

**2018 Abstract
of the Minutes**

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS

Reformed Church in the United States

**33rd Annual Meeting
March 19-20, 2018**

**Hosted by
Hope Reformed Church
Sutton, Nebraska**

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	<u>T. Grassmid</u> , J. Vusich, R. Korn
Missions	<u>M. McGee</u> , M. Koerner, H. Opp, F. Hofmann, D. Mettler, D. Oliver
Publications	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , R. Grossmann, R. Klynsma, R. Davis, J. Frey
Christian Education	<u>G. Horner</u> , D. Dawn, H. Hart, S. Henry, W. Brouwer, F. Hofmann
Interchurch Relations	<u>M. Powell</u> , L. Johnson, H. Van Stedum, 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> , D. Fagrey, J. Hall, J. P. Mosley, Jr., J. Frey, S. Ulmer

*Special Committee

2018-2019 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

(per communicant member)

Classical Expense Fund	\$7.63
Missions (inclusive)	\$79.58
Heidelberg Seminary	\$7.50
New Geneva Seminary	\$6.00
Total	\$100.71

South Central Classis
 Guideline Remittance Form
 July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Date _____
 Church _____
 Treasurer _____
 Email _____
 *No. of Communicant Members: _____

*Found in Abstract Appendix #1 (pp. 39-41), Membership & Financial Statistics –
 “Total Communicant Members This Year”

	Amount / Comm. Mem.	Amount Remitted
Classical Dues	\$7.63	_____
Missions	\$79.58	_____
Heidelberg TS	\$7.50	_____
New Geneva TS	\$6.00	_____
Total	\$100.71	_____

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

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Primarius Elders

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5182 Plumstead Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920
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Velgersdyk, Scott (Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD)
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(605) 371-4521 scottvelgersdyk@gmail.com

Licentiatees

None.

Students under Care

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(605) 290-8773 dmjdusk@protonmail.com

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 (https://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: Jimmy John Hall (wife: Stefani)

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.pastorjoe.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: 830 Madison St., Vermillion, SD 57069
Mail: 818 Madison St., Vermillion, SD 57069
Worship: 10:30am; Sunday School: 9:30am
Pastor: Harvey Opp (wife: Carol)

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) 705-3683
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 2:00 pm on March 19, 2018, prior to the convening of Classis, the delegates gathered for a presentation by Rev. Dr. Robert Grossmann entitled "Pastoral Care from the Pulpit." A period of discussion followed the presentation. This pre-Classis meeting was planned by the Executive Committee of Classis, working with the Spiritual Council of Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE.

**ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES
OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**
of the Reformed Church in the United States
33rd Annual Session - March 19-20, 2018
Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE

SERVICES

- Classis delegates, members of Hope Reformed Church, and visitors met at 6:45 pm on Monday, March 19, 2018, to worship our gracious Triune God. Rev. Jon Blair conducted the service, and Rev. Chris Moulton, an ordained minister of Reformation Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, WI, preached a sermon on Hebrews 11:1-4 entitled, "Faith in God's Good Report."
- At 9:55 am on Tuesday, March 20, Rev. Harvey Opp presented a devotion on 1 Peter 3:13-17 entitled "Prepared Witnesses." Rev. Opp led the body in prayer and the singing of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."
- At 10:10 pm on Tuesday, March 20, a closing devotion was given by Elder Scott Ulmer, reading 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and ending 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.

ORGANIZATION

- The President of Classis, Rev. Travis Grassmid, called the body to order on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 3:30 pm, opening with prayer.
- The Stated Clerk, Rev. Joe Vusich, called the roll, which showed 15 ministers and 9 elders present. The President declared a quorum. The bar of the house was defined as the first ten rows on either side of the center aisle. The President appointed Rev. Opp, Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll, and Elder Robert Korn as tellers.
- The following delegates were nominated and elected as the officers of Classis for this year: Rev. Grassmid as President, Rev. Matthew Powell as Vice-President, Rev. Vusich as Stated Clerk, and Elder Scott Velgersdyk as Treasurer. The President appointed Rev. Randall Klynsma 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

No special visitors or fraternal delegates from other churches attended this Classis meeting.

RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

There were three new ministers: Rev. Jimmy John Hall, pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO; Rev. Harvey Opp, pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD; and retired minister Rev. David Dawn, Sioux Falls, SD. All were welcomed by the delegates with the right hand of fellowship. There were no new churches to receive.

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The President announced the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

Benevolence	<u>J. Hall</u> , J. Frey, S. Velgersdyk
Education and Student Aid	<u>S. Henry</u> , M. Koerner, F. Hofmann
Examination and Licensure	<u>J. Blair</u> , K. Carroll, M. Powell, J. Rydell, T. Schieffelin
Finances	<u>R. Klynsma</u> , D. Oliver, S. Velgersdyk
Ministerial Aid	<u>J. Hall</u> , J. Frey, R. Honaker
Missions	<u>M. McGee</u> , H. Opp, W. Nuss
Publications	<u>M. Powell</u> , S. Henry, D. Oliver
Services	<u>R. Grossmann</u> , F. Hofmann
Judicial	<u>J. P. Mosley, Jr.</u> , D. Dawn, D. Fagrey, R. Korn
Nominations	<u>L. Johnson</u> , M. Koerner, W. Brouwer
Minutes of Synod	<u>G. Horner</u> , M. McGee, R. Honaker
Minutes of Classis	<u>D. Fagrey</u> , S. Ulmer

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 (pp. 32-37).

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 a review of Executive Committee business since the Spring 2017 Classis meeting. All circulars passed (no objection to the proposed action).

1. Executive Circular 32.1, dated March 30, 2017, dealt with declaring the pulpit of Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD, as vacant.
2. Executive Circular 32.2, dated April 10, 2017, dealt with the installation (scheduled for May 21, 2017) of Rev. Scott Henry as Pastor of Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE, and the establishment of a committee to oversee the installation.

3. Executive Circular 32.3, dated April 22, 2017, dealt with the removal of Dr. Skip Dieter from the list of Students Under Care.
4. Executive Circular 32.4, dated June 20, 2017, dealt with the call of Rev. Jimmy John Hall to serve as Pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO; the establishment of a committee to oversee Rev. Hall's July 16, 2017 installation; and Rev. Hall being added to the Roll of Ministers of the SCC.
5. Executive Circular 32.5, dated July 13, 2017, dealt with the invitation of Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE, to host the Spring 2018 Classis meeting.
6. Executive Circular 32.6, dated August 4, 2017, dealt with the call of Rev. Harvey Opp to serve as Pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD; and Rev. Opp being added to the Roll of Ministers of the SCC.
7. Executive Circular 32.7, dated September 19, 2017, dealt with the establishment of a committee to oversee Rev. Opp's October 22, 2017 installation as Pastor of Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion, SD.
8. Executive Circular 32.8, dated February 2, 2018, dealt with the Spring 2018 Meeting of Classis and its proposed Services, Agenda, and Order of the Day.
9. Executive Circular 32.9, dated March 3, 2018, dealt with the transfer of Rev. David Dawn's membership and ministerial credentials from the Northern Plains Classis to the South Central Classis, and Rev. Dawn being added to the Roll of Ministers of the SCC.
10. Executive Circular 32.10, dated March 9, 2018, dealt with the distribution of overtures received from Classis which will be discussed at the 2018 Spring Meeting.
11. Your committee communicated via e-mails and phone calls prior to proposing Classis actions via executive circulars, and the committee was in unanimous agreement on all actions proposed in its circulars.
12. Your committee is charged with organizing the pre-Classis meetings. Your committee worked on this with Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE, and this year's pre-Classis meeting was held on Monday afternoon, March 19, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Travis Grassmid, Rev. Joe Vusich, Elder Larry Streyle

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

B. Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

This past year, your Candidates & Credentials Committee convened several times via conference call and also communicated by email.

