

**2014
Abstract
of the Minutes**

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

Reformed Church in the United States

**Spring Meeting
March 24-25, 2014**

**held at
St. John's Reformed Church
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Informational Summary

OFFICERS of South Central 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>T. Grassmid</u> , R. Grossmann, S. Velgersdyk, S. Gross, D. Mettler, B. Davis, D. Oliver
Publications	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , M. McGee, M. Holzwarth, M. Reichert
Christian Education	<u>J. Vusich</u> , C.W. Powell, H. Hart, M. Koerner, D. Van Peurse, J. Savage
Interchurch Relations	<u>M. Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, M. McGee, G. Horner, A. Haller, R. Honaker
Candidates & Credentials	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , M. Powell, K. Carroll, F. Hofmann, J. Smith
Executive Committee	<u>J. Blair</u> , G. Horner, A. Haller
*Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>L. Johnson</u> , S. Henry, D. Fagrey, S. Henry, D. Kingswood, R. Gallimore, F. Hofmann, J. Frey
*Rights of Conscience	<u>L. Johnson</u> , M. Koerner, S. Henry, G. Van Holland, F. Hofmann, D. Oliver, D. Mettler

2014 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

	Guideline	per Communicant (1059)
Classical Expense Fund	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8.50
Missions (inclusive)	\$ 82,200.00	\$ 76.62
Benevolence	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10.39
Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 7,942.50	\$ 7.50
New Geneva Seminary	\$ 6,354.00	\$ 6.00
 Total	 \$116,496.50	 \$ 110.01

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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: 10:30AM. Sunday school: 12:35PM.
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 10:00AM.
Pastor: Jon Blair (wife, Wendy)

LIMON

Providence RCUS. Phone: **(719) 775-9064**.
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.org**

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
(Contact St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE)

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@windstream.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

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) 271-0754**.

Mail and Location: 7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Worship: 10:00 AM. 9:00AM Sunday School (except June-Aug)

Pastor: Maynard Koerner, Associate (wife, Marcia)

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

Pastor: Scott Henry (wife, Maria)

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: 600 W. 21st St, Casper, WY

Worship: 10:00AM, Sunday School 12:00noon

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)

**Abstract of the MINUTES
Of the South Central Classis**
of the
Reformed Church in the United States
March 24-25, St. St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE

SERVICES

- On Monday evening, March 24th, at 6:45 p.m. the classis delegates, along with members of St. John's Reformed church and visitors, worshipped our gracious Triune God. Rev. David Fagrey conducted the service and Rev. Scott Henry preached a sermon from I Corinthians 16: 13-14 entitled "Paul's Concluding Exhortation."
- At 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, Rev. C.W. Powell gave a devotion from Proverbs 26:13-16 entitled "There's a Lion in the Street!"
- A closing devotion on Tuesday was given by Rev. Lee Johnson, based on John 4:35.
- 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 24th 2014, at 6:45 p.m. The Stated Clerk, Rev. George Horner, called the roll which showed 15 ministers and 12 elders present, a quorum. The bar of the house was defined as the first 7 rows on either side of the center aisle. The President appointed Rev. Mike McGee, Rev. Kevin Carroll, and Elder Jesse Smith 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 Dan Van Peurse as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

The Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day 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. Harold Miller of Classis Central of the United Reformed Churches in North America, and Rev. Bob McFarland of the Midwest Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America. Visitors to the Classis included Rev. Neale Riffert of Christ the King Reformed Church (mission work of the South Central Classis, RCUS), Sherman, TX, Mr. Ewald Ochsner, Elder Emeritus from Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO and Elder Jim Connelly from Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO.

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

There were no new ministers or churches.

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The President announced the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

Benevolence	Henry, Frey, Davis
Education and Student Aid	Kingswood, Koerner, Savage
Examination and Licensure	Grossmann, M.Powell, Kingswood, Reichert, Hofmann, Frey
Finances	M. Powell, Velgersdyk, Haller
Ministerial Aid	Carroll, Hofmann, Reichert
Missions	Vusich, Grossmann, Oliver, Hofmann
Publications	Johnson, Van Stedum, Holzwarth
Services	McGee, Hart, Haller
Judicial	Koerner, C.W.Powell, Honaker
Nominations	Grassmid, Kingswood, Van Peurse
Minutes of Synod	Hart, Horner, Holzwarth
Minutes of Classis	Fagrey, McGee, Smith

PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS

The items were distributed to the Standing Committees as determined by the Executive Committee. The actions taken on the permanent committee recommendations are found in the section that contains the Standing Committee reports.

Presentation of Permanent Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee Report

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 2013 Classis meeting.

Your Executive Committee was asked by the Spiritual Council of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD to establish a special committee to travel to Rapid City to meet with and give counsel in a matter of concern between a member and the Spiritual Council of that congregation, with the intent of seeking reconciliation. Your Committee did so, and the special committee sent a report of its work with recommendations to the Grace Reformed Spiritual Council.

Your Committee was asked for advice by the Spiritual Council of Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion SD, regarding pulpit supply during their vacancy. Advice was given.

Your Committee was asked for counsel regarding a Spiritual Council matter by Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD and counsel was provided.

All other business of your Committee was carried out via the following Executive Circulars. All the recommendations were adopted except as noted.

Executive Circulars Volume 28: 1-11

Number 1 - April 9, 2013

At our Spring 2013 Classis meeting we passed the Standing Finances recommendation that established the Classis guideline for 2013. Due to inaccurate communicant membership data received by your Clerk, the adopted guideline's per communicant member was erroneous. Your clerk just received the corrected membership data and the guideline was recalculated using the correct communicant membership of 1069 rather than the erroneous 1093. (note: the corrected Numerical and Financial Report is attached). The corrected per communicant member guideline is indicated in the recommendation below. The corrected **total** per communicant member guideline of \$98.81 is an increase of \$1.86 over the erroneous total of \$96.95.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this corrected 2013 guideline be adopted:

2013 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

	Guideline	Per communicant member
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	<hr/> \$105,632	<hr/> \$ 98.81

Number 2 – April 23, 2013

The call of Providence Reformed Church., Limon, CO to Rev. Kevin Carroll and his acceptance thereof.

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

1. Call of a minister from Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO, dated March 12, 2013 (but received in April), to Rev. Kevin Carroll.
2. The letter of acceptance of said call, dated April 8, 2013, from Rev. Kevin Carroll.

RECOMMENDATION

Having examined the particulars of said call in accordance with Article 28, the Executive Committee recommends that Classis approve this call.

Number 3 – June 7, 2013

The installation of Rev. Kevin Carroll as pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, SD.

