

## OFFICERS OF CLASSIS

PRESIDENT	Reverend Mr. Jon Blair
VICE-PRESIDENT	Reverend Mr. Lee Johnson
STATED CLERK	Reverend Mr. George Horner
TREASURER	Elder Spencer Gross
	723 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.
	Mitchell, SD 57301

## PERMANENT COMMITTEES

*(Underlined indicates chairman)*

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

## 2012 CLASSIS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING

	<b>Guideline</b>	<b>per Communicant (1057)</b>
Classical Expense Fund	\$11,000	\$10.41
Providence (Limon)	\$ 4,200	\$ 3.97
Christ the King (TX)	\$18,000	\$17.03
Future Home Missions	\$15,000	\$14.34
Heidelberg Seminary	\$ 7,928	\$ 7.50
New Geneva Seminary	\$ 6,342	\$ 6.00
Benevolence	\$ 3,000	\$ 2.84
 Total	 \$65,470	 \$72.75

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## **DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES**

### **COLORADO**

COLORADO SPRINGS ([www.trinityrcus.com](http://www.trinityrcus.com))

Trinity Covenant RCUS. Phone: **(719) 590-1477**.  
Mail: 6050 Del Paz Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918.  
Location: Grace Presbyterian Church, 2511 N. Logan Ave.  
Worship: 11:30AM. Sunday school: 1:00PM.  
Pastor: C.W. "Bud" Powell, Jr. (wife, Penny)

GREELEY ([www.reformedgreeley.org](http://www.reformedgreeley.org))

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(970) 336-9927**.  
Mail: 1505 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Greeley, CO 80631. Location: 1501 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Worship 11:00 AM. Sunday school at 9:45 AM.  
Pastor: Jon Blair (wife, Wendy)

## LIMON

Providence RCUS. Phone: **(719) 775-8842**.  
Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828. Location: 725 Michigan Ave.  
Worship: 10:00AM. Sunday school: 11:30AM.  
Pastor: Matthew Powell (wife, Andrea)

## NEBRASKA

### LINCOLN ([www.stjohnsrcus.com](http://www.stjohnsrcus.com))

St. John's RCUS. Phone: **(402) 476-1827**  
Mail and location: 1101 South 26<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68502  
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM.  
Pastor: Lee Johnson (wife, Jenny Jo).

## SUTTON

Emmanuel RCUS. Phone: **(402) 773-4218**  
Mail: PO Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979. Location: 110 South Way Ave.  
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Pastor: Joe Vusich (wife, Gioia, pronounced JOY-uh)

## SUTTON

Hope RCUS. Phone: **(402) 773-4330**. [dlkingswood@altell.net](mailto:dlkingswood@altell.net)  
Mail: PO Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979. Location: 311 E. Hickory.  
Worship: 10:30AM; SS: 9:00AM; Family Bible Study 6:30PM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.)  
Pastor: Darrell Kingswood (wife, Lori ).

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### MENNO

Zion RCUS. Phone: **(605) 760-0167**  
Mail: P.O. Box 387. Menno, SD 57045. Location: 220 South Pine St.  
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:30 AM, Summer Worship: 9:30 AM  
Pastor: Travis Grassmid (wife, Charity )

### MITCHELL ([www.gracereformed.com](http://www.gracereformed.com))

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(605) 996-2803**  
Mail: PO Box 252, Mitchell, SD 57301. Location: 1021 S. Davison.  
Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM, Evening Study: 5PM  
Pastor: Michael Mc Gee (wife, Jenny)

### RAPID CITY ([www.gracereformedrapidcity.com](http://www.gracereformedrapidcity.com))

Grace RCUS. Phone: **(605) 399-1711**.  
5626 Haines Ave. Rapid City, SD 57701  
Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School 9:00 AM; Bible Study Sunday 6:00 PM  
Pastor: David Fagrey (wife, Bonnie)

### SIoux FALLS ([www.trinityrcus.org](http://www.trinityrcus.org))

Trinity RCUS. Phone: **(605) 553-7971**.  
Mail and Location: 7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
Worship: 10:00 AM.  
Pastor: Ron Morris (wife, Sheri)

**VERMILLION** ([www.providencereformed.com](http://www.providencereformed.com))

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

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

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

Pastor: Robert Grossmann (wife, Polly)

**TEXAS**

**SHERMAN** ([shermanreformed.net](http://shermanreformed.net))

Christ The King RCUS. Phone **(903) 893-7547**

Mail: 122 Willow Ridge Dr., Sherman, TX 75029

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

Worship: 10AM, Sunday School following.

Pastor: Neale Riffert (wife, Mary Elizabeth)

**WYOMING**

**ROCK SPRINGS** ([www.providencerocksprings.org](http://www.providencerocksprings.org))

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

1007 9<sup>th</sup> St. Rock Springs, WY 82901.

Worship: 10AM, Sunday School 11:45AM

Pastor: George Horner (wife, Mary Jo)

**SERVICES**

- The body met for worship on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. with Rev. Darrell Kingswood conducting, and Rev. Michael McGee preaching a sermon entitled “The Importance of Church Membership” based on Ephesians 4: 11-20.
- At 9:52 a.m., Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Travis Grassmid presented a devotion from Psalm 2 and led the body in singing and prayer.
- Closing devotions on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 p.m. were led by Elder Fred Hofmann who read from and commented on John 6:22-40 and led the body in prayer.

**ORGANIZATION**

The President of Classis, Rev. Jon Blair, called the body to order on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2012, at 8:47 p.m. The body conducted business until 9:45 p.m.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

President	The Reverend Mr. Jon Blair
Vice-President	The Reverend Mr. Lee Johnson
Stated Clerk	The Reverend Mr. George Horner
Treasurer	Elder Mr. Spencer Gross

The President appointed Rev. Lee Johnson to be the Reformed Herald reporter.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Benevolence	T. Grassmid, L. Johnson, E. Starks
Education and Student Aid	D. Kingswood, B. Grossman, A. Haller
Examination and Licensure	C.W. Powell, M. Koerner, D. Fagrey, J. Rydell, T. Schieffelin
Finances	R. Grossmann, S. Gross, J. Smith
Ministerial Aid	L. Johnson, F. Hofmann, D. Griess
Missions	R. Morris, S. Gross, D. Oliver
Overtures	M. McGee, M. Powell, D. Griess
Publications	J. Vusich, D. Kingswood, M. Burbach
Services	M. McGee, F. Hofmann, C. Mehlhaf
Judicial	M. Powell, H. Hart, C. Mehlhaf
Nominations	D. Fagrey, T. Grassmid, J. Rydell
Minutes of Synod	M. Koerner, G. Horner, T. Schieffelin

**PRESENTATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee (*Referred to Overtures*)

**Executive Circulars Volume 26, Numbers 1-10**

**Number 1**

June 30, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There are three items that need your attention:

**A. The Resignation of Rev. George Syms.**

The executive committee has received the following documents and has found them to be in order:

- a. The resignation of Rev. George Syms as pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, dated June 15, 2011.
- b. Acceptance of Rev. Syms' resignation from the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell SD, dated June 15<sup>th</sup> 2011. It was noted that the release from Rev. Syms' ministerial labors would be no later than September 15, 2011.



## **B. The retirement of Rev. George Syms**

The executive committee has received a letter of from Rev. George Syms, requesting retirement, dated June 27, 2011.

## **C. A petition for Ministerial Aid and Benevolent Aid**

The executive committee received a request from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, that the South Central Classis petition Synod to grant \$1,800 per month in ministerial aid and \$400 per month in benevolent aid for Rev. George Syms upon his retirement from the pastoral ministry.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Classis approve the resignation and acceptance of resignation of Rev. George Syms as pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD and that the pulpit of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD be declared vacant no later than September 15, 2011.
2. That Classis, in accordance with Article 34 of the Constitution, approve the request of Rev. George Syms to be honorably retired from the active duties of ministry. "A minister compelled by age or infirmity to retire from the active duties of ministry shall retain his right to a seat and vote in his Classis and in the Synod, and to perform ministerial acts within the restrictions specified in Article 31 of this Constitution" (Article 34).
3. That Classis petition Synod to grant \$1,800 per month in ministerial aid and \$400 per month in benevolent aid for Rev. George Syms upon his retirement from the pastoral ministry.

