

2017 Abstract of the Minutes

The logo of the Reformed Church in the United States is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top is a crown. Below the crown are two keys, one on each side, with their handles crossed. In the center is an open book with the words "HOLY BIBLE" written on it. Below the book is the year "1748". At the bottom of the shield is a banner with the text "THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S.". The entire logo is rendered in a light gray color.

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

Reformed Church in the United States

**32nd Annual Meeting
March 27-28, 2017**

**Hosted by
Grace Reformed Church
Mitchell, South Dakota**

This volume is affectionately dedicated to the memory of Rev. C. W. Powell, Rev. Darrell Kingswood, and Rev. George Syms, devoted heralds of the Gospel and servants of the living God.

“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’” (Revelation 14:13)

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

OFFICERS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

President	Rev. Travis Grassmid
Vice President	Rev. Matthew Powell
Stated Clerk	Rev. Joe Vusich
Treasurer	Elder Scott Velgersdyk 3608 S. Anita Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(underlined indicates convener)

Executive Committee	<u>T. Grassmid</u> , J. Vusich, L. Streyle
Missions	<u>J. P. Mosley, Jr.</u> , M. McGee, M. Koerner, D. Mettler, J. Berg, D. Oliver
Publications	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , R. Grossmann, R. Klynsma, D. Brauning, T. Savage
Christian Education	<u>G. Horner</u> , H. Hart, S. Henry, J. Savage, J. Stevens
Interchurch Relations	<u>M. Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, L. Johnson, R. Honaker, W. Nuss
Candidates and Credentials	<u>J. Blair</u> , K. Carroll, M. Powell, J. Rydell, T. Schieffelin
*Heidelberg Youth Camp	<u>K. Carroll</u> , M. McGee, S. Henry, D. Fagrey, T. Savage, D. Griess
*Special Committee	

2017-2018 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

(per communicant member)

Classical Expense Fund	\$7.64
Missions (inclusive)	\$71.35
Heidelberg Seminary	\$7.50
New Geneva Seminary	\$6.00
Total	\$92.49

South Central Classis
Guideline Remittance
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Date _____

Church _____

Treasurer _____

Email _____

No. of Communicant Members: _____

(Found in abstract appendix 2016 Membership & Financial Statistics: Total Communicants This Year)

	Amount / Comm. Mem.	Amount Remitted
Classical Dues	\$7.64	_____
Missions	\$71.35	_____
Heidelberg TS	\$7.50	_____
New Geneva TS	\$6.00	_____
Total	\$92.49	_____

Make check payable to South Central Classis.

Send to:

Scott Velgersdyk
SCC Treasurer
3608 S. Anita Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Email: scottvelgersdyk@gmail.com

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DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS, ELDERS, LICENTIATES, AND STUDENTS UNDER CARE

Ministers of the Word

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

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

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

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

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

Grossmann, Robert (Emeritus, Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD)
1471 4th Ct., Vero Beach, FL 32960 / Box 63, Menno, SD 57045
(605) 743-6207 rcusbob@juno.com

Hart, Howard (Emeritus, St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE)
920 W. Norway Ave. #305, Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 995-1964 barbhart8@gmail.com

Henry, Scott (Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE)
P.O. Box 322, Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 699-4774 shenry0328@gmail.com

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

Johnson, Lee (St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE)
3930 Mason Dr., Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 477-7289 rev.lee.j.johnson@gmail.com

Klynsma, Randall (Omaha Reformed Church, Omaha, NE)
8340 Sheffield Dr., Omaha, NE 68122
(402) 281-3263 omahareformed.pastor@gmail.com

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

McGee, Michael (Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD)
7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108
(605) 271-0754 pastor@trinityrcus.org

Mosley, J. P., Jr. (Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO)
3555 Merriment Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80917
(719) 428-5383 rev.j.p.mosley@gmail.com

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

Van Stedum, Herman (Emeritus, Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD)
602 E. Willow St., Harrisburg, SD 57032
(605) 213-0405 hermanvs@sio.midco.net

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

Primarius Elders

Berg, Joshua (Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO)
5182 Plumstead Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920
(719) 650-2141 joshua.a.berg@gmail.com

Brauning, David (St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE)
833 West Q St., Lincoln, NE 68528
(402) 438-1820 david.brauning@gmail.com

Gallimore, Roger (Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD)
4511 Elk Creek Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769
(605) 390-5196 myonlycomfort@msn.com

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

Honaker, Richard (Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY)
453 Quadrant Dr., Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 389-2949 rhonaker@wyoming.com

Maassen, Gary (Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD)
717 S. Parkview Blvd., Brandon, SD 57005
(605) 360-1636; fax: 605-336-6714 g_maassen@sdfuneral.com

Mettler, Daniel (Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD)
450 W. Douglas St., Menno, SD 57045
(605) 660-3290 dmettler@mettlerinc.com

Nuss, Warren (Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO)
24792 WCR 47, La Salle, CO 80645
(970) 397-9490 wdnuss@hotmail.com

Rydell, James (Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD)
309 S. Crawford Rd., Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 624-2130 jim.rydell@sd.usda.gov

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

Savage, Tom (Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD)
P.O. Box 395, Lennox, SD 57039
(605) 252-8564 tjsavage13@gmail.com

Stevens, Jerry (Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE)
814 Road E, Grafton, NE 68365
(402) 366-7477 lesliestevens@windstream.net

Secundus Elders

Connelly, Jim (Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO)
26779 WCR 45-1/2, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 330-4774 jimco12@mindspring.com

Ehly, David (Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE)
209 South X Rd., Sutton, NE 68979
(402) 366-7074

Frey, John (Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD)
41660 244th St., Fulton, SD 57340
(605) 996-2119 johnfreyfarm@agristar.net

Hager, Greg (Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY)
6061 W. Incline Rd., Casper, WY 82604
(307) 670-2310 greghager@bresnan.net

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

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

Oliver, Don (Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD)
23657 Wilderness Canyon Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 390-1928 oliver@blackhillspediatrics.com

Schieffelin, Ted (Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO)
P.O. Box 521, Limon, CO 80828
(719) 760-0772 ted.schieffelin@gmail.com

Streyle, Larry (Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD)
43220 282nd St., Menno, SD 57045
(605) 387-5648 brendastreyle@gmail.com

Troff, Erik (Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO)
8250 Andrus Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920
(719) 418-6379 erik.troff@gmail.com

Van Holland, Greg (Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD)
311 N. Crawford Rd., Vermillion, SD 57069
(605) 957-5942 gregvh@teamcssi.com

Velgersdyk, Scott (Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD)
3608 S. Anita Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 371-4521 scottvelgersdyk@gmail.com

Licentiatees

None.

Students under Care

None.

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

Colorado

Colorado Springs (www.trinity-covenant.org)

Trinity Covenant Reformed Church; Phone: (719) 590-1477
Location: 2511 N. Logan Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80907
Mail: 3555 Merriment Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80917
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 12:30 pm
Pastor: J. P. Mosley, Jr. (wife: Francesca)

Greeley (www.reformedgreeley.org)

Grace Reformed Church; Phone: (970) 336-9927
Location: 1501 10th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631
Mail: 1505 10th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631
Worship: 10:00 am; Sunday School: 11:45 am
Pastor: Jon Blair (wife: Wendy)

Limon (www.sermonaudio.com/source_detail.asp?sourceid=providencercus)

Providence Reformed Church; Phone: (719) 775-2791
Location: 725 Michigan Ave., Limon, CO 80828
Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828
Worship: 10:00 am; Sunday School: 11:45 am
Pastor: Vacant

Nebraska

Lincoln (www.stjohnsrcus.org)

St. John's Reformed Church; Phone: (402) 476-1827
Location and Mail: 1101 S. 26th St., Lincoln, NE 68502
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 9:30 am
Pastor: Lee Johnson (wife: Jenny Jo)

Omaha (www.omahareformed.org)

Omaha Reformed Church; Phone: (402) 281-3263
Location: 4905 N. 96th St., Omaha, NE 68134
Mail: 8340 Sheffield Dr., Omaha, NE 68122
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 9:00 am
Pastor: Randall Klynsma (wife: Julie)

Sutton (www.pastorjoev.wordpress.com)

Emmanuel Reformed Church; Phone: (402) 773-4218
Location: 110 S. Way Ave., Sutton, NE 68979
Mail: P.O. Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 9:30 am
Pastor: Joe Vusich (wife: Gioia)

Sutton (www.hopereformedrcus.com)
Hope Reformed Church; Phone: (402) 773-4330
Location: 311 E. Hickory St., Sutton, NE 68979
Mail: P.O. Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 9:00 am
Pastor: Scott Henry (wife: Maria)

South Dakota

Menno (www.sermonaudio.com/source_detail.asp?sourceid=travisgrassmid)
Zion Reformed Church; Phone: (605) 387-2816
Location and Mail: 220 S. Pine St., Menno, SD 57045
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 9:30 am
Pastor: Travis Grassmid (wife: Charity)

Mitchell (www.gracereformed.com)
Grace Reformed Church; Phone: (605) 996-2803
Location: 1021 S. Davison, Mitchell, SD 57301
Mail: 505 S. Davison, Mitchell, SD 57301
Worship: 10:00 am; Sunday School: 9:00 am
Pastor: Kevin Carroll (wife: Tammy)

Rapid City (www.gracereformedrapidcity.com)
Grace Reformed Church; Phone: (605) 399-1711
Location and Mail: 5626 N. Haines Ave, Rapid City, SD 57701
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 9:00 am
Pastor: David Fagrey (wife: Bonnie)

Sioux Falls (www.trinityrcus.org)
Trinity Reformed Church; Phone: (605) 271-0754
Location and Mail: 7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108
Worship: 10:00 am; Sunday School: 9:00 am
Pastor: Michael McGee (wife: Jenny)
Associate Pastor: Maynard Koerner (wife: Marcia)

Vermillion (www.providencercus.com)
Providence Reformed Church; Phone: (605) 624-4337
Location and Mail: 830 E. Madison St., Vermillion, SD 57069
Worship: 10:30 am; Sunday School: 9:30 am
Pastor: Vacant