The Executive Committee has received the following request:

The Consistory of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO, respectfully requests that a committee of Installation be established for the purpose of installing Rev. Kevin Carroll as pastor of Providence Reformed Church in Limon, CO. We further request that the members of this committee be Rev. Jon Blair, Rev. C.W. Powell and the elders of Providence Reformed Church. The Installation is to take place at 10 AM on Sunday June 23, 2013.

Recommendation:

That a committee of Installation be established for the purpose of installing Rev. Kevin Carroll as pastor of Providence Reformed Church in Limon, CO. We further request that the members of this committee be Rev. Jon Blair, Rev. C.W. Powell and the elders of Providence Reformed Church. The Installation is to take place at 10 AM on Sunday June 23, 2013.

Number 4 – June 7, 2013

The installation of Rev. Ron Morris as pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD.

The Executive Committee has just received a request, via phone call, for the installation of Rev. Ron Morris at the AM worship service on Sunday June 9th, at Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, to be officiated by Rev. Howard Hart and the elders of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD.

Recommendation: Since the call of Rev. Ron Morris has already been approved by Classis, that this installation proceed as requested, and that a report of the installation be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

Number 5 –Aug 20, 2013

The Executive Committee has received an invitation from St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, to host the 2014 Spring Meeting of Classis (according to Standing Rule # 22 the dates would be March 24-25, 2014 but actual dates will be announced later).

Recommendation: The Executive Committee recommends that Classis accept the invitation and that the 2014 Spring Meeting of Classis be held at St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, NE.

Number 6 –Oct 2, 2013

The date for the Spring 2014 Classis meeting to be held at St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln NE. The Executive Committee is recommending the Classis meet on **March 17-18**, 2014, which is a week earlier than stipulated by Classis Standing Rule # 22. This recommended date will work for St. John's to host the Classis meeting.

Grounds:

1. We received a communique from Rev. Maynard Koerner informing us that he would be on RCUS synodical business in the Netherlands the week of March 24th and thus unable to attend the Classis meeting if held at the “normal” time. Rev. Koerner is the chairman of the Special Committee on Pastoral Relations which is to report at this next Spring meeting . For the sake of most effectively carrying out the business of Classis before us, advancing the meeting by one week (with plenty of lead time) to allow Rev. Koerner to chair that report and partake of the Classis meeting seems prudent.
2. The change in the date would not violate either Synodical Standing Rule 18, nor the section of the Classical Standing Rule #22 stipulating that Classis meetings are to take place at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod.
3. Passage of this Circular would set aside Standing Rule # 22.
4. The recommended date is still about 6 months in the future, which ought provide plenty of time for delegates to arrange their schedules for that March 17-18th meeting.

Recommendation: That the 2014 Spring Classis meeting be held on **March 17-18**, 2014.

Number 7 –Oct 17, 2013

The Spring 2014 meeting of Classis will be held per the Standing Rule #21 date: **March 24-25**.

Grounds: There was an objection to the previous Executive Circular (28.4) recommending that the meeting be held a week earlier. Thus that circular did not pass, and the meeting is therefore scheduled to start on the fourth Monday in March, as stipulated by the Standing Rule.

Number 8 – Jan 29, 2014

- A. 2014 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis to be held at St. John’s Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE.
 1. Date and Time: The Spring Meeting of Classis will commence on **Monday, March 24th**, 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 two forms: One consisting of Membership and Financial Statistics and the other, Credentials of Elders to Classis. Both membership and financial statistics are to be filled out in accordance with the **calendar year – report statistics as of Dec 31, 2013**. 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 10, 2014**. It would, however, be much appreciated by your Clerk if these documents would be returned, carefully completed, to him

as early as possible. Preferably, please send them 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 10, 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 24, 2014**, 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 24th) will be circularized.
8. Accommodations: A block of rooms has been arranged at the Holiday Inn Express on 26th St. at the rate of \$90. Be sure to mention St. John's when making your reservation by calling the hotel directly at 402-477-1100, or using their online link:
<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/lincoln/lkex/hoteldetail>
Any delegate desiring (limited) to stay with a church family, please contact Rev. Lee Johnson at 402-477-7289 or leave a message on the church phone: 402-476-1827 as soon as possible. St. John's Reformed Church will assume that all delegates will be arriving in time for supper at 5:30 pm. unless the delegates communicate otherwise to Rev. Lee Johnson.
9. 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 F. Hofmann, J. Frey
*Pastoral Relations	<u>M. Koerner</u> , L. Johnson, J. Vusich, S. Henry, D. Mettler, D. Oliver, G. Van Holland, F. Hofmann
*Special committee	

A. The establishment of a Minutes of Classis Standing Committee.

Grounds 1. The current practice is for the Clerk of Classis to read his minutes of the Classis meeting at the end of each business day and for the body to make needed corrections/revisions from the floor. This consumes the body's time and may not correct every error due to the lapse of time since the actions the delegates are trying to accurately remember. A Minutes of Classis Committee would receive a more up-to-date, written transcript of the ongoing minutes to review, and relay to the Clerk the revisions to be made. It would be these revised minutes that would be read (and could be distributed) to the body.

2. Synod already has implemented the use of such a committee, the Standing Minutes of Synod Committee which functions in the manner described above. The Covenant East Classis also makes use of a standing Minutes of Classis Committee.

3. The President of Classis would make the appointments to this Committee along with the other Standing Committee appointments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Classis authorize the establishment of a Standing Minutes of Classis Committee (via this circular), such Committee to be appointed to serve at the upcoming 2014 Spring Meeting of Classis.
2. That Classis authorize the Treasurer of Classis to reimburse the Clerk up to \$200 (Amazon has a suitable one for \$190) for the purchase of a mobile printer (to print the minutes at Classis).

Number 10 –March 10, 2014

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 \$1650. per month.
4. From the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD: a request for ministerial aid for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann in the amount of \$1200. per month.

5. From the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE: a request for ministerial aid for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger in the amount of \$1400. per month.

Classis action: the report was adopted

B. Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Brothers in Christ,
Esteemed Brothers,

Since no matters of business for our Committee were presented to us, we have not met or conducted any business during the past Classical year.

The Chairman has been in contact with our Students Under Care of Classis and informed them of their responsibility to present a report of their progress to Classis. Both students, Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg and Mr. Tim Marinelli report that they have continued their studies and made progress in them. Mr. Schwichtenberg looks forward to graduation from Heidelberg Seminary in the spring of 2015. Mr. Marinelli continues his studies at Greenville Seminary in Greenville, South Carolina. Both are seminaries approved by the Synod of the RCUS.

The Candidates and Credentials Committee report sent out by the undersigned needs two modifications.