## **Number 2**

July 14, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There are two items that need your attention:

## **D. A Review of Executive Circular 26.1.**

The three recommendations from Executive Circular 26.1 were as follows:

4. That Classis approve the resignation and acceptance of resignation of Rev. George Syms as pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD and that the pulpit of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD be declared vacant no later than September 15, 2011.
5. That Classis, in accordance with Article 34 of the Constitution, approve the request of Rev. George Syms to be honorably retired from the active duties of ministry. "A

minister compelled by age or infirmity to retire from the active duties of ministry shall retain his right to a seat and vote in his Classis and in the Synod, and to perform ministerial acts within the restrictions specified in Article 31 of this Constitution” (Article 34).

6. That Classis petition Synod to grant \$1,800 per month in ministerial aid and \$400 per month in benevolent aid for Rev. George Syms upon his retirement from the pastoral ministry

There were no objections to the first two, but there was an objection to the third recommendation.

- E. A request from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD concerning aid for Rev. George Syms upon his retirement from the pastoral ministry.

The Executive Committee received the following request from the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church:

July 13, 2011

The Executive Committee  
South Central Classis  
Rev. David Fagrey, Clerk

Esteemed Brothers,

We, the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, in response to the objection to the amount of ministerial relief of (\$1,800.00) for Rev. George Syms, do agree with the objection and desire to reduce the amount requested to \$1,600.00 per month, and to review annually the amount of \$400.00 per month in Benevolent Aid to Rev. Syms.

Yours in Christ our Lord,

John Frey, Clerk of Consistory

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee makes the following recommendation: That Classis petition Synod to grant to Rev. George Syms upon his retirement from the pastoral ministry \$1,600 per month in ministerial aid and \$400 per month in benevolent aid, to be reviewed annually.

**Number 3**

Sept. 14, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that needs your attention.

- A. A request from Rev. David Fagrey as Clerk of Classis.

The Executive Committee received the following communication from Rev. David Fagrey:

In light of the fact that I am now clerk of Synod, I hereby request that you release me from my duties as clerk of the South Central Classis. I trust that the grounds for this request are self-evident. It has been an honor for me to serve as clerk of our Classis for over nine years (2002-2011). I trust that my labors have been acceptable.

Rev. George Horner, who once served as clerk of our Classis (cf. 2000 Abstract), has stated that he is willing to serve as clerk *pro tem* until Classis is able to elect another clerk.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. David Fagrey

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee makes the following recommendation: That Classis allow Rev. David Fagrey to be released from his duties as clerk of the South Central Classis, and that Classis appoint Rev. George Horner as clerk *pro tem*.

**Number 4**

Oct 12, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention.

- A. The Call and Acceptance of Rev. Mike McGee.

The executive committee has received the following documents and has found them to be in order:

- (1) Call of a minister from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, dated September 14, 2011, to Rev. Mike McGee, Watertown, SD.
- (2) Letter from Rev. Mike McGee, stating his acceptance of the call from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD dated September 26, 2011.

- (3) A request from Rev. Mike McGee to be transferred to the South Central Classis, dated September 26, 2011.

The Executive Committee has also received word that the Candidates and Credentials Committee is satisfied with their interview (*Coloquim doctum*) of Rev. Mike McGee.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Having examined the particulars of said call in accordance with article 28, the executive committee recommends that Classis approve this call, that Rev. Mike McGee be received and added to the rolls as a minister of the South Central Classis; and that the pulpit of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD be declared vacant as of December 1, 2011.

### **Number 5**

Oct. 20, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention:

- A. A special meeting of the South Central Classis on **Tues Nov 8<sup>th</sup>**, at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, for the purpose of examining as to his orthodoxy and purity of intent ( RCUS Constitution Art. 35, 82) the Rev. Travis Grassmid, who has accepted a call to serve as Minister of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.

The President of Classis calls this special meeting for the above stated purpose, since the next regularly scheduled meeting of Classis is not until March 2012.

The SCC Classis, via the Candidates and Credentials Committee, had granted its approval of the candidacy of Rev. Grassmid, who is currently serving as an ordained pastor of Bethel United Reformed Church in Jenison, MI.

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

- a. Call of a Minister from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, dated Oct. 2, 2011 to Rev. Travis Grassmid, Jenison, MI
- b. Letter from Rev. Travis Grassmid, stating his acceptance of the call from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, dated Oct 18, 2011.

- c. Letter of resignation of Rev.Travis Grassmid from Bethel United Reformed Church, Jenison, MI, dated Oct 16, 2011.
  - d. Acceptance of the resignation of Rev. Travis Grassmid from the Consistory of Bethel United Reformed Church, Jenison, MI, dated Oct 16, 2011.
1. **Time** - The Executive Committee of SCC has scheduled the meeting to begin at **3p.m.**
  2. **Proposed Order of Business:**
    - I. Services – sermon by Rev. Travis Grassmid
    - II. Organization:
      - A. Roll Call
      - B. Defining the Bar of the House
    - III. Adoption of Agenda, Services and Order of the Day
    - IV. The examination of Rev. Travis Grossmid

The Executive Committee received the following recommended examination schedule from the Candidates and Credentials Committee, with which the EC concurs:

For purposes of conducting an exam of the Rev. Travis Grassmid, the Candidates and Credentials Committee recommends the following schedule.

Rev. Grassmid will preach a sermon for the opening devotions.

Piety and Intent	by (Elder )	15 Min.
RCUS Constitution & History	by Maynard Koerner	15 Min.
Creeds	by Greg Van Holland	15 Min.
Prolegomena	by Maynard Koerner	15 Min.
Theology Proper	by Maynard Koerner	15 Min.
Anthropology	by CW Powell	15 Min.
Christology	by David Fagrey	15 Min.
Soteriology	by CW Powell	15 Min.
Ecclesiology	by CW Powell	15 Min.
Practica	by David Fagrey	15 Min.
Eschatology	by David Fagrey	15 Min.

There will be unlimited opportunity for questions from the floor following each area and on the entire exam after all of the areas have been covered.

Respectfully submitted,

Maynard Koerner, chairman

A brief resume of Rev. Travis Grassmid:

Travis was born 1/5/1969, he and his wife, Charity Lynn, have 5 children, Jessica-17, Esther-15, Lindsey-13, Alicia-11, Joseph-9. Following High School, Travis did construction and owned a home improvement company. In 2004, Travis enrolled at Greenville Presbyterian Seminary, graduating in 2008 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He does not have an undergraduate degree. He was ordained into the Christian ministry in the United Reformed Churches of North America on 5/3/2009. Since his ordination he has served as Associate Pastor in charge of congregational life in Bethel United Reformed Church of Jenison, MI. His duties as Associate Pastor have also included occasional preaching.

### **3. Proposed Order of the Day:**

3:00 p.m. -Business  
4:00- 4:10 p.m. -Recess if needed  
4:10- 5:45 p.m. -Business  
5:45- 6:30 p.m.- Supper  
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.- Business as necessary

4. **Accommodations** – If any delegates need to stay overnight in Menno/vicinity, please contact Elder Doug Zeeb, Ph. [605-999-4318](tel:605-999-4318), so that arrangements can be made.
5. **Excuses** from delegates may be sent to the clerk of Classis: [rcusgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:rcusgeorge@gmail.com)

## **Number 6**

October 26, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one issue that requires your attention;

A. The installation of Rev. Michael McGee.

The Executive Committee has received the following request from the Consistory of Grace Mitchell, SD:

The Consistory of Grace Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD requests that the following be judicated by the Executive Committee of Classis South Central: That a committee consisting of the Rev. Howard E. Hart (Chairman), the Rev. Ron Morris, the Rev. Dr. Robert Grossmann along with the Consistory of Grace

Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD be appointed to install the Rev. Michael McGee on December 11, 2011 at 7:00pm at Grace Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That a committee consisting of the Rev. Howard Hart (chairman), the Rev. Ron Morris, the Rev. Robert Grossmann along with Consistory of Grace Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD be appointed to install the Rev. Michael McGee on Dec 11, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.at Grace Reformed Church of Mitchell, SD and that said committee report back to the Executive Committee after the installation has taken place.

