of

Heritage Reformed Church at a 6 pm service to be held at St. John's Reformed Church on March 10, 2013; and that said committee report back to the Executive Committee after the installation has taken place.

Number 11 –Feb 19, 2013

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

There is one item that needs your attention:

According to SCC Standing Rule # 21, your Clerk is to circularize overtures that were received at least 4 week prior to the Spring Classis meeting. The following are those overtures received:

1. From the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD: a request for ministerial aid for the Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart in the amount of \$1750. per month.
2. From the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD: a request for benevolent aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens in the amount of \$1425. per month.
3. From the Consistory of Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD: a request for ministerial aid for Rev. Herman Van Stedum in the amount of \$1500. per month.

PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee Report (Note: a portion of this report deals with a matter that was taken up in executive session of Classis, and thus is not public and that portion of the report is not published in this Abstract).

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your Committee represents the Classis in the interval between classis meetings and conducts the business of classis via executive circulars. Your Committee also serves as advisors (as requested) to member congregations. The following is the review of our business since the Spring 2012 Classis meeting. All circulars passed (no objection to the recommended action) with the exception noted below.

1. Executive Circular 27.1, dated May 30, 2012, dealt with the invitation received from Providence Reformed Church, Limon CO to host the 2013 Spring meeting of Classis.
2. Executive Circular 27.2, dated Nov 21, 2012, dealt with the recommendations of the SCC Home Missions Committee regarding approval and funding of an RCUS church plant in Casper Wyoming.
3. Executive Circular 27.3, dated Dec 20, 2012, dealt with the call from Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY to Rev. Matthew Powell to serve as Associate Pastor laboring as missionary pastor of the SCC mission work in Casper, WY, and his acceptance thereof and resignation from the Limon CO charge.

4. Executive Circular 27.4, dated Dec 25, 2012, dealt with the vacancy of the Providence Reformed Church, Limon CO.
5. Executive Circular 27.5, dated Dec 26, 2012, dealt with the call of Rev. Scott Henry as Associate Pastor of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, to serve as missionary pastor of the RCUS mission work in Omaha- Council Bluffs, NE, and his acceptance of the call, and his being added to the roll of Ministers of the SCC.
6. Executive Circular 27.6, dated Jan 15, 2013, dealt with the dismissal of Rev. George Syms to the Northern Plain Classis (his having received an approved call to serve Covenant Reformed Church in Watertown, SD), and petitioning Synod to cease the ministerial and benevolent aid he had been receiving while in retirement status.
7. Executive Circular 27.7, dated Jan 16, 2013, dealt with the resignation of Rev. Michael McGee from the Grace RCUS charge in Mitchell, SD, and the dissolution of that pastoral relationship. Its recommended action, based on information gathered and compiled by the EC and provided to Classis in summary form in the circular:
“that the pastoral relationship between Rev. Mike McGee and Grace Reformed Church be dissolved and that pulpit declared vacant on the effective date of the resignation, Dec 30, 2012”
 did not pass due to objections.

However, on Feb 6, 2013, after further communication by the EC with the involved parties, including the objectors, Executive Circular 27.9 was sent out with the same recommendation, only the effective date of vacancy changed to an appropriate later date.

This recommendation passed, along with this recommendation:

“That Classis, at its scheduled March 18-19 meeting, discuss the situation for the sake of further understanding. This will include the opportunity for delegates to ask for information concerning events and issues leading to the resignation, for the Mitchell Consistory, and Rev. McGee to respond, as well as for the body to interact on the core issues that led to the dissolution of this pastoral relationship.”

8. Executive Circular 27.8, dated Jan 29, 2013, dealt with the Spring Classis meeting scheduled for March 18-19 to held at Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO.
9. Executive Circular 27.9, dated Feb 5, 2013, dealt, for the second time, with the resignation of Rev. Mike McGee from the Mitchell, SD charge, the dissolution of that pastoral charge, the vacancy of that pulpit, and the discussion at Classis of the issues that led to the dissolution of that pastoral relationship.
10. Executive Circular 27.10, dated Feb 19, 2013, listed the overtures received at least 4 weeks prior to Spring classis meeting.

11. Your Committee was asked and provided advice in a matter of concern to the Spiritual Council of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jon Blair, Rev. George Horner, Elder Albert Haller

Classis action: the report was adopted

B. Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Brothers in Christ,

Your Committee has had no requests of any kind for examinations during the past year, and so has none on which to report.

We have, through our chairman, been in contact with the two men who are under care of Classis as students for the ministry of the RCUS, Mr. Tim Marinelli, who was taken under care of Classis at last year's session, and Mr. Jim Connelly, an Elder at our Greeley Church who has been under care for a number of years. We have also spoken to the pastors of both of these men concerning their progress. Both men have promised to provide written reports to the Committee by the time Classis meets. The Chairman had asked at the beginning of February that these reports be sent to him by March 1. Should there be further information in the reports, such as requests for student aid for the coming year, we will send them out as addenda to this report as soon as they are available to us.

Mr. Marinelli has been taking courses at Greenville Theological Seminary since 2009, and reports verbally that he is progressing well with his studies, and that he enjoys them very much. He will be doing a summer internship at Rapid City RCUS this summer. He is a son-in-law of Elder Roger Gallimore at that church. Please continue to pray for the Marinelli's since their son Elijah suffered a very high and prolonged fever during the past few months.

Mr. Connelly had been ordained as a minister before joining the RCUS, but gave up that ordination, which was not up to RCUS standards, in order to pursue studies and ordination in the RCUS. He then took one year of classes at Heidelberg Seminary and has been doing some preparation on his own since. A complication is that his wife Cindy has Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and depends upon him for good part of her care. Mr. Connelly reports that he plans to be ready to stand for examination at our 2014 Spring Classis meeting, and requests that he continue under care of Classis until that time.

Recommendations:

1. That Classis pass on to Synod the request of Mr. Marinelli for Student Aid for the 2013-2014 school year, should such a request be forthcoming.
2. That Mr. Connelly be allowed to continue under care of Classis as a student for the ministry until the

2014 Spring Session of Classis.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Grossmann (Chairman), Matthew Powell, Darrell Kingswood, Fred Hofmann,
Roger Gallimore, Spencer Gross

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Examination and Licensure

C. Interchurch Relations

Dear brothers,

The South Central Classis Interchurch Relations Committee did its business by email. We received invitations to the OPC's Presbytery of the Dakotas meetings in April and September, to the URC's Classis Central meeting in September, and to the RPCNA's Midwest Presbytery in October. I attended the RPCNA MWP meeting in Washington, IA, and the OPC's PoD meeting in Denver in April. George Horner represented the South Central Classis at the URC's Classis Central meeting in Lansing, MI. We did not send a delegate to the PoD's fall meeting, but sent greetings instead.

