

**2016
Abstract
Of The
Minutes**

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

The Reformed Church in the United States

**Spring Meeting
March 28-29, 2016
Grace Reformed Church
Rapid City, SD**

Informational Summary

OFFICERS of South Central Classis

PRESIDENT	Rev. Travis Grassmid
VICE-PRESIDENT	Rev. Matthew Powell
STATED CLERK	Rev. George Horner
TREASURER	Elder Scott Velgersdyk

3608 S. Anita Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD, 57103

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(Underlined indicates chairman)

Missions:	<u>J. Vusich</u> , M. McGee, M. Koerner, G. Van Holland, D. Mettler, M. Burbach, D. Oliver
Publications	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , M. McGee, R. Grossmann, R. Davis, S. Gross
Christian Education	<u>R. Klynsma</u> , S. Henry, H. Hart, J. Ochsner, T. Schieffelin
Interchurch Relations	<u>M. Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, G. Horner, E. Starks, A. Haller
Candidates & Credentials	<u>K. Carroll</u> , M. Powell, J. Blair, R. Korn, J. Rydell
Executive Committee	<u>T. Grassmid</u> , G. Horner, G. Maassen
*Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>L. Johnson</u> , D. Fagrey, S. Henry, D. Kingswood, F. Hofmann, M. Burbach
*Fall 2017 Conference	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , S. Henry, J. Blair, Grace RCUS Rapid City SC

* Special Committees

2015 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

per Communicant member

Classical Expense Fund	\$ 7.60
Missions (inclusive)	\$ 75.29
Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 7.50
<u>New Geneva Seminary</u>	<u>\$ 6.00</u>
 Total	 \$ 96.39

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY	pg. 1
Officers of Classis	
Permanent Committees	
Guidelines	
DIRECTORY OF CLASSIS	4-10
Directory of Ministers, Elders, Licentiates, Students Under Care	
Directory of Churches	
SERVICES, ORGANIZATION, FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS	
STANDING COMMITTEES.....	11-12
PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS	12-18
Executive Committee	
Missions	
Publications	
Christian Education	
Interchurch Relations	
Candidates and Credentials	
REPORTS OF OFFICERS	18-25
President's Report on the State of the Church	
Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes	
Classis Executive Committee Report on its Minutes	
Treasurer's Report	
PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS.....	25
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS	26
REPORTS FROM CLASSIS FRATERNAL DELEGATES	27
ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES AND VISITORS FROM OTHER CHURCHES	27
SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS	27-29
Heidelberg Youth Camp	
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS	30-34
Benevolence	
Education and Student Aid	
Examination and Licensure	
Finances	
Judicial	
Ministerial Aid	
Missions	

Nominations
Publications
Services
Minutes of Synod
Minutes of Classis

ADJOURNMENT..... 35
APPENDICES..... 36-43
 Membership and Financial Statistics
 Necrologies
 Standing Rules of South Central Classis
 Index of Resolutions and Positions

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

BLAIR, Jon (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)
1505 10th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 336-9927. jwblair83@msn.com

CARROLL, Kevin (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD)
505 S. Davison St. Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 996-7439. pastor@gracereformed.com

EMBREE, Warren (retired)
3410 Gregory Court, Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 474-9129. wembree@neb.rr.com

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

GRASSMID, Travis (Zion RCUS, Menno, SD)
218 Pine St. Menno, SD, 57045
(605) 387-2816. travisgrassmid@yahoo.com

GROSSMANN, Robert (retired)
14714th Ct. Vero Beach, FL 32960/ Box 63, Menno, SD 57045
(605) 743-6207. rcusbob@juno.com

HART, Howard (Emeritus, St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
1705 N. Minnesota, Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 995-1964. bhart40@juno.com

HENRY, Scott (Providence RCUS, Vermillion, SD)
818 E. Madison St. Vermillion, SD 57069
(402) 699-4774. shenry0328@gmail.com

HORNER, George (Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY)
1007 9th St. Rock Springs, WY 82901.
(307) 705-3683. rcusgeorge@gmail.com

JOHNSON, LEE (St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
3930 Mason Dr. Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 477-7289. rev.lee.j.johnson@gmail.com

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

KLYNSMA, Randall, (Omaha Reformed Church)
8340 Sheffield Dr. Omaha, NE 68122
(402) 281-3263 rjklynsma@yahoo.com

KOERNER, Maynard (Associate, Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
4800 S. Shields Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Cell/Office (605) 595-5850. maykoerner@gmail.com

McGEE, Michael (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
7301 S. Louise Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57106
(605) 553-1389. pastor@trinityrcus.org

POWELL, C.W. Jr. (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)
6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 590-1477. Fax: 877-815-6984. rcusbud@ureach.com

POWELL, Matthew (Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY)
6061 Incline Rd, Casper, WY 82604
(719) 332-1482. mattpowell74@gmail.com

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

VUSICH, Joe (Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)
106 S. Way Ave., P.O. Box 100, Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 773-4218. jvusich@windstream.net

ELDERS PRIMARIUS

BERG, Joshua (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)
3895 Smoke Tree Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, 80922
(719) 302-5490. joshua.a.berg@gmail.com

DAVIS, BOB (St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE)
1101 N. 202nd St. Eagle, NE, 68347
(402) 781-2362. prcdrcus@windstream.net

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

GRIESS, Dan (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)
2231 Road 323, Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 366-7704. djgriess@hotmail.com

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

HALLER, Albert (Grace RCUS, Greeley, CO)
2230 12th St. Rd., Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 237-2184. ajhaller@allianceconstruction.com

HOFMANN, Fred (Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)
2411 Road 1, Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 984-2863. fhofmann2010@gmail.com

MEHLHAF, Clinton (Zion RCUS, Menno, SD)
43228 382nd St. Menno, SD 57045
candlmehlhaf@yahoo.com

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

SCHIEFFELIN, Ted (Providence RCUS, Limon, CO)
PO Box 521, Limon, CO 80828
(719) 760-0772. ted.schieffelin@gmail.com

STARKS, Earl (Providence RCUS, Rock Springs, WY)
802 Village Dr. Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 705-3220. rcusearl@gmail.com

VELGERSDYK, Scott (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
3608 S. Anita, Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 371-4521. drscott@sio.midco.net

ELDERS SECUNDUS

ABBINK, Ron (Trinity RCUS, Sioux Falls, SD)
529 Suni Ave. Baltic, SD 57103
rabbink@alliancecom.net

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

DIETER, Kenneth (Skip) (Trinity Covenant, Colorado Springs, CO)
1704 Big Horn Trail, Colorado Springs, CO 80919
(719) 201-0975. sdieter@ureach.com

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

HUBER, Robert (St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, NE)
3103 Colt Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507
(402) 440-4125. roberthuber1@msn.com

KORN, Robert (Zion RCUS, Menno, SD)
Box 472, Freeman, SD 57029
(605) 660-0057. ralphs@gwtc.net

OCHSNER, Jim (Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE)
703 W. Cedar St. Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 984-4094. jimochsner1960@gmail.com

OLIVER, Don (Grace RCUS, Rapid City, SD)
23657 Wilderness Canyon Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 341-2984. oliver@blackhillspediatrics.com