#### **Number 7**

November 11, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention.

- A. The Call and Acceptance of Rev. Neale Riffert as Associate Pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell SD, to labor in the SCC mission work in Sherman, Texas.

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

1. Call of a Minister (Associate Pastor) from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, dated Oct 5, 2011, to Rev. Neale Riffert , Sherman, TX.
2. Letter from Rev. Neale Riffert, stating his acceptance of the call from Grace Reformed Church. Mitchell, SD, dated Oct 31, 2011.

Pertinent also is that Rev. Riffert has been granted permission by the Western Classis, of which he is a member as a retired Minister, to labor outside the bounds of the Western Classis in Sherman, TX.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Having examined the particulars of said call in accordance with articles 28, 31 and 34 of the RCUS Constitution, the Executive Committee recommends that Classis approve this

call of Rev. Neale Riffert to serve as Associate Pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD.

**Number 8**

Dec. 13, 2011

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

There is one item that needs your attention:

A. The installation of Rev. Travis Grassmid

The Executive Committee has received the following request from the Consistory of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD:

*The Consistory of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD respectfully requests that a committee of Installation be established for the purpose of installing Rev. Travis Grassmid as pastor of Zion Reformed Church. We further request that the members of this committee be the Rev. Maynard Koerner and the Rev. Mike McGee along with the elders of Zion Reformed. The installation is to take place during an evening service to be held at Zion Reformed on January 15, 2012.*

RECOMMENDATION

That a committee, consisting of Rev. Maynard Koerner (chairman), Rev. Mike McGee, and the elders of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, install Rev. Travis Grassmid as pastor of Zion Reformed Church at an evening service to be held at Zion Reformed Church on Jan 15, 2012; and that said committee report back to the Executive Committee after the installation has taken placed.

**Number 9**

Jan. 30, 2012

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

There is one item that need your attention

A. 2012 Spring Meeting of South Central Classis at Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE.



1. Date and Time: The Spring Meeting of Classis will commence on **Monday, March 26**, at 6:45 pm. with a worship service.
2. For The Schedule of Services, Order of the Day, and Agenda: see attachments.
3. Statistics and Credentials: You will find attached with this circular one set of forms consisting of Membership and Financial Statistics and Credentials of Elders to Classis. According to the Standing Rules of Classis (#2&3) these are to be forwarded to the Stated Clerk no later than **two weeks** before Classis meets. This means they must be in the Clerk's hands by **March 12, 2012**. It would, however, be appreciated by the Clerk if these documents would be returned, completed, to him as early as possible. They may be sent as an attachment to an e-mail to the clerk: [rcusgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:rcusgeorge@gmail.com).
4. Parochial Reports: According to Standing Rule #2, Parochial Reports are to be **sent to the President** ( NOT THE CLERK!) **two weeks** before Classis meets- thus the President is to receive them by **March 12, 2012**. It would be appreciated by the President if these reports are received by him as early as possible.
5. Reports and Recommendations of Permanent and Special Committees: according to Standing Rule #17, the Reports of Permanent and Special Committees are to be completed and **sent to all the Consistories of all the churches of South Central Classis four weeks** prior to the Classis meeting, thus by **February 27, 2012**, with **one copy** (e-mail attachment) sent to the Stated Clerk. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only by the Executive Committee of Classis, by written request.
6. Accommodations: Please e-mail Rev. Joe Vusich [jvusich@windstream.net](mailto:jvusich@windstream.net) and let him know whether you want Emmanuel to arrange your housing ( and if so whether you want to stay with a family or in a motel) or whether you prefer to make your own housing arrangements. Emmanuel Reformed Church will assume that all delegates will be arriving in time for supper at 5:30 pm. unless the delegates communicate otherwise.
7. Committees: *underlined indicates chairman*

<b>Missions:</b>	<u>R. Morris</u> , H. Hart, R. Grossmann, S. Gross, D. Mettler
<b>Publications</b>	<u>J. Vusich</u> , M. Powell, T. Schieffelin
<b>Christian Education</b>	<u>G.Horner</u> , C.W. Powell, d. Kingswood, J. Connelly, D. DeGroot
<b>Interchurch Relations</b>	<u>M.Powell</u> , H. Van Stedum, E.Starks, D. Griess
<b>Candidates &amp; Credentials</b>	<u>M. Koerner</u> , C.W.Powell, D.Fagrey, G. Maassen, J. Savage, G. Van Holand
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<u>J.Blair</u> , G. Horner, A. Haller
<b>*Heidelberg Youth Camp</b>	<u>L.Johnson</u> , D.Fagrey, D.Kingswood, J. Berg, L. Dewald, R. Gallimore
*special committee	

**Number 10**  
Feb 29, 2012

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

According to SCC standing rule # 21, I am to send out overtures that were received at least 4 weeks prior to the Spring Classis meeting. Your Clerk has received 6 such overtures.

1. From the Consistory of Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD: A request for ministerial aid for the Rev. Herman Van Stedum in the amount of \$1500.00 per month.
2. From the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD: A request for ministerial aid for Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann in the amount of \$1200.00 per month for the next synodical year.
3. From the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE: A request for ministerial aid for Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger in the amount of \$1400.00 per month.
4. From the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE: A request that classis petition Synod to join Council Bluffs, IA to the South Central Classis.
5. From the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO: A request that the South Central Classis provide salary support to Rev. C.W. Powell for teaching at New Geneva Theological Seminary in the amount of \$700.00 per month.
6. From the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO: A request that Classis petition the 266<sup>th</sup> Synod to create a special committee for the purpose of proposing a constitutional amendment that would state that the Spiritual Council (or other church judicatory) may continue the process of discipline after charges have been filed even if the member later attempts to withdraw their membership.

**MISSIONS**

*(Referred to Standing Missions)*

Your Missions Committee, consisting of Reverends Ron Morris, Robert Grossmann and Howard Hart, and Elders Spencer Gross and Daniel Mettler, met twice last year as a Committee. The Committee met first to plan out goals and strategies for the upcoming year and then met again to discuss the various visitations we had conducted and ideas that we had since the last meeting.

Regarding goals and strategies, your Committee discussed previous mission works done by the South Central Classis (SCC) and what we have done right in the past, what we have done wrong in the past, and what lessons we have learned over the years.

Some of the things we have done right would include conducting effective Bible studies on Reformed distinctives. It has not been the goal in the past to plant broadly evangelical

churches, but uniquely Reformed congregations that would hold to the Three Forms of Unity, Six Day Creation, Male Headship, etc. By covering these areas early, we are doing the “spade work” to plant a Reformed congregation. Another thing that we have done right is to work with strong, stable families which are dedicated to the work. This means not only dedicated to physically show up to meetings, but to also back up the work with their talents and financial abilities. A third thing we have done right in the past is to put the right man in the right situation. It is simply a fact that not all men are called to be missionaries in a church planting situation. It requires certain skills and personality traits which are conducive to organizing, building up, and getting a group “off the ground.” We have done these things successfully in the past.

Our discussion of things we have done wrong in the past would include starting a work dominated by a strong personality or a group of strong personalities which may have their own agenda. This is a classic problem in church planting. It is not uncommon to find a family or a group of families who simply have not gotten their way in previous congregations and cannot get along with others, so they are looking to start their own church where they can “have the say” in what is done in the church. This has been, and would be in the future, a disaster (possibly an expensive one) waiting to happen. Another thing that we have done wrong is to find a family or two who have existed for some time as a group but have not been able to grow into a really viable group. In the past, we have been told, “If only we would start a church, more people would come.” This has not panned out in the past and is a questionable model to follow in the future.