We sent invitations to attend the SCC's 2013 Spring meeting to representatives of each of these groups as well- the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas, the RPCNA's Midwest Presbytery, and the URC's Classis Central. I also sent a note to the Canadian / American Reformed Church in Westminster, CO inquiring as to whether that pastor or another representative would like to come to our Classis meeting from the Canadian Reformed Churches, since his church was within the bounds of our classis, but was told that they normally send delegates to the NPC instead, since most of their classis is closer geographically to that classis. I have not yet received responses to our invitations.

I would encourage the Classis to continue to foster interchurch relations on the Classical level. These contacts are enriching to me personally and our brothers in these other denominations express the same opinion. I have learned much from them, and usually have options to answer questions about the RCUS' polity when questions of polity or practice arise. There are also real practical benefits. The situation in Casper with an RPCNA church plant being essentially absorbed into an RCUS plant was greatly smoothed and facilitated by the relationships I had developed through these meetings, and a situation that had the potential for conflict instead was conducted very harmoniously.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Matt Powell, Chairman, Pastor George Horner, Pastor Herman Van Stedum
Elder Ted Schieffelin, Elder Clinton Melhaf

Classis Action: the report was adopted

D. Missions

Honorable Members of the South Central Classis,

Your Home Missions Committee conferred through emails and travels together to potential mission works over the past year and we offer have the following report.

As of this spring of 2013, the South Central Classis has four mission works. We also have one location that greatly wants an RCUS congregation in their area. Our works are Sherman, TX; Limon, CO; Casper, WY; and Omaha, NE. The location desirous of a new work is Scottsbluff, NE. The intention of this report is to update you on the progress in each of these works. We will look at each of these as they are listed.

Sherman, TX

Sherman, TX is a mission work that has been approved as a mission work of Classis and is currently receiving \$1500 per month. It is under the direction of Rev. Neil Riffert and is under the care of the Consistory of Grace Reformed, Mitchell. During the past year, Rev. Mike McGee visited Sherman to serve the Lord's Supper and show support for the work there. However, because of a number of factors, no member of the Committee was able to visit Sherman this past year, nor have we visited with Rev. McGee or Rev. Riffert. The Chairman of the Missions Committee has been in touch with a member of the congregation in Sherman regarding the possibility of that member attending Seminary. (Your Chairman also acts as Student Advisor for Heidelberg Theological Seminary). In those conversations, it seems to be the opinion of at least one member of the mission work that the work there has at the very least stalled, and could be considered to have gone backwards. They have lost one key family who moved out of the area for work-related reasons and they don't seem to be gaining any new families. It is not your Committee's opinion that it is time to end our work in Sherman, but it would be advisable to re-evaluate that work this coming year and seriously consider whether or not the Sherman work is a viable work for the future.

Limon, CO

Limon, CO is an approved mission work of the South Central Classis (SCC). Again, no one from our Committee visited Limon this year, but we were in frequent conversations with the pastor, Rev. Matt Powell, on another issue which will be addressed below. Two years ago, during our Committee visitation, Limon voluntarily requested a fairly sharp reduction in aid, from \$750/mo. to \$350/mo. According to Rev. Powell, things are going well in Limon. It is a small town and very likely will not have the demographical ability to ever be a large church. However, the congregation there is strong and is a bright light of the gospel on the eastern plains of Colorado. One major change that Limon is facing is the fact that their pastor, Rev. Powell, has been called to a new mission work in Wyoming. Limon is currently looking for a replacement, but with a strong and stable Consistory, they should be fine until the Lord provides them with a new shepherd. Although Limon has not requested any funding for this year, it is the Committee's opinion that they are well below the funding mark that is "normal" for a work at this stage in its development. Given the fact that they will be needing supply preaching and a pastor search, your Committee recommends that the funding of \$350/month remain the same this year.

Casper, WY

We noted in our report last year that there was a group in Casper, WY which had started, largely as the result of one family with strong Reformed Presbyterian (RPCNA) ties. Since there are no other Reformed works in the area, they were able to gather many who are interested in the Reformed faith. They were averaging about thirty individuals who were involved in this work. However, the work hit a couple of snares. For one thing, they were not been able to secure an RPCNA man to the work in Casper. It was at that point, you may recall, that contact was made with Rev. Matt Powell. He was asked to lead a study there until the RPCNA could find a man. Rev. Powell agreed and at one point, it seemed as though the RPCNA were going to "hand over" the work to the RCUS. However, after some reflection, the RPCNA recommitted to the work, thanked Rev. Powell for his assistance, and called a man who would come for a few months. In our report last year we wrote that the RPCNA were aware of our interest in the work in Casper and that we would "keep that in mind" in future deliberations. The time came and went for the

RPCNA man who came to Casper and he eventually left. In addition to there being no leader for the group at that point, the group met with representatives of the RPCNA and, except for the first family who started the group, the group in large part did not agree with several RPCNA distinctives. They informed the leadership of the RPCNA that they were well aware of these distinctives and saw no chance that they would ever be persuaded otherwise. The RPCNA admitted that they were at a disadvantage in ministering to this group and that it may be the best thing for them to encourage the RCUS to start a mission work in Casper. On October 29th, 2012 an assessment committee consisting of Revs. Ron Morris, Robert Grossmann, and Travis Grassmid met with the group in Casper. Also attending was Rev. George Horner, pastor of the Rock Springs, WY RCUS congregation and elder Earl Starks of Rock Springs, as well as Rev. Matt Powell of Limon. After a delightful time of fellowship, we spent a couple of hours with the group answering questions. In November of 2012, your Committee sent a circular out via the Executive Committee recommending that Casper be taken on as a mission work of the South Central Classis under the oversight of the Rock Springs Consistory. We requested \$30,000 per year starting in January of 2013 and that Classis overture Synod for an additional \$30,000 per year. That circular passed and subsequently Rock Springs called Rev. Matt Powell as an associate pastor with the duty of overseeing the Casper work. That work has begun in earnest and they are averaging about forty people per Lord's Day.