Wyoming

Casper (www.christreformedrcus.org)
Christ Reformed Chapel; Phone: (307) 277-5901
Location: 600 W. 21st St, Casper, WY 82601
Mail: 6061 W. Incline Rd, Casper, WY 82604
Worship: 10:00 am; Sunday School: 11:45 am
Pastor: Matthew Powell (wife: Andrea)

Rock Springs (www.providencerocksprings.org)

Providence Reformed Church; Phone: (307) 362-5107

Location: 1001 9th St., Rock Springs, WY 82901

Mail: 1007 9th St., Rock Springs, WY 82901

Worship: 10:00 am; Sunday School: 11:45 am

Pastor: George Horner (wife: Mary Jo)

CLERK'S NOTE

At 3:30 pm on March 27th, 2017, prior to the convening of Classis, the delegates gathered for a presentation by Rev. Kevin Carroll of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, entitled "Ministering to Fellow Ministers/Seeking to Encourage One Another in Godliness." A period of discussion followed the presentation. This pre-Classis meeting 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
32nd Annual Session - March 27-28, 2017
Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD

SERVICES

- Classis delegates, members of Grace Reformed, Mitchell, and visitors met at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 27, 2017, to worship our gracious Triune God. Rev. Joe Vusich conducted the service, and Rev. J. P. Mosley, Jr. preached a sermon based on Revelation 2:1-7 entitled, "The Message to Ephesus."
- At 9:50 am on Tuesday, March 28th, Rev. Scott Henry presented a devotion on 1 Samuel 30:1-6 regarding the need of Christian ministers to strengthen themselves in the Lord with His promises. Henry led the body in prayer and the singing of "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past."
- A closing devotion on Tuesday, March 28th, was given by Elder Tom Savage, reading 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and closing with prayer.
- All sessions of Classis opened and closed with prayer. Prayers were also offered for concerns and requests that arose from the parochial reports of ministers and other business of Classis, e.g., 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 27th, 2017, at 8:00 pm, opening with prayer.
- The Stated Clerk, Rev. George Horner, called the roll, which showed 16 ministers and 11 elders present. The President declared a quorum. The bar of the house was defined as the first eight rows on either side of the center aisle. The President appointed Mosley and Elders James Rydell and T. Savage as tellers.
- The following delegates were nominated and elected as the officers of the Classis for this year: Rev. Travis Grassmid as President, Rev. Matthew Powell as Vice-President, Rev. Joe Vusich as Stated Clerk, and Elder Scott Velgersdyk as Treasurer. The President appointed Rev. Jon Blair as reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.
- The Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day were adopted. A motion was made to suspend the oral reading of the Standing Rules, which carried by the required 2/3 majority.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS

Fraternal delegate Rev. Louis Cloete of the Presbytery of the Dakotas (Orthodox Presbyterian Church) was present for the entire Classis and was granted time to address the body.

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

The Classis extended a welcome to Rev. Mosley, recently installed as Pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO. There were no new churches to receive.

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The President announced the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

Benevolence	<u>J. Blair</u> , R. Klynsma, J. Berg
Education and Student Aid	<u>S. Henry</u> , H. Van Stedum, J. Stevens
Examination and Licensure	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , H. Hart, K. Carroll, D. Brauning
Finances	<u>G. Horner</u> , R. Klynsma, J. Savage, D. Oliver, S. Velgersdyk
Ministerial Aid	<u>J. Blair</u> , G. Hager, J. Berg
Missions	<u>M. McGee</u> , D. Fagrey, D. Oliver
Publications	<u>M. Powell</u> , D. Griess
Services	<u>J. P. Mosley, Jr.</u> , J. Rydell
Judicial	<u>M. Koerner</u> , M. Powell, L. Streyle
Nominations	<u>L. Johnson</u> , J. P. Mosley, Jr., D. Oliver
Minutes of Synod	<u>G. Horner</u> , T. Savage
Minutes of Classis	<u>K. Carroll</u> , S. Henry, D. Brauning

PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES AND COMMUNICATIONS

The overtures and communications were distributed to the Standing Committees as determined by the Executive Committee. The actions taken on the Permanent Committee recommendations are found in the Standing Committee reports (pages 34-39).

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 2016 Classis meeting. All circulars passed (no objection to the proposed action).

1. Executive Circular 31.1, dated May 13, 2016, dealt with the resignation of Rev. C.W. Powell as pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO and the request from that Consistory for Classis to approve his election as "Pastor Emeritus".
2. Executive Circular 31.2, dated September 6, 2016, dealt with the call of Rev. J. P. Mosley, Jr., to serve as Pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO. and his being added to the Roll of Ministers of this Classis.

3. Executive Circular 31.3, dated September 26, 2016, dealt with the installation (on October 30, 2016) of Rev. J. P. Mosley, Jr., as Pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO.
4. Executive Circular 31.4, dated September 27, 2016, dealt with the request from the Consistory of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, to approve the election of Rev. Robert Grossmann as “Pastor Emeritus”.
5. Executive Circular 31.5, dated September 27, 2016, dealt with the invitation of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, to host the Spring 2017 Classis meeting.
6. Executive Circular 31.6, dated October 7, 2016, dealt with a proposed special Classis meeting for the purpose of examining Mr. Craig Phelps for licensure.
7. Executive Circular 31.7 announced the cancellation of the special Classis meeting proposed by EC 31.6.
8. Executive Circular 31.8, dated January 20, 2017, dealt with a request from St. John’s Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE for Classis to petition Synod for a building loan.
9. Executive Circular 31.9, dated January 29, 2017, dealt with the Spring 2017 meeting of Classis and its proposed Services, Agenda, and Order of the Day.
10. Executive Circular 31.10, dated January 30, 2017 dealt with the request from Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE to have Classis declare its pulpit vacant.
11. Executive Circular 31.11, dated March 6, 2017, listed the overtures received for action at the Spring 2017 meeting of Classis.
12. Your Committee, via its President, represented the Classis at the memorial service for Rev. C. W. Powell held on August 5, 2016 in Colorado Springs, CO.
13. Your Committee was providentially prevented, by inclement weather, to represent the Classis at the funeral service of Rev. Darrell Kingswood held in Sutton, NE.
14. Your Committee represented the Classis, via its President, at the funeral service of Rev. George Syms, minister of the Northern Plains Classis.
15. 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.
16. Your EC Committee was charged by the 2016 spring Classis meeting to continue to be the organizer of the “pre-Classis” meetings. Your EC did so, and Lord willing, this year’s scheduled pre-Classis meeting was held on Monday afternoon the 27th of March, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Travis Grassmid, Rev. George Horner, Mr. Gary Maassen

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

B. Candidates and Credentials

Fathers and Brothers,

During 2016, your Candidates and Credentials Committee convened several times.

On August 11, your committee met by teleconference with Rev. J.P. Mosley, who was transferring from the Northern Plains Classis to assume the pastorate at Trinity Covenant Reformed Church in Colorado Springs. The committee discussed his continued adherence to the RCUS doctrinal standards and distinctives as well as his motives for seeking the pulpit in Colorado. Your committee was well satisfied with Rev. Mosley's exam and was pleased to recommend his transfer to the Classis.

On September 20, Rev. Carroll was invited to lunch as a guest of Heidelberg Seminary, to meet informally with Mr. Andre Baksh and discuss with him steps that would need to be taken for him to seek ordination in the RCUS. He has been received as a member of Zion Reformed Church in Menno. His desire is, upon completion of his M.Div. and ordination, to return to his native Guyana and found a church which, ultimately, would have fraternal relations with the RCUS.

In late September, your committee was made aware of the possibility that Mr. Craig Phelps was possibly seeking licensure in the South Central Classis, in order to become a long-term pulpit supply in the Limon church, which at the time had been without a minister for two years. On September 29, your committee was notified by the Executive Committee that a circular was shortly to be sent to Classis, calling for a special meeting for the purpose of examining Mr. Phelps for licensure. The Classis meeting was to be scheduled for November 1. At that point, your committee began making preparations for the examination by contacting Mr. Phelps, outlining the process the committee would be following, and requesting any Greek and Hebrew exegetical papers he might have already written for seminary that could be used for that portion of his exam. The initial contact was positive and your committee scheduled a teleconference with Mr. Phelps.

On October 6, Rev. Carroll received Mr. Phelps' exegetical papers, which he distributed to the members of the committee. The committee planned to take a week to look them over and planned to meet via teleconference to discuss them. Because of scheduling conflicts, your committee could not schedule the call until October 15. It was planned to meet with Mr. Phelps via teleconference on October 18 to discuss his papers and to examine him regarding his orthodoxy and intent.

During the intervening two weeks, it became obvious to several members of the committee that the paper he had sent for his Greek exegesis did not satisfy the needs of the committee. Rather than being an exegesis paper, it was a critique of the New Perspectives on Paul (NPP) that interacted with the Greek text very little and not in an exegetical way. After discussing it in committee via email, your committee decided to contact Mr. Phelps to see if there was anything else that he could send that would demonstrate his actual facility with the language, such as word studies, shorter exegetical studies, etc. Because of the short time frames, your committee did not wish to burden Mr. Phelps by requiring of him the task of producing a completely new exegetical paper in under two weeks. The committee also discussed simply waiving the requirement of the exegetical paper and grading his written Greek exam very closely.

Rev. Carroll contacted Mr. Phelps on October 13 and shared with him the committee's concern. He took every effort to reassure Mr. Phelps that the committee was not dissatisfied with his scholarship, but that he simply had not sent the committee what it was looking for. Mr. Phelps seemed puzzled and replied that the NPP paper was what he was told to do in his Greek exegesis class. Nevertheless, he sent the committee a paper that he had done for his Greek IV class. A brief perusal of it suggested it was more in line with your committee's requirements, which was communicated to Mr. Phelps, with the committee's thanks.

Later that evening, Mr. Phelps called Rev. Carroll expressing a desire to withdraw from the licensure process, citing "personal" and "family" concerns. Rev. Carroll was concerned that Mr. Phelps had simply lost confidence in his ability to pass the examination procedure. He sought to encourage Mr. Phelps, asked him to sleep on it and call him back in the morning, and prayed with him. The next morning (October 14), Mr. Phelps did call Rev. Carroll back and repeated his desire to remove himself from the licensing process, which Rev. Carroll then passed along to the Executive Committee.