During our first meeting, we also planned visitations to the various works that we have started or groups with which we have contact. Rev. Hart and Elder Gross visited Sherman, TX, Revs. Morris and Hart and Elder Mettler visited Limon, CO, and Revs. Morris and Grossmann and Elder Gross visited Scottsbluff, NE. We also have information about Casper, WY and Omaha, NE, as well as the concept of a Regional Home Missionary. Following is the information on these topics:

#### Sherman, TX:

The work in Sherman, TX, is currently a mission work of the SCC. It started when Rev. Neil Riffert, who had relocated to that area, was asked to conduct a Bible study in the area. The group gained momentum and Classis sent a team to do an assessment and that team reported back to Classis in 2010. It was at that point that Christ the King Reformed Church was accepted as a mission work under the oversight of Grace Reformed Church in Mitchell, SD. Christ the King is currently meeting in a conference room at a local La Quinta Inn and has a little over 20 in attendance on each Lord’s Day. The desire among the people there is to continue to grow and reach out to the area of nearly 40,000 people with the gospel. The Committee recommends continued encouragement to Rev. Riffert and the brethren in Sherman and continued financial support of \$1500 per month.

#### Limon, CO

Revs. Ron Morris and Howard Hart, as well as Elder Daniel Mettler, visited Limon, CO on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Committee members were very cordially greeted by Deacons Kenny Yoder and Rick Carducci as well as Elder Ted Schefflin and Rev. Matt Powell. Before the meeting began, a woman from the congregation asked to address the Committee. She had been part of a group that had left Limon in the past. She informed the Committee that she now believes that she was misguided at the time, has returned to the Limon congregation, and has

given her full support to the leadership at Providence Reformed in Limon. Regarding the work itself, the work in Limon seems to be thriving. Giving is strong. The congregation has been able to remodel their fellowship hall, put in new windows and carpet, and a new furnace. There is property connected to the current property, and the congregation there is trying to discern whether or not to purchase that property for future expansion. They currently have about 60 – 70 souls in attendance on each Lord’s Day. Rev. Powell is conducting different Bible studies in the area as well as teaching a course at New Geneva Seminary in Colorado Springs. Your Committee recommends that Classis continue to encourage the brethren in Limon. As per their request, Limon is asking for a reduction of support from \$750 per month to \$350 per month.

#### Scottsbluff, NE

Revs. Ron Morris and Robert Grossmann, and Elder Spencer Gross, visited a proposed work in Scottsbluff, NE. Scottsbluff is a town of 15,000 people, but is a “hub” for several outlying towns. The total population in the Scottsbluff region is probably closer to 25,000 citizens. The impetus for this work came when a family from the Rapid City congregation moved for work related reasons to Scottsbluff. The leader of that family had been a Deacon in the Rapid City congregation. His family’s love and dedication to the teachings of the Reformed Church gave them a strong desire to see an RCUS work started in the area. The Rapid City congregation has shown an eagerness to support this work financially, even exclusively if necessary, to see a work started there. The Committee was treated to a wonderful meal in the home of Todd and Sandy Guildemaster, the family who relocated from Rapid City to Scottsbluff. The Guildemasters have been hosting a Bible study in their home for a couple of years. There have been a few families that have attended, but only one other than the Guildemasters with regularity. The other families that have attended have indicated a reservation about key Reformed doctrines such as Infant Baptism and Church government (even the very concept of “denominations”). There are two independent quasi-Reformed congregations in the area with which these other families seem to have aligned themselves. Since the Committee’s visitation, another RCUS family from Limon, CO, has also relocated to the Scottsbluff area for work related reasons. They also have a strong desire to see an RCUS work started in the area. The Committee believes that for a work to take off there, a constant, steady stream of solid Reformed teaching would need to be conducted with periodic worship services, under the auspices of the Rapid City Consistory. To accomplish this, a minister, or a group of ministers must commit to the work. At the very least, a monthly, and preferably a weekly Bible study, led by an RCUS minister needs to be organized. As indicated above, the Rapid City congregation is willing to largely support a work in the area. The Committee recommends that a minister, or a group of ministers commit to this work under the oversight of Rapid City, and that the Classis subsidize this work with \$500 per month to cover travel and/or advertizing.

#### Casper, WY

Last year a minister of the SCC was notified of a Bible study group which had started in the Casper, WY area. The group was originally started by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA). But after some time, the group was lacking a leader. One of our ministers was contacted and he went through the proper channels, talking with a local RPCNA minister, who at first indicated that the RPCNA may be willing to “hand over” the work to the RCUS. The committee followed up recently with the minister in question and he informed us

that, as of now, the RPCNA wants to keep the work going, but was appreciative of our interest and support and would keep that in mind.

Omaha, NE

The following is an abridged report from Rev. Lee Johnson of St. Johns Reformed Church in Lincoln:

"We are currently holding bible studies near the airport, which is right past downtown Omaha, although technically the address is now Carter Lake, IA. Don't worry we are still on our side of the river. How that ended up Iowa, I don't know. Anyway, we are in the Omaha metro area.

Three families are very committed to this study. The Veeneman family, which are members of Saint John's, the Brick family, which has past connections with the RCUS through the Vermillion RCUS church, and the Weber family, which is also familiar with the RCUS from the days when Bill Weber pastored the CRC church in Menno, SD.

In addition to these three committed families, we have knowledge of a few others who we hope would become connected to the RCUS if a plant were to start up in the area. These are the contacts that the current bible study attenders have and that they are working on. [Two families] are being kept up to date on how the study is going and they are hoping to see a greater level of commitment before joining. One currently has conflicts with our bible study time. A military family that is currently part of the PCA, but solidly reformed is moving to the area soon, and they have already been invited to the study. Another member of the failed OPC church plant that currently is worshipping at Dominion Covenant church has been notified and they are also a little wary of new church works after the experience with the OPC, but long term could be possible. I have also heard mention of [another family] and knowledge of a large group of people not happy with the PCA church in Omaha. There is discontent in the area with the lack of sound worship. These families are plugged into that and seem rather active in seeking to bring those families in. However, our current position of not being able to do anything on Sundays and the perceived lack of commitment to Omaha appears to be holding some people back.

In addition to contacts had by the three families, I have been in contact with a few people who have not yet materialized at the studies, but could be followed up upon if someone were present full time. [One person] is in email contact with me. I have sent him info on the RCUS, and I offered him to be removed from my mailing list after several weeks of him not showing, but he declined to be removed asking to be kept up to date. There is a Facebook group that contains 36 members most of whom live in a 50 mile radius of Omaha. ?? live in the Metro Omaha area, one lives in Woodbridge Iowa, Fremont, NE (2), and Harlan, IA. They are kept up to date as well. Some are even former members of the RCUS churches in Sutton. . . They have expressed interest in the past, but have yet to show up. Members of our church in Lincoln whom they know are keeping up the pressure for them to attend. They might also be more willing if it were a Sunday activity.

There are also other opportunities to get the word out about the church. Contact has been made with a local Christian radio about ads. I can turn that information over if needed. The Omaha World Herald ads are a bit expensive, but did generate at least 3 email responses last time. We are also without a serious web presence. There is also a White-Horse Inn Discussion group that meets in Omaha. They meet at a Lutheran church, and are mostly members of that church, but contact could be established with them as well. The leader of that group specifically is described as 'not entirely Lutheran'. He could be another possibility. Sadly, I am unable to get back to Omaha the night they meet, so I have had no contact with them.

In short it is my belief that a man on the ground in Omaha would not lack for work to do. A list of people to follow up with and meet is already growing beyond what I am able to do from Lincoln. If a church were to start up with only the current attenders of the bible study it would have 21 baptized members not including the missionary and his family.

I ask that the committee consider recommending placing a man in Omaha to carry on this work.

Rev. Lee Johnson

The Committee has discussed this report from Rev. Johnson and we believe that Omaha is the most viable new work that we have. We believe that it is imperative that we "strike while the iron is hot." The Committee recommends that we actively seek to put a full-time missionary in the Omaha area as soon as possible and financially support that work and seek further support

from Synod. The Committee would remind Classis that a few years ago, Classis agreed to “target” the larger metropolitan areas in our Classical boundaries. In particular, Classis noted Denver and Omaha. It very well may be that a door has opened for the preaching of the gospel in Omaha and we must not miss this important opportunity.