On June 12, 2017 your committee conducted an Orthodoxy & Intent examination with Rev. Jimmy Hall. This was in light of his potential transfer from the Western Classis in view of a call to the pastorate of Providence Reformed Church in Limon. Your committee asked Rev. Hall questions related to doctrinal orthodoxy and his continued adherence to the Three Forms of Unity per his original ordination vows. Questions and discussion also ensued related to his motives in seeking the call to the Limon charge. Your committee was satisfied with the examination and recommended proceeding with the call.

On July 22, 2017 your committee conducted an Orthodoxy & Intent examination with Rev. Harvey Opp. This was in light of his potential transfer from the Covenant East Classis in view of a call to the pastorate of Providence Reformed Church in Vermillion. Your committee asked Rev. Opp questions related to doctrinal orthodoxy and his continued adherence to the Three Forms of Unity per his original ordination vows. Questions and discussion also ensued related to his motives in seeking the call to the Vermillion charge. Your committee was satisfied with the examination and recommended proceeding with the call.

On August 17, 2017 your committee conducted an Orthodoxy & Intent examination with Rev. Chris Moulton, pastor of Reformation Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, a member congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly. This exam was in light of his interest in the RCUS, and particularly in view of a possible call for a new mission work in Denver under the oversight of Trinity Covenant RCUS in Colorado Springs. Your committee asked Rev. Moulton questions related to doctrinal orthodoxy and adherence to the Three Forms of Unity. Questions and discussion also ensued related to his motives in seeking a call in the RCUS and to a potential mission work. Your committee was satisfied with his orthodoxy and intent and anticipates a possible licensure exam of Rev. Moulton at the March 2018 Classis meeting.

In last year's report your committee reported on the communication with Mr. Craig Phelps, a student at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, concerning his interest in the RCUS and beginning the process for seeking licensure in the South Central Classis. He subsequently withdrew from the licensure process citing personal and family concerns. On October 31, 2017 Rev. Blair received a phone call from Mr. Phelps, who communicated his desire to once again seek licensure with a view to being available for a call to the pastorate in the RCUS should an opportunity arise. With this intent, he had been received as a member of Zion RCUS in Menno. Your committee then proceeded with the process, first receiving and approving as satisfactory the OT and NT exegetical papers submitted by Mr. Phelps, and then preparing to administer Hebrew and Greek exams. However, on January 19, 2018 Mr. Phelps withdrew once again from the licensure process. His stated reason was because he hasn't worked for a year and a half, has now gotten a job, and doesn't have time to prepare for the licensure exam. He said that he just needs to be involved in a local congregation where he is for now, and doesn't know if he'll pursue licensure in the RCUS again. Your committee questions whether he should be allowed in the future to pursue licensure in the RCUS.

Though mentioned in last year's report, your committee has not as yet put together a standardized examination for candidates seeking licensure / ordination, but intends to discuss this further in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. J. Blair, Rev. K. Carroll, Rev. M. Powell, Elder J. Rydell, Elder T. Schieffelin

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

C. Interchurch Relations

Esteemed brothers,

The business of the Interchurch Relations Committee was handled by email as it is each year. We did not meet.

We received two invitations to a fraternal delegate's meeting in the past year, to the URC Classis Central's meeting in Waupun, Wisconsin in September, and to the RPCNA's Midwest Presbytery in Oklahoma in November. No member of the South Central Classis was available to attend either meeting, so I sent greetings to both bodies thanking them for the invite and wishing them well. I did not receive invitations to the OPC Presbytery of the Dakotas meetings, because they had a change in clerk last year and he had not yet got up to speed on everything. But as I understand it, that error has been rectified and we should receive invitations this year again.

In addition, I sent invitations to each of those three bodies to attend our meeting in March. I have not yet heard whether any of those bodies will be sending delegates.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. M. Powell, Chairman, Rev. H. Van Stedum, Rev. L. Johnson, Elder R. Honaker, Elder W. Nuss

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

D. Missions

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

This past year has been one of change and gracious, steady growth. Your committee corresponded via emails, met via conference calls, interviewed men interested in a potential mission work in Denver, Colorado, and also visited with our various mission works through site visits or phone calls.

The South Central Classis (SCC) has a total of three mission works, two of which are still requesting aid from both Classis and Synod.

Following last year's meeting, our Classis Mission Committee (MC) established three goals. First, *"that the churches in Omaha and Casper will experience sufficient growth to become established, independent RCUS congregations within the next 4 years."*

This first goal is in sight in so far as God continues to bring growth to these works. The group in Casper has grown in membership, which has provided some potential candidates to serve as elders and deacons. This is encouraging, for it is one step closer to Casper particularizing. Concerning the work in Omaha, they are also seeing steady growth.

Our second goal is, *"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."*

Shortly after the convening of last year's Classis meeting, Rev. Chris Moulton contacted Rev. J.P. Mosley, Jr., who had just been nominated as the convener of the MC, and asked about the

possibility of an RCUS mission work in Denver. In God's amazing providence, on the same day that the vote was made to pursue a mission, we had a man from Denver desiring to be a missionary to Denver contact a member of the MC. Trying not to get our hopes up, we set to prayer and work.

Initially, we needed to see which consistory in Colorado would be willing to oversee this work. The lot or responsibility fell to Trinity Covenant Reformed Church (TCRC) of Colorado Springs. We also asked the officers of the RCUS works in Colorado to explore the interest of their members to become a part of the potential work in Denver, which resulted in a total of six individuals from all three congregations. Since this mission work originated from the Classis and not from one of the congregations, your committee composed of a list of candidates and decided to interview two of the men on the list for the potential work. At the conclusion of the process, your committee unanimously recommended Rev. Moulton to the Consistory of the TCRC based on his life experience and interest in Denver and the amazing providence of God in leading us toward Rev. Moulton. TCRC has brought Rev. Moulton out twice, once for a trial sermon. The congregation voted and extended Rev. Moulton a call, which he has accepted.

Bible Studies were started during the summer, with Rev. Mosley teaching every Sunday evening, then switching to every other Sunday once Rev. Jimmy John Hall settled into Limon and was able to conduct a Bible Study every other Tuesday night. Over the course of six to eight months, we have seen all six RCUS members attending faithfully, as well as 15 to 20 contacts who have expressed interest in the potential work. On average, there have been 2 to 8 individuals regularly attending the studies.

Our third goal is still a work in progress, *“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)”*.

Reports on the various works:

Providence Reformed Church: Limon, Colorado

There are two answers to prayer to be reported. Last year, your committee requested, *“that our gracious Lord will send a suitably-gifted man this year to serve as the new pastor in Limon.”* This prayer was answered with the call and arrival of Rev. Hall. We give thanks to the Lord who continues to raise men to fill His churches with His Word. Another answer to prayer is seen in the request of the Limon Consistory to end Mission Support and no longer be identified as a mission work of the South Central Classis. This petition has been made since God has provided for this congregation through the financial gifts of the members and through the monetary support of the Classis. We rejoice in this news and give praise to God who continues to build and provide for His church.

Christ Reformed Chapel: Casper, Wyoming

Interaction with our work in Casper, which is under the oversight of Providence RCUS in Rock Springs, was made through informal phone calls with your committee's chairman as well as through a formal phone call between Rev. Matt Powell and Rev. Mosley and Elder Joshua Berg on February 17, 2018. Your committee understands the necessity and benefit of a formal site visit and should make a better effort to visit Casper in person next year.

As was noted in last year's report, a key family was lost due to a move to Alaska. Although this was discouraging, the Lord has been faithful to continue sustain the congregation and provide steady growth. Currently, they have 24 communicant members and 20 unconfirmed members, which is an increase over the previous year. They continue to be blessed with several regular visitors, which has caused their average weekly attendance to be 40-45 souls. Rev. Powell will be starting a new members class with 3 potential members in the coming weeks.