Omaha, NE

The Lincoln congregation, St. John's Reformed Church, was given permission by Classis and Synod, based upon a positive assessment, to start a Bible study with the intention of starting a new mission work in Omaha. A sub-committee of the Home Missions Committee went down, and did, in fact, give a positive assessment of the work in Omaha. Rev. Lee Johnson, of Lincoln, has been going to Lincoln each Sunday evening and leading a Bible study, which eventually became a full-fledged worship service. They were meeting in a rented room at a Best Western in Omaha. Three families from the Omaha work have joined as members of the Lincoln congregation. Also, Revs. Johnson, Darrell Kingswood, and Ron Morris have been going to Omaha about once per month to record thirty-minute radio programs which promote the Omaha work. The topic of discussion is the Heidelberg Catechism, and the broadcasts are overtly Reformed. There has been positive feed-back and the radio station approached us about re-signing with the station. In November of 2012, Rev. Scott Henry preached a trial sermon at Omaha and was called as an associate pastor of St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln with the duty to oversee the mission work in Omaha. His first Sunday on the field was in February and currently has between thirty to forty people in attendance on Sundays. They are now meeting in a public school building just outside of Omaha. It is our recommendation that Omaha also receive funding of \$30,000 per year from Classis and that Classis overture Synod of an additional \$30,000 per year

Scottsbluff, NE

As we noted in last year's report, a family from the Rapid City congregation moved to Scottsbluff to take over a towing business. They are greatly desirous of an RCUS work there. They have been having Bible studies there for at least four years, but have not been able to attract many families. There are other pseudo-Reformed works in the area, but none with any denominational or creedal ties. Most of the families our RCUS family has been able to attract seem content with what is already offered in the area. Since the arrival of the family from Rapid City, another family from Limon, CO has also moved to the area and is equally desirous to start an RCUS work there. The Consistory of the Rapid City church is more than willing to support a work in Scottsbluff, both in prayer and in finances. The Rapid City church has committed \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year to that work. However, they have not been successful in finding a man who is willing to go on the field in Scottsbluff. In our report last year, we made a plea for men to

consider going there, but so far, there has not been much interest shown. We would continue to make that plea and if any man is interested, please contact the Rapid City Consistory.

In conclusion, of the four mission works we have, we can see that they are all different. The work in Limon is a faithful work with a strong congregation and Consistory. It is our prayer that they would be able to continue on and be an RCUS work for many years to come. Our work in Sherman is one that needs to most prayer and consideration. Please pray for wisdom as your committee works with the group there this year so that we can know God's will for the years to come. But on the bright side, both our works in Casper and Omaha have gotten off to great starts and have a great deal of potential. Please continue to pray for all of our works that God would use them to spread the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to extend the Kingdom of God.

In light of this, your Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That Classis continue to fund Christ the King Reformed Church at \$1500 per month but that that we re-evaluate the viability of that work for future funding.
- 2) That in light of Limon's search for a new pastor, that their funding be kept at \$350 per month.
- 3) That the Casper work be approved for another year of funding from Classis at \$30,000 per year.
- 4) That Classis overture Synod to fund the Casper work and match the funding of Classis at \$30,000 per year.
- 5) That the Omaha work be approved for another year of funding from Classis at \$30,000 per year.
- 6) That Classis overture Synod to fund the Omaha work and match the funding of Classis at \$30,000 per year
- 7) That men of Classis and of the RCUS Synod be mindful of the need of a man to preach in Scottsbluff, NE and be in prayer that the Lord would provide a preacher if that is His will.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ron Morris, Chairman, Rev. Robert Grossmann, Rev. Travis Grassmid, Elder M. Burbach
Elder Dick De Groot

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Missions

E. Publications

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

The permanent Publications Committee of the South Central Classis has had no business before it during this Classical year and has no business to submit to Classis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maynard Koerner, David Fagrey, Earl Starks

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Publications

F. Christian Education

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your Christian Education Committee had no business brought before it during the past year. We therefore did not meet and have no business to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joe Vusich (chairman), Rev. C. W. Powell, Rev. Howard Hart, Elder Jim Rydell
Elder Joshua Berg

Classis Action: The report was referred to Education and Student Aid

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

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

Beloved brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ,

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). These poetic words of “the Preacher” and the passage that follows them, pertain to life in general—the spectrum of providence along the timeline of life. They might also apply more specifically to life in the local church, as I can attest in my own pastorate, as well as by my experience this past year as president of South Central Classis. *“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”* This is reflected in the various parochial and committee reports, and in the activity of the Executive Committee. In my president’s report at last year’s Classis, I noted a relative peace in the church, good temporal and spiritual health of the body, and a generally encouraging tone that resonated in all the parochial reports. This past year, however, has been another season with a more mixed report.

We are grateful for the marks of the true church functioning in the congregations, a blessing of the Lord which we never want to take for granted. Several ministers report what might be considered a typical year in the life of their local congregation—births and deaths, blessings and trials, joys and sorrows, gains and losses. As one minister summarizes, “It was a year like so many other years in the ordinary life and ministry of the church. And like so many other years, God in His grace, sustained and upheld the church for His glory.” A few ministers report sustained or even significant numerical growth, which has encouraged them and “energized” their congregations with much activity in the body life and service and vision of the church. Yet other ministers speak of facing some very difficult trials in their congregations, even resulting in significant losses in membership, which have been painful and discouraging and given cause for self-examination. There has been turmoil, some more under the surface, and some manifested publicly with serious impact on ministers, officers, members, and even whole congregations. Relative to this, the Classis will be discussing the resignation of Rev. Mike McGee from the Mitchell charge, as well as the resignation of Rev. Ron Morris from the Sioux Falls charge in order to accept a call from the Mitchell charge.

Statistically, giving through regular and special offerings increased over 11% from the previous year, which is an indication of good temporal health on the whole. The Classis also had a slight increase in total baptized membership. In studying the statistics of the Classis (as well as the RCUS Synod) over a

period of the last twenty years, I observe that of those members who have been received by public profession of faith, there have been relatively few adult baptisms. No doubt this has been pointed out before. Some of the explanation is surely due to the fact that we recognize virtually any Trinitarian baptism regardless of the ecclesiastical body that originally administered it, and also because of the demographic context of our small town congregations where much of the population is already affiliated in some way, however loosely, with a local church.

But in view of our so-called “post-Christian” society with an increasing number of the “unchurched” and “nones” with no formal religious affiliation in our land, it would seem to follow that new converts to Christ with accompanying baptisms might become more common-place in our congregations. While recognizing God’s sovereignty in salvation, these comments are offered as some food for thought, prayer, and perhaps to stimulate some conversation among ministers and officers and members relative to our responsibility for gospel outreach in our respective charges.