One of the things that your committee hopes to do in the next classical year is to put together a standardized examination for candidates seeking licensure/ordination. The purpose of standardization would be to provide some consistency as to how examinations are conducted in committee and on the floor as well as assist those who are conducting the examinations. Your committee hopes to have something for the Classis to review and approve before the 2018 stated meeting.

This report was compiled by the Committee chairman, Rev. Kevin Carroll.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. K. Carroll, Rev. M. Powell, Rev. Jon Blair, Elder R. Korn, Elder J. Rydell

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

C. Interchurch Relations

Esteemed fathers and brothers,

We conducted the business of the committee as we have in the past, via email. The business before us was to send invitations to our classis meeting to our fraternal brothers in the Classis Central, URCNA, the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA and to the Presbytery of the Dakotas, OPC, and to respond to invitations to their meetings.

We sent invitations to each of these groups for the spring meeting. I have not heard back from them yet, but the invitation was sent a bit late. We sent Rev. Maynard Koerner to represent us to the Presbytery of the Dakotas of the OPC in the fall, and Rev. Herman Van Stedum to the Classis Central URC in the fall. Their reports are attached. We would suggest that the delegates read the reports in advance, as we will recommend not reading them on the floor, and simply dealing with any questions that arise. We also sent greetings to the Midwest Presbytery in response to their invitation to their meeting and to the spring meeting of the OPC (which meetings nobody was able to attend).

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Matt Powell, Chairman, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Rev. George Horner, Elder Albert Haller

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

D. Missions

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

During the past year, your Missions Committee corresponded via emails, phone calls, and an in-person meeting in Omaha NE. We present the following report.

The South Central Classis currently has three mission churches: Limon CO, Casper WY, and Omaha NE. In addition, the 2016 SCC charged our committee with investigating the Denver metropolitan area as a potential site for a new RCUS church plant. The goal of this report is to update you on the current state of our mission churches, present our preliminary assessment of Denver, and make recommendations for the new classical year.

Limon, CO (Providence Reformed Church)

Your committee chairman was in periodic phone and email contact with Limon Elder Ted Schieffelin. The committee chairman also visited the church on the weekend of February 19, during which time he had a nearly two-hour meeting with the Limon consistory regarding the state of the church and their progress in calling a new pastor.

The Limon congregation has been without a minister for more than two years, but the Lord has faithfully provided for the Limon saints during that time. For example, the church has never missed a Sunday because they were unable to fill the pulpit, and the saints have regularly celebrated the Lord's Supper thanks to the gracious assistance provided by Rev. Don Owsley, an ordained PCA minister. The church erased three members last year due to families moving out of the area, but several new folks have expressed a desire to join the church. Giving is down a bit over the last year (mostly due to the lost members) but remains steady overall. The overall attitude of the congregation remains hopeful, but as one would expect, the church is more than ready to call a new minister.

It hasn't been for a lack of trying. The Limon consistory has had discussions with at least ten men over the past two years about becoming their new pastor. Yet in God's providence, none of these conversations resulted in a man being called. The closest they came was last fall, when Mr. Craig Phelps, a graduate of Puritan Reformed Seminary, was scheduled to be examined for licensure at a special November meeting of classis. The meeting had to be canceled when Mr. Phelps asked that his examination be postponed until the spring classis meeting. Soon after, Mr. Phelps made it clear that he no longer wished to be examined for licensure by the RCUS, and moved back to Michigan. So the Limon church presses on, trusting in the Lord to send them the right man at the right time.

The Limon consistory recently began discussions with an RCUS minister who has expressed interest in their church. The minister secured permission from his consistory to visit Limon, and he is scheduled to fill their pulpit on March 19 and 26.

Limon has \$25,000 in its building fund, and the congregation has had ongoing discussions about improvements to their facility, including the addition of a handicap-accessible entrance and restroom. The church has also considered purchasing a parsonage (which would fit with their desire for a minister who lives in or near Limon), as well as selling their current building and buying a new one in a part of town with higher visibility. Because real estate prices are relatively high in Limon, the likelihood of purchasing a parsonage or new church building seems remote at this time.

Limon received \$350/month from the South Central Classis in 2016. Given that the church has lost a few giving members and continues to look for a new minister, your Committee recommends that funding in the new classical year remains at \$350/month. Your committee has agreed to have discussions with the Limon consistory in the coming year about reducing classical support, especially if they call a new pastor. The men of the SCC are encouraged to pray that God will send Limon a new minister during the next year who is appropriately gifted for that ministry.

Casper, WY (Christ Reformed Chapel)

Providence Reformed Church in Rock Springs WY has oversight of this work. Your committee chairman exchanged phone calls and emails with Rev. Matt Powell during the past year, and committee members Daniel Mettler and Greg Van Holland conducted a visit to Casper the weekend of March 4-5 to worship at Christ Reformed and meet with Rev. Powell and the saints.

Christ Reformed Chapel continues to grow and progress. After adding a young couple in February, their communicant membership stands at 19, and their baptized membership at 38. Sunday attendance averages in the high 30's. According to the report received from Rev. Powell, the Casper saints are spending time with each other and growing in their knowledge of the Word and commitment to the Christian life. Two members are preparing to move to Alaska for work, but others are looking to join the church.

The church's rented meeting space is adequate for its current needs. Its finances are sufficient, and the members are practicing good giving habits. The church is thankful for the assistance they receive from the SCC and Synod, and they are ready to begin decreasing their support. According to the report received from Rev. Powell, "The economy here in Casper has been very difficult for the last two years or so due to the collapse in oil prices (Casper is reliant on the oil and gas industry), but by most reports things are turning around. Most of our people have a long term commitment to stay in the area, though of course you never know what the Lord will bring into our lives."

The Powells are active in the Casper community. Andrea has a weekly Bible study and fellowship meeting with teenage girls, some of whom are from outside the church. Rev. Powell is teaching a confirmation class for the church youth, which is also attended by one young person from outside of the church. Rev. Powell and Andrea have a number of social contacts with people in the community, and they often find opportunities to talk with folks about the Reformed faith, many of whom are unfamiliar with it. The Powells are grateful for these opportunities to promote the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, realizing the outcome of such efforts is in His hands.

Christ Reformed Chapel has a growing building fund, and the church is considering its options for future meeting places as well as a potential building purchase. They did express one prayer concern to our committee. One of the members who is preparing to move to Alaska is the church's only deacon, and prayers are requested for God to raise up more men to serve on the consistory.

Casper received \$30,000 from the South Central Classis in 2016 and an additional \$30,000 from Synod. Because of a miscalculation, last year's mission committee missed the 10% reduction that was supposed to take effect that year. Your committee is therefore recommending a funding decrease of 15% this year, with the intent to reduce funding by another 15% next year to "catch up" with the yearly deduction schedule. The committee chairman discussed all this with Rev. Powell, and he understood the committee's thinking and believes that the Casper church will be

able to handle a 15% reduction this year and next. For these reasons, your committee recommends that the SCC funds the Casper mission church in the amount of \$25,500 for the new classical year, and that Classis overtures Synod for \$25,500 for Casper (each amount represents a 15% reduction).

Omaha, NE (Omaha Reformed Church)

St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln has oversight of this work, and your committee chairman was in frequent contact during the year with Rev. Lee Johnson and Rev. Randy Klynsma. Missions committee members Dr. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Joe Vusich, and Elder Greg Van Holland traveled to Omaha on February 26 to eat a meal and have face-to-face discussions with Rev. Klynsma, Elder Bob Davis from St. John's, and members of the Omaha congregation. This was followed by a meeting of the committee members to discuss all of the SCC mission churches and finalize our recommendations for this report. (Rev. Mike McGee joined the committee meeting by phone, and Rev. Klynsma and Elder Davis were also on hand to answer questions and provide further information about Omaha.) It was a productive visit, providing committee members the opportunity to examine the Omaha church building that St. John's is purchasing, discuss the church's funding efforts for the property, hear a detailed report from Rev. Klynsma on the progress of the Omaha church, and pray with the saints for God's continued blessings in the coming year.

The Omaha church building is located in a residential neighborhood in the northwest corner of the Omaha metropolitan area. Several missions committee members have examined the property firsthand, and it is in good condition (a recent inspection revealed a few minor repairs that will be completed by the seller). The worship room can seat 90 people, and the basement includes a large room suitable for church dinners and Bible studies, office space for Rev. Klynsma, Sunday school rooms, and a kitchen area. There is also a parking lot in back. Although the building (a converted residence) is in a low-traffic area that limits visibility, it is easily accessible from the Interstate freeway, located about three minutes from the nearest exit. The committee members observed that the building is adequate to meet the needs of Omaha Reformed Church for the foreseeable future, though Lord willing, a larger facility may eventually be needed as the congregation grows.

The Omaha property was formerly used by an independent Reformed church that disbanded in 2015. St. John's has been leasing the facility for the Omaha congregation since last spring. The property has been on the market during that time, and St. John's lease agreement gives them the Right of First Refusal on any offers accepted by the seller. Recently, a group that wants to convert the building into a Buddhist meditation center offered \$160,000, which was accepted by the seller. The St. John's consistory believes it would be a significant setback for the Omaha church to have to move out and start over in a new location. For this and other reasons, St. John's has decided to match the offer and purchase the Omaha property. They are now on the clock to complete the paperwork and secure the required finances, all of which needs to be done by March 31, 2017.

All things considered, the \$160,000 asking price for the Omaha property seems quite reasonable (the seller had been asking \$195,000) and will not put St. John's under a crushing debt load, even if the Omaha mission work ultimately doesn't take root. In fact, the church is currently paying \$1,500 per month in rent, and assuming St. John's can get their financing together and complete the purchase, their monthly mortgage payments will total about \$1,100. It's also heartening and important to note that giving by the Omaha saints has been unexpectedly strong. Total giving last year by the congregation was \$50,000, and an additional \$30,000 was received from outside sources. The expectation is that, Lord willing, similar levels of giving by the Omaha saints will continue for the foreseeable future (the three-year budget submitted by St. John's forecasts congregational giving of \$40,000 in both 2017 and 2018).