Christ Reformed Chapel has been planning for the 15% reduction in funding from Classis and Synod for this year and should still be in a safe place financially. They continue to be thankful for the support both SCC and Synod provides them. Giving has been increasing in proportion to the steady growth of the work. Also, the economy in Casper has improved substantially, which has resulted in many being on more solid financial ground as well as a greater number of the members planning on remaining in Casper.

The chapel has a growing building fund that they hope to use to purchase a building in the future. Currently, they are renting from another church and that is working out for the time being.

In terms of church officers, the Lord is gradually answering their prayer. Rev. Powell reports that there are good prospects for another elder to be ordained – likely this year. Several of the new men that joined in 2017 seem to have gifts suited to the diaconate. They will need a year or two before bringing them in as officers.

The spirit of the church is excellent. Members are engaged with one another and warmly welcome new (and regular) visitors in their midst. Andrea continues to hold a weekly Bible study and fellowship meeting with the teenage girls from within the church and the community. Rev. Powell's teaching of the confirmation class last year resulted in one additional family joining the church. The Powells have a good number of social contacts in the community, some resulting from the lettuce business Rev. Powell is running. The chapel is making some significant strides in maturing into a self-sufficient church. In addition to having good prospects for new officers and increased giving, many of the new members are contributing to the regular tasks of helping print bulletins, keeping the attendance records, cleaning up the facility after church among other things. Elder Greg Hagar or Rev. Horner are able to fill in when Rev. Powell has to miss a Sunday.

Casper received \$25,500 from the South Central Classis in 2017 and an additional \$25,500 from Synod. Because of a miscalculation, the 2016 Missions Committee missed the 10% reduction that was supposed to take effect that year. Therefore, 2017's committee recommended a funding decrease of 15% for last year and this year. This matter has been discussed with Rev. Powell, who understands the reason behind the decrease and believes that the Casper church will be able to handle the 15% reduction. For these reasons, your committee recommends that the SCC funds the Casper mission church in the amount of \$21,000 for the new classical year, and that Classis overture Synod for \$21,000 for Casper (each amount represents a 15% reduction).

Omaha Reformed Chapel: Omaha, Nebraska

On Saturday, February 17, Dr. Maynard Koerner and Elder Daniel Mettler conducted a visit as prescribed by the Home Missions Manual with the mission church plant in Omaha, NE. There were three aspects to the visit, which included a two-hour meeting with the pastor, the Rev. Randall Klynsma; followed by a meeting with Rev. Lee Johnson, a representative of St. John's RCUS of Lincoln, NE, the overseeing Consistory; and was concluded by a time of discussion over afternoon refreshments with the members of the congregation.

Pastor Klynsma has a positive attitude and remains strongly committed to the work. While there are normal disappointments concerning people who seem to be interested and even committed to the work and then seemingly disappear, there is no sense of general discouragement.

It is evident that Pastor Klynsma is working hard and very optimistic in his outlook. While the bulk of his efforts have been on building up the current core group which meets in North Omaha, he has given some thought to exploring the possibility of establishing additional Bible Studies throughout the greater Omaha area.

Rev. Klynsma states the following regarding the efforts to advertise.

“In our two years of existence we've explored a variety of methods of promoting Omaha Reformed Church to the general public. Initially we focused on developing our website as this is really the main point of contact with people looking for a church. We've made use of Facebook's targeted advertising which allows our ads or promoted posts to be seen within a certain geographic area to Facebook users with certain interests. This has been an effective way to connect with numerous prospects. Over the last 6-8 months we have committed a significant portion of our advertising budget to Google Adwords. While we were initially a little skeptical, we have seen traffic to our website double to triple as a result. Pastor Randy attends a local Church Planters quarterly meeting and heard from some of them that quite a few churches have successfully use Adwords as part of their advertising budget.”

The relationship between Rev. Klynsma and St. John's Consistory seems to be excellent. He is a voting member of the Consistory and participates in all of its business. He also provides monthly reports of his work with the Omaha church plant. The Elders of St. John's take turns being in attendance at the weekly worship services of the Omaha work Pastor Johnson and Pastor Klynsma also exchange pulpits at least once per year.

Average weekly attendance has increased from 20-25 souls in 2016 to 25-30 souls in 2017, with the average weekly attendance during the month of October being at 34 individuals. They have visitors on a regular basis. The work is in good financial condition. Giving averages between \$3,500 - \$4,000 per month. They do plan to pay the remainder of the principle on the building loan to South Central Classis by the end of February. They are also ready to take the 1st 10% reduction in support from Classis and Synod.

In 2017, they reported 10 communicant members and 4 non-communicant members. For 2018 they will be reporting that there are 9 communicant members. However, there are 6 who have been instructed for membership and will be received as soon as the Spiritual Council can meet with them.

It is worthy to note that all of the original core members are still committed to the work. Rev. Klynsma reports that there have been no issues or concerns raised and nothing to create any tension or disharmony.

The members were encouraged in the work and given opportunity to ask questions, raise issues, and to provide any pertinent information. Different members expressed their thankfulness for the ministry of Rev. Klynsma and for the support of St. John's Reformed Church along with Classis and Synod.

We praise God for raising up this group, and for the opportunity to have a witness in the greater Omaha area. We commend Rev. Klynsma, the Consistory of St. John's, and the members for their commitment to the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ.

Your committee recommends that the SCC support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$41,500 for the next fiscal year, and that Classis overture Synod for \$32,400 for Omaha for the next fiscal year (each amount represents a 10% reduction).

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:

1. That the congregation in Casper continue to experience sufficient growth to become an established, particularized RCUS congregation within the next three years.
2. That the congregation in Omaha will experience sufficient growth to become an established, particularized RCUS congregation within the next four years.
3. If approved, that God would establish and bless the mission work in Denver and place it upon the hearts of RCUS members in our Classis and Synod to support this work both financially and through prayer.
4. 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:

1. That Classis commend the congregation of Providence RCUS, Limon, CO in coming off of Missions Status and Support and encourage her to continue in her work.
2. That Classis approve funding for Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$21,000 for the next classical year (represents a 15 % reduction from the previous year).
3. That the South Central Classis overture the 272nd Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$21,000 for the next synodical year (represents a 15% reduction from the previous year).
4. That Classis approve funding for Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$41,500 for the next classical year (represents a 10 % reduction from the previous year).
5. That the South Central Classis overture the 272nd Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$32,400 for the next synodical year (represents a 10% reduction from the previous year).

6. That the South Central Classis approve funding for Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO in order to begin a mission work in Denver, CO, in the amount of \$45,000 for the next classical year.

7. That pending the reception of Rev. Chris Moulton's credentials by the Synod of the RCUS and his arrival to the Denver area, that the South Central Classis approve providing one month of funding in the amount of \$8,750. This amount will be prorated according to the amount of time he is in Denver during the month of June of 2018.

8. That the South Central Classis overture the 272nd Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO in the amount of \$42,000 for the next synodical year.

9. That upon approval of the call of Rev. Chris Moulton, the South Central Classis assist with his moving expenses in the amount of \$5,000.

10. That the congregations of the South Central Classis be mindful to offer prayer and give praise for the mission works in Casper, Omaha and Denver, and in particular:

a. Give thanks that the Omaha church building debt to Classis has been paid off,

b. Pray that the Lord will raise up godly, spiritually-minded men this year to serve as officers in Casper,

c. Request that God will grant all of the SCC mission works great peace, wisdom, and increased love in the coming year, and

d. Ask that all three SCC mission churches will grow both numerically and especially in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J. P. Mosley, Jr., Chairman, Dr. Maynard Koerner, Rev. Michael McGee, Elder Joshua Berg, Elder Daniel Mettler and 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, R. Grossmann, R. Klynsma, D. Brauning, T. Savage

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Publications.