REICHART, Mel (Hope RCUS, Sutton, NE)
310 E. Hickory, Sutton, NE, 68979
(402) 410-0203

SAVAGE, John (Providence RCUS, Limon, CO)
19600 CR E, Ordway, CO 81063
(719) 406-6019. jsavage.karval@gmail.com

SAVAGE, John (Grace RCUS, Mitchell, SD)
PO Box 395, Lennox, SD 57039
(605) 252-8564. tjsavage13@gmail.com

VAN HOLLAND, Greg (Providence RCUS, Vermillion, SD)
311 N. Crawford, Vermillion, SD57069
(605) 957-5942. gregvh@teamcssi.com

STUDENTS UNDER CARE

DIETER, Kenneth (Skip) (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)
1704 Big Horn Trail, Colorado Springs, CO 80919
(719) 201-0975. sdieter@ureach.com

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. Wed.7pm.
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.
Pastor: Vacant

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

Omaha Reformed Church. Phone **(402) 281-3263**
Mail: 8340 Sheffield Dr. Omaha, NE 68122, Location: 4905 N 96th St. Omaha
Worship: 10:45 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM
Pastor: Randall Klynsma (wife: Julie)

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; Bible Study 2nd & 4th Sunday 6:30PM
Pastor: Darrell Kingswood (wife: Lori).

SOUTH DAKOTA

MENNO

Zion RCUS. Phone: **(605) 387-2816**
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: 505 S Davison, Mitchell, SD 57301. Location: 1021 S. Davison.
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor: Kevin Carroll (wife: Tammy)

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.
Pastor: Michael McGee (wife: Jenny)
Associate Pastor: Maynard Koerner (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, Bible Study 12:15 PM
Pastor: Scott Henry (wife: Maria)

WYOMING

CASPER (www.christreformedrcus.org)

Christ Reformed Church. Phone (307) 277-5901
Mail: 6061 Incline Rd, Casper, WY 82604
Meeting: 600 W. 21st St, Casper, WY
Worship: 10:00AM, Sunday School 11:45AM
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)

CLERK's NOTES

On March 28th, 2016, at 3:30 pm, prior to the convening of the Classis meeting, the delegates gathered for a presentation by Elder Gary Maassen of Trinity RCUS in Sioux Falls, SD, entitled "Seeking Advice from Classis". A period of discussion followed the presentation. This pre-Classis meeting had been approved by the 2015 Classis and was planned by the Executive Committee of Classis.

**Abstract of the MINUTES
Of the South Central Classis
of the
Reformed Church in the United States
March 28-29, 2016, Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD**

SERVICES

- On Monday evening, March 28th, at 6:45 pm the classis delegates, along with members of Grace Reformed church and visitors, worshipped our gracious Triune God. Rev. Robert Grossmann conducted the service and Rev. Randall Klynsmas preached a sermon from portions of Joshua 18,19 and 21 entitled "The Distribution of the Land."
- At 9:30 am Tuesday March 29th, Rev. Darrell Kingswood presented a devotional on one pastor's devotional life (his), read from I Peter 1:9ff and prayed.
- A closing devotion on Tuesday March 29th was given by Rev. David Fagrey, reading Psalm 119:1-8 and closing 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. Travis Grassmid, called the body to order on Monday, March 28th 2016, at 8:00 pm, opening with prayer. The Stated Clerk, Rev. George Horner, called the Roll which showed 14 ministers and 12 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. Michael McGee, and Elders Robert Korn and Ted Schieffelin as tellers. A motion was made from the floor to suspend the oral reading of the Standing Rules, which was carried by the required 2/3 majority. The following delegates were nominated and elected as the officers of the Classis this year: Rev. Travis Grassmid as President, Rev. Matthew Powell as Vice-President, Rev. George Horner as Stated Clerk, and Elder Scott Velgersdyk as Treasurer. The President appointed Rev. Scott Henry as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*. The Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day were adopted.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS

The following fraternal delegate was present for all or part of the classis meeting and granted time to address the body: Rev. Brad Irick of the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Bob Hemphill from the Midwest Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

There were no churches to receive.

The Classis extended the right hand of fellowship to Rev. Randall Klynsma, recently called and installed as Associate Pastor of St. John's Reformed Church, with responsibility as church planter in Omaha, NE.

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The President announced the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

Benevolence	Kingswood, Klynsma, Hofmann
Education and Student Aid	McGee, Grossmann, Griess
Examination and Licensure	Grossmann, Starks, Haller
Finances	Johnson, Gallimore, Gross, Velgersdyk
Ministerial Aid	Kingswood, Klynsma, Hofmann
Missions	Carroll, Hart, Schieffelin
Publications	M. Powell, Berg, Rydell
Services	Klynsma, M. Powell, Starks
Judicial	Henry, Fagrey, Griess
Nominations	Koerner, Blair, Korn
Minutes of Synod	Hart, Grossmann, Horner
Minutes of Classis	McGee, Davis, Haller

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

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your Committee represents the Classis in the interval between classis meetings (Article 91) 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 Executive Committee business since the spring 2015 Classis meeting. All circulars passed (no objection to the proposed action).

1. Executive Circular 30.1, dated July 17, 2015, dealt with the invitation from Hope Reformed Church, Sutton NE to host the fall 2015 Classis meeting.

2. Executive Circular 30.2, dated August 12, 2015, dealt with the dismissal of Licentiate Tim Marinelli to the care of Covenant East Classis of the RCUS, and a change to the start time of the fall classis meeting.
3. Executive Circular 30.3, dated September 2, 2015, dealt with the proposed Services, Agenda, and Order of the Day for the fall 2015 classis meeting.
4. Executive Circular 30.4, dated September 20, 2015, announced the cancellation of the scheduled fall 2015 classis meeting.
5. Executive Circular 30.5, dated November 30, 2015, dealt with the invitation by Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD to host the 2016 spring meeting of Classis.
6. Executive Circular 30.6, dated January 9, 2016, dealt with the call to and acceptance thereof by Rev. Randy Klynsma to serve as Associate Pastor of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE with responsibility for planting a church in Omaha NE.
7. Executive Circular 30.7, dated January 29, 2016, dealt with the spring 2016 Classis meeting to be held at Grace Reformed Church, Rapid, City, SD.
8. Executive Circular 30.8, dated February 23, 2016, dealt with housing for the spring 2016 Classis meeting and reminded of deadlines for submission of credentials/statistics/parochial and committee reports.
9. Executive Circular 30.9, dated February 25, dealt with the installation of Rev. Klynsma as Associate Pastor of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE.
10. Your Executive Committee communicated via e-mails and conference calls prior to proposing Classis actions via Executive Circulars and the Committee was in unanimous agreement on all the actions proposed via its circulars.
11. Due the cancellation of the fall 2015 Classis meeting, the item on the agenda dealing with a request from Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls SD to receive counsel from Classis was dealt with by the Executive Committee augmented with several advisory members. The Committee met with concerned parties at Trinity Reformed Church on Oct 12-13, 2015 and the Committee presented a report with its recommendations to the Trinity RC Consistory.
12. Your EC Committee was charged by the 2015 spring Classis meeting to organize a "pre-Classis" meeting in conjunction with the 2016 spring Classis meeting. Your EC did so, and that meeting was held on the afternoon of March 28, 2016 under the theme: "Fruitful Consistory/Classis Cooperation".