In his report, Rev. Klynsma explained that all that is necessary to be considered a legal entity to purchase the building has been addressed. Funds for the purchase of the building in the amount of \$160,000 are available through a variety of means. The Omaha congregation will contribute approximately \$78,000 toward a down payment out of their existing reserves of \$100,000. Synod is being petitioned for a \$55,000 loan, and the St. John's consistory is seeking the remaining \$27,000 in the form of a loan from Classis, which the missions committee recommends be drawn from the funds currently held in escrow by the Mitchell SD congregation (these are the remaining funds from the Sherman TX mission work that closed in 2015). If all desired funding is approved and current levels of giving are maintained, the goal is to pay off the new building within two years, leaving the Omaha congregation debt free. The missions committee believes this goal is realistic and attainable, with God's help and blessing.

Regarding the funds currently held in escrow by the Mitchell congregation, the 2015 SCC passed the following resolutions (from page 46 of the 2015 abstract):

“8. That Classis suspend active mission work church activity in the Sherman, TX area, but that Classis be open to the possibility of establishing a future mission work in the northeast Texas area. . . .

10. That the remaining fund in the Sherman, TX church treasury, approximately \$37,000, be kept in escrow by the Grace Reformed, Mitchell consistory with oversight by the South Central Classis, for use in a possible future northeast Texas home mission work. That \$10,000 of these funds be given to Rev. Neale Riffert as a severance package.”

A member of the your committee contacted the members of the SCC Executive Committee to ask how they understand resolution #10, particularly with regard to who has ultimate say over how the funds being held in escrow are used. Each one agreed with the opinion of the missions committee, that Classis has that authority. Our committee realizes that the funds were originally intended for a “possible” future northeast Texas home mission work, but now that two years have passed and there are no new mission efforts on the horizon in northeast Texas, we believe this money could be put to good use by loaning it to St. John's at 3% interest to assist them in the purchase of the Omaha church property. Rev. Vusich contacted Rev. Kevin Carroll to ask if the Mitchell consistory understands resolution #10 the same way, and he said that based on discussions the consistory had already had about the matter, he thought they did. Rev. Carroll asked that the missions committee send him a note to pass along to the Grace Reformed consistory, explaining what the committee has in mind for the Sherman TX funds and what we intend to recommend to the SCC. That note was emailed to Rev. Carroll before this report was issued.

The missions committee has also encouraged the St. John's consistory to solicit funds from the churches in the South Central Classis for the purchase of the Omaha church building, per the guidance provided in the RCUS Home Missions Manual, II, 9: “Synodical home mission works may solicit funds for the purchase of church property (etc.) from RCUS churches and individuals.”

Omaha currently has 10 communicant members and 8 non-communicants. Two additional families are in the process of joining the church and will reportedly be meeting soon with the St. John's spiritual council for this purpose. One of the families preparing to join has been a very strong financial contributor to the work and already identifies Omaha Reformed as their church. Attendance at the Sunday morning worship services runs between 25-30 people.

In addition to their Sunday morning activities and Wednesday evening studies, the congregation is discussing the possibility of holding a Sunday evening Bible study in south Omaha, in part to reach out to those living in that area of the city. Most of the regular attenders seem to have a good sense of what it means to be Reformed, and they are enthused about participating in 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) is planning to remain in the area with his family after he retires in a few years. He seems like a very good elder candidate.

The Klynsmas sold their house in Kansas City last year and have since purchased a new home in Omaha. They have demonstrated a strong commitment to growing the Omaha mission work and converting it to an independent church. Rev. Klynsmas has been active in his community, is broadcasting the Omaha worship services live on Facebook each week, and is also working on cost-effective ways to advertise and do outreach.

Last year's mission committee requested prayer for St. John's and the Omaha church, "that God would grant them great wisdom and help, that Rev. Klynsmas 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." Praise the Lord for answering these prayers! Let us all return praise and thanksgiving to God for the way He has blessed and prospered Omaha Reformed Church in the past year, as well as the other mission works the SCC supports.

Your committee recommends that funding for Omaha in the new classical year remains at \$45,000 (the same amount St. John's requested), and that the SCC overtures Synod for \$36,000 in support (the same amount approved by last year's Synod). This will be the third year of classical and synodical support for the Omaha church, and the missions committee will keep in mind that the first 10% reduction in support for Omaha is scheduled next year.

Denver, CO

Your committee had a thoroughgoing discussion in Omaha about establishing a mission work in Denver. We noted that three of Limon Elder Ted Schieffelin's daughters are now living and working in the Denver area (two have completed college) and are eager to begin an RCUS church there. They have been stirring up interest among their Christian friends and have expressed willingness to do whatever is needed to assist in the establishment of a new work, including going door to door in their community. Elder Schieffelin and his wife Tammy also have expressed strong interest in making this happen, and it's possible there are folks connected with the Greeley and Colorado Springs churches who are similarly interested.

The current mission committee members live a considerable distance from Denver, and given the lack of "boots on the ground," it is difficult for the committee to get a clear read on the amount of additional interest that may be present. Perhaps in the providence of God nothing will come of all this, but on the other hand, let us be reminded of the instruction of the Word of God, that we be careful not to despise "the day of small things" (Zechariah 4:10).

The committee noted that there are fourteen NAPARC member churches in the Denver area (1 URCNA, 1 CanRC, 1 RPCNA, 3 OPC, and 8 PCA congregations within the interstate loop), of which only two are Three Forms of Unity churches. Given the size of the Denver area and the makeup of the Reformed community in that city, the committee agreed that it would be appropriate to encourage the establishment of an RCUS congregation there.

Given the presence of three RCUS churches in eastern Colorado and the strategic goal of the SCC to plant churches in the larger metro areas within our boundaries, the missions committee believes that Classis should encourage the Limon, Colorado Springs, and Greeley churches to begin organizing Bible studies in Denver in the coming year, and to prayerfully consider becoming the overseeing church of a new mission work in Denver. Understanding that financial resources are needed to establish new mission works, and that the SCC does not currently have any funds designated for this purpose, the committee recommends that Classis set aside \$10,000 in the coming year to assist in the organization and expenses for new mission works, whether in Denver and/or other locations.

Additional Recommended Overture

As your committee investigated how best to use the funds that remain from Sherman TX, we also reviewed the RCUS Home Missions Manual for guidance. We discovered that the manual is virtually silent about what should be done when an RCUS mission work is closed. After discussion, your committee agreed that it would be helpful for the Home Missions Manual to include appropriate counsel and directives regarding the closing of home mission works, particularly concerning the handling of church memberships, the disbursement of monies designated for defunct works, and the creation of written reports that explain such things as why a particular work was closed and the positive and negative lessons learned. Your committee is therefore recommending that an overture be sent by the South Central Classis to the 2017 Synod requesting that the RCUS Home Missions Manual's guidance on the closing of home mission works be developed and added.

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 developments and the Home Missions Manual's guidelines, the committee (as God wills) has the following goals in mind as we look to the future:

- 1) that the churches in Omaha and Casper will experience sufficient growth to become established, independent RCUS congregations within the next four years.
- 2) that by the grace of God and the cooperative efforts of the SCC, at least one new mission church will be established in the Denver area within the next two years.
- 3) that the Lord will grant us wisdom to identify the best locations for new mission works within our classis boundaries, and that significant steps will be taken to establish new churches in those places, trusting that our gracious Lord will abundantly supply everything the churches of the SCC need to advance His Kingdom (Philippians 4:19).

Recommendations

In light of our report, your committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That Limon, CO be approved for another year of funding by the South Central Classis in the amount of \$350/month, for a total of \$4,200 (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).
- 2) That Casper, WY be approved for funding by the South Central Classis during the next year in the amount of \$25,500 (this represents a reduction of 15% from last year's amount).

- 3) That the South Central Classis overtures the 2017 RCUS Synod to fund Casper, WY during the next year in the amount of \$25,500 (this represents a reduction of 15% from the amount approved by last year's Synod).
- 4) That Omaha NE be approved for another year of funding by 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 2017 RCUS Synod to fund Omaha NE during the next year in the amount of \$36,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).
- 6) That the South Central Classis directs Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell SD, to release the remaining \$27,000 held in escrow from the Sherman TX mission work, and that Classis loans this money to St. John's, Lincoln NE, at a rate of 3% annual interest for the purpose of buying the Omaha church building.
- 7) That the South Central Classis sets aside \$10,000 this year for prospective mission works within the bounds of classis, to assist in organizing efforts.
- 8) That the Limon, Colorado Springs, and Greeley churches be encouraged to organize Bible studies in Denver in the coming year, and that each church also prayerfully consider becoming the overseeing church of a new mission work in Denver.
- 9) That the South Central Classis overtures the 2017 RCUS Synod to develop and expand the RCUS Home Missions Manual's guidance on the closing of home mission works, particularly concerning but not necessarily limited to: a) the handling of church memberships; b) the disbursement of monies designated for defunct works; and c) the creation of written reports that explain such things as why a work was closed and the positive and negative lessons learned.
- 10) That the congregations of the South Central Classis be mindful to pray for the mission churches in Limon, Casper, and Omaha, and in particular:
 - a. that our gracious Lord will send a suitably-gifted man this year to serve as the new pastor in Limon
 - b. that the Lord will raise up godly, spiritually-minded men this year to serve as officers in Casper
 - c. that the new Omaha church building will be paid off within two years
 - d. that God will grant all of the SCC mission churches great peace, wisdom, and increased love in the coming year
 - e. that all three SCC mission churches will grow this year both numerically and especially in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - f. that God will be pleased to establish new Bible study groups in the Denver metropolitan area in the coming year, and at least one new RCUS mission church in Denver within the next two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joe Vusich, Chairman, Dr. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Mike McGee, Elder Greg Van Holland, Elder Melvin Burbach, Elder Daniel Mettler, 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, M. McGee, R. Grossmann, R. Davis, and S. Gross

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Publications.

F. Christian Education

Dear Brothers,

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

Respectfully submitted,
Randall Klynsma, convener, S. Henry, H. Hart, J. Ochsner, T. Schieffelin

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

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

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

As I consider the working of our glorious God throughout this past year, particularly with regards to His workings within our Classis; I am reminded of the opening testimony of the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Colossians:

"We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth (Col. 1:3-6)."