Along these lines, as the Missions Committee Report indicates, there has been much activity this past year. Notable are the two new works now up and running—Heritage Reformed in Omaha, NE, and Christ Reformed in Casper, WY. This gives cause for great encouragement, and the Classis looks forward to hearing an update on these works. We welcome Rev. Scott Henry back to the South Central Classis after his hiatus in California. After nearly ten years of faithful service at Providence Reformed in Limon, Rev. Matt Powell has begun a new season of ministry as mission pastor of the church plant in Casper. This, of course, has led to a vacancy of the pulpit in Limon, which is hoped to be filled with the call of Rev. Kevin Carroll, whom we will be examining for licensure in the RCUS at this Classis. On a less encouraging note, the Missions Committee is advising a re-evaluation of the mission work in Sherman, TX.

The teaching and training of men for the ministry faithfully continues through the two theological seminaries which we support within the bounds of South Central Classis—Heidelberg in Sioux Falls and New Geneva in Colorado Springs. Additionally, it is being recommended that the two students currently under care for the ministry, Mr. Tim Marinelli and Mr. Jim Connelly, remain in that status this next year.

We also want to acknowledge, once again, the Lord’s gracious provision related to health issues of some of the brothers. Rev. Howard Hart reports that his “health problems have been difficult this year,” but continues to serve the Lord and His church as able. Rev. Bud Powell reports, “both Penny and I are much improved in our physical health, for which we thank the Lord.” And we are thankful as well for the Lord’s restoring grace in the health of Rev. George Syms, who was dismissed to the Northern Plains Classis to serve as pastor of Covenant Reformed Church in Watertown, SD.

Indeed, as the divinely inspired Preacher says, “*to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.*” But so too, God “*has made everything beautiful in its time.*” And so it is that through the gospel of our salvation in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, “*that we may be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and for what is future have good confidence in our faithful God and Father, that no creature shall separate us from His love, since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move*” (HC 28).

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jon Blair

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

B. Stated Clerk's Report

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The following items list the duties performed by your Clerk since the last Spring meeting:

1. Your Clerk recorded the business of the 2012 Spring Classis Meeting in the form of the Minutes of Classis, prepared and sent out a preliminary form of the Abstract of the Minutes, and prepared the formal Abstract of the Minutes for publication and distributed copies to the member churches at Synod. The Corrections to the Minutes, pointed out at Synod, are being made.
2. Page 38 of the Abstract. Recommendation #1 of Standing Benevolence, requesting Benevolent Aid from Synod for Rev. George Syms; and recommendation #2 of Standing Benevolence, requesting benevolent aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens: a letter was sent April 9, 2012.
3. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendation # 1 of Standing Education and Student Aid, requesting student aid for student-under-care Tim Marinelli: a letter was sent April 9, 2012.
4. Page 39 of the Abstract, Recommendations # 1-6, of Standing Ministerial Aid, requesting Ministerial Aid from Synod for Mrs. Kay Savage, Rev. Howard Hart, Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, and Rev. George Syms: a letter was sent April 9, 2012.
5. Page 40 of the Abstract, Recommendation # 7 of Standing Home Missions, requesting mission support from Synod in the amount of \$30,000 per year for a mission work in Omaha, NE (based on a positive assessment report from the Permanent Home Missions Committee of SCC): a letter was sent April 9, 2012.
6. Synod was informed, via a letter dated May 8, 2012, of the positive assessment of the Omaha work.
7. Page 39 of the Abstract, Recommendation # 2 of Standing Judicial, requesting Synod to erect a special committee to examine the issue of how to proceed with members who withdraw their membership; and Recommendation #3 of Standing Judicial, requesting synod to place Council Bluffs, IA in the South Central Classis: a letter was sent on April 9, 2012.
8. A letter. dated April 9~was sent to Synod from the Executive Committee of Classis in informing of its determination that synodical aid to Trinity Covenant Church did not meet 2008 synodical guidelines and that classical aid would now meet that need.
9. An communication was sent to Dr. Aquila, New Geneva Theological Seminary, informing him of the Classis action (Recommendation #2a of Standing Education and Student Aid) to budget \$6.00 per communicant member to be sent to NGTS designated toward the salary of Dr. C.W. Powell.

10. Executive Circulars, Volume 27 numbers 1-11, (see Classis Executive Committee Report) were prepared and e-mailed to the Classis delegates.
11. E-mail communiques in addition to Executive Circulars were sent to the Classis delegates to provide information as deemed needed/helpful/encouraging.
12. Membership and financial statistics/delegate forms were sent to the member churches.\
13. Statistical/delegate form submitted by the member churches of Classis were reviewed and compiled, and delegate credentials were sent to the Clerk of Synod.
14. Official inter-classis documents, dealing with the dismissal/reception of ministers, were requested or sent as needed, and filed in the Classis records.
15. Particular communications from the Executive Committee were prepared and sent as requested/needed.

Respectfully Submitted, George Horner- Clerk of Classis

Action of Classis: the report was adopted

C. Report of Synod Clerk to Classes

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 266th Synod, there are some items that the Classes should take note of:

1. Classes should take note of the corrections that should be made to their minutes as adopted by the Synod (266th Abstract, pp. 84-86).
2. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the *calendar* year.
3. That the Stated Clerk of each Classis regularly provide the webmaster, in electronic form, an updated roll of ministers, elders, and churches following their spring Classis meeting.
4. Synod has declared that Council Bluffs, Iowa is in the South Central Classis.
5. The Classes are reminded that the 267th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 20-23, 2013, at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI.

Respectfully submitted, David Fagrey, Stated Clerk, RCUS Synod

Action of Classis: the report was referred to Standing Minutes of Synod

D. Treasurer's Report

Guidelines 2012 2013 Report February 27, 2013

	Budget	Received	Over
Classical Dues \$10.41 per com.	\$ 11,065.83	\$ 11,644.75	\$581.92
Missions & Future Home Missions \$46.00 per com.	\$ 48,898.00	\$ 48,810.78	\$ 86.72
Benevolence \$2.84 per com.	\$ 3,018.92	\$ 2,966.37	\$ 52.55
Heidelberg Seminary \$7.50 per com.	\$7,972.50	\$7,851.54	\$ 120.96
New Geneva Seminary \$6.00 per com	\$6,378.00	\$ 6,331.50	\$ 46.00
Diaconal Ministries	\$ 0.00	\$ 813.00	
Guidelines Total (\$72.20 per com.)	\$77,333.25	\$78,421.40	\$ 1,089.19
Total Income (Based on 1063 Communicant Member)		\$78,421.40	

Checkbook

Beginning Balance	\$ 55,782.32
Deposits	\$ 78,421.40
Checks	(\$ 71,425.67)
Service Charge	(\$ 90.00)
Interest Added	(\$ 159.53)
Total Checking	\$ 62,847.58