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Mr. Travis Grassmid
President

The Reverend Mr. George Horner
Stated Clerk

Mr. Gary Maassen
Elder Member

Classis action: The report was adopted

B. Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Brothers,

Since there have been no requests for examinations for this coming Classis meeting, none are scheduled.

During the earlier part of 2016, your Committee did conduct a telephone conference call interview (at a cost of \$8.95) with Rev. Randal Klynsma who was coming to South Central Classis from Covenant East Classis to take up duties as our Home Mission pastor in Omaha, NE. The subject matter discussed with Rev. Klynsma was his adherence to RCUS distinctives and his plans for carrying on the work in Omaha. Your Committee reported to Classis Executive Committee that Rev. Klynsma seemed to us to be well-suited for the task to which he had been called.

(This report was compiled by the Committee chairman, Rev. Robert Grossmann)
Respectfully submitted,

Rev. R. Grossmann, Rev. K. Carroll, Rev. M. Powell, Elder F. Hofmann, Elder J. Smith

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

C. Interchurch Relations

Brothers,

The Interchurch Relations Committee did not formally meet, as our only business consists of sending invitations to sister bodies and sending delegates to their meetings. These activities, with the consent of the committee, are handled by the chairman.

We sent invitations to the Spring meeting to the Classis Central of the URC, the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC, and the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA. In addition, we sent a delegate to the fall meeting of the Midwest Presbytery and to the Classis Central of the URC. Those reports are included. We were not able to attend a presbytery meeting of the OPC, but we did send greetings.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. M. Powell (chairman) Rev. H. Van Stedum, Rev. M. McGee, Rev. G. Horner, W. Nuss,
R. Honaker

D. Missions

South Central Classis of the RCUS Missions Committee Report March 28-29, 2016 Esteemed Fathers and Brothers, During the past year, your Missions Committee corresponded via emails, phone calls, and an in-person meeting in Lincoln, NE. We offer the following report. The South Central Classis currently has three mission works: Limon CO, Casper WY, and Omaha NE. There has also been an ongoing effort to start a home mission work in Scottsbluff NE, under the oversight of Grace Reformed in Rapid City SD. The goal of this report is to update you on the current state of each of these works, and to make recommendations for the new classical year. Limon CO (Providence Reformed Church)

Your committee was in regular phone and email contact with the Limon spiritual council. The committee chairman also visited the church on the weekend of January 31, during which time he led worship, met with the congregation to discuss the work of South Central Classis missions, and also met with the Limon consistory regarding their progress in calling a new pastor. Limon has been without a minister for more than a year, and while the general mood of the congregation is generally positive, the church is understandably “a bit fatigued” due to not having a pastor. That said, there is much to be thankful for. By God's grace, the church did not miss hosting a Sunday service during the year, due in part to the willingness of several PCA and OPC ministers to fill the pulpit. Praise God for His faithfulness. Attendance and giving have remained steady, and no members have been lost. The church experienced four baptisms during the year and celebrated the Lord's Supper twelve times. The search for a new pastor has been ongoing, and recently a PCA minister, Rev. Don Owsley, who is currently without a call, agreed to fill the pulpit twice per month. Rev. Owsley has since met with the Limon consistory, at which meeting he expressed interest in the possibility of a call to Limon. The church is currently praying about this possibility. The Limon congregation has become more serious about making improvements to their building. Talks are underway with a local engineer to design a new entry way that would include handicap access as well as handicap-accessible restrooms. One other improvement under consideration is the addition of more floor space to the main worship room and at least two new Sunday School classrooms. Limon received \$350/month from the South Central Classis in 2015. Given that the church is filling the pulpit with guest preachers each week and is also continuing its pastor search, your Committee recommends that funding in the new classical year remains at \$350/month (same amount the church requested.)

Casper WY (Christ Reformed Chapel) Providence Reformed Church in Rock Springs has oversight of this work. Your committee exchanged emails with Rev. Matt Powell during the past year, and committee member Daniel Mettler visited the Casper church twice. The Casper congregation is at peace, and average attendance has increased to around 40 souls per week. The church received three new adult members during the past year, along with six children, one by birth and the other five as part of a family that joined. Another new family of eight people that recently moved to Casper is now attending (five are communicant age). The new family presently belongs to an OPC congregation and intends to be received into membership soon. As well, a newly-married couple is about to begin the membership process, and another adult is almost finished with it. The church now has a piano player, a great answer to prayer. A new deacon was elected and installed on February 28th. Rev. Matt Powell senses the movement of God among the people at Christ Reformed Chapel, and he is excited that they

are hungry to learn the Reformed faith and grow in their walk with the Lord and their love for the brethren. Casper received \$30,000 from the South Central Classis in 2015 and an additional \$30,000 from Synod. Your committee recommends that classical funding for Casper in the new year remains the same (the same amount Providence Reformed requested), and that Classis overtures Synod for \$30,000 in matching support (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).

Omaha NE (Omaha Reformed Church) St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln has oversight of this work, and your committee was in frequent contact during the year with Rev. Lee Johnson. Nearly the entire committee traveled to Lincoln on May 4 to eat a meal together and have a face-to-face discussion with the St. John's consistory. (This was to fulfill the resolution passed by the 2015 Classis for the missions committee to meet with St. John's to address the pastoral concerns raised in Rev. Johnson's 2015 parochial report.) It was a productive and charitable meeting, providing committee members the opportunity to reaffirm classis support for the Omaha mission work, answer questions about classis involvement and the allocation of finances, and pray with the Lincoln brothers for God's blessing on the Omaha work. Beginning in September, the Omaha saints began worshiping regularly on Sunday afternoons (Sunday School at 4:00pm, worship at 5:00pm) while also continuing their midweek Bible studies. The St. John's consistory was able to lease a spacious church facility in Bellevue at a reasonable rate, and the saints have been meeting there ever since. During the last four months of 2015, Rev. Maynard Koerner taught and preached the bulk of the Sunday services, and Rev. Johnson and other RCUS ministers filled the pulpit on the remaining weeks. Your committee chairman preached and taught in Omaha twice, which allowed him to visit with the saints and get a better feel for the work there. No one remains from the earlier church plant efforts in Omaha – it's an entirely new group of people. Most of the regular attenders seem to have a good sense of what it means to be Reformed, and they are enthused about starting a church with confessional commitments, expositional preaching, and sober, joyful worship. At least one of the men (a career Air Force man who used to be part of the RCUS church in Minot ND) seems like a good elder candidate. He plans to retire next year and settle permanently in the Omaha area with his large family. The average attendance at the Sunday meetings is 30 souls, and the weekly offerings are at least covering the facility rental costs. Toward the end of the 2015 calendar year, the St. John's consistory determined that the work in Omaha was sufficiently stable, enthusiastic, and committed to call an organizing pastor. Rev. Randy Klynsma was invited to preach a trial sermon on December 6, and after consulting with the Omaha saints, the St. John's congregation voted to extend Rev. Klynsma a formal call. Rev. Klynsma accepted, and his resignation in Kansas City was effective February 1. He began preaching regularly in Omaha later that month, and he reports that a steady stream of new visitors has been attending. Rev. Klynsma is currently commuting to Omaha each weekend while working to sell his house in Kansas City and move his family to Omaha as soon as possible. The current facility in Bellevue is on a month-to-month lease, and though the rent is reasonable, the building is not available for use on Sunday mornings. For this reason and others, it is not ideally suited as a long-term meeting location. Accordingly, one of the immediate goals is to find an appropriate place for the Omaha church to meet on Sunday mornings. Please pray for Rev. Klynsma and his family, the St. John's consistory, and the Omaha saints, that God would grant them great wisdom and help, that Rev. Klynsma would be able to quickly sell his house in Kansas City, that God would provide the congregation a more suitable meeting location, and that the Omaha work will grow numerically, and especially in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Your committee recommends that funding for Omaha in the new classical year remains at \$45,000 (same amount St. John's requested), and that Classis overtures Synod for \$36,000 in support (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).