Your Committee was tasked with fulfilling a mandate to consider re-instituting the Missionary-At-Large (MAL) program that has been used successfully in the past. In particular, Classis mandated that the “target area” for the MAL be the states of Kansas and Oklahoma. After some discussion, the Committee believes that this is too broad of a mandate. Our limited resources (i.e. money and man-power) would make such a move difficult at this point. Your Committee believes that putting our limited resources in Omaha would be the wiser move at this time. However, if it is the will of Classis to reinstate the MAL in Kansas and Oklahoma, your Committee asks for more direction and guidelines and a narrower job description (i.e. what specific cities in those two states should the MAL target?).

Recommendations:

- 1) That Classis take note of the things learned from past missionary experiences.
- 2) That Classis continues funding Christ the King Reformed Church at \$1500 per month.
- 3) That Classis accepts the request from Providence Reformed Church in Limon for a reduction in mission funding from \$750 per month to \$350 per month.
- 4) That Classis take note of the work in Casper, WY and keep the work in our prayers.
- 5) That Classis send an assessment committee to Omaha, NE and, upon a positive assessment, actively begin a mission work in Omaha as soon as possible under the oversight of the Lincoln congregation and that we petition Synod for financial support for this effort.
- 6) That Classis direct our resources and energy at this point to the work in Omaha instead of starting up a MAL program as the current mandate defines it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ron Morris, Rev. Robert Grossmann, Rev. Howard Hart, Elder Spencer Gross,  
Elder Daniel Mettler

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*(Referred to Standing Publications)*

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

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

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Joe Vusich (chairman), Rev. Matt Powell, Elder Ted Schieffeli

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
*(Referred to Education and Student Aid)*

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your Christian Education Committee has no business brought before it during the past year, and therefore did not meet and so has no business to report.

Respectfully submitted,

George Horner ( chairman), C.W. Powell, D. Kingswood, J. Connelly, D. DeGroot

**INTERCHURCH RELATIONS**  
*(Referred to Overtures)*

Report of the Permanent Committee for Interchurch Relations, South Central Classis

Esteemed brothers,

The committee did its business via email. The only business brought before it was invitations to various meetings of our fraternal churches. We received invitations to the spring and fall meetings of the Presbytery of the Dakotas, OPC, to the fall meeting of the Classis Central URC, and to the fall meeting of the Midwest Presbytery, RPCNA. I am glad to report that we were able to send representatives to all of these meetings. I attended the spring meeting of the PoD, OPC as well as the fall meeting of the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA. Rev. Lee Johnson attended the Classis Central URC meeting and Rev. Herman van Stedum attended the fall meeting of the PoD, OPC.

I also sent invitations to our spring Classis meeting to these same three fraternal churches. As of now I have received notice that a delegate from the RPCNA will be attending, but have not yet heard from the other two bodies.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Matt Powell, chairman, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Elder Dan Griess, Elder Earl Starks

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Classis Action: Classis took note of this report when it was read on the floor.

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**CANDIDATES AND CREDENTIALS**  
*(referred to Examination and Licensure)*

Candidates and Credentials Committee Report  
South Central Classis

Sutton, NE March 26, 2012

Brethren:

During the past Classical year your committee conducted business by email and met several times by conference phone call.

On 9/05/2011 the committee met by conference phone call to interview Rev. Travis Grassmid for the purpose to granting approval for Rev. Grassmid to preach a trial sermon at Zion Reformed Menno, SD.

The action of the committee was to grant approval. This decision was made known by circular letter.

On 10/08/2011 the committee met by conference phone call to conduct a colloquium doctum with Rev. Mike McGee. The committee found that Rev. McGee satisfactorily sustained the colloquium doctum and advised the Executive Committee. As a result Rev. McGee's transfer to South Central Classis and his acceptance of the call from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD was approved.

Your committee also requested that a special meeting of the South Central Classis be held for the purpose of giving an ordination exam to Rev. Travis Grassmid. This examination took place at Menno, SD on Nov. 8, 2011. Rev. Grassmid successfully sustained his exam.

Your committee has received a request from Mr. Tim Marinelli to be placed on the roll of student under care. Mr. Marinelli is a member of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD. Mr. Marinelli has taken some courses from Greenville Theological Seminary by correspondence. He plans to move to Greenville, SC this summer and begin attending at the seminary this fall. A copy of his request and a recommendation from the Rapid City Consistory are included. We also have a request from Mr. Marinelli for student aid.

Jim Connelly remains a Student Under Care of Classis. There has been minimal contact with Mr. Connelly during this past year. He reports that he has not made any advancements in his studies since the last meeting of Classis. He is busy with his work as an Elder and in dealing with his wife's health issues. They are attempting some new medication. Mr. Connelly does request that he be allowed to continue the status as Student Under Care for one more year. He does realize that if he is not able to make any advancements in his studies he will need to withdraw from student status.



The committee presents one recommendation:

1. That Mr. Tim Marinelli be placed on the roll of student under care.

Respectfully submitted,

Maynard Koerner  
CW Powell  
David Fagrey

Gary Maassen  
John Savage  
Greg Van Holland

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **President's Report on the State of the Church**

Beloved brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ:

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” This being my first year as president of the South Central Classis, I write this report mindful of our mutual faith in Jesus Christ—and that by nothing else but the sovereign and free grace of God in saving sinners and granting us peace with Him and with one another. I am grateful for the Lord’s grace in granting a relative peace in the church—at least insofar as I can discern from my experience as a member of the Executive Committee, and in reading the parochial reports of the ministers. This, of course, does not imply inactivity among the congregations (for much has transpired), nor that difficulties and hardships haven’t been encountered both personally and corporately (for that comes with the territory). But we have much for which to be thankful and to never take for granted—and continue in prayer for the Lord’s grace to sustain and grow and make us fruitful in His service.

I first want to acknowledge the challenges some of the brothers (and their wives) have faced with respect to their physical health. Rev. Howard Hart reports having a difficult year in this regard, dealing with the effects of prostate cancer, diverticulosis, arthritis, as well recovering from recent surgeries. Rev. C.W. Powell also reports having been “tested this year” with respect to his continued treatment of prostate cancer. Also, we were saddened by the physical infirmities of Rev. George Syms, leading to resignation from his charge in Mitchell and honorable retirement from the pastoral ministry. We continue to pray for the Lord’s sustaining grace in body and soul for our brothers and sisters, thankful for their many years of faithful service in the body of Christ.

We rejoice that the Lord continues to call and place men into the pastoral ministry when and where He chooses according to His wise providence as the Head of His church. At this meeting we will formally receive two new ministers into the Classis—Rev. Michael McGee, serving at Grace Reformed in Mitchell, SD; and Rev. Travis Grassmid, serving at Zion Reformed in Menno, SD. Additionally, Rev. Neale Riffert was called as associate pastor of

Grace Reformed in Mitchell, in order to serve the home mission work of Christ the King Reformed Church in Sherman, TX. Also, the teaching and training of men for the ministry faithfully continues through the remarkable providence of having two seminaries which we support within the bounds of our Classis—New Geneva in Colorado Springs, and Heidelberg in Sioux Falls. We will also be considering a recommendation to place another man on the roll of students under care, Mr. Tim Marinelli of Grace Reformed in Rapid City who is planning to continue his studies at Greenville Theological Seminary in South Carolina.

As the Missions Committee Report indicates, positive activity continues on the home mission front. As to the work in Sherman, TX “the desire among the people there is to continue to grow and reach out to the area of nearly 40,000 people with the gospel.” The work in Limon, CO “seems to be thriving” to the point of needing less financial support from the Classis. Also, there may be some potential for a work in the Scottsbluff, NE area, and great potential in the metro area of Omaha, NE—considered by the Mission Committee as “the most viable new work that we have” and “imperative that we strike while the iron is hot.” Accordingly, this Classis will decide on the Missions Committee recommendation to send an assessment committee to Omaha, with a view to formally beginning a mission work there, Lord willing.