1. Mr. Cody Schwichtenberg is under the care of Covenant East Classis. What I reported about him was accurate but not part of South Central Classis business.
2. Mr. Jim Connally, on the other hand, is under the care of South Central Classis and should be added to our report. He has preached four times during the past year, has made some progress in his studies by reading recommended theological material, and wishes to be continued for another year as a student under care. He reports that his employment situation has changed giving him more time, and that his wife's health (she has Multiple Sclerosis) is improved with new treatment.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Robert Grossmann, Chairman

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

C. Interchurch Relations

Interchurch Relations Committee of the South Central Classis, RCUS

Dear Brothers,

In the last year the committee did not meet as we had no formal business to conduct. We sent invitations to the Classis Central of the URCNA, the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC, and the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA to attend our Spring meeting. We received invitations from each of these bodies to attend their regional meetings as well. George Horner attended the Classis Central meeting, and Kevin Carroll attended the Presbytery of the Dakotas and the Midwest Presbytery meeting. We also received an invitation to attend Siouxlands Presbytery of the PCA. They used the term “fraternal delegate” despite the absence of fraternal relations with the PCA. Travis Grassmid will be attending their meeting in April in Chancellor, SD as an observer.

Yours in Christ,

Matt Powell, Chairman, H. Van Stedum, T. Schieffelin, D. Mettler, G. Horner

Classis Action: the report was adopted

D. Missions

South Central Classis
Home Missions Report
Spring 2014

Brethren,

Your Committee, after discussions and revisions, makes the following report.

Limon, CO:

The work in Limon is doing well. They have made a successful transition of having their pastor of seven years, Matt Powell, take the mission work in Casper. They have called a new pastor, Rev. Kevin Carroll, who has many years of experience in the PCA. Rev. Carroll reports that things are going well. They would like to either extend their current building or possibly build new because of the crowded conditions they have each Lord’s Day. We are thankful for the Lord’s blessing in eastern Colorado.

Casper, WY

On Saturday, March 8th, Elder Daniel Mettler and Rev. Travis Grassmid travelled to meet with the Casper Wyoming congregation.

Before lunch the assessment team met with Pastor Matt Powell and Elder Greg Hager of the Casper congregation, along with Pastor George Horner and Elder Earl Starks of the Rock Springs congregation. In this meeting we noted that the Lord has indeed blessed this congregation over the past year. When the work began, in addition to the three core families, there were also three families from the RPCNA who intended to worship with the church plant until an RPCNA work could begin. That Presbyterian work has now commenced and the families have left the RCUS work; however in God’s providence there are now three more families who are regularly worshipping with our work. On a typical week there are approximately thirty souls in attendance.

Rev. Powell affirmed that he is adequately provided for financially. The Rock Springs congregation affirmed that they have regular communication with Rev. Powell, and that they are pleased with the work.

After a fine time of food and fellowship, your committee met with three of the members (and regular visitors) of the congregation. The members were excited about the progress of the work, and showed a sincere desire to reach the unchurched.

The congregation is meeting in a very nice facility, formerly the church building of a Baptist congregation which is building down the street. This is a wonderful location and structure for a Reformed work.

Two requests were brought to our attention: 1.) a request for prayer that a piano player would join the congregation, and 2.) they sought input concerning effective ways to promote the ministry.

Your committee is very pleased with the progress of the past year, and praises God for His faithfulness in ministering to Casper, Wyoming.

Omaha, NE

On Monday, February 24, 2014 there was a meeting in Mitchell, SD with committee members Rev. Ron Morris, Elder Daniel Mettler, and Rev. Travis Grassmid. The committee was joined by Rev. Howard Hart (representing the synodical missions committee). The committee met with Rev. Scott Henry of the Omaha mission work. We also received an email from Rev. Lee Johnson which was read aloud.

Probably the most pressing issue facing your committee is the work in Omaha. The overseeing congregation is St. Johns in Lincoln. For about a year, Rev. Lee Johnson of St. Johns conducted Bible studies and a Sunday evening worship service at a motel in Omaha. The missions committee was asked to do an assessment of the work and decide whether or not to proceed with starting a mission church. At the time of the original assessment, there were four families committed to the work. It was decided to grant a positive assessment and encourage Lincoln to go ahead and plant a mission work in Omaha. However, there were members on the committee who expressed concern and believed more time was needed to more firmly establish the work before placing a man on the field. Some on the committee expressed concerns at that time about the makeup of the core group, whether or not they were ready or committed enough, and if only four families were enough to justify starting a new work at that time. Nevertheless, a mission work was started and with the blessing of the Missions Committee, St. Johns called Rev. Scott Henry to be the organizing pastor.

Soon after Rev. Henry's arrival, the feared discord that some on the committee were concerned about did, in fact, become evident. One family left the work. Then, providentially, other families began leaving due to employment changes or other issues having to do with practical matters and not necessarily because of any disagreement with the church.

Currently, all of the original families of the group of one year ago have either moved away, or have already made plans to move away in the near future. They do have one family which recently moved into Omaha from an OPC work near Kansas City which is firmly committed to the work in Omaha.

All of this has become very discouraging to Rev. Henry. Rev. Henry has tried a number of things to bring people in, like doing a couple of different radio programs on a couple of different radio stations in the Omaha area. Although there have been frequent visitors, there have not been any new members; thus Rev. Henry has concluded that he does not believe that he has the gifts, nor the desire to be a missionary/evangelist. Rev. Henry made it quite clear that he does not desire to continue in the Omaha mission work.

The question now becomes what to do about Omaha going forward. The consistory in Lincoln has proposed placing a missionary-at-large in Omaha to work that area. To do so, they are requesting in their three year budget, \$40,000 from classis and an additional \$40,000 from synod for a total of \$80,000.00 annually. Many on the committee question the wisdom of this move.

The question before the committee became “Why Omaha? Why now?” We were left with the prospect of a church plant with none of the original core families of one year ago, one family of interested visitors, and a pastor who desired to leave. The committee was in agreement that Omaha met our missional goals of reaching the metropolitan areas, it had a committed oversight church, and in many ways would be ideal; but no infrastructure seemed to remain from only a year earlier. “Why Omaha? Why now?”

After corresponding with the Lincoln congregation, your committee is convinced that they are desirous to put the hard work into rebuilding a mission work in Omaha, yet without any budgeted funding, they will be hard pressed to complete the work.

Last year we budgeted \$30,000 from Classis, and another \$30,000 from synod. It is our opinion that we ought to budget the same amount for this year, and recommend the same from synod, so that the Lincoln charge will be able to aggressively work toward rebuilding this work. Considering that they do not currently have a working plan or a minister to call, it is our judgment that an increase in funding is not necessary for this year.