Scottsbluff NE at Rapid City's annual meeting in January 2016, it was reported to the congregation that after much discussion and prayer, the consistory had made the difficult decision to discontinue the

church's effort to plant a church in Scottsbluff. The reason for this is because for the past six years, the work in Scottsbluff has experienced no appreciable growth. Recognizing that the Lord's timing is not always our timing, the Rapid City consistory has encouraged the Gildemaster and Logan families living in Scottsbluff not to give up on their desire to start an RCUS church. They are still members at Rapid City but are in the process of seeking membership in other area churches.

Goals:

The committee members are encouraged about the work of the Lord in our mission churches and the potential for future growth in those congregations. In light of these encouraging developments and the Home Missions manual guidelines, the Missions committee has the following goals in mind as we look to the next five years:

1) that the works in Omaha and Casper will experience sufficient growth to convert from chapels to established churches within the next five years.

2) that the Lord will help us identify the best locations for church plants within our geographical boundaries, and significant steps will be taken to establish new mission works in those places.

Recommendations:

In light of these updates, your Committee makes the following recommendations:

1) That the Limon CO mission work be approved for another year of funding from the South Central Classis in the amount of \$350/month (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).

2) That the Casper WY mission work be approved for another year of funding from the South Central Classis in the amount of \$30,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).

3) That the South Central Classis overtures the 2016 Synod to fund the Casper WY mission work for another year in the amount of \$30,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).

4) That the Omaha NE mission work be approved for another year of funding from the South Central Classis in the amount of \$45,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).

5) That the South Central Classis overtures the 2016 Synod to fund the Omaha NE mission work for another year in the amount of \$36,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).

6) That the men of Classis be mindful of the continuing desire by RCUS families in Scottsbluff to start a church in that city, and that they join with these families to pray that the Lord would raise up such a work, according to His will and timing.

7) That the men of Classis be mindful to pray for the home mission works in Limon CO, Casper WY, and Omaha NE; that God would grant these congregations great peace, wisdom, and help in the coming year, and that they will grow both in numbers and especially in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joe Vusich, Chairman Rev. Mike McGee Rev. Robert Grossmann Elder Greg Van Holland Elder
Melvin Burbach Elder Daniel Mettler Elder Dave Ehly Elder Donald Oliver

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Missions

E. Publications

Dear Brothers,

The Publications Committee received no business, did not meet, and therefore did not conduct any business during the past Classical year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. D. Fagrey, convener, Rev. M. McGee, M. Mehlhaf, S. Gross

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Publications

F. Christian Education

Fellow Brothers,

Your Committee had no business brought before it during the past year and therefore did not meet and has nothing further to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jon Blair (chairman), Rev. C.W. Powell, Rev. H. Hart, Rev. M. Koerner, S. Bindert, J. Savage

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,

Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. (Romans 12:16-18)

These are the words which we have been using at Zion Reformed this year as we conduct family visitation; and as I reflect on the state of the church in South Central Classis, I am reminded of these exhortations of the Apostle Paul. The state of our Classis has been relatively peaceful in this past year,

and we praise God for granting this blessing. Living peaceably with all men is a daunting task; a task which requires purposeful humility as we consider the needs of one another above our own desires.

Our statistical reports show a small increase in membership within our Classis by three persons. In this, we can see that the Lord is continuing to nurture His church, and we have been blessed with a number of covenant children (29) as well as professions of faith (25). It is a time of sorrow as we witness the death of fellow members; this past year our Classis lost ten members by death. Although we mourn the loss to the church militant, we rejoice as they have joined that church triumphant.

It was a joy to read the parochial reports for this past year, as we witness the guiding hand of our gracious Lord leading His church. We are encouraged to report that the Word of God is being faithfully proclaimed throughout the Classis, and there is general peace within the churches. Rev. Carroll (Grace Reformed, Mitchell, SD) reports that “2015 was marked by a spirit of peace and joy...(and) the affection that the saints have for one another is evident.” Rev. Henry (Providence Reformed, Vermillion, SD) notes “the members of Providence Reformed Church are continually growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is evident by their walk of humility before the Lord.”

Dr. C.W. Powell noted that this is his forty-seventh, and likely his final parochial report. Certainly the Lord has greatly used this honorable pastor in his 58 years of ministry. We have been blessed to have our brother serve in our midst, and to enjoy the benefits of his wisdom and encouragement. Not many have the strength or fortitude to continue daily in the ministry until they are 81 years of age; the Lord has greatly blessed this brother, and blessed His church through the faithful labors of His humble servant.

The work of missions continues within the bounds of Classis South Central, and we pray that the Lord would continue to fill His church through these humble measures. The work of Scottsbluff, NE, in God’s providence is not able to continue at this point. Rev. Fagrey writes, “In spite of six years of this effort, there has been no appreciable change...the Lord’s timing is not always our timing.”

Rev. Matthew Powell notes that the average attendance at the mission work of Christ Reformed Church in Casper, WY has increased by about 10%, and a number of people either taking new membership classes or planning to move to the area and join the congregation. We praise God for this growth, and pray that He continues to bless this fledgling congregation.

After years of struggle, hopes, trials, and disappointments, St. John’s Church in Lincoln, NE has held steady the course in their labors to establish a reformed work in Omaha. Rev. Johnson reports that the “Consistory is very excited to welcome Rev. Klynsma to Omaha, and we do not doubt that this is the Lord answering prayers.” Rev. Randall Klynsma, formerly the pastor in Kansas City, MS, has now been installed in the Omaha church plant, and has begun his labors. We pray that the Lord adds His blessing to this work.

Finally, this Classis meeting marks the initiation of a “pre-Classis meeting”, which the spring 2015 Classis asked the executive committee to organize for this gathering. Your executive committee spent time working on plans, topic, speakers etc. and we hope that the pre-meeting was a blessing to the entire

body. It seems to your president that if we desire to continue with this practice for subsequent spring Classis meetings, it may be of benefit to the host church to have the opportunity to structure the event themselves. In this way, the host church could determine a topic such as they thought would be of interest to the delegates, and arrange for the speaker or speakers whom they believe could best address the issue at hand.