Statistically, the Classis had a slight increase in total membership over the previous year. Also, giving through regular and special offerings increased nearly 6%, which is very encouraging considering the difficult economic times. A review of the parochial reports of ministers indicates that, overall, there is good temporal and spiritual health in the body. This is certainly evident in relation to the marks of the true church faithfully functioning, and in the general positive tone that resonates in all the reports. The following are some representative comments from the ministers of each congregation:

“God demonstrated His great faithfulness and covenant mercy to our congregation over this past year. Even though He ordained various trials for us along the way, the Lord upheld us by His grace and preserved us in His peace.” (Rev. Vusich)

“2011 was a year of controversy and growth for us in Sioux Falls. It was controversial in that we had to excommunicate one of our members, but a year of growth in that we did in fact grow numerically as well as, and more importantly, in spiritual maturity.” (Rev. Morris)

“Many members, in my personal conversations with them, give evidence of growth in God’s grace and a deeper and deeper sense of the centrality of the message of the gospel in their day to day lives. This is a great encouragement in the ministry and truly brings joy to a pastor’s heart.” (Rev. Kingswood)

“The Lord was pleased to bless Grace Reformed church in 2011...We now have the highest number of members we have ever had!...All in all, I believe our congregation is in good condition, and that there is a good spirit of unity and togetherness, for which I am very grateful.” (Rev. Fagrey)

“It is my observation that Trinity Covenant RCUS is doing well and has good prospects for continued growth, which is encouraging for all of us. The increase in membership from last year is being consolidated and people are growing in the Lord....Church life is robust, with every member participating some way in the life of the church.” (Rev. C.W. Powell)

“The Consistory believes that this congregation continues as a healthy church, enjoying the loving fellowship the Lord is building in Christ Jesus, through the gospel preached and applied in encouragement and admonition, as well as by various “works of ministry” done by the members.” (Rev. Horner)

“Overall I can report the marks of the church are present at Saint John's Reformed Church. The elders have certified the Word is preached. We celebrated the Lord's Supper on a regular basis, took the supper to shut ins, had a baptism, and with heavy hearts performed one case of judicial erasure....We can also praise the Lord that he is bringing visitors to our church.” (Rev. Johnson)

“The year 2011 was characterized by stability for our Congregation...In my opinion as pastor, our Congregation continues to be healthy and strong spiritually and materially, with an enthusiastic loyalty to the church on the part of its member families.” (Rev. Grossmann)

“I was installed as Pastor on Sunday evening, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012...thus far, we have all been working very well with one another, thus providing a very smooth transition, for which we praise God...the initial transition to Zion has been very good, and we pray that the Lord continues to bless our ministry in this loving congregation.” (Rev. Grassmid)

“The church is, I believe, growing in grace and truth...My pastoral visitations encourage me to believe that the great proportion of the members are active in personal Bible reading and growth, and in renewing their minds in conforming all of their lives to the truth of God’s word.” (Rev. M. Powell)

“It has been my privilege to serve at Grace RCUS for a few months now...As I have begun the process of learning about the congregation, I have been encouraged by them as a group and as individuals...Overall, the congregation is upbeat and united in their zeal for God’s blessings on this body of believers.” (Rev. McGee)

“Insofar as I can discern, the temporal and spiritual health of Grace Reformed Church remains good. I believe that the cause of Christ continues to advance in and through us—as the word of God is taught and preached and the gospel continues to go forth, the sacraments are faithfully administered, and we seek to live sanctified Christian lives.” (Rev. Blair)

I realize that we can write (and read) ministerial reports with “rose colored glasses” and that there is much going on “between the lines” in the week in / out lives of congregations. But taking what I see at face value, as I read the reports and connect the dots from one congregation to

the next, what emerges is a picture of overall good health and wholeness, peace and well-being in the body of Christ as represented here in the South Central Classis of the RCUS—by the grace and for the glory of God. Perhaps Rev. Robert Grossmann put it best when he writes, “Peace, such as we enjoy in this Congregation, is not just the absence of conflict, it is the positive unity or oneness of opinion concerning that which is most important in life, the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ.” And to that, I think we can all respond with a heartfelt, “Amen!”

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Jon Blair

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

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### **Stated Clerk’s Report on the Minutes**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The following items refer to duties performed by myself, and, previous to my assuming the duties of the Clerk in October 2011, by Rev. David Fagrey. These items include reference either to the spring 2011 Abstract or Circulars that have been sent since the spring 2011 meeting.

1. Page 32 of the Abstract, Recommendation #1, of Standing Benevolence, requesting benevolent aid from Synod for Mrs. Amy Stevens, a letter was sent March 31, 2011.
2. Page 32 of the Abstract, Recommendation #2, of the Standing Benevolence, requesting benevolent aid from Synod in the amount of \$725 per month for Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO, a letter was sent March 31, 2011.
3. Pages 33 of the Abstract, Recommendations #1-5, of Standing Ministerial Aid, requesting aid from Synod for Mrs. Kay Savage, Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, Rev. Howard Hart, and Rev. Herman Van Stedum, a letter was sent March 31, 2011.
4. Page 33 of the Abstract, Recommendation 4, "That Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS to reinstate its missionary at large program to evangelize our nation's largest cities," a letter was sent March 31, 2011.
5. Rev. David Fagrey resigned as clerk on September 28, 2011.
6. Rev George Horner was appointed Clerk pro tem via Executive Circular 26.3, effective Sept 28, 2011.
7. Executive Circulars (see Classis Executive Committee Report on Their Minutes)

were prepared and e-mailed to the Classis delegates.

8. On Feb 13,2012, with apologies for the delay, I sent a letter via e-mail to Rev. G. Lubbers, Clerk of Classis Michigan of the URCNA, informing him that Rev. Travis Grassmid sustained his licensure exam in the South Central Classis and is now on the roll of ministers of the SC Classis, serving Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SO.
9. I compiled the membership and financial statistics/delegate forms submitted by the member churches of the Classis.

Respectful y submitted,

Rev. George Horner, Stated Clerk

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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### **Reading of Executive Committee Report of Synod**

The clerk read the report.

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Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Finances Committee

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### **Classis Executive Committee Report on Their Minutes**

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your Committee would like to review our business over the past Classical Year. All circulars passed with the exception noted below.

1. Executive Circular volume 26, number 1, dated June 30, 2011, dealt with the resignation and retirement of, and a petition for Ministerial Aid and Benevolent Aid, for Rev. George Syms. The petition portion was objected to and thus see #2 (next).
2. Executive Circular 26.2, dated July 14, 2011, dealt with a review of Executive Circular 26.1 and a request from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, in light of the objection to the petition of 26.1, for a reduced amount of Ministerial Aid for Rev. George Syms.
3. Executive Circular 26.3, dated Sept 14, 2011, dealt with the release of Rev. David Fagrey from his duties as Clerk of the South Central Classis and the appointment of Rev. George Horner as clerk *pro tem*.
4. In a letter dated Aug 22, 2011, the Executive Committee, in fulfilling a mandate from the 265<sup>th</sup> Synod to investigate the synodical benevolent aid to Trinity Covenant Reformed

Church in Colorado Springs, CO, asked that Consistory for information regarding the history, reasons, and justification of that aid in light of the synodical guidelines. TCRC Consistory responded with a letter dated Jan 3, 2012 in which they documented their assessment that the aid in question did not meet the synodical guidelines, and that the salary support for Dr. Powell ought be classical aid. Your Executive Committee recommended that the Consistory petition Classis with that request, and that overture was received.