F. Christian Education

Esteemed Brethren,

Your committee received no new business during this past classical year and did not meet except via e-mail in the production of this report.

However, since Christian (or Covenant) education for our youth is encouraged by resolutions adopted by the 257th Synod of the RCUS, it seems appropriate to have this Classis Committee urge the member congregations of this Classis to review and take note of these timely resolutions included below as part of our report:

Recommendation: That the resolutions included in this report be noted by the Consistories of the member churches of Classis

Special Synod Covenant Education Committee Resolutions Adopted by the 257th Synod of the RCUS

Resolution One. Our Covenant God gives the responsibility for the education of our covenant children to their parents. Although the tasks related to education may be delegated, parents may not abdicate their responsibility by delegating it to either the state, the church, or to any private educational institution.

Grounds: Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 22:6; Psalm 78:5-8; Ephesians 6:4

Resolution Two. The education that our covenant children receive ought have as its purpose their being equipped to fulfill the cultural mandate in the church militant; i.e., personal fellowship and communion with God, evangelistic and apologetic endeavors, and being salt and light in the world. In order to achieve these purposes, as well as others, to the glory of God, the knowledge to be gained must be in the context of God as the Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer and Judge, through Jesus Christ, and the advancement of His Kingdom until the church is triumphant.

Grounds: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 15:33; John 17:1-3; Romans 11:36; Ephesians 3:14-19; II Peter 1:3-11; I John 1:1-5

Resolution Three. Pastors and elders and deacons are called to assist parents in the carrying out of their educational responsibilities by encouraging and supporting educational endeavors that are grounded upon the philosophy, teaching, and presuppositions of the Reformed faith as expressed by the Reformed Confessions. As much as is feasible given the available means, including assistance from the church, covenant parents ought to seek to provide some form of such covenantal educational endeavors.

Grounds: I Timothy 3:15; Proverbs 1:20-33; Proverbs 2:1-9; Ephesians 4:11-14; HC Q&A #103

Resolution Four. That the adopted resolutions, along with the supplementary material, be printed and made available to the churches of the R.C.U.S.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Horner, Rev. Howard Hart, Rev. Scott Henry, Elder John Savage, Elder Jerry Stevens

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,

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you abounds toward each other. (2 Thes. 1:3)

We have once again borne witness to the faithfulness of the Lord within the bounds of South Central Classis, for which we may all give thanks.

Our Classis membership statistics show that we are holding steady overall. Our total communicant membership is up by one soul. This is significant given that we had a total of eighty-eight losses in 2017, fifty-one of whom were from erasure or discipline. It is difficult to see once-active members of the church come to the point where they must be removed, yet it is an encouragement to observe our congregations continue to faithfully practice biblical church discipline.

We suffered the death of nine members. We mourn their loss, yet rejoice with them as they lay off the burdens of this fallen world and enter into the presence of our Savior.

Last year I noted that we should be praying for a baby boom in the South Central Classis; the Lord has been pleased to grant us that prayer. Our statistics show a total of thirty baptisms in 2017 – a 60% increase over last year, of which twenty-five were infants – giving us a 68% increase in covenant infant baptisms over the previous year.

Providentially, we welcome two additions to our roll of ministers into South Central Classis. Rev. Harvey Opp was installed at Providence Reformed in Vermillion, SD, while Rev. Jimmy John Hall was installed at Providence Reformed in Limon, CO. We pray that the Lord would truly bless the labors of both Rev. Opp and Rev. Hall in their respective congregations.

Additionally, we welcome to South Central Classis retired minister Rev. David Dawn. Rev. Dawn has been dismissed to us from the Northern Plains Classis, and is now a member of Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

Rev. Harvey Opp reported that he and his wife have been warmly welcomed and provided for by the congregation in Vermillion, SD, as he transitions back into pastoral ministry after three years away. Rev. Opp requests that if the churches let him know of any of their members who are attending USD in Vermillion, he will gladly make contact with their students.

Rev. Jimmy John Hall reported that he and his family are getting settled into the labors of the Limon, CO charge. Rev. Hall reports that he has set the goal of promoting “sweet fellowship together as members of Christ at Providence Reformed Church.”

Rev. Lee Johnson reflected on a year of blessing in Lincoln, NE as the congregation saw growth, both numerically and spiritually. It is encouraging to read how the Lincoln congregation has been faithful in assisting and promoting the work in Omaha. Rev. Johnson and Rev. Klynsma faithfully labor together, and schedule pulpit swaps in order to insure that both congregations recognize the unity of these congregations. Additionally, Lincoln as well as other congregations, were able to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with special events, services, and conferences.

A number of pastors noted how the ministry has exhausted them in this past year. Of course there were no complaints, and all expressed joy at the advancement of the gospel and growth of the Lord's people. It is good for us to recognize the reality that ministry does drain the energy of the faithful pastor. We pray that the entire church would uphold in prayer, not only these pastors, but all who labor faithfully in the work of the church. Paul asked for prayer. The officers of the church also need your prayers.

At the 2017 Classis meeting the Colorado congregations were encouraged to work jointly to begin a Bible study in the Denver metro area. These faithful congregations took the encouragement to heart, and along with the Missions Committee, they have not only begun Bible studies, but have even searched for and found a candidate to serve as a planting pastor in Denver. As I write, plans are in place for the examination of the candidate at this Classis meeting. We pray that the Lord would see fit to not only plant, but cause to flourish, a congregation in the greater Denver area.

In Casper, WY, the Missions Committee reports that the labors are going well. The Classical and Synodical funding is being reduced, while the overall membership is growing. The growth is not only numerical, but also spiritual. The committee reports that "the chapel is making significant strides in maturing into a self-sufficient church. In addition to having good prospects for new officers and increased giving, many of the new members are contributing to the regular tasks (of the church)".

The Omaha, NE work continues to be blessed by the Lord, and the congregation is thankful to be worshiping in their own building. Concerning this work we read: "It is worthy to note that all the original core members are still committed to the work. Rev. Klynsma reports that there have been no issues or concerns raised, and nothing to create any tension or disharmony."

Additionally, we rejoice as the Missions report informs us that the congregation in Limon is ready to be removed from mission support. We commend the brethren of Providence Reformed Church in Limon for their faithfulness to the work, and we pray that the Lord would continue to bless this congregation.

We were heartened to see an overture from Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, which seeks to address the growing burden of ministerial aid within the RCUS, having noted that the demand for ministerial aid has grown from just over \$100,000 in the year 2000, to its current point of kissing the \$300,000 mark. Whatever the outcome of this overture, it is certainly important that we begin to address this vital financial problem. As a church, we desire to honor our retired ministers and widows and ensure they receive proper care. This must be accomplished in a more fiscally responsible manner. I commend Trinity for beginning the difficult discussion.