Budget Expenditures

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Over/Short</u>
Trinity Covenant	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Christ Reformed, WY		12,000.00	
Providence Reformed, CO	4,200.00	4,200.00	
Christ the King, TX	18,000.00	18,000.00	
Future Home Missions	26,698.00		
Heidelberg Seminary	7,927.00	7,927.00	
New Geneva Seminary	6,342.00	6,342.00	
Classis Expense	11,000.00		
Mileage		7,870.25	
Honorarium		450.00	
Printing		350.44	
Telephone		785.98	
Fund Balance		\$9,456.67	\$1,543.33
Total	\$77,167.00	\$61,425.67	\$15,741.33

Guidelines Per Church

<u>Classis</u>	<u>Com.#</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over</u>	<u>Due</u>
South Central Classis	1063	\$77,333.25	\$77,493.87	449.19	
<u>Church</u>					
Trinity Covenant Colorado Springs, CO	43	\$3,128.25	\$4,502.41	\$1,374.16	
Providence Limon, CO	41	\$2,982.75	\$2,982.75		
St. Johns NE Lincoln,	85	\$6,183.75	\$6,593.10	\$409.35	
Emmanuel Sutton, NE	121	\$8,802.75	\$8,802.75		
Hope Sutton, NE	184	\$13,386.00	\$14,800.00	\$614.00	
Zion Menno, SD	155	\$11,276.25	\$11,276.25		
Grace Mitchell, SD	75	\$5,456.25	\$5,456.25		
Grace Rapid City, SD	76	\$5,529.00	\$4,728.75		\$800.25
Trinity Sioux Falls, SD	153	\$11,130.75	\$11,621.83		\$108.95
Providence Rock Springs, WY	38	\$2,764.50	\$2,861.02	\$96.52	
Grace Greeley, CO	58	\$4,219.50	\$4,366.84	\$147.34	
Providence Vermillion, SD	22	\$1,600.50	\$905.52		\$694.98
Christ the King Sherman TX	12	\$873.00	\$875.00	\$2.00	
Totals of all Income	1063	\$77,333.25	\$78,421.40	\$3,096.56	\$1,604.18

Respectfully submitted, Spencer Gross, Treasure

Action of Classis: The report was referred to Standing Finances

PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

The Ministers of the Word individually read their reports. Opportunity was given for the delegates to ask questions about any report. After the reports, prayer was offered for the concerns. Note: the parochial reports of Revs. McGee and Morris were read in executive session of Classis due to their reference to a matter taken up in executive session.

Classis Action: On all the reports – take note.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS (ARTICLE 81, RCUS ONSTITUTION)

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

The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?*
All answered, "Yes."
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?*
All answered, "Yes" except for Spencer Gross indicating need for improvement.
3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*
 - a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?*
All answered, "Yes" except for Scott Velgersdyk indication need for improvement.
 - 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."
 - d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?*
All answered, "Yes."
6. *Are the church records properly kept?*
All answered, "Yes."
- 7a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?*
All answered, "Yes."
- 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?*
All answered, "Yes."

REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

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

Classis Action: The report was adopted as amended.

REPORTS FROM CLASSIS' FRATERNAL DELEGATES

- Rev. M. Powell read his report as the fraternal delegate to the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA.
- Rev. M. Powell read his report as classis fraternal delegate to the spring meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas OPC.
- Rev. Horner read his report as classis fraternal delegate to the fall meeting of Classis Central US of the URCNA.

Classis Action: On all reports: Take note.

ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES AND VISITORS

- The President invited Rev. Leonard Coppes, fraternal delegate from the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas to address the body.
- Rev. Hart gave his response.
- The President invited Rev. David Reese, fraternal delegate from the RPCNA Midwest Presbytery to address the body.
- Rev. M. Powell gave his response and prayed for the OPC and RPCNA .
- Rev. M. Powell brought greetings, via letter, from Classis Central US, URCNA.

EXAMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

Rev. Kevin Carroll, ordained by the PCA, was examined for licensure in the South Central Classis. He seeks to serve Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO. The Candidates and Credentials Committee had already examined Rev. Carroll in History of Philosophy, Church History, Hermeneutics, Greek and Hebrew. At this Classis meeting Rev. Carroll was examined before the body by members of the Standing Examination and Licensure Committee in:

- Piety and Intent,
- RCUS Constitution,
- Heidelberg Catechism,
- English Bible,
- Doctrine of Scripture
- Theology Proper
- Christology
- Soteriology
- Ecclesiology
- Apologetics (note: the exam was arrested at this point since the candidate had been demonstrating sound knowledge of these loci).

Following each section the opportunity was given for delegates to ask further questions of the candidate. The Classis approved the recommendation of the Candidates and Credentials Committee that Rev. Carroll's exam be declared "satisfactory" and that he be licensed to preach in the RCUS following his publicly reading and signing the Form of Licensure. Upon his dismissal from the PCA Presbytery of which he is (at that time) a member, he will be placed on the Roll of Ministers of the South Central Classis. Update: as this Abstract is being prepared for publication, Rev. Carroll had now been dismissed from the PCA Presbytery, and has accepted a call from Providence RCUS in Limon, CO to serve as its Minister.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS **Heidelberg Youth Camp**

Esteemed Brethren,

A meeting of the Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee was held February 5th, 2013 via conference call. Committee members present were: Rev. Michael McGee, Rev. James Grossmann, Rev. Lee Johnson, Rev. David Fagrey, Rev. Darrell Kingswood, Rev. J.P. Mosley, Elder Roger Gallimore and Elder Matthew Fickbom. Rev. Kingswood opened the meeting with prayer.

The activities of Heidelberg Youth Camp 2012 were reviewed. The evaluations were summarized. The Committee believes that ending of the All Nighter was successful and it will not be reintroduced. The worship services were discussed as per the 2012 report. It was decided to keep worship services on Tuesday and Wednesday night, but to simply enhance the Closing Ceremonies on Thursday by integrating a hymn sing and devotional into the Closing and lessening the recognition of individuals. This would help keep the focus in a spiritual direction, and hopefully keep camp running smoothly on the last evening. An offering will still be done on Thursday Night. This year the committee decided to dedicate each night's offering to the newest church plants: Dickenson, Omaha, and Casper.

The 2012 finance report was reviewed, which showed a net gain of \$704.51. The camp account remains in the black with a balance of \$4,284.31. Camp fees will be \$159 per camper, provided the registration form and fee is submitted by June 1st. However, the registration fee will be \$189, if it is submitted after June 1st. This increase remains in order to encourage camp registrations to be submitted in a timely manner so that the preliminary work for HYC can occur.

It was noted that the gift of beef and pork enabled us to come in under budget and reduce our overall food cost by more than 25%. We thank God for His provision and ask that churches and individuals consider

donating more food and other items to camp in order to help keep costs down.