5. Executive Circular 26.4 dealt with the Call from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD to Rev. Michael McGee and his Acceptance thereof and his transfer to the South Central Classis.
6. Executive circular 26.5 dealt with the Special Classis meeting scheduled for Tues, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at Zion Reformed Church, Menno SD for the purpose of examining Rev. Travis Grassmid who had accepted a call to serve as Minister of that church.
7. Executive Circular 26.6 dealt with the installation of Rev. Michael McGee as Minister of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD.
8. Executive Circular 26.7 deal with Call and Acceptance of Rev. Neale Riffert as associate pastor of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD to labor in the mission work in Sherman TX.
9. Executive Circular 26.8 dealt with the installation of Rev. Travis Grassmid as Minister of Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD.
10. Executive Circular 26.9 dealt with the Spring 2012 Classis meeting scheduled for March 26-27, 2012 at Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, NE.
11. Executive Circular 26.10 listed the overtures received at least 4 weeks prior to the Spring Classis meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
On behalf of the Executive Committee

George Horner  
Clerk

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Classis Action: the report was adopted.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT\***

*\*Partial report since fiscal year does not end until June 30, 2012*

**Budget Expenditures Partial Report**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>Benevolence Melony Rogers</b>	\$2,400.00	\$2400.00	
<b>Providence Reformed Limon</b>	\$13,500.00	\$11,200.00	\$2,250.00
<b>Christ The King Sherman</b>	\$22,500.00	\$19,500.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Heidelberg Theological Seminary</b>	\$7,845.00	\$6,973.28	\$ 871.72
<b>New Geneva Seminary</b>	\$6,276.00	\$5,578.72	\$ 697.28
<b>Classis Expense</b>	\$8,000.00		
<b>Mileage</b>		\$6,407.78	
<b>Honorarium</b>		\$ 400.00	
<b>Postage</b>		\$ 22.03	
<b>Printing</b>		\$ 145.43	
<b>Conference Call</b>		\$ 20.00	
<b>Lodging</b>			
<b>Fund Balance</b>		\$6,995.24	\$1,004.76
<b>Total</b>	\$58,161.00	\$50,337.24	\$7,823.76

**Checkbook**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$36,963.32
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	<b>\$67,120.88</b>
<b>CHECKS</b>	\$50,337.24
<b>Total Checking</b>	<u>\$53,746.96</u> =====

## Guidelines 2011-2012 Partial Report as of March 1, 2012

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Over</b>	<b>DUE</b>
<b>Classical Dues</b> \$7.65 per com.	\$80000	\$7584.01		\$415.99
<b>Missions</b> \$48.76 per com.	\$51000.00	\$44806.35		\$6193.65
<b>Benevolence</b> \$2.29 per com.	\$2400.00	\$2400.00		
<b>Heidelberg Seminary</b> \$7.50 per com.	\$7845.00	\$6892.52		\$952.48
<b>New Geneva Seminary</b> \$6.00 per com	\$6276.00	\$5338.00		\$838.00
<b>Guidelines Total</b> (\$72.20 per com.)	\$75521.00	\$67120.88		\$8400.12

**Total Income**  
(Based on 1046 Communicant Member)

**\$67120.88 TO DATE**



**Guidelines Per Church**

<b>Classis</b>	<b>Com.#</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Over</b>	<b>DUE</b>
<b>South Central Classis</b>	1046	\$75,521.00	\$66,046.91		\$9,474.09
<b>Church</b>					
<b>Trinity Covenant</b>					
Colorado Springs	45	\$3,248.55	\$3,118.05		\$130.50
<b>PROVIDENCE REFORMED</b>					
Limon	42	\$3,031.98	\$2,273.99		\$757.99
<b>St. Johns RCUS</b>					
Lincoln, NE	97	\$7,002.43	\$3,501.22		\$3,501.21
<b>Emmanuel RCUS</b>					
Sutton,NE	121	\$8,734.99	\$10,450.77	\$1,714.57	
<b>Hope RCUS</b>					
Sutton,NE	184	\$13,282.96	\$13,432.00	\$149.04	
<b>Zion RCUS</b>					
Menno, SD	156	\$11,261.64	\$11,261.64		
<b>Grace Reformed</b>					
Mitchell, SO	69	\$4,981.80	\$4,981.80		
<b>Grace Reformed</b>					
Rapid City, SO	68	\$4,908.92	\$0.00		\$4,908.92
<b>Trinity Reformed</b>					
Sioux Falls, SO	141	\$10,178.79	\$7,714.87		\$2,463.92
<b>Providence Reformed</b>					
Rock Springs, SO	38	\$2,743.22	\$3,176.36	\$433.14	
<b>Grace Reformed</b>					
Greeley, CO	56	\$4,114.83	\$4,114.83		
<b>Providence Reformed</b>					
Vermillion, SO	22	\$1,588.18	\$1,588.18		
<b>CHRIST THE KING</b>					
Sherman tx	6	\$433.20	\$433.20		
<b>Providence Reformed</b>					
Limon, CO	22	\$1,386.22	\$157.96		\$1,228.26
<b>Totals of all Income</b>	1046	\$75,521.00	\$66,046.91	\$2,298.57	\$11,762.54

**THIS IS PARTIAL REPORT  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
SPENCER GROSS**

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Classis Action: The report was referred to Finances.

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## PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS

The Ministers of the Word individually read their reports.

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Classis Action: On all the reports – take note.

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### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS (ARTICLE 81, RCUS ONSTITUTION)

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

The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?* All answered, “Yes.”
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?* All answered, “Yes.”
3. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation*
  - a. *Is visitation faithfully performed?* All answered, “Yes”.
  - b. *Is Christian discipline exercised according to the constitution?* All answered, “Yes”.
4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper properly administered in accordance with the constitution?* All answered, “Yes.”
5. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:*
  - a. *Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?* All Answered, “Yes,” except for Oliver who answered “No”.
  - b. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* All answered, “Yes,” except for Oliver who answered “No”.
  - c. *Are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving?* All answered, “Yes.”
  - d. *Are these moneys sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered, “Yes.”
6. *Are the church records properly kept?* All answered, “Yes.”
  - 7a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?* All answered, “Yes.”
  - 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?* All answered, “Yes.”

### REPORT OF NUMERICAL AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

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

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Classis Action: The report was adopted as will be corrected.

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## **REPORTS FROM CLASSIS' FRATERNAL DELEGATES**

Rev. M. Powell read his report as the fraternal delegate to the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA.

Rev. M. Powell read his report as classis fraternal delegate to the spring meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas OPC.

Rev. M. Powell read Rev. Herman Van Stedum's report as fraternal delegate to the fall meeting of the Presbytery of the Dakotas OPC.

Rev. L. Johnson read his report as classis fraternal delegate to Classis Central URCNA.

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Classis Action: On all reports: Take note.

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## **ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES AND VISITORS**

- The President invited Rev. Jonathan Haney, fraternal delegate from the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA to address the body.
- M. Powell gave his response.
- The President invited Rev. Le Roy Miller, fraternal delegate from the Central USA Presbytery of the OPC to address the body.
- Rev. Hart gave his response
- Rev. M. Powell brought greetings, via letter, from Classis Central US, URCNA.
- The President invited Rev. M. Koerner to address the body on behalf of Heidelberg Theological Seminary.
- The President invited Rev. C.W. Powell to address the body on behalf of New Geneva Theological Seminary.

## **EXAMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES**

There were no Examinations

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Heidelberg Youth Camp**

The Joint Heidelberg Youth Camp Committee met by conference call on Feb. 25th, 2012. Present were Rev. Lee Johnson, Rev. David Fagrey, Rev. Darrell Kingswood from the South Central Classis, and the Rev. James Grossmann and Elder Matthew Fickbohm from the Northern Plains Classis. The Camp Director Rev. Michael McGee was on the call as well and had sent out material to the committee via email.

The 2011 Camp was reviewed and the responses to the survey discussed. Overall the reviews were positive. Some of the comments were discussed. The Committee then moved into planning the 2012 Camp.

The evening worship services were discussed, and some concern to their constitutionality raised. The committee was left with this question: can Classis call a worship service that is not under the oversight of any Spiritual Council? The committee will be soliciting opinions and making a decision about worship services next year.

The All Nighter was discussed and a decision was reached to change the Thursday night All Nighter to a bed time of 3am for the Seniors. Reasons for the change include the difficulty in finding people able to stay up all night, a concern for those driving getting enough rest to drive safely, and that staying up all night on the last night of camp may not encourage putting off the old man and putting on the new.