We recommend that after there is a plan for renewed labors in Omaha is established in conjunction with the Home Missions committee, then they will have access to the budgeted funds for the purpose of calling a planting minister.

Sherman, TX

Your committee did not meet with Sherman Texas, nor did we discuss recommended action. An Elder from the Mitchell charge did travel to Sherman, and the overseeing Consistory of Mitchell, SD give the following report:

“The Sherman, TX work began when Rev. Neale Riffert relocated to the Sherman area for retirement. As he was attending a local church, people began noticing the he was truly reformed and wanted to hear more about the Reformed faith. Rev. Riffert began a Bible study which was fairly well attended. The Mitchell congregation decided to take on the work as an extension of the ministry in Mitchell. It was requested of classis and it was granted to supply the Sherman work with \$1500.00 per month to get the work going. Since that time, families have come and families have gone. At one point, it seemed that there was a great deal of discouragement. After the initial push and the excitement of starting a new church, the excitement began to wane.

Last year at classis, it was decided that if we did not see any real growth, that the funding for Sherman would be cut off. But according to our most recent conversation with the group in Sherman, they have seen a slight uptick in attendance. Although they currently only have 10 members, they also have been made aware of a family from another town in Texas that is relocating to Sherman who has strongly indicated that they would like to be part of the Sherman work.

The giving at Sherman has been extremely good. In addition to paying their expenses, they have amassed approximately \$40,000.00 in cash. Rev. Riffert has renewed excitement. The group there, based upon the

hope that things are turning around and the fact that they do have money on which to fall back, have requested that they be given more time to develop the work. They have also asked that their \$1500.00 per month be trimmed to \$1000.00 per month, a \$500.00 per month decrease.”

Recommendations:

- 1) That Limon, CO be encouraged to keep making the progress and that they receive the same level of funding as last year which was \$350.00 per month.
- 2) That the Casper, WY work continues to be funded at last year’s level which was \$30,000 and that Classis overture Synod for matching funds.
- 3) That the funding for Omaha remains at last year’s level of \$30,000, and that Classis overtures Synod for matching funds. We further recommend that these funds not be released for use until a new plan for ministry in Omaha be developed, in cooperation with the South Central Classis Home Missions committee.
- 4) Sherman, TX: your committee makes no recommendations, and leaves deliberation to the body.

Sincerely,

Rev. T. Grassmid, Rev. R. Grossman, Elder S. Velgersdyke, Elder M. Burbach, Elder D. Mettler

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Missions

E. Publications

South Central Classis
Annual Meeting
March 24-25

Report of the Publications Committee

Brethren:

The Publications Committee of South Central Classis has not conducted any business during the past Classical year. The committee has no recommendations to present.

Respectfully submitted,

Maynard Koerner, chairman, David Fagrey, Earl Starks

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Publications

F. Christian Education

South Central Classis of the R.C.U.S.
Christian Education Committee Report
Annual Meeting March 2014

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 Greg Van Holland, Elder L. Arnold

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,

As recorded in John 21, it was along the shore of the Sea of Galilee that Jesus appeared for a third time to His disciples after His resurrection. There He cared for them, body and soul. He first provided, prepared, and served them breakfast. Then, He restored Peter for the purpose of pastoral care, speaking the three-fold command: “Feed My lambs...Tend My sheep...Feed My sheep.” Such pastoral care for His people demonstrates love for Him as Lord and Savior. Jesus Himself modeled what He commanded—and most pointedly for those whom He calls as officers in His church—ministers of the word and sacraments, elders, and deacons. What a humbling and blessed calling to show, by God’s grace, love for Christ through loving His people with Christ-like care for their needs—body and soul, temporal and eternal.

I begin this president’s report with these thoughts because as I survey the spectrum of congregations in the South Central Classis, there are variations in flock size—a few larger but mostly smaller, some increasing and others decreasing. The member statistics report indicates that, compared to 2012, totals have decreased in nearly every category. Generally speaking, pastors tend to be encouraged and upbeat when the flock is increasing, while more discouraged and down when it is decreasing. As a result, we can tend to have a love-hate relationship with statistics—depending on which side of the equation we’re on (and I, too, have personally been on both sides).

In the post-Pentecost church, we read statistical statements such as, “and that day about three thousand souls were added...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved...And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women” (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14). But I don’t remember reading of the numerical size of the particular churches at any given time in the epistles. We are given numbers of armies and tribes of Israel. But we’re reminded of David as well, when “Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel” (1 Chronicles 21:1). The result was severe chastening, presumably because David was somewhat proudly relying on size and strength in numbers, rather than on the LORD. So statistics can be a mixed bag. They are necessary for keeping track of important things like baptisms and confirmations, budgets and dues and guidelines. But they can also be a kind of necessary evil—a trap for catching us in our swelling or wounded pride—depending on the rise or fall in congregation size.

The point that I am driving at is simply that Jesus’ command to tend and feed His sheep is with reference to the quality of the individual care, not the quantity of the fold. It is not the number of sheep but the pastoral care of the sheep that matters—for each of them and all of them—from the little lambs to the more mature / younger to older / weaker to stronger / more lovable to less lovable / those who stay to those who stray. So then, our focus as officers is to be on the faithfulness of our care, and not so much the number in our care. I know that we know this, but in our

day of all things ‘mega’ and competing with the cult of Christian personalities that many follow, our focus can get blurred. Could it be that the smaller flocks actually receive the greater care?

Of course, looking at the numbers of the Classis in its entirety, we are a small flock. But regardless of size, the real issue is this: Am I / are we being faithful in the care of the sheep Christ has entrusted to us? This can be convicting, as it gives cause for self-examination.

Though the answer will no doubt fluctuate between minister, elder, and deacon, when I read the parochial reports I think the answer on the whole is, ‘Yes’. I say this primarily because it is apparent that the churches are striving, however imperfectly that might be, to maintain the marks of the true church, use the keys of the kingdom, and administer the means of grace. As we know, this is increasingly rare across the landscape of churches in our land, but essential to faithfully tending and feeding Christ’s sheep out of love for Him and them. Where we are strong in this, all praise and glory to Christ! Where we are weak, “Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed” (Hebrews 12:12-13). For it is not the size, but the health of the body that is to be our chief concern.