The church is being nourished. The gospel is being spread. The hearts of the Lord's saints are being knit together in love. For all these reasons, and so much more, we praise God for strengthening His church within the South Central Classis.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Travis Grassmid

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

B. Stated Clerk's Report

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Following is the list of the duties performed by your Clerk since the 2017 Spring Classis meeting:

1. Your Clerk recorded the business of the 2017 Spring Classis Meeting in the Minutes of Classis; prepared the formal Abstract of the Minutes for publication; and distributed copies of the Abstract to member churches at the 2017 Synod. Your Clerk formatted, indexed, and placed in a permanent binder the 2017 Minutes of Classis along with all reports and relevant documents. The corrections to the Minutes by the Synodical Minutes of Classis Committee were noted, and the Minutes were corrected accordingly.
2. Page 34 of the Abstract, regarding 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 24, 2017.
3. Page 36 of the Abstract, regarding recommendations #1-6 of Standing Ministerial Aid, a letter was sent to the Clerk of Synod on April 24, 2017 requesting ministerial aid from Synod for Rev. and Mrs. Herman Van Stedum, Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart, Mrs. Penny Powell, and Mrs. Lori Kingswood.
4. Pages 36 and 37 of the Abstract, regarding recommendations #1-2 of Standing Missions, a letter was sent on April 19, 2017 to Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, requesting that the monies held in escrow that remained from the closed Sherman TX work be sent to the Classis Treasurer; and expressing appreciation to Grace Reformed for their exemplary commitment to missions.
5. Page 37 of the Abstract, regarding recommendations #3, #7, and #9 of Standing Missions: a letter was sent on April 24, 2017 requesting that Synod develop and expand the RCUS Home Missions Manual's guidance on the closing of home mission works; and requesting \$25,500 per year support from Synod for the mission work in Casper, WY (Christ Reformed Church); and requesting mission support from Synod in the amount of \$36,000 per year for the mission work in Omaha, NE.
6. Page 39 of the Abstract, regarding recommendation #2 of Standing Minutes of Synod, a letter was sent on April 24, 2017 to inform the Clerk of Synod that Classis concurs with the 270th Synod's amendment to the RCUS Constitution as set forth in item #7 of the Minutes of Synod Report.
7. Page 35 of the Abstract, regarding recommendation #4 of Standing Finance, a letter of thanks dated April 20, 2017, was sent to Paula Bindert for giving Classis her auditor's opinion.
8. Page 35 of the Abstract, regarding recommendation #8 of Standing Finance that provided funds to buy a laptop and software, your Clerk purchased a Chromebook and accessories.
9. Page 38 of the Abstract, regarding recommendation #4 of Standing Judicial, a letter dated April 20, 2017, was sent to Mr. Steven Schlei explaining that Classis found no compelling reason to remove historical records from the RCUS web site.
10. Executive Circulars, Volume 32, #'s 1-10 (see Classis Executive Committee Report) were prepared and emailed to the Classis delegates.

11. A letter dated August 4, 2017, was sent to Rev. Tracy Gruggett to inform the brothers of the Western Classis that Rev. Jimmy John Hall was formally received by the South Central Classis and placed on the roll of ministers on July 9, 2017.
12. A letter dated February 23, 2018, was sent to Rev. Steve Carr to inform the brothers of Covenant East Classis that Rev. Harvey Opp was formally received by the South Central Classis and placed on the roll of ministers on August 18, 2017.
13. A proposed Agenda, Services, and Order of Business for the Spring 2018 Classis meeting was prepared and emailed to the delegates.
14. A Docket containing the reports to be considered at the Spring 2018 Classis meeting was prepared and sent to the delegates.
15. Delegate and membership and financial statistics forms were sent to the member churches.
16. Completed Statistics and 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 and distributed with the Docket.
17. 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.
18. Your Clerk also served on the Executive Committee of Classis.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Joe Vusich
Stated 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 271th 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 (271st Abstract, pp. 99-100).
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. The Classes are reminded that the 272nd Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 21-24, 2018, at Redeemer Reformed Church, Golden Valley, MN.

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, 2017 – February 28, 2018

Beginning Balance	77,383.87
Deposits	105,122.99
Checks	(60,338.34)
Interest	826.90
Bank Charges	(106.91)
Ending Balance	\$122,888.51
Variance	45,504.64

CASH FLOW

July 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Guideline Dues

Christ Reformed Chapel Casper	
Classis Dues	99.32
Heidelberg Seminary	97.50
Missions	927.55
New Geneva Seminary	78.00
Total Christ Reformed Chapel Casper	1,202.37
Emmanuel Reformed Sutton	
Classis Dues	939.72
Heidelberg Seminary	922.50
Missions	8,776.05
New Geneva Seminary	738.00
Total Emmanuel RCUS	11,376.27

Grace Reformed Greeley
 Classis Dues 303.18
 Heidelberg Seminary 298.13
 Missions 2,886.41
 New Geneva Seminary 238.49
 Total Grace Reformed Greeley 3,726.21

Grace Reformed Rapid City
 Classis Dues 488.96
 Heidelberg Seminary 480.00
 Missions 4,566.40
 New Geneva Seminary 384.00
 Total Grace Reformed Rapid City 5,919.36

Hope Reformed Sutton
 Classis Dues 1,199.48
 Heidelberg Seminary 1,177.50
 Missions 11,201.95
 New Geneva Seminary 942.00
 Total Hope Reformed 14,520.93

Omaha Reformed
 Classis Dues 91.68
 Heidelberg Seminary 90.00
 Missions 856.20
 New Geneva Seminary 72.00
 Total Omaha Reformed 1,109.88

Providence Reformed Rock Springs
 Classis Dues 297.96
 Heidelberg Seminary 292.50
 Missions 2,782.65
 New Geneva Seminary 234.00
 Total Providence Reformed Rock Spring 3,607.11

Providence Reformed Vermillion
 Classis Dues 191.00
 Heidelberg Seminary 187.50
 Missions 1,783.75
 New Geneva Seminary 150.00
 Total Providence Reformed Vermillion 2,312.25

St. John's Reformed
 Classis Dues 695.24
 Heidelberg Seminary 682.50
 Missions 6,492.85
 New Geneva Seminary 546.00
 Total St. John's Reformed 8,416.59

Trinity Covenant
 Classis Dues 374.36
 Heidelberg Seminary 367.50
 Missions 3,496.15
 New Geneva Seminary 294.00
 Total Trinity Covenant 4,532.01

Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls
Classis Dues 764.00
Heidelberg Seminary 750.00
Missions 7,135.04
New Geneva Seminary 600.00
Total Trinity Reformed Sioux Falls 9,249.04

Zion Reformed
Classis Dues 1,168.92
Heidelberg Seminary 1,147.50
Missions 10,916.55
New Geneva Seminary 918.00
Total Zion Reformed 14,150.97

Total Guideline Dues 80,122.99

Mission Fund
St. John's Loan 25,000.00

Total Mission Fund 25,000.00

Total Income \$105,122.99

Expense

Bank Service Charges 106.91
Equipment 733.31

Guideline Payments
Heidelberg Seminary 5,235.04
New Geneva Seminary 4,188.00
Total Guideline Payments 9,423.04

Mission Exp
Christ Ref. Church 17,000.00
Prov. Ref. Church Limon 2,800.00
St. John's RCUS (Heritage) 30,000.00
Total Mission Exp 49,800.00
Travel Exp 381.99

Total Expense \$60,445.25

Net Ordinary Income 44,677.74

Other Income/Expense

Other Income
Interest Earned
St. John's Loan 671.73
Interest Earned Other 155.17
Total Interest Earned 826.90

Total Other Income 826.90

Net Other Income 826.90

Net Income \$45,504.64

GUIDELINE INCOME

July 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018

	<u>Communicant #</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Guideline Dues: 92.49 per com.				
Christ Reformed, Casper	13	1,202.37	1,202.37	0.00
Emmanuel Reformed, Sutton	123	11,376.27	11,376.27	0.00
Grace Reformed, Greeley	54	4,994.46	3,726.21	(1,268.25)
Grace Reformed, Mitchell	79	7,306.71	0.00	(7,306.71)
Grace Reformed, Rapid City	64	5,919.36	5,919.36	0.00
Hope Reformed, Sutton	157	14,520.93	14,520.93	0.00
Omaha Reformed	12	1,109.88	1,109.88	0.00
Providence Reformed, Limon	38	3,514.62	0.00	(3,514.62)
Providence Ref., Rock Springs	39	3,607.11	3,607.11	0.00
Providence Ref., Vermillion	25	2,312.25	2,312.25	0.00
St. John's Reformed, Lincoln	91	8,416.59	8,416.59	0.00
Trinity Cov. Ref., Colorado Springs	49	4,532.01	4,532.01	0.00
Trinity Reformed, Sioux Falls	150	13,873.50	9,249.04	(4,624.46)
Zion Reformed, Menno	<u>153</u>	<u>14,150.97</u>	<u>14,150.97</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Guideline Dues	1047	96,837.03	80,122.99	(16,714.04)
Other Income				
Interest Earned			213.30	
St. John's Loan Principal			25,000.00	
St. John's Loan Principal			671.73	
Total Income			<u>105,949.89</u>	