As we began, this past year has been marked with humble harmony; I will continue to keep all in the Classis in prayer; that we may continue to *be of the same mind toward one another*.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Travis Grassmid

Classis Action: The report is to be spread in the minutes, printed in the Abstract, sent to the “Reformed Herald”, and was referred to the Services Committee

B. Stated Clerk’s Report

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The following items list the duties performed by your Clerk since the 2015 Spring Classis meeting:

1. Your Clerk recorded the business of the 2015 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 the 2015 Synod. The Corrections to the Minutes mandated by the 269th Synod are being made.
2. Page 41 of the Abstract, the recommendation of Standing Benevolence, requesting benevolent aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens: a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on March 30, 2015.
3. Page 46 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, and Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger: a letter was sent the Clerk of Synod March 30, 2015.
4. Page 46 of the Abstract, Recommendations # 3&6 of Standing Home Missions, # 3 requesting mission support from Synod in the amount of \$36,000 per year for the mission work in Omaha, NE, once a pastor is called; and #6, \$30,000 per year support from Synod for the mission work in Casper, WY (Christ Reformed Church): a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on March 30, 2015.
5. Page 45-46 of the Abstract, recommendations #1&4 of Judicial, #1 seeking clarification from Synod on RCUS Constitutional Article #91 regarding authority of Classis Executive Committee,

#4, a request for Synod to study redrawing the classical boundaries, a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on March 30, 2015.

6. Executive Circulars, Volume 30 numbers 1-9, (see Classis Executive Committee Report) were prepared and e-mailed to the Classis delegates.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

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 269th 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 (269th Abstract, pp. 84-85).
2. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the calendar year.
3. 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. 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. 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. Per Article 197 of the RCUS Constitution, the following amendments to the Constitution were adopted by two-thirds vote of the 269th Synod and need the concurrence of two-thirds of the Classis [So far, only one Classis has taken action: I received a communication from Covenant East Classis that at a Special Fall Classis meeting (2015) they concurred with amendments herein labeled 7a, c, and d]:

- a. That the notation “Articles 40-42 were removed by the 269th Synod” be placed in the RCUS Constitution in place of Articles 40-42, and that the numbering of the articles of the constitution from Article 43 on remain unchanged.
- b. That “Teacher of Theology” be retained as a valid Ministry of the Word.
- c. That Article 84 of the RCUS Constitution be amended to read as follows: An ordained minister or a licentiate shall not be received by Classis until he has presented a regular certificate of dismissal from the Classis to which he belongs. The reception and installation of a minister from another denomination shall not be final until it is confirmed by Synod. Classes shall forward to Synod its actions concerning ministers from other denominations; and also provide a resume regarding the new minister.
- d. That Article 195 of the RCUS Constitution be amended as follows: “Marriage has been instituted by God. The Reformed Church in the United States defines “marriage” as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government’s sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by The Reformed Church in the United States only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of “marriage” found in these Articles. Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as “porneia”) including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. (Leviticus 18-20; I Corinthians 5:1-5; 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-7; Heidelberg Catechism 108, 109). Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness. Every officer, employee, or volunteer of the church shall affirm their agreement with this definition of marriage and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith. This shall be a prerequisite, and continual condition, for these positions.”

8. No Classis action needs to take place on the following motion, but each Classis should be aware that it was postponed by the 269th Synod until the 270th Synod, partly because it came as an overture from an individual delegate rather than from a Classis: “Every human being, regardless of mental or physical infirmity, is created in the image of God. It is never acceptable as a matter of medical practice or familial care to facilitate or assist an act of suicide. While an individual may refuse “heroic” medical procedures which they deem to be an artificial extension of biological life, suicide or any assistance provided to assist suicide is a violation of the law of God. The Reformed Church in the United States formally rejects any and all attempts to legalize this pernicious and immoral practice, and encourages our elected leaders, especially to do all in their power to protect the disabled, the feeble, the poor and the infirm from those who would pressure them into taking their own lives.” [Cf. 269th Synod Abstract, page 89] 9. The Classes are reminded that the 270th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 16-19, 2016, at Grace Reformed Church, Bakersfield, CA.

David Fagrey
Stated Clerk, RCUS

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

D. Treasurer's Report

CHECKBOOK March 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

Beginning Balance 113,435.87
Deposits 2,369.40
Checks -27,060.00
Interest 109.34
Bank Charges -54.14
Ending Balance 88,800.47
Variance -24,635.40

CASH FLOW March through June 2016

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Guideline Dues

Grace Reformed Mitchell

Benevolence / Uncategorized	903.93	
Classis Dues	6.96	
Missions	<u>63.51</u>	
Total Grace Reformed Mitchell		974.40

Zion Reformed

Benevolence / Uncategorized	201.36	
Classis Dues	64.98	
Heidelberg Seminary	66.54	
Missions	914.95	
New Geneva Seminary	147.17	
Total Zion Reformed	<u>1,395.00</u>	

Total Guideline Dues		2,369.40
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Total Income		2,369.40
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Expense

Bank Service Charges		54.14
Guideline Payments Heidelberg Seminary	2,647.54	
New Geneva Seminary	2,118.00	
Total Guideline Payments		4,765.54

Mission Exp

Christ Ref. Church	10,000.00	
Christ The King Ref. Church	1,000.00	
Prov. Ref. Church Limon	1,400.00	

Total Mission Exp		12,400.00
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Officer Stipend	650.00
Printing and Reproduction	164.50
Travel Exp	9,079.96
Total Expense	27,114.14
Net Ordinary Income	-24,744.74
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Earned	109.34
Total Other Income	109.34
Net Other Income	109.34
Net Income	-24,635.40

CHECKBOOK July 1, 2015 - Feb 29, 2016

2016 Beginning Balance	\$ 88,800.47
Deposits	\$ 66,416.56
Checks	\$ (47,721.25)
Interest	\$ 276.69
Bank Charges	\$ (106.74)
Ending Balance	\$ 107,665.73
Variance	\$18,865.26

Guideline Income by Category July 1, 2015 - Feb 29, 2016

1055 Com. Mem

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Classical Dues 11.40/Com Mem	\$ 12,027.00	\$ 10,513.95	\$ (1,513.05)
Missions 46.64/ Com Mem	\$ 49,205.00	\$ 43,017.86	\$ (6,187.14)
Heidelberg Seminary 7.5/Com. Mem	\$ 7,913.00	\$ 6,917.07	\$ (995.93)
New Geneva Seminary 6.0/Com Mem	\$ 6,330.00	\$ 5,533.62	\$ (796.38)
Benevolence / Uncategorized 0/Com. Mem		\$ 434.06	\$ 434.06
Total Guidelines	\$ 75,475.00	\$ 66,416.56	\$ (9,058.44)
1055 Com Mem X 71.54	\$ 75,474.70	\$ 66,416.56	\$ (9,058.14)