It is readily apparent that this past year was one of transition for several ministers and congregations in the Classis. Rev. Matt Powell was called to the new mission work of Christ Reformed in Casper, Wyoming. This led to Rev. Kevin Carroll’s call to Providence Reformed in Limon, Colorado. Rev. Ron Morris was called to Grace Reformed in Mitchell, South Dakota, following Rev. Mike McGee’s resignation from the Mitchell charge (and is currently without a charge and residing outside the bounds of Classis). This resulted in the vacancy at Trinity Reformed in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Rev. Maynard Koerner has been serving as interim pastor until the congregation calls another minister. Rev. Scott Henry was called to the new mission work of Heritage Reformed in Omaha, Nebraska. And, Rev. Robert Grossmann retired from his pastoral charge of Providence Reformed in Vermillion, South Dakota, which has led to the call of Rev. Henry to the Vermillion charge. Whew!

These are significant changes which certainly have stirred the respective flocks in one way or another. Accordingly, in addition to other business, I anticipate more particular and pointed discussion at this Classis meeting on some matters arising from these changes, as follows:

- As a result of the changes in the Mitchell charge, the Special Committee on Pastoral Relations appointed at the 2013 Classis meeting will present its report, especially pertaining to minister’s right of conscience.
- In relation to the Omaha charge, the Missions Committee is recommending suspension of funding until another man can be found to serve there.
- In relation to both the Omaha and Vermillion charges, the call of Rev. Scott Henry will be discussed and is pending approval of Classis.
- In relation to the Limon charge, Rev. Carroll reports that the definition of voting members was changed in the church Constitution, which results in allowing women to vote in congregational meetings.
- Also, Rev. McGee is seeking advice from Classis as to his status and credentials, as well as the possibility of financial assistance.

We pray for wisdom and discernment as the Lord leads us in these matters, as with all the business He has set before us.

We praise God for faithful ministers, elders, and deacons and for His gracious provision in all areas of pastoral care. This includes the teaching and training of men for the ministry that continues through the two seminaries which we support within the bounds of Classis—Heidelberg Theological Seminary and New Geneva Theological Seminary. 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. This serves as a reminder to continually pray for the seminary students, faculty, and staff—and that the Lord would continue to raise up men for the gospel ministry.

Which reminds us as well of the gratitude we owe to our fathers in the faith. As mentioned earlier, Rev. Robert (Bob) Grossmann retired from his charge in Vermillion at the end of 2013, after serving in the pastoral ministry of several congregations in the RCUS across five decades. Although he plans to remain active in various ministry activities (for it is hard to imagine him doing otherwise), we want to especially recognize his faithful service in the pastorate. As he will be reading his final pastoral report of his labors in Vermillion, let us then pause to

express our thanksgiving, and pray with thanksgiving in the name of the Great Shepherd of the sheep, for His gracious provision and continued blessing upon Bob and his wife Polly.

I conclude with the familiar words of the Apostle Paul to the elders in Ephesus: *“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood”* (Acts 20:27-28).

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 2013 Spring Classis meeting:

1. Your Clerk recorded the business of the 2013 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 mandated by the *26ih* Synod are being made.
2. Page 35 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1 of Standing Benevolence, requesting benevolent aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens; recommendation #2 of Standing Benevolence, requesting benevolent aid for Mrs. Kay Savage: a letter was sent March 25, 2013.
3. Page 36 of the Abstract, Recommendation # 1 of Standing Education and Student Aid, requesting student aid for student-under-care Tim Marinelli: a letter was sent March 25, 2013.
4. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendations # 1-4, of Standing Ministerial Aid, requesting Ministerial Aid from Synod for Rev. Howard Hart, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger: a letter was sent March 25, 2013.
5. Page 38 of the Abstract, Recommendations # 4&6 of Standing Home Missions, requesting mission support from Synod in the amount of \$30,000 per year for the mission work in Omaha, NE and \$30,000 per year support from Synod for the mission work in Casper, WY (Christ Reformed Church: a letter was sent March 25, 2013.
6. Executive Circulars, Volume 28 numbers 1-9, (see Classis Executive Committee Report) were prepared and e-mailed to the Classis delegates.

7. E-mail communiques in addition to Executive Circulars were sent to the Classis delegates to provide information as deemed needed/helpful/encouraging.
8. Membership and financial statistics/delegate forms were sent to the member churches. Electronically fillable forms were developed and sent out but not all churches made use of these forms. If all the church data gathered for Classis were sent in on these new forms, then the data could be compiled electronically- more efficient and less prone to human error. Perhaps there is a way to fill out such forms online on a secure Classis website?
9. Statistical/delegate forms submitted by the member churches of Classis were reviewed and compiled and the Report of Numerical and Financial Statistics was prepared in spreadsheet form for distribution at the Classis meeting.
10. Delegate credentials were sent to the Clerk of Synod, along with the Report on Ministerial Changes and the Informational Form on the Congregations of the Classis.
11. Official inter-classis documents, dealing with the dismissal/reception of ministers, were requested or sent as needed, and filed in the Classis records.
12. 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 267th 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 (267th Abstract, pp. 79-80).
2. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the *calendar* year.
3. Please take note of the changes to standing rules #2 and #3 which respectively read: "The statistics of the Classes for the calendar year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of Synod May 1"; "The writ of certification for delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk May 1."
4. 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.

5. Please take note of Standing Ministerial Aid recommendation 8 (2013 Abstract page 76), that pursuant to Article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, Classes shall not consider a pastoral call letter as "adequate support" to the temporal needs of the called pastor, unless retirement is addressed and funded in the terms of the call.
6. Please take note of the Treasurer's request that the treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with Synod standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
7. The Classes are reminded that the 268th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 19-22,2014, at Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE.

Respectfully submitted,
David Fagrey
Stated Clerk, RCUS

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

D. Treasurer's Report

CHECKBOOK	<u>March 1, 2013 - February 28, 2014</u>
Beginning Balance	\$62,847.58
Balance Correction (P.Y.)	-41.62
Deposits	100,895.03
Checks	-87,733.91
Interest	185.52
Bank Charges	-102.88
Ending Balance	76,049.72

Guideline Income By CategoryMarch 1, 2013 - February 28, 2014

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Classical Dues \$8.42/Com. Mem.	\$9000.00	\$8807.73	\$ -192.27
Missions \$ 76.89/ Com. Mem.	\$82200.00	77917.45	-4282.55
Heidelberg Seminary \$7.5/Com. Mem.	\$801.00	7732.51	-285.49
New Geneva Seminary \$ 6.0/Com. Mem.	\$6414.00	618.00	-228.00
Benevolence / Uncategorized	\$ 0 .00	251.34	251.34
Total Guidelines	\$105632 .00	100895.03	-4736.97
1069 Com. Mem. X \$98.81	\$105627.89	100895.03	-4732.