Expense	Budget		
	FY July 1-June 30	Paid July-Feb	Due June 30
Guideline Payment			
Heidelberg Seminary	7,852.50	5,235.04	2,617.46
New Geneva Seminary	6,282.00	4,188.00	2,094.00
Mission Expense			
Christ Ref., Casper	25,500.00	17,000.00	8,500.00
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	74,700.00	49,800.00	24,900.00
Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00
Classis Expense			
Equipment		733.31	
Supplies		0.00	
Printing and Reproduction		0.00	
Travel Expense		381.99	
Officer Stipend		0.00	
Total Classis Expense	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>1,115.30</u>	6,884.70
Total Guideline Payments	96,834.50	60,338.34	
Other Expense			
Bank Service Charges		106.91	
Total Expense		<u>60,445.25</u>	

Net Cash Flow July '17 - Feb. '18: \$45,504.64 | Projected Cash Flow Mar. '18 - June '18: \$19,782.12

GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY

July 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Classical Dues (7.64/Com. Mem.)	8,000.00	6,613.82	(1,386.18)
Missions (71.35/Com. Mem.)	74,700.00	61,821.55	(12,878.45)
Heidelberg Seminary (7.50/Com. Mem.)	7,852.50	6,493.13	(1,359.37)
New Geneva Seminary (6.00/Com. Mem.)	6,282.00	5,194.49	(1,087.51)
Benevolence/Uncategorized (0/Com. Mem.)	-	-	-
Total Guidelines	96,834.50	80,122.99	(16,711.51)
1047 Com. Mem. X 92.49	96,837.03	80,122.99	(16,714.04)

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*
 - a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?*
All answered, "Yes."

b. *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," except for the Mitchell, SD charge, which said, "Synod payment was late."

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."

7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?*
All answered, "Yes."

CLERK'S NOTE: The elders from St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, were excused from attending this Classis. Lincoln's answers were submitted in writing: "Yes" to all questions.

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

The Stated Clerk presented the report. It appears in Appendix #1 of this Abstract (pp. 39-41).

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

REPORTS FROM CLASSIS' FRATERNAL DELEGATES

Rev. Powell read a letter from Rev. Ralph Pontier, Stated Clerk of the Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches in North America. Rev. Pontier expressed regret that his Classis did not send a delegate to attend the SCC meeting, and wished God's blessings on SCC's deliberations.

ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES AND VISITORS FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES

No special visitors or fraternal delegates attended this Classis.

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 Thursday, January 25th, 2018. Members participating were Revs. Carroll, Grossmann, McGee, and Schwichtenberg and Elders Savage and Fickbohm.

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 dress code and Mt. Rushmore outing which was new for 2018. The committee struggled to identify a specific 'code' that would encourage modesty among all. It was determined that the best course of action is to encourage pastors to visit with their campers prior to camp and encourage campers and parents to dress modestly during camp. The Rushmore outing was mostly met with approval. The greatest struggle with the outing is the number of other visitors to the monument and the ability of counselors to monitor the safety of campers. Accordingly, this year we plan to not only use the buddy system for campers but also assign campers into small groups under the direct and constant supervision of a counselor.

The committee also discussed the schedule for camp. This year we will add a time for campers to ask questions anonymously to a panel of pastors. This was done in prior years under the apt title 'soapbox.' However, our intention is not to give pastors a time to step up to their soapbox, but for campers to ask serious questions for pastoral advice. Questions will be screened and pastors handpicked for their brevity.

The committee considered the financial report (included with this report) for 2017. It was encouraging to see giving from congregations providing a good portion of the revenue for 2017. 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. That being the case, ever increasing costs led the committee to consider the necessity of a fee increase for 2018. The committee is proposing a \$10 fee increase to \$175 for registrations received before June 1st and \$205 thereafter. The committee also discussed the need to ensure that no campers are excluded from HYC due to their families financial situation. As such, the committee encourages congregations to assist those with financial need in their midst and for congregations that may not have campers to consider helping families in other congregations that may struggle to pay for HYC.

Various camp themes were considered by the committee. The committee decided on the theme of "Defending the Faith" for 2018. Following is the planned lessons:

1. Getting Ready to Give an Answer

(The Importance of Sanctifying God in Your Hearts, Bringing Every Thought Captive – 2 Cor. 10:5)

2. What is it that We Defend?

(The Truth of God – Biblical Christianity vs. Relativism, Presuppositions)

3. The Starting Point

(We Defend God as He has Revealed Himself, What is Our Authority)

4. Hope

(The place of reason and experience in your Witness – point of Contact, Desire for Comfort)

5. Earnestly Contend

(Opposing False Philosophy, Creation vs. Evolution, If God is loving, why is there evil, etc.)

6. Our Approach to the World

(With meekness and fear, a godly walk)

Sermons: (These are not texts, but suggestions of passages from which the sermons might be drawn)

Matthew 7:24-27, “Which House Will You Build Upon?”

Peter’s Apologetic in Acts 2:14-39

The offerings collected during HYC were designated by the committee to support the CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center in Rapid City, SD. A faithful camp counselor serves on the board of CareNet and notes, “CareNet PRC exists to provide a Christ filled place to go for women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy. PRC offers services free of charge to all who visit; pregnancy tests for those unsure of their home test results, options counseling for those unsure of what their options are if they are pregnant, abstinence counseling for those who find out they aren't pregnant, limited ultrasounds to confirm viable pregnancy, training classes, and layette kits for newborns.” More information on this work can be found at: <http://www.carenetprc.com/>.

Your committee brings the following recommendations.

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

July 23-27, 2018; July 22-26, 2019; July 20-24, 2020; July 19 – 23, 2021; & July 18 – 22, 2022.

Recommendation #2: TAKE NOTE that congregations be encouraged to donate items or money to HYC to help reduce the cost of registrations.

Recommendation #3: TAKE NOTE that congregations are encouraged to identify and, as they are able, assist families in their midst that may financially struggle to send their children to HYC. Congregations that would like to assist families in other congregations and congregations that may need assistance to send children to camp are encouraged to contact the HYC Director at hycdirector@gmail.com.

Recommendation #4: That the Budget, including registration fees, for HYC 2018 be approved.