It is evident that the Lord has granted a spirit of love, which has been marked by an attitude of prayer and fruitfulness within the bounds of Classis South Central throughout this past year. Certainly the recognition that two of our faithful ministers have now left this church militant, and have been received into that glorious church triumphant; has been a catalyst to unite us in our prayers and expressions of love. It is beautiful to witness the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, behave as a loving, redeemed community.

Our statistical reports show that our overall numbers have declined over the past year. Last

year's statistics report showed a slight uptick, but this past year showed that our overall membership (including baptized members) is down by twelve souls. There is reason for concern, given that our number of children in Sunday School has declined by thirty-nine, and the number of baptisms are down by nine. It is our prayer that the Lord would bless His church in Classis South Central with a baby boom, alongside an increased number of those being joined to the church from without.

The losses within the church for this past year totaled seventy souls. Of that number, twelve were due to death; we extend our Christian sympathies to the families of those twelve who left this church militant, to join that great church triumphant in this past year. Although we never like losing members, it is noted that a number were dismissed, presumably to another Christian church, and we pray that they would be blessed in their new church homes.

The final reason for loss is by way of erasure and church discipline. Although this is always a difficult work of the church, I am encouraged to see that the Spiritual Councils are being faithful in the exercise of the marks of the true church.

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. The late and beloved Rev. Darrell Kingswood, on the day on which he entered into his eternal rest, wrote, "And thus, in the unpredictability of life we must be continually reminded that one thing remains certain: The Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." May this truth be forever in the forefront of the ministry of the church!

In last year's report, Dr. C.W. Powell noted that this was his forty-seventh, and likely his final, parochial report. In God's sovereignty, it was, and our dear friend is sorely missed. And yet, we rejoice with our dear brother, and eagerly anticipate that great day in which we will be reunited with the saints, in the presence of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ. God, who is rich in mercy, has already provided a pastor for the congregation in Colorado Springs, and Rev. J. P. Mosley writes: "I promised at least two things upon taking this call: first, I would try and not change anything in this congregation for at least a year...Secondly, I would do my best to preach and teach the Word of God in the congregation...This is what I long to do with my whole heart." These are wise words, and we pray that the Lord would continue to bless the ministry of this brother, as he ministers to the saints in Colorado Springs. We are blessed to have Rev. Mosley in South Central Classis.

We give thanks that the work of home missions is continuing to thrive within our bounds. The Home Missions report spoke of their investigation into commencing labors in the Denver area. It is encouraging to see that they are taking a thoughtful approach to this potential work. I would encourage the local congregations to work collaboratively with the missions committee in developing purposeful plans for the planting of yet more RCUS works within our bounds. As we develop long term plans for the establishment of young congregations, we can see the potential for a resurgence of the reformed faith to continue to grow. We must be proactive in our planning, rather than merely reactive to circumstances.

The Limon, Colorado charge has now been vacant for over two years. The Missions report has noted that they have had discussions with at least ten men, and have been very close at least once. We are encouraged to hear that the Limon congregation is continuing faithfully in her search for a new pastor.

The mission work in Casper, Wyoming has continued forward over this past year, and it is a joy to read that this young work is already growing a building fund in the expectation of eventually purchasing their own building. Please continue to uphold Rev. Powell and the Casper work, as they struggle to develop church officers, particularly as their only deacon will be moving to Alaska shortly.

It was a joy to read the report concerning the Omaha, Nebraska work. Rev. Randall Klynsma is faithfully shepherding the fledgling flock, and the core group seems to be dedicated to the work. We are encouraged that there is opportunity for the congregation to purchase the building which they have been leasing now for some time.

Finally, I would like to humbly encourage the brethren to be timely in doing the work of the church, as well as in reporting on that work. Although the vast majority of parochial reports, statistical information, and committee reports were submitted before the deadline; yet there were far too many which were late in submission. The Executive Committee has a mere two weeks to compile all of the information, and compose the various reports; but this work cannot proceed unless all of the information has been submitted. Brethren, please be diligent in fulfilling your labors in a thorough, yet timely manner.

The Lord is doing great things in His church, and is richly blessing the churches of South Central Classis. May His name be praised!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Travis Grassmid

Classis Action: The report is to be spread in the minutes, printed in the SCC Abstract, and sent to the *Reformed Herald*; it was also referred to Standing Services.

B. Stated Clerk's Report

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis these past six years.

The following items list the duties performed by your Clerk since the 2016 Spring Classis meeting:

- a. Your Clerk recorded the business of the 2016 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 2016 Synod. Your Clerk formatted, indexed and placed in a permanent binder the 2016 Minutes of Classis together with all reports and relevant documents. The corrections to the Minutes by the Synodical Minutes of Classis Committee were noted and the Minutes corrected accordingly.
- b. Page 30 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 April 4, 2016.

- c. Page 31 of the Abstract, recommendations #1-5, of Standing Ministerial Aid, requesting Ministerial Aid from Synod for Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, Rev. Mrs. Howard Hart, and Rev. and Mrs. C.W. Powell: a letter was sent the Clerk of Synod April 4, 2016.
- d. Page 32 of the Abstract, Recommendations #3 & #5 of Standing Home Missions; #3 requesting \$30,000 per year support from Synod for the mission work in Casper, WY (Christ Reformed Church), #5 requesting mission support from Synod in the amount of \$36,000 per year for the mission work in Omaha, NE: a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on April 4, 2016.
- e. Page 34 of the Abstract, Recommendations #'s 2-5, that Classis concurs with the 269th Synod's amendments to the *RCUS Constitution* as set forth in items #7a-d of the Minutes of Synod Report, dated Jan 19, 2016: a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on April 6, 2016.
- f. Executive Circulars, Volume 31 numbers 1-10, (see Classis Executive Committee Report) were prepared and e-mailed to the Classis delegates.
- g. A proposed Agenda, Services and Order of Business for the Spring 2017 Classis meeting was prepared and sent to the delegates.
- h. 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. To say it again – if all the church data gathered for Classis were sent in on these new forms, then the data could be compiled electronically - more efficiently and less prone to human error.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.
- k. Holding the office of Stated Clerk of Classis, I also served on the Executive Committee of Classis.

Respectfully submitted,
 George Horner
 Clerk of Classis

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

C. Report of Synod Clerk to Classes

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 270th 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 (270th Abstract, pp. 79-81).
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. That 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. From Standing Judicial (270th Abstract, pp. 76-77), the following amendment to the *RCUS Constitution* was adopted by two-thirds vote of the 270th Synod and needs the concurrence of two-thirds of the Classis: "1) With regard to the executive committee's expressed concerns regarding the recently amended Article 84, we recommend the following: That article 84 be amended again by replacing the words "The reception and installation of a minister from another denomination shall not be final until it is confirmed by Synod" with the following: "a minister from another denomination may not be installed until after he has been confirmed by Synod." 2) That the following sentence be added to the end of article 84: *The confirmation of a new minister from another denomination may be accomplished by executive circular at the request of the Classis, provided the resume and the actions of Classis be included in the circular.* **The amendment would now read:** Article 84: 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. *A minister from another denomination may not be installed until after he has been confirmed by Synod.* Classis shall forward to Synod its actions concerning ministers from other denominations, and also provide a resume regarding the new minister. *The confirmation of a new minister from another denomination may be accomplished by executive circular at the request of the Classis, provided the resume and the actions of Classis be included in the circular.*
8. The Classes are reminded that the 271st Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 15-18, 2017, at Northland Reformed Church, Kansas City, MO. For those making travel arrangements, the airport to fly into is Kansas City International (MCI).

Respectfully submitted,
 David Fagrey
 Stated Clerk, RCUS

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

D. Treasurer's Report

CHECKBOOK

July 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017

Beginning Balance	81,597.17
Deposits	81,545.88
Checks	(64,429.67)
Interest	213.30
Bank Charges	(106.32)
Ending Balance	\$98,820.36
Variance	17,223.19

CASH FLOW

July 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Guideline Dues

Emmanuel RCUS

Classis Dues 957.60

Heidelberg Seminary 945.00

Missions 9,486.54

New Geneva Seminary 756.00

Total Emmanuel RCUS 12,145.14

Grace Reformed Greeley

Classis Dues 193.80

Heidelberg Seminary 191.26

Missions 1,919.90

New Geneva Seminary 152.98

Total Grace Reformed Greeley 2,457.94

Grace Reformed Rapid City

Classis Dues 486.40

Heidelberg Seminary 480.00

Missions 4,818.56

New Geneva Seminary 384.00

Total Grace Reformed Rapid City 6,168.96

Hope Reformed Sutton

Benevolence / Uncategorized 84.82

Classis Dues 1,231.20

Heidelberg Seminary 1,215.00

Missions 12,196.98

New Geneva Seminary 972.00

Total Hope Reformed 15,700.00

Providence Reformed Rock Springs
Classis Dues 304.00
Heidelberg Seminary 300.00
Missions 3,011.60
New Geneva Seminary 240.00
Total Providence Reformed Rock Spring 3,855.60

Providence Reformed Vermillion
Classis Dues 174.80
Heidelberg Seminary 172.50
Missions 1,731.67
New Geneva Seminary 138.00
Total Providence Reformed Vermillion 2,216.97

St. John's Reformed
Benevolence / Uncategorized 3,326.61
Classis Dues 364.80
Heidelberg Seminary 360.00
Missions 3,613.92
New Geneva Seminary 288.00
Total St. John's Reformed 7,953.33

Trinity Covenant
Classis Dues 387.60
Heidelberg Seminary 382.50
Missions 3,839.79
New Geneva Seminary 306.00
Total Trinity Covenant 4,915.89

Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls
Classis Dues 899.56
Heidelberg Seminary 877.50
Missions 8,808.93
New Geneva Seminary 702.00
Total Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls 11,287.99

Zion Reformed
Classis Dues 1,170.40
Heidelberg Seminary 1,155.00
Missions 11,594.66
New Geneva Seminary 924.00
Total Zion Reformed 14,844.06