South Central Classis July 2015 - Feb 2016

	<u>Com. #</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income		\$75475.00		
Guideline Dues		71.54		
Christ Reformed Casper	12	858.48	858.48	0.00
Christ The King	6	429.24	0.00	-429.24
Emanuel RCUS, Sutton	127	9085.58	9085.58	0.00
Grace Reformed Greeley	42	3004.68	1502.34	-1502.34
Grace Reformed Mitchell	88	6295.52	6295.52	0.00
Grace Reformed Rapid City	66	4721.64	4721.64	0.00
Hope Reformed, Sutton	161	11517.94	11952.00	434.06
Providence Reformed Limon	45	3219.30	0.00	-3219.30
Providence Ref. Rock Spring	38	2718.52	1430.80	-1287.72
Providence Ref. Vermillion	15	1073.10	1287.72	214.62
St. Johns Reformed, Lincoln	93	6653.22	5225.48	-1427.74
Trinity Covenant, Colo. Springs	51	3648.54	3648.54	0.00
Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls	155	11088.70	9248.22	-1840.48
Zion Reformed, Menno	156	11160.24	11160.24	0.00
 Total Guideline Dues	 1055	 75474.70	 66416.56	 -9058.14
Other Income				
Interest Earned			276.69	
Total Income		\$66693.25		

Respectfully Submitted
 Scott Velgersdyk
 Treasurer

Classis Action: 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

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS (ARTICLE 81, RCUS CONSTITUTION)

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

The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?*
All answered, "Yes."
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?*
All answered, "Yes".
3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*
 - a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?*
All answered, "Yes"
 - b. *Is Christian discipline exercised according to the constitution?*
All answered, "Yes".
4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the constitution?*
All answered, "Yes."
5. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:*
 - a. *Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?*
All Answered, "Yes".
 - b. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?*
All answered, "Yes".
 - c. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving?*
All answered, "Yes".
 - d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?*
All answered, "Yes".
6. *Are the church records properly kept?*
All answered, "Yes."
- 7a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?*
All answered, "Yes" except for the Limon, CO RCUS charge due to vacancy.
- 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?*
All answered, "Yes" except for the Limon, CO RCUS charge due to vacancy

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

The reports are available under the Interchurch Relations Committee Report and were not read on the floor of Classis.

ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES AND VISITORS

- The President invited Rev. Brad Irick, fraternal delegate from the Presbytery of the Dakotas, OPC, to address the body. Rev. M. Grossmann responded.
- The President invited Rev. Bob Hemphill, fraternal delegate from the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA to address the body. Rev. M. Powell responded.
- Rev. M. Powell read fraternal greetings from Rev. Talman Wagenmaker of the Central US Classis of the United Reformed Churches in North America.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Heidelberg Youth Camp

Heidelberg Youth Camp Report

Your joint committee of Northern Plains and South Central Classis met by teleconference Monday February 8. Attending were Revs. Fagrey, Grossmann, Henry, Johnson, and Mosley along with Elders Fickbohm and Hofmann.

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. J.P. Mosley.

The budget was discussed and agreed to by common consent. HYC Camp lost \$2,606.28 last year, but still has \$5,785.59 in the bank. The camper fees are included in the budget and have increased by \$6 on account of declining camp attendance. It will be \$165 if received before June 1, and \$195 afterwards. Counselors and pastors continue to be free. The need for donations to keep costs down was also discussed and opportunities to help should be shared with the churches.

Last year's camp was discussed. Last year's new night time schedule was reviewed and it was decided to continue the new format. The HYC Cup was discussed, and camper evaluations were reviewed. No real changes were needed or warranted

The theme for this year was discussed and it is decided to be "The Seven Sayings" and will be covering the seven final sayings of Christ on the cross. Rev. Scott Henry will be in charge of assigning topics to the ministers. Discussion on T-shirts and making sure possibly offensive iconography was avoided was addressed.

The recipient of the nightly offerings was discussed. David Voytek, son of Rev. Michael Voytek, is serving as an assistant to OPC missionaries in China, and is need of raising support. It was decided David Voytek would be the recipient of the offering.

Rev. Henry closed in prayer.

Thus your committee brings the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: TAKE NOTE that the dates of camp are as follows:

2016 - July 18-22

2017 –July 24-28

2018 –July 23-27

2019 –July 22-26

2020 – July 20-24

Recommendation #2: That the Budget for HYC 2016 be approved.

Note: This includes the camper fees.

Recommendation #3: TAKE NOTE that the churches be encouraged to donate items or money to HYC to help keep costs down.

Recommendation #4: That the Report as a whole be adopted.

Note: This includes approval of theme and offering recipient.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. L. Johnson, Rev. S. Henry, Rev. D. Fagrey, Rev. D. Kingswood, R. Gallimore, F. Hofmann,
M. Burbach

Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget

	2015 Budget		2015 Actual	Difference (under)/over	2016 Proposed Budget
Opening Fund Balance (1/1/15)			\$ 8,391.87		
Revenue					
Camp Fees (79 campers)	\$ 17,000		\$ 13,418	\$ (3,583)	\$ 15,510
Gifts	-	C	475.00	475.00	
Worship Offering	1,200		1,315.25	15.25	1,000
Interest	-	E	0.57	0.57	
Camp Store Sales	<u>900</u>	A	<u>438.75</u>	(461.25)	<u>600</u>
Total Revenue	19,100		15,647.07		17,110
Expenses					
Camp Bob Marshal Rental	\$ 11,000	J	\$ 10,334.78	\$ (665.00)	\$ 10,656
Food	3,800	I	2,784.32	(1,015.68)	3,500
T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	3,000	G	2,424.96	(575.04)	2,500
Crafts	200	F	216.79	16.79	200
Supplies and Equipment	1,000	L	358.34	(641.66)	500
Promotion (photo)	200		-	(200.00)	200
Custer State Park (donation)	100		-	(100.00)	100
Administration	100	H	387.24	287.24	100
Camp Store Supplies	800	H1	431.67	(368.33)	500
Designated offering recipient	<u>1,000</u>	K	<u>1,315.25</u>	115.25	<u>1,000</u>
Total Expenses	<u>21,400</u>		<u>18,253.35</u>		<u>19,256</u>
Operating Gain (Loss)			<u>(2,606.28)</u>		<u>(2,145.50)</u>
Ending Fund Balance (12/31/15)			<u>5,785.59</u>		

* Rental cost: \$600 (kitchen use) +[\$19 (daily rate/person) X 4 (days) X 125 (people)] + 5.5% tax

Proposed 2016	Camper	
Fees:		\$165 per camper if registration and fee received by June 1. (\$6 increase) \$195 per camper if received June 1 or after. (\$6 increase) No fee for adult volunteers. Proposed budget is based upon 85 campers and 40 adults.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Benevolence

The committee brought the following recommendation:

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

Kingwood, Klynsma, Hofmann

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

Education and Student Aid

The Committee brought no recommendations.

McGee, Grossmann, Griess

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Examination and Licensure

The Committee brought no recommendations.