Profit & Loss -IncomeMarch 2013 through February 2014

	<u>Com.#</u>	<u>Guideline Income</u>
Guideline Dues		
Christ The King	8	\$855.60
Emanuel RCUS	125	12,351.25
Grace Reformed Greeley	52	5,138.12
Grace Reformed Mitchell	76	7,509.56
Grace Reformed Rapid City	65	6,422.65
Heritage Reformed	12	00.00
Hope Reformed	176	17,450.00
Providence Reformed Limon	43	2,124.42
Providence Reformed Rock Spring	40	3,952.40
Providence Reformed Vermillion	26	2,173.82
	29	

St. Johns Reformed	86	7,340.71
Trinity Covenant	49	4,846.59
Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls	158	15,611.98
Zion Reformed	153	15,117.93
Total Guideline Income	1069	\$100,895.03
Interest Earned		185.52
Total Income		\$101,080.55
Expense		
Bank Service Charge		\$102.88
Guideline Payments		
Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 6,681.70	
New Geneva Seminary	5,345.00	
Total Guideline Payments		12,026.70
Mission Expenses		
Christ Ref. Church, Casper, WY	25,000.00	
Christ The King Ref. Church, Sherman, TX	15,000.00	
Providence Ref. Church Limon, CO	3,500.00	
Heritage Reformed Church Omaha, NE	25,000.00	
Total Mission Exp.		68,500.00
Printing and Reproduction		299.98
Travel Expenses		6,907.23
Total Expenses		\$87,836.79
Net Income		\$13,243.76

Respectfully submitted,

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 noted concerns.

Classis Action: On all the reports – take note, except the report of Rev. Henry was referred to Standing Mission and Rev. McGee’s to Benevolence and Standing Judicial.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS (ARTICLE 81, RCUS ONSTITUTION)

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

The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?*
All answered, “Yes.”
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?*
All answered, “Yes”.
3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*
 - a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?*
All answered, “Yes” except for Elder Van Peursesem who answered “No”, and Elder Bob Davis answered: “needs 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” except for Elder Savage who answered “No” – giving as reason

the confusion regarding fiscal year - this applies to all parts of #5)

b. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?*

All answered, "Yes" except for Savage.

c. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving?*

All answered, "Yes" except for Savage.

d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?*

All answered, "Yes" except for Savage.

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 explained the report. This report appears in the Appendix to this Abstract.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

REPORTS FROM CLASSIS' FRATERNAL DELEGATES

- Rev. Horner reported on his visit as fraternal delegate to the Classis Central meeting of the URCNA held in Lynwood, IL on April 15-16, 2013.
- Rev. McGee reported on his visit as fraternal delegate to the Classis Central meeting of the URCNA held in Oak Lawn, IL, on Sept. 10-11, 2013.
- Rev. Carroll reported on his visit as fraternal delegate to meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC held in Ft. Collins, CO on Sept. 23-25, 2013.
- Rev. Carroll reported on his visit to the meeting of the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA held in Lawrence, KS on Nov. 5-7, 2013.

Classis Action: On all reports: Take note.

ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES AND VISITORS

- The President invited Rev. Harold Miller, fraternal delegate from the Central Classis URCNA to address the body. Rev. Grassmid responded.

- The President invited Rev. Bob McFarland, fraternal delegate from the RPCNA Midwest Presbytery to address the body. Rev. M. Powell responded.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Heidelberg Youth Camp

Esteemed Brethren,

A meeting of the Heidelberg Youth Camp Joint SCC, NPC Committee was held February 10th, 2014 via conference call. Committee members present were: Rev. Lee Johnson, Rev. J.P. Mosley, Rev. Scott Henry, Rev. James Grossmann, and Elder Matthew Fickbohm. Rev. Johnson opened the meeting with prayer.

The evaluations of the 2013 Youth Camp were reviewed. Numerous requests for Archery were noted. It was decided that we would purchase an archery set and a couple of new BB guns, to replace ones that are malfunctioning.

The 2013 financial report was reviewed, which showed a net gain of \$3,525.53. The camp account remains in the black with a balance of \$7,809.84. 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 decided that the 2014 HYC Offering Recipient would be Westminster Biblical Missions.

It was decided to ask Pastors to submit electronic copies of handouts by July 1st for inclusion in the camper's binders. Those not submitting them by that date will be responsible for bringing the number of copies directed by the director, based on camper registration.

It was noted that Elder Matt Fickbohm is the only signatory in the HYC Bank Accounts. Your committee asks that Rev. J.P. Mosley be added to the accounts as a signatory in case Elder Fickbohm would for some reason be unable.

Gifts of beef and pork enabled us to come in under budget and reduce our overall food cost to less than half that projected. We thank God for His provision and ask that the churches and individuals consider donating more food and other items to camp in order to help keep costs down.

The theme for HYC 2014 will be *Purity*. This Theme recognizes that God has called us to be pure in all of our life. Lessons will be given in the following topics:

Purity.....

- **The Call to Purity –**
- **Purity in Worship –**
- **Purity in Speech**
- **Purity in Thought**
- **Purity in Single Life**
- **Jr: Purity in Relationships**
- **Sr: Purity in Marriage**

Rev. Henry will call and recruit various speakers. It was noted that it could be necessary for pastors do more than one lecture.

Camp Refund policy was discussed: under what circumstances will we refund? It was noted that we would refund for truly unforeseeable circumstances, leaving that decision to the camp director.

Rev. Henry closed the meeting with prayer.

HYC is scheduled for the last full week of July and will be held July 21-25 at Camp Bob Marshall in the Black Hills.

Future Dates of Camp:

2014 – July 21-25

2015 – July 27-31

2016 – July 18-22

Your Committee proposes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – That Classis approve the 2014 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees.

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

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.

Recommendation #5 – That J.P. Mosley be added as a signatory on the financial accounts of HYC.

Recommendation #6 – That pastors submit electronic copies of handouts to the camp director by July 1st for inclusion in the camper’s binders. Those not submitting them by that date will be responsible for bringing the number of copies directed by the director, based on camper registration. Take Note.