Total Guideline Dues 81,545.88

Total Income \$81,545.88

Expense

Bank Service Charges 106.32

Guideline Payments

Heidelberg Seminary 5,260.00

New Geneva Seminary 4,208.00

Total Guideline Payments 9,468.00

Mission Exp

Christ Ref. Church 20,000.00

Prov. Ref. Church Limon 2,800.00

St. John's RCUS (Heritage) 30,000.00

Total Mission Exp 52,800.00

Travel Exp 2,161.67

Total Expense \$64,535.99

Net Ordinary Income 17,009.89

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

Interest Earned 213.30

Total Other Income 213.30

Net Other Income 213.30

Net Income \$17,223.19

GUIDELINE INCOME

July 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017

	<u>Communicant #</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Guideline Dues: 96.39 per com.				
Christ Reformed, Casper	11	1,060.29	0.00	(1,060.29)
Emmanuel Reformed, Sutton	126	12,145.14	12,145.14	0.00
Grace Reformed, Greeley	51	4,915.89	2,457.94	(2,457.95)
Grace Reformed, Mitchell	85	8,193.15	0.00	(8,193.15)
Grace Reformed, Rapid City	64	6,168.96	6,168.96	0.00
Hope Reformed, Sutton	160	15,422.40	15,700.00	277.60
Providence Reformed, Limon	39	3,759.21	0.00	(3,759.21)
Providence Ref., Rock Springs	40	3,855.60	3,855.60	0.00
Providence Ref., Vermillion	19	1,831.41	2,216.97	385.56
St. John's Reformed, Lincoln	96	9,253.44	7,953.33	(1,300.11)
Trinity Cov. Ref., Colorado Springs	51	4,915.89	4,915.89	0.00
Trinity Reformed, Sioux Falls	156	15,036.84	11,287.99	(3,748.85)
Zion Reformed, Menno	<u>154</u>	<u>14,844.06</u>	<u>14,844.06</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Guideline Dues	1052	101,402.28	81,545.88	(19,856.40)
Other Income				
Interest Earned			213.30	
Total Income			<u>81,759.18</u>	

Expense	Budget		
	FY July 1-June 30	Paid July-Feb	Due June 30
Guideline Payment			
Heidelberg Seminary	7,890.00	5,260.00	2,630.00
New Geneva Seminary	6,312.00	4,208.00	2,104.00
Mission Expense			
Christ Ref., Casper	30,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00
Providence Ref., Limon	4,200.00	2,800.00	1,400.00
St. John's, Lincoln (Omaha)	<u>45,000.00</u>	<u>30,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>
Total Mission Expense	79,200.00	52,800.00	26,400.00
Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00
Classis Expense			
Supplies		0.00	
Printing and Reproduction		0.00	
Travel Expense		2,161.67	
Officer Stipend		0.00	
Total Classis Expense	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>2,161.67</u>	
Total Guideline Payments	101,402.00	64,429.67	
Other Expense			
Bank Service Charges		106.32	
Total Expense		<u>64,535.99</u>	

Net Income \$17,223.19

GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY

July 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Classical Dues (7.60/Com. Mem.)	8,000.00	6,170.16	(1,829.84)
Missions (75.29/Com. Mem.)	79,200.00	61,022.55	(18,177.45)
Heidelberg Seminary (7.50/Com. Mem.)	7,890.00	6,078.76	(1,811.24)
New Geneva Seminary (6.00/Com. Mem.)	6,312.00	4,862.98	(1,449.02)
Benevolence/Uncategorized (0/Com. Mem.)	-	3,411.43	3,411.43
Total Guidelines	101,402.00	81,545.88	(19,856.12)
1052/Com. Mem. X 96.39	101,402.28	81,545.88	(19,856.40)

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Velgersdyk, Treasurer

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Finances.

PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

The Ministers of the Word read their parochial reports. Opportunity was given for the delegates to ask questions about each report. After the reports were read, prayer was offered for noted concerns.

Classis Action: Took note of each report.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS

The President addressed the questions found in Article 81 of the *RCUS Constitution* 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*
 1. *Is visitation faithfully performed?*

All answered, "Yes."

m. *Is Christian discipline faithfully 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 monies 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 monies 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 charge, due to their having no minister.

7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?*

All answered, "Yes," except for the Limon, CO charge, due to their having no minister.

REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

The Stated Clerk presented the report. It appears in the Appendices of this Abstract (pages 40-42).

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 AND VISITORS FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES

The President invited Rev. Louis Cloete of the Presbytery of the Dakotas (OPC) to address the body. Rev. R. Klynsma prayed for Rev. Cloete and the OPC.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Heidelberg Youth Camp

Esteemed Brothers,

Your joint Camp Committee of the Northern Plains and South Central Classis met by teleconference on Friday February 10th, 2017. Members participating were Revs. Grossmann, Henry, Johnson, and Schwichtenberg and Elders Burbach and Fickbohm. Also in attendance was Rev. Dr. Maynard Koerner.

The meeting was opened with Rev. Johnson reading Psalm 150 and reminding the Committee of our focus on overseeing a youth camp that brings glory to our Almighty God. Rev. James Grossmann opened in prayer.

The Committee undertook its annual review of the prior year's camp. We noted that evaluations are much the same as most years. The Committee took some time to consider the talent show as some concerns were expressed in the skits performed by campers. The Camp Director will be working with the counselor who has done much work to encourage campers to participate in the talent show to ensure skits are appropriate.

The Committee also discussed the worship services held during HYC. The Spiritual oversight and formality of the services was raised as a concern on counselor evaluations. After some discussion, the Committee took no action to change the service in name or form.

The Committee also considered and added an optional time of prayer to the camp schedule. An idea of Rev. Scott Henry and field tested during HYC 2016. The prayer meetings will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at 4:15 pm.

The Committee considered the financial report (included with this report) for 2016. It was encouraging to see giving from congregations providing a good portion of the revenue for 2016. This allows the camp to maintain the cost charged to families sending their children to HYC. We heartily thank all those that donated and pray that the Lord continues to lead His people to support HYC with giving. The Committee is proposing the same fee schedule of \$165 for registrations received before June 1st and \$195 thereafter.

Various camp themes were considered by the Committee. The Committee decided on the theme of "Prayer" for 2017, using the model prayer given by our Lord. May God use this theme to raise up a generation that seeks Him diligently through this means of grace.

The offerings collected during HYC were designated by the Committee to support the budding work of Heidelberg Theological Seminary (HTS) to train pastors in the Philippines. This work is particularly important as the need for pastors in this country has been made known to HTS, but it has lacked the financial resources to begin the program. While the offering collected by HYC is not likely to fully fund the initial need of this program, we pray God will raise up the remaining funds for this important work. The Committee encourages your prayer for this program that HYC may be used to spread the Gospel in the Philippines.

Of pressing need to HYC beginning in 2017 is the need for a new head chef to lead the kitchen. After many years of faithful service Rev. & Mrs. Travis Grassmid ended their service leading the

kitchen. The Committee is working with a man who is willing to step into this important role. We rely on God's providence to raise up the next leaders of the kitchen.

Your committee brings the following recommendations.

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

July 24-28, 2017; July 23-27, 2018; July 22-26, 2019; & July 20-24, 2020.

Recommendation #2: That the Budget, including registration fees, for HYC 2017 be approved.

Recommendation #3: TAKE NOTE that the churches be encouraged to donate items or money to HYC to help reduce the cost of registrations.

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

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the joint committee,

J. Grossmann, C. Schwichtenberg, M. Fickbohm, & N. Arbach for the Northern Plains

D. Fagrey, S. Henry, L. Johnson, M. Burbach, & F. Hofmann for the South Central

Classis Action: The recommendations and report were adopted.

Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	Difference (under)/over	2017 Proposed Budget
Opening Fund Balance (1/1/16)		\$ 5,785.59		
Revenue				
Camp Fees (97 campers)	\$ 15,510	\$ 16,469	\$ 959	\$ 15,975
Gifts		1,119.60	1,119.60	1,000
Worship Offering	1,000	839.12	(160.88)	1,000
Interest		0.48	0.48	
Camp Store Sales	600	532.14	(67.86)	600
Total Revenue	17,110	18,960.34		18,575
Expenses				
Camp Bob Marshal Rental	\$ 10,656	\$ 11,161.20	\$ 506	\$ 11,457
Food	3,500	3,094.66	(405.34)	3,500
T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	2,500	2,295.17	(204.83)	2,500
Crafts	200	279.45	79.45	300
Supplies and Equipment	500	400.74	(99.26)	500
Promotion (photo)	200	-	(200.00)	-
Custer State Park (donation)	100	-	(100.00)	100
Administration	100	21.30	(78.70)	100
Camp Store Supplies	500	335.63	(164.37)	500
Designated offering recipient	1,000	839.12	(160.88)	1,000
Total Expenses	19,256	18,427.27		19,957
Operating Gain (Loss)		533.07		(1,382.30)
Ending Fund Balance (12/31/16)		6,318.66		

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

Proposed 2017	Camper
Fees:	\$165 per camper if registration and fee received by June 1. \$195 per camper if received June 1 or after. No fee for adult volunteers.
	Proposed budget is based upon 95 campers and 40 adults.

B. Fall 2017 Conference

The 2016 Classis erected 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, SD area. The committee was directed to report back to Classis by Oct 1, 2016. Due in part to difficulties related to securing conference speakers, the report was not distributed to the delegates prior to the 2017 Classis meeting. Fagrey discussed the report and recommended that the body take note.

Classis Action: Took note.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Benevolence

The committee brought the following recommendation:

That Synod be overtured to send \$1,425.00/mo. in benevolent aid to Mrs. Amy Stevens in the coming synodical year.

Blair, Klynsma, Berg

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

B. Education and Student Aid

The committee brought no recommendations.

Henry, Van Stedum, Stevens

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

C. Examination and Licensure

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis take note concerning the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee's dealings with Rev. Mosley who recently joined the Classis, and their work with potential ministerial candidates Mr. Andre Baksh and Mr. Craig Phelps.

2. That Classis encourage the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee to follow through on its proposal to develop a standardized basic examination for candidates seeking licensure/ordination in the RCUS.