Grossmann, Starks, Haller

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Finances

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the Treasurer's Report be approved.
2. That the Treasurer be thanked for his work.
3. That the Auditor's Opinion be approved.
4. That the Stated Clerk send a note of thanks to the Auditor.
5. That the guideline for HTS be set at \$7.50 per communicant member.
6. The the guideline for NGTS be set at \$6.00 per communicant member.
7. That the per-communicant member guideline be set at \$96.39 as follows:

2016 Guideline	Per Communicant
Classical dues	\$ 7.60
Missions	\$75.29
Heidelberg TS	\$ 7.50
New Geneva TS	\$ 6.00
Totals	\$96.39

8. That Classis pay the Spring Meeting travel expenses submitted in the amount of \$4,402.

Travel Expenses for Spring Classis Meeting 2015

Bob Grossmann	\$ 263	
Earl Starks	\$ 448	
George Horner	\$ 549	
Maynard Koerner	\$ 409	\$
Matt Powell	\$ 288	
Skip Dieter	\$ 515	
Jon Blair	\$ 414	
Scott Henry	\$ 476	
Robert Davis	\$ 633	
<u>Ted Schieffelin</u>	<u>\$ 407</u>	
Total	\$ 4,402	

Johnson, Gallimore, Gross

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted

Judicial

The Committee brought a recommendation to improve the wording of item #11 of the Executive Committee Report.

Henry, Fagrey, Griess

Classis Action: The recommendation and the report were adopted

Ministerial Aid

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

1. Rev. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,800 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.
5. Rev. and Mrs. C. W. Powell, \$1,200 per month at the time of retirement.

Kingswood, Klynsma, Hofmann

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted

Missions

The Committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the Limon CO mission work be approved for another year of funding from the South Central Classis in the amount of \$350/month (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).
- 2) That the Casper WY mission work be approved for another year of funding from the South Central Classis in the amount of \$30,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).
- 3) That the South Central Classis overtures the 2016 Synod to fund the Casper WY mission work for another year in the amount of \$30,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).
- 4) That the Omaha NE mission work be approved for another year of funding from the South Central Classis in the amount of \$45,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).
- 5) That the South Central Classis overtures the 2016 Synod to fund the Omaha NE mission work for another year in the amount of \$36,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).
- 6) Take note: That the men of Classis be mindful of the continuing desire by RCUS families in Scottsbluff to start a church in that city, and that they join with these families to pray that the Lord would raise up such a work, according to His will and timing.
- 7)Take note: That the men of Classis be mindful to pray for the home mission works in Limon CO, Casper WY, and Omaha NE; that God would grant these congregations great peace, wisdom, and help in the coming year, and that they will grow both in numbers and especially in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 8) That the Permanent Home Missions Committee investigate Metro-Denver as a potential site for a new RCUS plant and report back to the 2017 Classis.

Carroll, Hart, Schieffelin

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted

Nominations

(undelined indicates chairman)

Missions: J. Vusich, M. McGee, M. Koerner, G. Van Holland, D. Mettler, M. Burbach,
D. Oliver,

Publications: D. Fagrey, M. McGee, R. Grossmann, R. Davis, S. Gross

Christian Education: R. Klynsma, S. Henry, H. Hart, J. Ochsner, T. Schieffelin

Interchurch Relations: M. Powell, H. Van Stedum, M. McGee, G. Horner, E. Starks, A. Haller

Candidates and Credentials: K. Carroll, M. Powell, J. Blair, R. Korn, J. Rydell

Executive Committee: T. Grassmid, G. Horner, G. Maassen

Heidelberg Youth Camp: L. Johnson, D. Fagrey, S. Henry, D. Kingswood,
F. Hofmann, M. Burbach.

Special Fall Conference Committee: D. Fagrey, S. Henry, J. Blair,
Grace RCUS Rapid City Spiritual Council

Koerner, Blair, Korn

Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

Publications

The committee brought the following recommendation:

That Synod instruct the Committee of Publications and Promotions to publish a low cost edition of the Heidelberg Catechism and creeds with an introduction to be approved by Synod, suitable for evangelistic outreach.

M. Powell, Dieter, Rydell

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

Services

The Committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the SCC erect a special committee to plan and implement a convention to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in the fall of 2017 in the Rapid City area and direct this committee to report back to Classis via the Executive Committee regarding dates, costs and other details by Oct 1, 2016.
2. That the excuses submitted by Rev. Vusich and Elder Don Oliver be granted.
3. Regarding the suggestion from the Classis President's report about planning the pre-Classis meeting, that the Executive Committee continue to plan the meeting.
4. That the South Central Classis make the following statement to Grace Reformed Church of Rapid City, SD and that this statement be printed in the Grace's April 3rd bulletin:

The delegates of the 2016 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis express our sincere gratitude to God for all the members of Grace Reformed Church in hosting the meeting. We thank you for all your expressions of hospitality, especially the excellent and delicious meals

which sustained us. May the Lord continue to richly bless you in your love to Him and to His people.

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

Klynsma, M. Powell, Starks

Classis Action: The recommendations and the report were adopted.

Minutes of Synod

The Committee brought the following recommendations:

1. Take note on items #1-6, 8&9 of the Synod Minutes Report.
2. That Classis concur with the action of Synod per item #7a of the Minutes of Synod report.
3. That Classis concur with the action of Synod per item #7b of the Minutes of Synod report.
4. That Classis concur with the action of Synod per item #7c of the Minutes of Synod report.
5. That Classis concur with the action of Synod per item #7d of the Minutes of Synod report.
6. That the report of the committee be adopted.

Hart, Horner, Grossmann

Classis Action: The recommendations and report were 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 Minutes were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The 2016 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 2:05 PM Tues March 29th to a fall 2017 meeting of Classis at a yet undetermined location.

A. Roll Call

The final roll call showed 14 ministers and 11 elders present.

B. Devotions

Rev. David Fagrey gave a closing devotion by reading Psalm 119:1-8 and praying.

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.

Soli Deo Gloria

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Horner
Stated Clerk, South Central Classis RCUS

APPENDICES

Report of 2015 Membership and Financial Statistics- South Central Classis

2015	Colo. Springs CO	Greeley CO	Limon CO	Lincoln NE	Emmanuel Sutton NE
Number of Elders	4	3	3	4	3
Number of Deacons	3	3	2	4	3
Communicants Last Year	51	42	45	93	127
Received – Confirmation	2	0	0	3	3
Received – Transfer	2	5	0	3	0
Received – Profession	0	7	0	1	2
Total Received	4	12	0	7	3
Total Old & New	55	54	45	100	130
Lost – Dismissal	2	2	6	2	0
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	2	0	0	1	3
Lost – Death	0	1	0	1	1
Total Lost	4	3	6	4	4
Total Communicants This Year	51	51	39	96	126
Unconfirmed Members	24	19	15	27	9
Total Baptized Members	75	70	54	126	135
Number of Families	27	31	19	41	74
Children in Sunday School	29	13	15	28	5
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	3	6	4	0	0
Total Baptisms	3	6	4	0	0
Members' Lord's Supper	47	53	39	91	105
Lord's Supper Observed	12	13	12	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$116,931	\$122,262	\$57,112	\$109,666	\$90,358
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$8,488	\$5,685	\$5,652	\$5,560	\$32,779
Receipts – Other Sources	0	0	\$4,954	\$9,000	0
Total Receipts	\$125,419	\$127,920	\$67,718	\$124,226	\$123,137
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$10,929	\$9,209	\$8,151	\$19,811	\$27,115
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$3,644	\$1,502	\$2,790	\$8,485	\$9,086
Non-Guideline Causes	\$6,267	\$2,141	\$1,800	831	\$0
Non-RCUS Benevolences	0	\$835	\$4,404	\$600	\$4,021
Other General Expenses	\$104,577	\$90,884	\$24,704	85,549	\$81,162
Total Disbursements	\$125,422	\$104,571	\$41,849	\$114,276	\$121,384
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	0	0	3,729	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$214	\$219	\$209	\$213	\$214
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$72	\$36	\$72	\$91	\$72
Total RCUS Per Comm.	\$409	\$255	\$281	\$313	\$285