Respectfully Submitted, Johnson, Henry, Fagrey, Kingswood, Gallimore, Hofmann, Fey

Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget

	<u>2013</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2013</u> <u>Actual</u>	Difference (under)/over Budget	<u>2014</u> <u>Proposed</u>
Opening Fund Balance (1/1/13)		\$4,284.31		
Revenue				
Camp Fees	\$ 19,080	\$ 20,111.00	\$ 1,031.00	\$ 19,080
Gifts	-	-	-	-
Worship Offering	1,200	926.25	(273.75)	1,200
Interest		1.02	1.02	
Camp Store Sales	750	1,158.51	408.51	1,000
Total Revenue	21,030	22,196.78		21,280
Expenses				
Camp Bob Marshal Rental	11,000	\$ 11,480.00	480.00	11,000
Food	3,800	1,177.85	(2,622.15)	3,800
t-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	2,600	2,661.09	61.09	2,600
Crafts	150	151.52	1.52	250
Supplies and Equipment	600	308.89	(291.11)	600
Promotion (photo)	100	178.32	78.32	200
Custer State Park Fees	100	50.00	(50.00)	100
Administration	150	120.00	(30.00)	150
Camp Store Supplies	500	1,617.33	1,117.33	900
Designated offering recipient	1,200	926.25	(273.75)	1,200
Total Expenses	20,200	18,671.25		20,800
Operating Gain (loss)		3,525.53		
Ending Fund Balance (12/31/13)		7,809.84		

Proposed 2014

Fees: Camper
 \$159 per camper if registration and fee received by June 1.
 \$189 per camper if received June 1 or after.

No fee for adult volunteers.

Proposed budget is based upon 120 campers and 40 adults.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Report of Right of Conscience Committee

Classis Action: The report was re-committed to a revised committee appointed by the Standing Nominations Committee

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 grant \$1000/month aid to Rev. McGee until he receives a call.

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

Education and Student Aid

The Committee brought the following recommendation:

1. 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.

Note: although no request for student aid for Tom Marinelli was forthcoming at this meeting, such a request was later received and circularized with the expectation that Synod would be petitioned for this student aid.

Classis Action: The report and recommendation #1 were adopted.

Examination and Licensure

The committee brought no recommendations:

Classis Action: The report was 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

Kevin Carroll	\$389.50
Bob Davis	\$ 53.10
John Frey	\$225.00
Bob Grossmann	\$407.00
Albert Haller	\$426.60
Scott Henry	\$ 99.00
Marlin Halzworth	\$216.00
Richard Honaker	\$481.50
George Horner	\$481.50
Maynard Koerner	\$216.00
Michael McGee	\$634.50
Dan Oliver	\$467.10
C.W. Powell	\$477.00
Matt Powell	\$560.70
Neale Riffert	\$450.00
Jesse Smith	\$498.15
Dan Van Peurse	<u>\$151.20</u>
Total	\$6,233.85

2. That the Treasurer's report be approved.
3. That treasurers be reminded that Classis guidelines are to be paid for the calendar year by Dec 31st of that year. Take note
4. That the per -communicant guideline be set at \$101.01 (1059 communicants)

2014 Guideline	Total	Per Communicant
Classical dues	\$9,000.00	\$8.50
Missions	\$82,200.00	\$77.62
Benevolence	\$11,000.00	\$10.39
Heidelberg TS	\$7,942.50	\$7.50
New Geneva TS	\$6,354.00	\$6.00
Totals	\$116,496.50	\$110.01

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted

Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Elder John Frey be credentialed as a Classis delegate from Grace, Mitchell, SD.
2. That the call from Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD to Rev. Scott Henry to serve as their pastor be approved.
3. That Rev. McGee need make no change regarding his ministerial credentials nor is there a need to change his and his family's church membership.

Note: Other Standing Judicial Committee business was conducted while the Classis was in Executive Session and is not reported in this Abstract.

Classis Action: The report and recommendations were adopted.

Ministerial Aid

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

1. Rev. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,650 per month.
2. Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, \$1,600 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 fund Christ the King Reformed Church at \$1000. per month, and that the Permanent Home Missions Committee do a full assessment of that work within six months and that the Executive Committee be authorized to circulate changes in funding needs for CKRC based on the assessment to a funding level not to exceed \$1500/month.
2. That Classis fund Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO in the amount of \$350/month and encourage the work.
3. That the Casper, WY work (Christ Reformed Church) continue to be funded with \$30,000/year Classical support and Synod be petitioned for matching funds.

4. That Classis continue to fund the Omaha mission work at \$30,000 per year and petition Synod for matching funds contingent upon the Permanent Home Missions Committee providing a favorable assessment of the work and a suitable candidate be found to labor in that wo

Classis Action: The report and recommendations were adopted

Nominations

Missions:	T. <u>Grassmid</u> , R. Grossmann, S. Velgersdyk, S. Gross, D. Mettler, B. Davis, D. Oliver
Publications:	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , M. McGee, M. Holzwarth, M. Reichert
Christian Education:	<u>J. Vusich</u> , C.W. Powell, H. Hart, M. Koerner D. Van Peurseem, J. Savage
Interchurch Relations:	<u>M. Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, M. McGee, G. Horner A. Haller, R. Honaker
Candidates and Credentials:	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , M. Powell, K. Carroll, F. Hofmann, J. Smith
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:

1. That the South Central Classis make the following statement to St. John's Reformed Church of Lincoln, NE and that this statement be printed in the St. John's March 30th bulletin:

The Delegates of the 2014 meeting of the South Central Classis express their gratitude to the Lord for you, the members of St. John's Reformed Church, and your hosting of this year's Classis meeting. We thank you for your warm hospitality, Christian fellowship, delicious meals and numerous snacks, which brought us both spiritual and physical nourishment. May our faithful Heavenly Father continue to richly bless you as you love our Lord and serve the saints.

Yours in Christ , the Delegates of the South Central Classis, RCUS

2. That all submitted excuses be approved.

Classis Action: The recommendations and the report were adopted.

Minutes of Synod

The Committee brought the following report:

After reviewing the 2013 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.

Minutes of Classis

Your Committee received the draft minutes from the Stated Clerk and made corrections which were then incorporated in the revised minutes.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Expression of Appreciation to Host Congregation

This was handled through the Standing Services Committee

Reading of the Minutes

The Stated Clerk read aloud the minutes of the closing items of business since there was no time for the Minutes of Classis to review this last portion of the minutes. Upon correction from the floor, the President declared the minutes approved as corrected.

ADJOURNMENT

The 2014 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 7:45 p.m., Tues March 25th to the 2015 Spring meeting of Classis at a yet undetermined location.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 15 ministers and 10 elders present.

B. Devotions

Rev. Johnson read from John 4:35 and closed in prayer.