Recommendation #5: That the Report as a whole be adopted.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the joint committee,

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

K. Carroll, D. Fagrey, S. Henry, M. McGee, & T. Savage for the South Central

**Classis Action: On recommendations #1-3, take note. #4-5 carried.
The report was adopted.**

Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget

	2017 <u>Budget</u>	2017 <u>Actual</u>	Difference <u>(under)/over</u>	2018 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
Opening Fund Balance (1/1/17)		\$ 6,318.66		
Revenue				
Camp Fees (95 campers)	\$ 15,975	\$ 15,628.00	\$ (347)	\$ 16,925
Gifts	1,000	2,424.98	1,425	1,500
Worship Offering	1,000	1,159.20	159	1,000
Camp Store Sales	600	607.60	8	600
Interest		0.57		
Total Revenue	18,575	19,820		20,025
Expenses				
Camp Bob Marshal Rental	\$ 11,457	\$ 10,715.40	(742)	\$ 11,457 *
Camp Bob Sewage Surcharge		1,170.00		1,620
Food	3,500	3,692.82	193	3,800
T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	2,500	2,560.17	60	2,500
Arts & Crafts	300	218.83	(81)	300
Supplies and Equipment	500	376.92	(123)	400
Custer State Park (donation)	100	-	(100)	-
Administration	100	85.00	(15)	100
Camp Store Supplies	500	516.84	17	525
Designated offering recipient	1,000	1,159.20	159	1,000
Total Expenses	19,957	20,495.18		21,702
Operating Gain (Loss)		(674.83)		(1,677.30)
Ending Fund Balance (12/31/17)		5,643.83		

* Rental cost: \$600 (kitchen use) +[\$19 (daily rate/person) X 4 (days) X 135 (people)] + 5.5% tax

Proposed 2018 Camper

Fees: \$175 per camper if registration and fee received by June 1. (\$10 increase)
 \$205 per camper if received June 1 or after. (\$10 increase)
 No fee for adult volunteers.

Proposed budget is based upon 95 campers and 40 adults.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Benevolence

The committee brought the following recommendation:

That Synod be overtured to send \$1,550.00/mo. in benevolent aid to Mrs. Amy Stevens in the coming synodical year.

Hall, Frey, Velgersdyk

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

B. Education and Student Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the resolutions adopted by the 257th Synod of the RCUS listed in the Christian Education Committee Report be reviewed and considered by all the consistories of the member churches of the South Central Classis.
2. That Mr. Matthew Dawn be taken under care of the SCC as a student for the RCUS ministry.
3. That Classis overture Synod for tuition and book expenses in the amount of \$5,200 for Mr. Dawn to continue his studies at Heidelberg Theological Seminary in the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters.

Henry, Koerner, Hofmann

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

C. Examination and Licensure

The committee conducted a licensure examination of Rev. Chris Moulton in the areas of Piety and Intent, English Bible, Apologetics, Church/RCUS History, Hermeneutics, Doctrine of Scripture, Theology Proper, Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, Creeds, RCUS Constitution, and Practica. Questions were also taken from the floor.

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the examination of Moulton be declared satisfactory.
2. That Moulton's ministerial credentials and calling are in order. Take note.

Blair, Carroll, Powell, Rydell, Schieffelin

Classis Action: Recommendation #1 carried. On #2, take note. The report was adopted. Rev. Moulton signed the Licensure Testimony and was extended the right hand of fellowship by the delegates.

D. Finances

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the Auditor's opinion be approved.
2. That the Treasurer's report be approved.
3. That the Stated Clerk send a note of thanks to the Auditor.
4. That the guideline for Heidelberg Theological Seminary be set at \$7.50 per communicant member in the 2018–2019 classical year.
5. That the guideline for New Geneva Theological Seminary be set at \$6.00 per communicant member in the 2018–2019 classical year.
6. That the total guideline per communicant member be set at \$100.71 in the 2018–2019 classical year as follows:

2018-2019 Guideline per Communicant:

Classical dues	7.63
Missions	79.58
Heidelberg TS	7.50
<u>New Geneva TS</u>	<u>6.00</u>
Total	\$100.71

7. That Classis pay the submitted Classis travel expense in the amount of \$4,757.34.

Travel Expenses for Spring 2018 Classis Meeting:

R. Grossmann	374.00
K. Carroll	264.87
R. Klynsma	141.70
D. Oliver	518.84
M. Koerner	283.40
J. Blair	444.72
T. Schieffelin	397.85
G. Horner	727.03
H. Opp	223.45
M. Powell	623.48
<u>R. Honaker</u>	<u>758.00</u>
Total	\$4,757.34

8. That Classis adopt an overture from Trinity Reformed Church proposing a new Standing Rule regarding ministerial retirement funding.

Klynsma, Oliver, Velgersdyk

Classis Action: Recommendations #1-7 carried; #8 was defeated. The report was adopted.

E. Ministerial Aid

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

1. Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart, \$1,850 per month.
2. Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, \$1,600 per month.
3. Rev. and Mrs. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,800 per month.
4. Rev. and Mrs. David Dawn, \$2,000 per month.
5. Mrs. Penny Powell, \$1,200 per month.
6. Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, \$1,000 per month.
7. Mrs. Lori Kingswood, \$2,500 per month.
8. The committee also recommended that the Executive Committee of Classis consider and bring a recommendation pertaining to what responsibility Classis has to provide part or all of the ministerial aid before requesting aid from Synod.

Hall, Frey, Honaker

Classis Action: Recommendations #1-7 carried; #8 was defeated. The report was adopted.

F. Missions

Classis agreed that the language of the permanent Missions Committee report be amended as follows: 1) that the following words be deleted from paragraph #7 of the report: "his particular training and gifts in urban mission;" 2) that in paragraph #8, the words, "many visitors" be changed to "15 to 20 contacts;" 3) also in paragraph #8, the words, "15 to 20" be changed to "2 to 8." (CLERK'S NOTE: These changes are reflected in the Missions Report, p. 13 of this abstract.) The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis approve funding for Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO, in order to begin a mission work in Denver, CO, in the amount of \$45,000 for the next classical year, using undesignated and designated funds currently available in the Classis treasury.
2. That Classis commend the congregation of Providence RCUS, Limon, CO in coming off missions support, and encourage her to continue in her work.
3. That Classis approve funding for Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$21,000 for the next classical year (represents a 15 % reduction from the previous year).
4. That Classis overture the 272nd Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$21,000 for the next synodical year (represents a 15% reduction from the previous year).

5. That Classis approve funding for Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$40,500 for the next classical year (represents a 10 % reduction from the previous year).

6. That Classis overture the 272nd Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$32,400 for the next synodical year (represents a 10% reduction from the previous year).

7. That the congregations of the South Central Classis be mindful to offer prayers and praise for the work in Casper, Omaha and Denver, and in particular:

- a) Give thanks that the Omaha church building debt to Classis has been paid off.
- b) Pray that the Lord will raise up godly, spiritually-minded men this year to serve as officers in Casper.
- c. Request that God will grant all of the SCC mission works great peace, wisdom, and increased love in the coming year.
- d) Ask that the mission churches of the SCC grow both numerically and especially in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8. That Classis overture Synod for funding on behalf of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO, for the mission work in Denver, CO, in the amount of \$36,000 for the next synodical year.

9. That pending the reception of Rev. Moulton's credentials by the Synod of the RCUS and his arrival in the Denver area, that Classis approve one month of funding in the amount of \$8,420. This amount will be prorated according to the amount of time Moulton is in Denver during the month of June 2018.

10. That upon Synod's approval of the call of Rev. Moulton, Classis assist with his moving expenses up to the amount of \$3,000.

McGee, Opp, Nuss

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

G. Publications

The committee brought no recommendations.

Powell, Henry, Oliver

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

H. Services

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That all services were carried out in accordance with the schedule proposed by the Classis Executive Committee. Take note.

2. That the late arrival excuses submitted by Fagrey and Oliver, and absence excuses by Elders Bob Davis and Robert Huber of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, be granted.

Grossmann, Hofmann

Classis Action: On recommendation #1, take note. #2 carried. The report was adopted.

I. Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendation:

That the ministerial credentials and call of Moulton were found in order, and that his call by Classis may be approved, take note.

Fagrey, Dawn, Mosley, Korn

Classis Action: On the recommendation, take note. The report was adopted. Classis approved the call of Moulton to Trinity Covenant Reformed Church in Colorado Springs, contingent on his reception by the 2018 Synod.