The theme for HYC 2013 will be *Called to Worship*. This theme recognizes that God has called us to be his worshippers in this life and that which is to come. Lessons will be given on the following topics:

Called to Worship....

-- *Purpose and Regulative Principle of Worship* – Why do we worship? It is a basic questions we as Christians must know. The next question is also, then how do we worship? This is a question that can only be answered and regulated by the Scripture.

-- *Call to Worship/Salutation/Invocation/Doxology and Benediction* – The way we open and close worship is not unimportant. God speaks to us and calls us to worship, invites us into His presence with His blessing. God also sends us away with His divine blessing, so that we go away from worship with the blessing of the Almighty.

-- *Singing* – When most people think of worship they think of singing. What is the actual role of singing in the worship of God? Too often we do not think about what we say or what we are doing when we sing. We need to recovering a biblical perspective on singing.

-- *Scripture and Creeds* – We are to be devoted to the reading of God's Word, and it is to be done in worship. We also use our creeds in worship and make confessions. What is the function of creeds and how does it relate to Scripture in worship?

-- *Preaching the Word*– The main feature of Reformed worship is the preaching of the gospel, but in many churches today it is not. Why must the preaching of His word be the focus of our worship? What occurs during preaching and is listening to a sermon worship?

-- *Giving and Offerings* – We also pass the offering plate during worship, and it is an act of worship. Too often it is viewed as simply the time of paying the bills of the church. What is the biblical role of offering and its significance and role in worship?

Rev. Johnson will call and recruit various speakers. It was noted that several Students Under Care would be serving within our bounds this summer, and an attempt to make use of them will be made.

The Camp Director position was discussed. Since Rev McGee is uncertain of his status, Elder Gallimore offered to step into the Director position should the need arise. The Committee agreed this was a good idea, and thanks Elder Gallimore for his generous offer.

Rev. James Grossmann closed the meeting with prayer.

Heidelberg Youth Camp is scheduled for the last full week of July and will be held July 22-26 at Camp Bob Marshall in the Black Hills.

Future dates of camp:

2013- July 22-26

2014- July 21-25

2015- July 27-31

2016- July 18-22

Your committee proposes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – That Classis approve the 2013 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and

campers fees.

Recommendation #2 – That Classis approve the report as a whole of the Heidelberg Youth Camp.

Recommendation #3 – That Classis take note of the need for donations of food.

Recommendation #4 – That Classis take note of the importance of submitting registration forms, payments and volunteer lists in a timely manner

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Lee Johnson

Heidelberg Youth Camp Budget for 2013

Balance Forward		\$ 3579.80	
Revenue	<u>Budget 2012</u>	<u>Actual 2012</u>	<u>Budget 2013</u>
-- Camp Fees	\$ 22,101.00	\$18,378.00 (-3723.00)	\$ 19,080.00
-- Gifts	\$ -----	\$ -----	\$ -----
-- Worship Offering	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,145.21 (-54.79)	\$ 1,200.00
-- Interest	\$ -----	\$ 2.30 (+2.30)	\$ -----
-- Camp Store Sales	\$ 750.00	\$ 730.65 (-19.35)	\$ 750.00
-- T-Shirt Sales	\$ -----	\$ -----	\$ -----
Total Revenue	\$ 24,051.00	\$ 20,256.16 (-3,794.84)	\$21,030.00
Expenses	<u>Budget 2012</u>	<u>Actual 2012</u>	<u>Budget 2013</u>
-- Facility Use	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 11,361.13 (-1638.87)	\$ 11,000.00
-- Food	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 3,293.30 (-1506.70)	\$ 3,800.00
-- T-Shirts	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,305.30 (-594.70)	\$ 2,600.00
-- Crafts	\$ 175.00	\$ 129.84 (-45.16)	\$ 150.00
-- Supplies & Equipment	\$ 600.00	\$ 613.65 (+13.65)	\$ 600.00
-- Promotion (Photo)	\$ 100.00	\$ 79.15 (-20.85)	\$ 100.00
-- Custer State Park Fees	\$ 100.00	\$ 47.00 (-53.00)	\$ 100.00
-- Administration	\$ 200.00	\$ 122.97 (-77.03)	\$ 150.00
-- Camp Store Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 454.10 (-45.90)	\$ 500.00
-- Worship Offering	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,145.21 (-54.79)	\$ 1,200.00
Total Expenses	\$ 23,575.00	\$ 19,551.65 (-4,023.35)	\$ 20,200.00
Revenue Less Expense	\$ -----	\$ +704.51	
Ending Balance		\$ 4,284.31	

Proposed 2013 fees: \$159 per camper provided both the registration fee and form are received by June 1. After June 1, the fee will be \$189. Adult volunteers continue to be free. Fees are based on 120 campers and 32 adults.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Benevolence

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis petition Synod to provide \$1,425.00 per month in benevolent aid to Mrs. Amy Stevens.

2. That Classis petition Synod to grant Mrs. Kay Savage \$1,000.00 per month in benevolent aid.

Classis Action: The report and all of its recommendations were adopted.

Education and Student Aid

The Committee brought the following recommendation:

1. That the request from student –under-care Tim Marinelli for student aid in the amount of \$6,500.00 (tuition) and the cost of text books be approved, and that this request be forwarded to Synod.
2. That Classis take note that two reports were received, one from student-under-care Tim Marinelli, and one from student-under-care Jim Connelly. The reports gave information on their seminary progress, life and activity in the church, and their future desires.

Classis Action: The report and recommendation #1 were adopted. On # 2: take note.

Examination and Licensure

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the examination of Rev. Kevin Carroll take place according to the schedule sent out by the Candidates and Credentials Committee prior to Classis.
2. That Rev. Carroll’s examination be declared “satisfactory”.
3. That Rev. Kevin Carroll be licensed to preach in the RCUS by publicly reading and signing the Form of Licensure, and that he be placed on the Roll of Ministers of Classis, pending the reception of his dismissal from the Presbyterian Church in America of which he is now a member.
4. That Classis take note of Rev. Carroll’s stated intention to memorize the Heidelberg Catechism during the next year and we encourage him to accomplish this intention.