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

The President led the body in confessing the Apostle's Creed and praying the Lord's Prayer, He then pronounced the Benediction and all present sang the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Horner
Stated Clerk, South Central Classis

APPENDICES

Report of 2013 Membership and Financial Statistics- South Central Classis

2013	Colo. Springs CO	Greeley CO	Limon CO	Lincoln NE	Emmanuel Sutton NE
Number of Elders	3	2	3	4	3
Number of Deacons	2	3	2	4	3
Communicants Last Year	49	52	43	86	125
Received – Confirmation	1	1	1	1	2
Received – Transfer	2	0	8	2	2
Received – Profession	0	1	2	2	0
Total Received	3	2	11	5	4
Total Old & New	52	54	54	91	129
Lost – Dismissal	2	7	4	2	0
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	3	3	0	4	0
Lost – Death	0	0	0	0	2

Total Lost	5	10	4	6	2
Total Communicants This Year	47	44	50	85	127
Unconfirmed Members	25	13	12	27	18
Total Baptized Members	72	57	62	112	145
Number of Families	21	26	20	39	77
Children in Sunday School	28	5	11	28	9
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	0	2	0	2	0
Total Baptisms	0	2	0	2	0
Members' Lord's Supper	43	56	48	81	110
Lord's Supper Observed	12	5	12	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$92,960	\$102,200	\$55,153	\$90,679	\$89,278
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$3,966	\$8,680	\$4,146	\$564	\$25,772
Receipts – Other Sources	\$1,328	0	\$2,450	\$56	0
Total Receipts	\$98,254	\$110,880	\$61,749	\$91,299	\$115,050
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$10,051	\$11,284	\$3,813	\$16,887	\$24,984
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$4,847	\$5,138	\$4,374	\$7,340	\$12,351
Non-Guideline Causes	\$2,916	\$0	\$600	0	\$723
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$1,025	\$646	\$0	\$600	\$1,936
Other General Expenses	\$70,673	\$83,076	\$58,617	\$72,926	\$88,806
Total Disbursements	\$89,512	\$100,144	\$67,409	\$97,153	\$128,800
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	\$20,533	0	0	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$214	\$217	\$89	\$172	\$200
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$103	\$99	\$102	\$75	\$99
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$364	\$316	\$204	\$282	\$304

	Hope Sutton NE	Menno SD	Mitchell SD	Rapid City SD	Sioux Falls SD
Number of Elders	3	4	3	3	6
Number of Deacons	4	4	2	2	6
Communicants Last Year	176	155	76	65	158
Received – Confirmation	0	5	2	2	1
Received – Transfer	0	0	7	2	3
Received – Profession	3	0	4	3	0
Total Received	3	5	13	7	4
Total Old & New	179	160	89	72	162
Lost – Dismissal	3	1	2	7	7
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	6	0	0	2	0
Lost – Death	4	4	0	0	0
Total Lost	13	5	2	9	7
Total Communicants This Year	166	155	87	63	155
Unconfirmed Members	61	18	17	29	69

Total Baptized Members	227	173	104	92	226
Number of Families	87	84	37	31	77
Children in Sunday School	40	14	15	19	59
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	2	1	1	1	7
Total Baptisms	2	1	1	1	7
Members' Lord's Supper	140	146	87	63	136
Lord's Supper Observed	6	4	6	6	5
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$191,194	\$136,397	\$112,025	\$189,888	\$188,029
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$22,532	\$19,824	\$0	0	\$40,647
Receipts – Other Sources	\$51,646	\$677	\$34,157	0	\$15,825
Total Receipts	\$265,372	\$156,898	\$146,182	\$189,888	\$244,501
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$36,300	\$31,887	\$15,649	\$13,169	\$31,759
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$17,450	\$15,118	\$7,510	\$5,500	\$13,371
Non-Guideline Causes	\$7,300	\$21,245	0	\$6,900	\$0
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$24,840	\$115	0	\$9,400	\$15,529
Other General Expenses	\$162,442	\$103,962	\$113,622	\$146,987	\$188,723
Total Disbursements	\$248,332	\$172,327	\$163,284	\$181,956	\$249,382
Value of Church Buildings	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$1,032,190
Value of Parsonage	80,000	\$350,000	\$189,000	\$189,000	0
Property Improvements	\$33,567	\$424	0	0	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	\$149,656
Debt Paid Last Year	0	\$70,000	0	0	\$55,501
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$206	\$206	\$206	\$202	\$201
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$95	\$98	\$99	\$85	\$85
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$347	\$440	\$304	\$393	\$286

	Vermillion SD	Rock Springs WY	Sherman TX (Mitchell)*	Omaha NE (Lincoln)*	Casper WY (Rock Springs)*	Total all churches
Number of Elders	2	3	0	0	1	40
Number of Deacons	1	2	0	0	0	35
Communicants Last Year	26	40	8	12	0	1,071
Received – Confirmation	0	0	0	0	0	16
Received – Transfer	0	0	0	0	4	30
Received – Profession	0	0	0	2	6	23
Total Received	0	0	0	0	10	67
Total Old & New	26	40	8	16	0	1,132
Lost – Dismissal	6	2	2	6	0	51
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	4	0	0	0	0	22
Lost – Death	0	0	0	0	0	10
Total Lost	10	2	2	6	0	83

Total Communicants This Year	16	38	6	10	10	1,059
Unconfirmed Members	8	16	3	5	14	335
Total Baptized Members	24	54	6	15	24	1,393
Number of Families	8	22	3	4	5	541
Children in Sunday School	9	7	0	n/a	15	259
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	0	1	0	0	5	22
Total Baptisms	0	1	0	0	5	22
Members' Lord's Supper	21	29	12	12	10	66 av.
Lord's Supper Observed	3	12	3	6	7	7 av.
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$62,206	\$108,111	\$13,021	\$54,389	\$37,690	\$1,523,220
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$2,415	\$500	\$1,135	0	0	\$130,181
Receipts – Other Sources	\$2,926	0	\$19,539	\$57,500	\$45,000	\$231,104
Total Receipts	\$67,547	\$108,611	\$33,695	\$111,889	\$82,690	\$1,884,505
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$2,112	\$7,579	\$1,652	0	\$995	\$208,121
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$2,173	\$3,952	\$855	0	\$494	\$100,473
Non-Guideline Causes	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,135	0	0	\$42,819
Non-RCUS Benevolences	262	0	0	0	0	\$54,353
Other General Expenses	\$73,499	\$91,731	\$24,776	\$118,061	\$10,973	\$1,408,874
Total Disbursements	\$79,046	\$104,252	\$28,418	\$118,061	\$64,881	\$1,892,597
Value of Church Buildings	\$305,000	\$170,000	0	0	0	\$4,771,190
Value of Parsonage	125,000	Included	0	0	0	\$1,347,100
Property Improvements	0	0	0	0	0	\$54,524
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0	\$149,656
Debt Paid Last Year	0	\$4,985	0	0	0	\$130,486
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$81	\$190	\$206	0	0	\$171 av.
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$83	\$99	\$107	0	0	\$88 av.
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$203	\$313	\$455	0	0	\$316 av.

*under this congregation's oversight. These statistics not included in those of oversight church.
av. = average

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.