J. Nominations

The following nominations were made for the 2018-2019 Permanent Committees (underlined indicates convener):

Executive: T. Grassmid, J. Vusich, R. Korn

Missions: M. McGee, M. Koerner, H. Opp, F. Hofmann, D. Mettler, D. Oliver

Publications: D. Fagrey, R. Grossmann, R. Klynsma, R. Davis, J. Frey

Christian Education: G. Horner, D. Dawn, H. Hart, S. Henry, W. Brouwer, F. Hofmann

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

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

Heidelberg Youth Camp: K. Carroll, D. Fagrey, J. Hall, J. P. Mosley, Jr., J. Frey, S. Ulmer

Johnson, Koerner, Brouwer

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

K. Minutes of Synod

The committee brought the following recommendation:

Regarding items 1-7 of the Minutes of Synod Report. Take note.

Horner, McGee, Honaker

Classis Action: On the recommendation, take note. The report was 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.

Fagrey, Ulmer

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO HOST CONGREGATION

Classis approved that the following statement of thanks be sent to Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE, and that it be printed in the church's March 25 bulletin:

"It is a humbling thing for those of us who are pastors and elders to see the love, care, and joy with which we are treated by members of our churches when they host a Classis meeting. The ladies deserve special notice as they freely exercise their culinary skills on our behalf. To this we can only say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" But be sure this thank you comes from the bottom of our hearts. Yours in Christ, The Delegates of the South Central Classis, RCUS."

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 2018 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 10:05 pm on Tuesday, March 20th, until the convening of the next Spring Meeting, March 25, 2019, at Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.

A. Roll Call - The final roll call showed 17 ministers and 10 elders present.

B. Devotion - Elder Scott Ulmer closed with a devotion from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 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

2017	Colorado Springs, CO	Greeley, CO	Limon, CO	Lincoln, NE	Emmanuel Sutton, NE
Number of Elders	2	2	3	3	3
Number of Deacons	3	3	2	3	3
Communicants Last Year	49	54	38	79	123
Received – Confirmation	2	1	2	4	2
Received – Letter of Dismission	8	2	2	4	1
Received – Profession of Faith	9	5	2	0	5
Total Members Received	19	8	6	8	8
Total Old/New Members	68	62	44	87	131
Lost by Dismissal	2	6	1	0	4
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	2	0	3	2	19
Lost by Death	0	1	0	0	2
Total Members Lost	4	7	4	2	25
Total Communicants Members This Year	64	55	40	85	106
Unconfirmed Members	29	17	21	35	6
Total Baptized Members	93	72	61	130	112
Number of Families	35	31	18	40	58
Children in Sunday School	24	11	16	28	2
Adults Baptized Last Year	5	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	3	2	2	3	2
Total Baptisms	8	2	2	3	2
Members Received Lord's Supper	66	55	41	78	101
Lord's Supper Observed	12	13	12	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	117,808	134,327	66,216	108,302	94,771
Receipts – Special Offerings	5,774	7,139	2,317	7,578	48,460
Receipts – Other Sources	0	0	4,561	25,000	0
Total Receipts	123,582	141,466	73,094	140,880	143,231
Budgeted Synodical Funds	11,956	13,011	8,588	23,510	31,417
Budgeted Classical Funds	4,532	4,955	3,663	8,834	11,376
Non-Guideline Causes	3,013	2,480	1,200	2,418	0
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	0	596	0	600	13,423
Other General Expenses	99,843	116,286	67,159	180,690	86,163
Total Disbursements	119,344	137,328	80,610	216,052	142,379
Value of Church Buildings	0	242,000	40,000	110,000	522,000
Value of Parsonage	0	158,000	0	99,100	157,000
Property Improvements	0	0	12,168	0	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	75,933	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	2,418	0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	244	241	226	297	255
Classis Giving Per Communicant	92	92	96	111	92
Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.	398	379	322	440	347

2017	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	157	154	79	64	150
Received – Confirmation	0	3	0	0	3
Received – Letter of Dismission	8	1	0	2	8
Received – Profession of Faith	10	4	1	0	1
Total Members Received	18	8	1	2	12
Total Old/New Members	175	162	80	66	162
Lost by Dismissal	0	0	0	4	6
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	1	5	5	5	5
Lost by Death	2	3	0	1	0
Total Members Lost	3	8	5	10	11
Total Communicants Members This Year	172	154	75	56	151
Unconfirmed Members	60	13	18	20	62
Total Baptized Members	232	167	93	76	213
Number of Families	76	83	38	30	70
Children in Sunday School	25	8	11	20	49
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	1	1	4	0	5
Total Baptisms	1	1	4	0	5
Members Received Lord's Supper	139	141	55	66	139
Lord's Supper Observed	6	4	5	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	215,707	158,824	114,104	246,706	245,370
Receipts – Special Offerings	42,404	42,883	11,995	3,390	9,204
Receipts – Other Sources	102,776	2,047	33,370	0	92,124
Total Receipts	360,877	203,804	159,469	250,096	346,698
Budgeted Synodical Funds	39,788	37,332	9,955	16,296	37,388
Budgeted Classical Funds	14,521	14,151	8,193	5,919	15,192
Non-Guideline Causes	11,928	14,640	23,943	0	1,257
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	71,708	680	4,974	24,160	2,165
Other General Expenses	131,685	143,715	119,434	185,754	168,718
Total Disbursements	269,630	210,518	166,499	232,129	224,671
Value of Church Buildings	800,000	500,000	525,000	700,000	1,032,191
Value of Parsonage	100,000	350,000	189,000	180,000	0
Property Improvements	1,464	30,250	5,785	50,000	0
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	253	242	126	255	249
Classis Giving Per Communicant	92	92	104	92	101
Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.	422	429	533	347	359

2017	Vermillion, SD	Rock Springs, WY	Omaha, NE	Casper, WY	Total all churches
Number of Elders	2	2	0	1	38
Number of Deacons	1	2	0	0	35
Communicants Last Year	25	39	11	17	1039
Received – Confirmation	0	1	0	0	18
Received – Letter of Dismission	2	1	1	0	40
Received – Profession of Faith	0	0	0	2	39
Total Members Received	2	2	1	2	97
Total Old/New Members	27	41	12	19	1136
Lost by Dismissal	2	2	1	0	28
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	0	3	1	0	51
Lost by Death	0	0	0	0	9
Total Members Lost	2	5	2	0	88
Total Communicants Members This Year	25	36	10	19	1048
Unconfirmed Members	8	13	7	20	329
Total Baptized Members	33	49	17	39	1387
Number of Families	10	20	5	9	523
Children in Sunday School	8	8	7	19	236
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	5
Infants Baptized	0	1	0	1	25
Total Baptisms	0	1	0	1	30
Members Received Lord's Supper	25	36	12	19	69 (avg)
Lord's Supper Observed	3	12	6	12	8 (avg)
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	96,828	94,738	52,130	45,358	1,791,189
Receipts – Special Offerings	503	1,000	17,686	200	200,533
Receipts – Other Sources	1,734	0	81,100	57,250	399,952
Total Receipts	99,065	95,738	150,916	102,808	2,391,724
Budgeted Synodical Funds	6,300	9,278	0	0	244,769
Budgeted Classical Funds	2,312	3,607	0	1,060	98,315
Non-Guideline Causes	4,100	1,000	308	200	66,487
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	3,388	0	0	1,200	122,844
Other General Expenses	64,880	92,283	92,139	88,602	1,637,351
Total Disbursements	80,930	106,168	92,447	91,062	2,078,705
Value of Church Buildings	305,000	175,000	159,841	0	5,111,032
Value of Parsonage	125,000	150,000	0	0	1,508,100
Property Improvements	244	568	724	0	101,203
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	75,933
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	2,418
Synod Giving Per Communicant	252	238	0	0	236
Classis Giving Per Communicant	92	92	0	56	95
Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.	508	392	25	66	394

Appendix #2 - Necrologies

No necrologies were reported.

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.