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

Finances

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis pay the Spring Meeting travel expenses in the amount of \$4,773.16 as submitted:

Travel Expenses for Classis Meeting 2013-2014

Robert Grossman	\$400.00
George Horner	\$387.90
Spencer Gross	\$524.70

Scott Henry	\$ 49.50
C.W. Powell	\$ 67.50
Jim Connelly	\$108.00
Carl Starks	\$194.85
Joe Vusich	\$327.60
Daniel Mettler	\$400.00
Neale Riffert	\$612.00
David Fagrey	\$346.50
Michael Mcgee	\$108.90
Maynard Koerner	\$571.50
Jon Blaire	\$126.00
Lee Johnson	\$222.41
Matt Powell	\$325.80

2. That Classis adopt the budget as presented (see page 1 of abstract)

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted

Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis establish the Installation Committee consisting of Dr. C.W. Powell, Revs .Blair and Horner and the elders of Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY to install Rev. Matthew Powell as pastor of Christ Reformed Chapel in Casper, WY.
2. That Rev. McGee be granted permission to labor outside the bounds of Classis by serving as interim pastor of Covenant OPC in Mansfield, OH.
3. That the resignation of Rev. Morris from Trinity RCUS in Sioux Falls, SD be approved and that pulpit declared vacant.
4. That the call of Rev. Morris to Grace RCUS in Mitchell, SD be approved.
5. Take note: It shall be the practice of South Central Classis to examine ministers in Orthodoxy and Purity of Intent coming to it from other RCUS classes to ensure that they have not departed from Reformed teaching or have developed major objections to the peculiar practices of the RCUS. Such examination will take place either before the whole Classis or before the Committee on Candidates and Credentials, as that Committee shall determine in each case. If the examination is before the Candidates and Credentials Committee alone, the recommendation of the Committee must be approved via Executive Circular.

Classis Action: The report and recommendations # 1-4 were adopted.

Ministerial Aid

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

1. Rev. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,500 per month.
2. Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, \$1,400 per month.
3. Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, \$1,200 per month
4. Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart, \$1,750 per month.

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

Home Missions

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis continue to fund Christ the King Reformed Church at \$1500. per month, but that we re-evaluate that work for future funding.
2. In light of Limon's new situation regarding their pastor change, that their funding be kept at \$350. per month.
3. That the Casper, WY work (Christ Reformed Church) be funded at \$30,000. this year by Classis.
4. That Classis overture Synod for \$30,000. this year for Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY.
5. That the Omaha, NE work (Heritage Reformed Church) be funded at \$30,000. this year by Classis.
6. That Classis overture Synod for \$30,000. this year for the work in Omaha (Heritage Reformed Church).
7. Take note: That the men of Classis and the RCUS Synod be mindful of the need of a man to preach in Scottsbluff, NE and be in prayer that the Lord would provide a preacher if that be His will.

Classis Action: The report and recommendations # 1-6 were adopted. On # 7: take note.

Nominations

Missions:	<u>R. Morris</u> , R. Grossmann, T. Grassmid, S. Velgersdyk, M. Burbach, D.Mettler
Publications	<u>M. Koerner</u> , D. Fagrey, E. Starks
Christian Education	<u>J. Vusich</u> , C.W. Powell, H. Hart, G. Van Holland, D. Arnold
Interchurch Relations	<u>M. Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, T. Schieffelin, D. Mettler, G. Horner
Candidates&Credentials	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , M. Powell, D. Kingswood, D. Ehly, F. Hofmann, S. Gross
Executive Committee	<u>J. Blair</u> , G. Horner, A. Haller
Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>L. Johnson</u> , D. Fagrey, S. Henry, D. Kingswood, R. Gallimore F. Hofmann, J. Frey

Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

Publications

The committee had no business and brought no recommendations:

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Services

The Committee brought the following recommendation:

That the South Central Classis make the following statement to the Providence Reformed Church of Limon, and that this statement be printed in Providence's March 24th Sunday bulletin:

We thank God for His grace to you, and His blessing on this Classis through you. The food has been delicious and the hospitality outstanding. Thank you for your generosity and we pray God's rich continued blessings on you, and on the work of the gospel in Eastern Colorado.

Yours in Christ, the South Central Classis of the RCUS

Classis Action: The recommendation and the report were adopted.

Minutes of Synod

The Committee brought the following report:

After reviewing the 2012 Synodical Abstract and the Synod Clerk's Report to the Classes, the Committee found no discrepancies or omissions, nor any matters that required the action of Classis.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

The body adjourned, with confession of the Apostle's Creed, praying of the Lord's Prayer, the pronouncement of the Benediction by the President, and the singing of the Doxology, to the 2014 Spring Session of Classis to meet at a yet undetermined location.

APPENDICES
2012 Membership & Financial Statistics

	Colo. Springs CO	Greeley CO	Limon CO	Lincoln NE	Emmanuel Sutton NE
Number of Elders	4	2	3	4	3
Number of Deacons	3	3	2	4	3
Communicants Last Year	43	58	41	85	121
Received – Confirmation	3	0	3	1	4
Received – Transfer	5	2	0	2	3
Received – Profession	0	1	0	1	4
Total Received	8	3	3	5	11
Total Old & New	51	61	44	90	132
Lost – Dismissal	2	7	1	0	0
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	0	2	0	4	2
Lost – Death	0	2	0	0	5
Total Lost	2	9	1	4	7
Total Communicants This Year	49	52	43	86	125
Unconfirmed Members	28	24	18	28	20
Total Baptized Members	77	76	61	114	145
Number of Families	25	29	18	45	75
Children in Sunday School	47	8	18	27	17
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	6	2	0	0	1
Total Baptisms	6	2	0	0	1
Members’ Lord’s Supper	38	53	44	79	114
Lord’s Supper Observed	12	5	12	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$100,427	\$104,982	\$70,305	\$88,054	\$118,227
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$3,934	\$23,216	\$5,212	\$1,242	\$61,371
Receipts – Other Sources	0	0	\$3,250	1,025	0
Total Receipts	\$104,362	\$128,198	\$78,767	\$90,321	\$179,598
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$8,667	\$11,624	\$7,626	\$17,680	\$24,710
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$3,689	\$4,439	\$2,982	\$6,593	\$17,539
Non-Guideline Causes	3,082	\$0	\$1,500	0	0
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$852	\$494	\$1,540	0	\$4,313
Other General Expenses	\$53,184	\$86,420	\$65,910	\$62,726	\$83,193
Total Disbursements	\$69,474	\$103,420	\$74,254	\$86,999	\$129,755
Value of Church Buildings	0	\$242,000	\$40,000	\$110,000	\$522,000
Value of Parsonage	0	158,000	0	\$99,100	\$157,000
Property Improvements	0	\$68,411	0	0	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$177	\$200	\$186	\$208	\$204
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$63	\$77	\$77	\$77	\$145
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$240	\$277	\$259	\$285	\$349