	Hope Sutton NE	Menno SD	Mitchell SD	Rapid City SD	Sioux Falls SD
Number of Elders	4	4	3	3	6
Number of Deacons	4	4	2	2	6
Communicants Last Year	161	156	88	66	155
Received – Confirmation	0	5	2	0	4
Received – Transfer	0	0	6	3	0
Received – Profession	1	0	0	2	3
Total Received	1	5	8	5	7
Total Old & New	162	161	96	71	162
Lost – Dismissal	0	2	2	2	2
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	1	3	8**	4	4
Lost – Death	1	4	1	1	0
Total Lost	2	7	11	7	6
Total Communicants This Year	160	154	85	64	156
Unconfirmed Members	60	16	23	29	63
Total Baptized Members	220	170	108	93	219
Number of Families	76	84	50	33	73
Children in Sunday School	20	11	26	21	53
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	0	2	2	1	8
Total Baptisms	0	2	2	1	8
Members’ Lord’s Supper	121	147	85	67	133
Lord’s Supper Observed	6	4	6	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$186,283	\$157,602	\$107,707	\$201,314	\$195,336
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$24,250	\$25,195	3,844	409	\$78,488
Receipts – Other Sources	\$2,044	\$771	\$46,802	0	\$10,341
Total Receipts	\$212,577	\$183,568	\$158,383	\$201,723	\$284,165
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$35,260	\$39,744	\$8,250	\$14,388	\$35,748
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$11,952	\$12,555	\$4,250	\$4,721	\$7,193
Non-Guideline Causes	\$1,660	\$18,690	0	0	0
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$23,363	\$341	0	\$17,800	\$9,868
Other General Expenses	\$147,005	\$117,323	\$110,760	\$174,419	\$176,274
Total Disbursements	\$221,240	\$188,653	\$123,260	\$211,328	\$228,813
Value of Church Buildings	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$525,000	\$600,000	\$1,032,191
Value of Parsonage	100,000	\$350,000	\$189,000	\$200,000	0
Property Improvements	\$27,031	\$4,554	0	0	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	10,262	0	\$63,756
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	6,770	0	\$22,355
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$219	\$255	\$209	\$218	\$220
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$74	\$81	\$72	\$71	\$46
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$293	\$455	\$281	\$289	\$277

	Vermillion SD	Rock Springs WY	Omaha NE (Lincoln)*	Casper WY (Rock Springs)*	Total all churches
Number of Elders	2	3	n/a	1	43
Number of Deacons	1	2	n/a	1	37
Communicants Last Year	15	38	n/a	12	1,049
Received – Confirmation	0	0	n/a	0	17
Received – Transfer	2	0	n/a	0	21
Received – Profession	3	4	n/a	3	25
Total Received	4	4	n/a	3	63
Total Old & New	19	42	n/a	15	1,112
Lost – Dismission	0	2	n/a	2	22
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	0	0	n/a	2	28
Lost – Death	0	0	n/a	0	10
Total Lost	0	2	n/a	4	60
Total Communicants This Year	19	40	n/a	11	1,052
Unconfirmed Members	12	10	n/a	16	323
Total Baptized Members	31	50	n/a	27	1,378
Number of Families	9	21	n/a	6	544
Children in Sunday School	12	8	n/a	13	254
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	2	n/a	0	0
Infants Baptized	0	2	n/a	1	29
Total Baptisms	0	2	n/a	1	29
Members’ Lord’s Supper	19	39	n/a	11	74 av.
Lord’s Supper Observed	6	12	n/a	12	8 av.
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$83,874	\$86,946	n/a	\$54,694	\$1,570,085
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$3,215	430	n/a	8,180	\$202,188
Receipts – Other Sources	\$3,413	0	n/a	\$60,000	\$137,325
Total Receipts	\$90,502	\$87,376	n/a	\$122,874	\$1,909,588
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$3,924	\$8,360	n/a	\$2,700	\$223,589
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$1,287	\$2,862	n/a	\$1,500	\$71,827
Non-Guideline Causes	0	\$1,431	n/a	\$650	\$33,470
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$1,900	\$430	n/a	8,180	\$73,742
Other General Expenses	\$77,896	\$91,941	n/a	\$88,238	\$1,370,729
Total Disbursements	\$85,007	\$97,982	n/a	\$93,088	\$1,756,873
Value of Church Buildings	\$305,000	\$195,000	n/a	0	\$4,871,191
Value of Parsonage	125,000	Included	na	0	\$1,378,100
Property Improvements	4,596	0	n/a	0	\$36,181
Present Property Debts	0	0	n/a	0	\$74,018
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	n/a	0	\$29,125
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$262	\$220	n/a	225	\$223 av.
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$86	\$75	na	125	\$75 av.
Total RCUS Per Communicant	\$348	\$295	n/a	404	\$322 av.

*under this congregation’s oversight. These statistics not included in those of oversight church.
n/a = data not available. Av = average **due to correcting actual membership numbers

NECROLOGIES

None reported

STANDING RULES

1. "The fiscal year of the South Central Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. The Classis guidelines shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid no later than the thirtieth of June of the current fiscal year (1960, '64, '68, '87, 2015).
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 fifty-six (.56) 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, 2015).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at fifty-six cents (.56) 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, 2015).
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 five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and the Treasurer shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the Classical year (1960, '61, '65, '78, '84, '87, '90, 2003, 2015).

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.

(Spring 2015, Abstract, pg. 46)

That the Consistories of South Central Classis be reminded of the Constitutional requirements regarding the establishment and dissolution of pastoral relations:

Based on Art. 30, 76, 81, 82, 91 of RCUS Constitution

- a. Classis is vested with the power to constitute and dissolve pastoral relations
- b. Classis is responsible to take care that the call is in order, for example "that the temporal contract be adequate".
- c. This responsibility of Classis may be carried out by Classis either by means of a regular meeting of Classis or by the Executive Committee through the use of a circular letter.
- d. Specific instructions to the Executive Committee of Classis include: to constitute and dissolve pastoral relations, confirm a call, appoint a committee to ordain a licentiate and install a pastor.
- e. The call of a pastor, acceptance of a call, resignation of a pastor, the acceptance of the resignation of a pastor by the Consistory shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of Classis as soon as possible for action.
- f. Implementation of a resignation or call may not begin prior to the approval of said resignation or call, for example "a pastor shall not leave his charge before his resignation has been approved and the pastoral relation has been dissolved by Classis", Art. 30.