Grossmann, Hart, Carroll, Brauning

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

D. 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 Heidelberg Theological Seminary be set at \$7.50 per communicant member in the 2017-2018 classical year.
6. That the guideline for New Geneva Theological Seminary be set at \$6.00 per communicant member in the 2017-2018 classical year.
7. That the total guideline per communicant member be set at \$92.49 in the 2017-2018 classical year, as follows:

2017-2018 Guideline per Communicant:

Classical dues	7.64
Missions	71.35
Heidelberg TS	7.50
New Geneva TS	6.00
Total	\$92.49

8. That Classis provide up to \$1,000 to the new Stated Clerk to buy a laptop computer and software.
9. That Classis loan \$25,000 immediately to St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, to purchase a church building in Omaha at a rate of 3% interest, payable quarterly for a 5-year term, with repayment to begin in May 2017.
10. That the first sentence of Standing Rule #7 be amended to read, "Delegate travel to Classis meetings shall be paid at the current IRS yearly mileage rate per running mile to each charge, if travel is by automobile." (This recommendation was amended by the body to also include a change to the first clause in Standing Rule #8, to read, "The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at the current IRS yearly mileage rate per running mile. . . .")
11. That Classis pay the submitted Classis travel expenses in the amount of \$5,095.72.

Travel Expenses for Spring 2017 Classis Meeting:

Robert Grossmann	285.00
Joe Vusich	228.98
Randall Klynsma	267.50
David Brauning	53.50
Jon Blair	594.92
Scott Henry	128.40
Maynard Koerner	92.02
John Savage	682.66
George Horner	803.57
Joshua Berg	696.57
J. P. Mosley, Jr.	701.92
<u>Matt Powell</u>	<u>560.68</u>
Total	\$5,095.72

Horner, Klynsma, J. Savage, Oliver, Velgersdyk

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

E. Ministerial Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations to request ministerial aid from Synod for the 2017-2018 synodical year:

1. Rev. and Mrs. 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. Mrs. Penny Powell, \$1,200 per month.
6. Mrs. Lori Kingswood, \$2,500 per month, plus the same amount for the final two months of the current synodical year.

Blair, Hager, Berg

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

F. Missions

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis send a letter to the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, South Dakota, requesting them to submit the monies being held in escrow to the SCC Treasury for the purpose of setting aside these funds for potential new works.

2. That Classis express its appreciation to the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, South Dakota, for their service on behalf of the Classis regarding the monies held in escrow.
3. That Classis overtures Synod to develop and expand the RCUS Home Missions Manual's guidance on the closing of home mission works, particularly concerning but not necessarily limited to: a) the handling of church memberships; b) the disbursement of monies designated for closed works; and c) written reports that explain such things as why a work was closed and the positive and negative lessons learned..
4. That the matter of a building loan for St. John's RCUS, Lincoln, Nebraska be referred to Standing Finance Committee.
5. That the Limon, Colorado mission church be approved for another year of funding from the South Central Classis in the amount of \$350/month, for a total of \$4,200 (the same amount approved by last year's Classis).
6. That the Casper, Wyoming mission church be approved for funding from the South Central Classis during the next year in the amount of \$25,500 (this represents a reduction of 15% from last year's amount).
7. That the South Central Classis overtures the 2017 RCUS Synod to fund the Casper, Wyoming mission church during the next synodical year in the amount of \$25,500 (this represents a reduction of 15% from the amount approved by last year's Synod).
8. That the Omaha, Nebraska mission church 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).
9. That the South Central Classis overtures the 2017 RCUS Synod to fund the Omaha, Nebraska mission church during the next synodical year in the amount of \$36,000 (the same amount approved by last year's Synod).
10. That the Limon, Colorado Springs and Greeley churches be encouraged to begin organizing Bible studies in Denver, Colorado in the coming year, and that each church also prayerfully consider becoming the overseeing church of a new mission work in Denver, Colorado. Take note.
11. That the men of the South Central Classis be mindful to pray for the mission churches in Limon, Casper, and Omaha, and in particular: a) that our gracious Lord would soon send a suitably-gifted man to serve as the pastor in Limon; b) that God will raise up godly, spiritually-minded men this year to serve as officers in Casper; c) that the new Omaha church building will be paid off within two years; d) that God will grant all of the SCC mission churches great peace, wisdom, and increased love in the coming year; e) that all three South Central Classis mission churches will grow this year both in numbers and especially in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and f) that God will be pleased to establish new Bible study groups in the Denver metropolitan area in the coming year, and at least one new RCUS mission church in Denver within the next two years.

McGee, Fagrey, Oliver

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

G. Publications

The committee brought no recommendations.

Powell, Griess

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

H. Services

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the excuse submitted by Elder Warren Nuss, Greeley, CO, be granted.
2. That Classis send the following statement of thanks to Grace Reformed, Mitchell, and that it be printed in the church's April 2 bulletin:

"The delegates of the 2017 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."

Mosley, Rydell

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

I. Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the 2017 Abstract be dedicated to Rev. C. W. Powell, Rev, Darrell Kingswood, and Rev. George Syms.
2. That an overture received from Grace Reformed, Mitchell, to amend the *RCUS Constitution* to provide the office of Elder Emeritus be denied.
3. That the call of Rev. Scott Henry as pastor of Hope Reformed, Sutton, be approved.
4. That the Stated Clerk respond to Mr. Steven Schlei's letter with an explanation that there is no compelling reason to remove historical records from the RCUS web site.

Koerner, Powell, Streyle

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

J. Nominations

(underlined indicates convener)

Executive: T. Grassmid, J. Vusich, L. Streyle

Missions: J. P. Mosley, Jr., M. McGee, M. Koerner, D. Mettler, J. Berg, D. Oliver

Publications: D. Fagrey, R. Grossmann, R. Klynsmas, D. Brauning, T. Savage

Christian Education: G. Horner, H. Hart, S. Henry, J. Savage, J. Stevens

Interchurch Relations: M. Powell, H. Van Stedum, L. Johnson, R. Honaker, W. Nuss

Candidates and Credentials: J. Blair, K. Carroll, M. Powell, J. Rydell, T. Schieffelin

Heidelberg Youth Camp: K. Carroll, M. McGee, S. Henry, D. Fagrey, T. Savage, D. Griess

Johnson, Mosley, Oliver

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

K. Minutes of Synod

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. Take note on items 1-6 and 8 of the Minutes of Synod Report.
2. That Classis concurs with item 7 of the Minutes of Synod Report, and that Article 84 of the *RCUS Constitution* be amended as proposed (see on page 25).

G. Horner, T. Savage

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

L. Minutes of Classis

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

K. Carroll, S. Henry, D. Brauning

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO HOST CONGREGATION

This was dealt with in the Standing Services report (see on page 38).

READING OF THE MINUTES

The Stated Clerk read aloud the minutes of the closing items of business, and upon correction from the floor, the Minutes were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The 2017 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 7:05 pm on Tuesday, March 29th, until the convening of the next spring meeting, March 18, 2018, at a location to be determined by the Executive Committee.

A. Roll Call - The final roll call showed 14 ministers and 11 elders present. Two retired ministers had left the room and were not counted as present.

B. Devotions - Elder Tom Savage closed with a devotion from 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and prayer.

C. Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Doxology - The President led the body in confessing the Apostles' Creed. After the President pronounced the Benediction, the body prayed the Lord's Prayer and sang the Doxology.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Joe Vusich
Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis

APPENDICES

1. Membership and Financial Statistics
2. Necrologies
3. Standing Rules of the South Central Classis
4. Index of Resolutions and Positions

Appendix #1 - Membership and Financial Statistics

2016	Colorado Springs, CO	Greeley, CO	Limon, CO	Lincoln, NE	Emmanuel Sutton, NE
Number of Elders	3	3	3	4	3
Number of Deacons	2	3	2	4	3
Communicants Last Year	51	51	39	88	126
Received - Confirmation	0	0	0	2	1
Received - Letter	1	4	2	4	0
Received - Profession	1	2	0	0	0
Total Received	2	6	2	6	1
Total Old & New	53	55	41	94	127
Lost - Dismissal	2	0	0	1	0
Lost - Erasure/Discipline	0	3	3	1	3
Lost - Death	2	0	0	1	1
Total Lost	4	3	3	3	4
Total Communicants This Year	49	54	38	91	123
Unconfirmed Members	25	17	16	24	8
Total Baptized Members	74	71	54	115	131
Number of Families	24	35	18	38	72
Children in Sunday School	17	10	15	25	5
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	1	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	1	1	0	0	0
Total Baptisms	1	2	0	0	0
Members' Lord's Supper	52	57	38	83	101
Lord's Supper Observed	8	13	11	6	6
Receipts - Sunday Offerings	106,085	126,222	53,249	100,619	80,319
Receipts - Special Offerings	3,280	9,289	684	3,803	43,559
Receipts - Other Sources	0	0	4,384	0	0
Total Receipts	109,365	135,511	58,317	108,932	123,878
Budgeted Synodical Funds	11,826	10,696	8,151	20,473	28,714
Budgeted Classical Funds	4,915	3,960	2,790	7,953	12,145
Non-Guideline Causes	3,280	1,617	875	0	0
Non-RCUS Benevolences	0	660	0	421	4,236
Other General Expenses	109,086	120,395	18,153	78,143	87,965
Total Disbursements	129,108	137,328	30,159	106,990	133,060
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	5,414	0	25	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	232	210	209	213	228
Classis Giving Per Communicant	96	78	72	82	96
Total RCUS Per Comm.	393	319	281	296	324