	Hope Sutton NE	Menno SD	Mitchell SD	Rapid City SD	Sioux Falls SD
Number of Elders	4	4	3	2	5
Number of Deacons	4	4	2	3	5
Communicants Last Year	184	155	74	76	151
Received – Confirmation	2	0	3	1	5
Received – Transfer	2	0	1	2	2
Received – Profession	0	0	0	2	9
Total Received	4	0	4	5	16
Total Old & New	188	155	78	81	167
Lost – Dismissal	4	0	2	11	8
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	5	0	0	5	0
Lost – Death	3	2	0	0	1
Total Lost	12	2	2	16	9
Total Communicants This Year	176	153	76	65	158
Unconfirmed Members	51	22	15	31	71
Total Baptized Members	227	175	91	96	229
Number of Families	85	96	35	33	76
Children in Sunday School	36	18	18	21	64
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	2	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	2	2	1	0	6
Total Baptisms	2	2	1	0	6
Members’ Lord’s Supper	145	154	68	65	150
Lord’s Supper Observed	6	4	6	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$188,595	\$137,157	\$109,497	\$180,119	\$192,853
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$19,498	\$13,561	\$23,271	0	\$47,584
Receipts – Other Sources	\$31,123	\$800	34,998	0	\$9,038
Total Receipts	\$239,216	\$151,518	\$167,766	\$180,119	\$249,475
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$37,200	\$30,380	\$17,052	\$14,780	\$31,148
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$14,000	\$11,276	\$5,456	\$4,909	\$10,913
Non-Guideline Causes	\$4,000	\$15,916	1,700	\$13,850	\$2,438
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$14,666	0	\$3,563	\$6,000	\$6,285
Other General Expenses	\$145,592	\$117,131	\$115,659	\$140,387	\$148,874
Total Disbursements	\$215,458	\$174,703	\$143,430	\$179,926	\$199,658
Value of Church Buildings	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$276,983	\$525,000	\$898,859
Value of Parsonage	80,000	\$410,000	\$166,244	\$189,000	0
Property Improvements	\$36,198	\$358,340	26,213	0	0
Present Property Debts	0	70,000	\$22,116	0	\$205,158
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	\$7,166	0	\$12,607
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$202	\$196	\$196	\$194	\$206
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$76	\$73	\$73	\$65	\$72
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$300	\$371	\$291	\$441	\$295

	Vermillion SD	Rock Springs WY	Sherman TX (Mitchell)*	Omaha NE (Lincoln)*	Total all churches
Number of Elders	2	3	0	0	40
Number of Deacons	1	2	0	0	35
Communicants Last Year	22	38	12	0	1056
Received – Confirmation	2	1	0	0	25
Received – Transfer	0	0	0	12	31
Received – Profession	2	2	0	0	21
Total Received	4	3	0	12	78
Total Old & New	26	41	12	0	1138
Lost – Dismissal	0	0	2	0	37
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	2	1	2	0	23
Lost – Death	0	0	0	0	13
Total Lost	2	1	4	0	71
Total Communicants This Year	26	40	8	12	1069
Unconfirmed Members	15	23	0	18	364
Total Baptized Members	41	63	8	30	1433
Number of Families	13	23	4	4	561
Children in Sunday School	12	10	0	18	314
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	4	4	0	2	30
Total Baptisms	4	4	0	2	30
Members’ Lord’s Supper	26	30	10	9	985
Lord’s Supper Observed	4	12	2	3	90
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$69,305	\$94,964	\$18,553	30,474	\$1,503,512
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$2,745	\$4,906	0	4,000	\$210,540
Receipts – Other Sources	\$1,016	0	\$18,025	0	\$99,275
Total Receipts	\$73,066	\$99,870	\$36,578	34,474	\$1,813,328
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$2,499	\$7,527	\$2,430	0	\$213,273
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$905	\$2,861	\$875	0	\$86,473
Non-Guideline Causes	\$6,440	\$406	0	0	\$49,332
Non-RCUS Benevolences	429	0	0	0	\$38,142
Other General Expenses	\$56,732	\$81,520	\$23,245	21,617	\$1,202,190
Total Disbursements	\$67,005	\$92,368	\$26,550	21,617	\$1,584,824
Value of Church Buildings	\$305,000	\$170,000	0	0	\$4,389,842
Value of Parsonage	125,000	Included	0	0	\$1,384,344
Property Improvements	0	0	0	0	\$489,162
Present Property Debts	0	\$4,346	0	0	\$301,620
Debt Paid Last Year	0	\$3,547	0	0	\$23,320
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$114	\$198	\$202	0	\$191 avrg
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$46	\$75	\$73	0	\$76 avrg
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$447	\$284	\$275	0	\$322 avrg

*under this congregation’s oversight. These statistics not included in those of oversight church.

NECROLOGIES

None reported

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 forty-five cents (.45) 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, 2012).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at thirty-three cents (.33) per running mile, also if several ride together in one car; or if by public transportation, the actual fare (1936, '54, '74, '80, '94, 2006).
9. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Classis whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Classis or have been properly excused by Classis (1937, '67).
10. The President of the Executive Committee of Classis shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), and the Treasurer shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the Classical year (1960, '61, '65, '78, '84, '87, '90, 2003).
11. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and designated for which fund and how much for each fund (1957).

12. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to advance the actual fare for public transportation to qualified candidates preaching trial sermons in our vacancies (1958, '87).
13. The Stated Clerk shall prepare for publication an abstract of the Classis minutes. The Spring Abstract shall include a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Classis (1959, '87, '90).
14. The Classis shall have Permanent Committees as follows: Executive, Missions, Christian Education, Candidates and Credentials, Interchurch Relations, and Publications; and the Standing Committee of Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees (1961, '80, '85, '87, '91).
15. Nominations for all officers of Classis shall be made by secret ballot. All names appearing on the nominating ballot shall be candidates and, if there is no election on the first electing ballot, on each succeeding ballot the two candidates with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped until there is an election. (1962, '80, '87, '88).
16. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the Spring Meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge and sent to the Stated Clerk (1963, '87).
17. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to all the Consistories of all the churches, with two copies to be sent to the Stated Clerk, four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis to which these reports and recommendations are to be presented. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis (1963, '70, '79, '82, '87, '90).
18. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and these proposed services shall be circularized before Classis (1966, '72).
19. Students that are under the care of Classis shall be urged to attend only such seminaries approved by Classis. Only students who attend approved institutions shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian Ministry (1978, '87).
20. Classis shall require candidates for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. The internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least 5 years in the RCUS. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidates and Credentials committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the RCUS. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed (1979, '87, '95).
21. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of the Classis meeting shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at anytime (1986, '87).
22. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod and shall start the 4th Monday of March opening with a worship service at 7:00 p.m., but if the 4th Monday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet the 3rd 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.