	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	160	154	89	65	156
Received – Confirmation	0	0	2	2	4
Received – Transfer	0	1	0	5	0
Received – Profession	4	4	0	6	1
Total Received	4	5	2	13	5
Total Old & New	164	159	91	78	161
Lost – Dismissal	2	0	0	11	3
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	3	2	11	3	8
Lost – Death	2	4	1	0	0
Total Lost	7	6	12	14	11
Total Communicants This Year	157	153	79	64	150
Unconfirmed Members	60	15	19	21	60
Total Baptized Members	217	168	98	85	210
Number of Families	74	86	43	33	68
Children in Sunday School	22	9	9	18	50
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	5	2	2	0	4
Total Baptisms	5	2	2	0	4
Members' Lord's Supper	110	132	65	65	131
Lord's Supper Observed	6	4	5	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	193,225	159,201	112,153	187,738	183,182
Receipts – Special Offerings	19,876	23,504	0	2,438	16,523
Receipts – Other Sources	4,148	561	36,199	0	73,241
Total Receipts	217,249	183,266	148,452	190,176	272,946
Budgeted Synodical Funds	38,086	34,804	21,894	15,164	37,126
Budgeted Classical Funds	15,700	14,844	8,579	6,169	11,649
Non-Guideline Causes	500	23,671	0	4,400	11,085
Non-RCUS Benevolences	35,864	494	0	14,900	2,170
Other General Expenses	125,926	113,710	115,171	127,899	192,048
Total Disbursements	216,076	187,523	145,644	168,532	245,078
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	3,139	28,700	0	0	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	17,031	0	63,756
Synod Giving Per Communicant	238	227	246	233	238
Classis Giving Per Communicant	98	97	96	95	75
Total RCUS Per Communicant	339	479	342	395	384

	Vermillion, SD	Rock Springs, WY	Omaha, NE (Lincoln)*	Casper, WY	Total all churches
Number of Elders	2	2	0	1	41
Number of Deacons	1	2	0	1	36
Communicants Last Year	19	40	8	11	1057
Received – Confirmation	4	0	0	0	15
Received – Transfer	0	0	1	2	20
Received – Profession	2	0	1	0	21
Total Received	6	0	2	2	56
Total Old & New	25	40	12	13	1113
Lost – Dismission	0	2	0	0	21
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	0	0	0	0	37
Lost – Death	0	1	0	0	12
Total Lost	0	3	0	0	70
Total Communicants This Year	25	39	12	13	1047
Unconfirmed Members	8	15	8	23	319
Total Baptized Members	33	54	20	36	1366
Number of Families	10	21	5	7	534
Children in Sunday School	8	8	0	19	215
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	1
Infants Baptized	0	1	1	0	17
Total Baptisms	0	1	1	0	18
Members’ Lord’s Supper	25	39	12	13	66 av.
Lord’s Supper Observed	6	12	6	12	8 av.
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	89,199	129,389	80,005	40,855	1,452,080
Receipts – Special Offerings	3,793	1,104	0	0	88,653
Receipts – Other Sources	3,165	0	75,750	60,014	257,462
Total Receipts	95,157	130,493	155,755	100,869	2,030,366
Budgeted Synodical Funds	5,378	8,800	0	2,706	243,818
Budgeted Classical Funds	2,217	5,286	0	1,060	97,267
Non-Guideline Causes	0	1,104	0	0	46,532
Non-RCUS Benevolences	6,650	0	0	1,755	67,150
Other General Expenses	74,963	91,171	89,550	90,293	1,434,473
Total Disbursements	89,209	106,441	89,550	95,813	1,880,511
Value of Church Buildings	305,000	195,000	0	0	4,871,191
Value of Parsonage	125,000	0	0	0	1,378,100
Property Improvements	0	0	0	0	37,278
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	80,787
Synod Giving Per Communicant	215	227	*	226	231
Classis Giving Per Communicant	89	136	*	96	92
Total RCUS Per Communicant	304	392	*	342	367

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

Appendix #2 - Necrologies

Rev. C. W. "Bud" Powell Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO

Bud Powell was born Carroll Walker Powell, Jr. to Carroll and Ella Powell at Memorial Hospital in Medford OR on April 27, 1934 and was called home to glory on July 29, 2016.

He was baptized as an infant in the Southern Methodist church of Medford. His father was a farm worker and his mother a housewife. Bud had two older sisters, Barbara and Ruth.

Through grade and high school, Bud loved to play basketball, dabbled in learning, and excelled in mathematics and daydreaming. He also attended Community Bible Church in Central Point where he learned very many scriptures and developed a life-long interest in biblical knowledge.

After high school, he attended Bob Jones University and received a Bachelor Degree with a major in mathematics and minor in English. In the fall of 1956, Bud began seminary at Bob Jones and later finished he degree at Sacramento Baptist Seminary. Finally, he began a Ph.D. at the University of Nevada at Reno before transferring to Baptist Christian University to complete his Ph.D. in church history.

He was ordained to the gospel ministry by Sylvan Road Baptist Church in Hapeville, Georgia and later moved to Anderson, CA to help found Shasta Christian School in the fall of 1961.

In June of 1962, Bud married Penny Simer. From that marriage issued six sons: Stephen Walker, of Murfreesboro, TN, Samuel Arthur of Yuba City, CA, Joseph Jefferson of Colorado Springs, CO, Dorman James of Bettendorf, IA, Joshua Carroll of Kumamoto, Japan, and Matthew Edward of Casper, WY.

In 1964, Pastor Powell helped J. G. Duckett found Faith Baptist Church in Anderson, CA. In 1969, this congregation became Faith Reformed Church and was received into the RCUS at Lincoln Valley RCUS at the annual meeting of the Eureka Classis. There, Pastor Powell was also licensed to preach in the RCUS, having previously been ordained.

Also in 1964, Pastor Powell helped found Faith Christian Academy, which later became Northstate Schools. He served there as headmaster until 1985. In 1986, Pastor Powell moved to Colorado Springs, CO with Penny, his two youngest sons, and a few families from Anderson to plant Trinity Covenant Reformed Church. He pastored that church faithfully up until his retirement in 2016.

Pastor Powell also taught at Evangelical Christian Academy in Colorado Springs until 1996 when he resigned to become full-time professor of historical and systematic theology at what was then Knox Theological Seminary. In 1999 the seminary became New Geneva Seminary. At the seminary, Dr. Powell had been the Academic Dean and Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology.

Pastor Powell served as pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church and taught at New Geneva Theological Seminary until April 2016, retiring just two months before his death. Bud Powell is survived by his sister Ruth, his six sons, nineteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Rev. Darrell Leslie Kingswood
Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE

Rev. Darrell Kingswood was called home to be with the Lord on January 16, 2017 in Sutton, NE.

Darrell was born to Gayle and Darlene Kingswood on September 16, 1963 in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada (“The true north, strong and free..”). He lived the majority of his early years in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Vancouver, British Columbia within a pagan/hedonistic life and worldview. In the month of June, 1984, God sovereignly arrested, apprehended and regenerated him, graciously calling him out of the darkness into His marvelous light (SDG - “Free, at last, Free, at last”).

In the month of August 1987, Darrell had the privilege of entering into the covenant of marriage with Lori Cormer. Their union has been blessed with three covenant children: Jonathan Edward (1992), Joshua Chamberlain (1996); and Aubrey Michelle (2006).

During the earlier part of 1988, Darrell sensed that the Lord was calling him to be a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the fall of that year, began his studies at the Northwest Baptist Theological College and Seminary. Over the next six years, he earned degrees from the aforementioned school as well as the “Associated Canadian Theological Schools” of Trinity Western University (ACTS/TWU).

After graduation (as class Valedictorian/Delta Epsilon Chi), he served as the first pastor of a group of individuals who had left the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) as concerned members. During this period, the group was organized as a church within the Orthodox Christian Reformed Church (OCRC- Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada).

During the summer of 1997, Darrell was called by the Eureka Reformed Church (RCUS/NPC) and began his ministerial service to this church in September of that year. After eight months under the watchful eye and diligent care of Rev. William Haddock, Darrell was ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacraments on March 18, 1998.

During the early part of 2001, he accepted a call from Hope Reformed Church of Sutton, NE (RCUS/SCC), where he faithfully served the congregation until the Lord called him home. Darrell will be remembered and missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Elder Earl L. Starks
Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY

Earl L. Starks, 75, of Riverton, WY, was called home to be with the Lord at the Help for Health Hospice Home on Sunday, October 23, 2016.

Earl Lynn Starks was born on June 24, 1941 in Riverton, WY to Stephen Albert and Alma Louise (Flint) Starks. He grew up in the Pavillion area as the youngest of eight siblings. He graduated from Pavillion High School. He attended the University of Wyoming, receiving his Bachelor’s degree in Music Education. While attending school, he worked for the Uranium Mines in the Gas Hills area during the summers.

While at the University of Wyoming, he met his wife of 53 years: Sharon Kay Lee. They were married on July 21, 1963 at the United Methodist Church in Riverton. Together they had three sons.

Earl and Sharon were both educators in Evanston, WY for six years, and Earl taught both vocal and instrumental music to students ranging in age from 5th grade through high school. While in Evanston, he earned his Master's degree in Vocal Performance at Utah State University.

In 1969, Earl and Sharon moved to Rock Springs, WY, where he taught music at the Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC). In 1978, he and his family took a sabbatical to Studio City, CA, where he attended the Dick Grove School of Music and Composition.

In 1979, he returned to WWCC for a year before becoming Choir and Classical Guitar Director at Rock Springs High School, where he taught for 19 years. He still wasn't ready to "retire," so he taught privately again at WWCC for 3 years before finally retiring in 2002.

In 2014, Earl and Sharon returned to their hometown of Riverton, WY, where they spent two and a half blessed years before his passing.

Earl enjoyed composing, writing, woodworking, golfing, fishing, trumpet, piano, gardening and classical and folk guitar. He loved studying the word of God and being with his wife, sons, and grandchildren, as well as friends and exploring God's wonderful creation.

Earl was a member Providence Reformed Church in Rock Springs, WY, where He served as a deacon and many years as an elder. He was shepherding and playing piano for the worship service just a few weeks prior to leaving this earthly life. Along with his musical talents that he provided to the church, he was a skilled woodworker, and built the church's pulpit and baptistery.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Starks; sons, Timothy Jon Starks and David Andrew Starks (Amy); brothers, Ralph Starks (Marilyn A.) and Charles Starks (Marilyn N); sister, Betty Jean Case (Ned); and seven grandchildren: Ashley, Jordan, Samantha, Tessa, Andrew, Aidan and Charlie Ryan, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Appendix #3 - Standing Rules of the South Central Classis

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 current IRS yearly mileage rate 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, '12, '15, '17).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at the current IRS yearly mileage rate 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, '15, '17).
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, '15).
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, '02, '09).
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).

Appendix #4 - 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.