The Theme of HYC 2012 will be "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ: A Study through the Book of Ephesians". Ephesians shows us the depth of the mercy, grace, glory, and love of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, or as the book repeats it is about "the riches of His glorious inheritance" (1:18), which Paul describes as "unsearchable" (3:8) and "immeasurable" (2:7). Thus each lecture will cover about one chapter of the Book of Ephesians so we can show the youth how to mine for these "riches" and appreciate them, thank God for them, and apply them to their lives. The sermons likewise should be related to the theme.

Unsearchable Riches . . .

1:1-23 - The Riches of the Godhead in Salvation

2:1-22 - The Riches in Christ

3:1-21 - The Riches Unsearchable brought to us

4:1-5:16 - The Riches Applied to our walk

5:17-6:9 - The Riches Applied to our Relationships

6:10- 24 - The Riches as our Armor in Spiritual Warfare

Finances were discussed. There was a significant shortfall in last year's budget. This was on account of fewer than expected campers. The camp checking account is still in good financial shape. The committee raised the fee for camp based on a new projection of campers. It is now \$159 per camper if fee is before the June 1st deadline and \$189 if after. This is an increase of about \$10. A budget is attached for Classis approval.

The offering was designated for Middle East Reformed Fellowship.

Rev. Lee Johnson will be scheduling the speakers and Rev. McGee coordinating volunteers for other camp duties.

Camp will be July 23-27 of 2012.

For the record future camp dates are:

2013 - July 22-26

2014 - July 21-24

2015 - July 27-31

We submit the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1 - That Classis approve the 2012 Heidelberg Youth Camp proposed budget and camper fees (see below).

Recommendation #2 - That Classis take note of the need for a sound system.

Recommendation #3 - That Classis take note of the desire to have beef, bacon, or sausage donated to HYC in order to assist in keeping food costs at a minimum.

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

Recommendation #5 - That Classis take note that pastors should take the time to explain to perspective campers and their parents the changes in the Thursday Night All-Nighter.

Recommendation #6 - That Classis approve the HYC report as a whole.

---

Classis Action: Recommendation #1 carried. On # 2-5: Take Note. The report was adopted.

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## Heidelberg Youth Camp Budget for 2012

<b>Balance Forward</b>		<b>\$ 5,870.89</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b><u>Budget 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Actual 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Budget 2012</u></b>
-- Camp Fees	\$ 20,710.00	\$19,026.80 (-1,683.20)	\$ 22,101.00
-- Gifts	\$ -----	\$ -----	\$ -----
-- Worship Offering	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,021.49(+821.49)	\$ 1,200.00
-- Interest	\$ -----	\$ 4.08(+4.08)	\$ -----
-- Camp Store Sales	\$ 725.00	\$ 663.82(-61.18)	\$ 750.00
-- T-Shirt Sales	\$ -----	\$ -----	\$ -----
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 22,635.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,716.19 (-918.81)</b>	<b>\$24,051.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b><u>Budget 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Actual 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Budget 2012</u></b>
-- Facility Use	\$ 12,840.00	\$ 12,721.19 (-118.81)	\$ 13,000.00
-- Food	\$ 4,180.00	\$ 4,688.54 (+508.54)	\$ 4,800.00
-- T-Shirts	\$ 2,790.00	\$ 2,802.45 (+12.45)	\$ 2,900.00
-- Crafts	\$ 185.00	\$ 207.03 (+22.03)	\$ 175.00
-- Supplies & Equipment	\$ 600.00	\$ 701.97 (+101.97)	\$ 600.00
-- Promotion	\$ 100.00	\$ -----	\$ 100.00
-- Custer State Park Fees	\$ 100.00	\$ 168.00 (+68.00)	\$ 100.00
-- Administration	\$ 200.00	\$ 217.51 (+17.51)	\$ 200.00
-- Camp Store Supplies	\$ 440.00	\$ 479.10 (+39.10)	\$ 500.00
-- Worship Offering	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,021.49 (+821.49)	\$ 1,200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 22,635.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,007.28 (+2,291.09)</b>	<b>\$ 23,575.00</b>
Revenue Less Expense	\$ -----	\$ -2,291.09	
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 3,579.80</b>	

*Proposed 2012 fees: \$159 per camper provided both the registration fee and form are received by June 1. After June 1, the fee will be \$189. Adult volunteers continue to be free. Fees are based on 139 campers and 41 adults.*

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Benevolence**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis petition Synod to provide \$400.00 per month in benevolent aid for Rev. and Mrs. George Syms.
2. That Classis petition Synod to provide \$1375.00 per month in benevolent aid to Mrs. Amy Stevens.

---

Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

---

### **Education and Student Aid**

The Committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the request from student –under-care Tim Marinelli for student aid in the amount of \$3,600.00 (tuition) and the cost of text books be approved, and that this request be forwarded to Synod.
- 2a. That Classis budget \$6.00 per communicant member to be sent to New Geneva Theological Seminary designated toward the salary of Dr. C.W.Powell.
- 2b. That Classis budget a benevolence guideline of \$2.00 per communicant member to support Dr. C.W. Powell through Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO.

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Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

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### **Examination and Licensure**

The committee brought the following recommendation:

1. That Mr. Tim Marinelli be placed on the Classis roll of students-under-care.

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Classis Action: The recommendation and the report were adopted.

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### **Finances**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis payment for travel by automobile be raised to \$0.45 per running mile.
2. Approve mileage payments as presented:

C.W. Powell	436.50.
N. Riffert	490.50
M. Powell	329.40
A. Haller	385.20
M. Burbach	63.00
E. Starks	540.00
D. Fagrey	441.00
G. Horner	578.70
T. Grassmid	198.00
R. Grossmann	202.50
S. Gross	225.00
J. Smith	432.00

3. Change Classis Fiscal year to end Feb 28 and begin March 1.
4. Adopt the budget as presented (see page 1 of abstract)

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Classis Action: Recommendations #1-2,4: carried. Recommendation # 3: seconded and defeated.

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### **Judicial**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the Classis adopt the practice of Synod regarding the handling of overtures and eliminate the Overtures Committee.
2. The Classis overture the 266<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS to erect a special committee to examine the issues of how to proceed with members who withdraw their membership, considering the legal issues raised by the overture\* and considering the need for an amendment to the RUCS Constitution clarifying the matter.  
*\*overture: Classis overture Synod of the RCUS to create a special committee for the purpose of proposing a constitutional amendment that would state that the Spiritual Council ( or other church judicatory) may continue the process of discipline after charges have been filed even if the member later attempts to withdraw their membership.*
3. That the overture from St. John's RCUS (regarding placing Council Bluffs, IA in the South Central Classis) be referred to the 266<sup>th</sup> Synod.

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Classis Action: All the recommendations and the report were adopted

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### **Ministerial Aid**

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

1. Rev. and Mrs. George Syms, \$1,600 per month.
2. Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann, \$1,200 per month.
3. Rev. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,500 per month.
4. Mrs. Virginia Hoeflinger, \$1,400 per month.
5. Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart, \$1,700 per month.
6. Mrs. Kay Savage, \$1,000 per month.

Also this recommendation:

7. That Consistories ensure they are making certain the needs of retired ministers and widows are being met.

---

Classis Action: Recommendations #1-6 were adopted. On recommendation # 7:take note. The report was adopted.

---

### **Home Missions**

The committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That Classis take note of things learned from past missionary experiences.
2. That Classis continue support for Christ The King Reformed Church at \$1500.00 per month.
3. That Classis accept the request from Providence RCUS, Limon, CO for a reduction in mission funding from \$750 to \$350 per month .
4. That Classis take note of the work in Casper, WY (RPCNA) and keep that work in our prayers.

5. That Classis take note of the work in Scottsbluff, NE and that ministers interested in helping with that work contact the Permanent Missions Committee.
6. That Classis instruct the PHMC to send an assessment committee to Omaha, NE and, upon a positive assessment, actively begin a mission work in Omaha as soon as possible under the oversight of the Lincoln congregation ( St. John’s RCUS), and that Classis petition Synod for financial support for this effort.
7. That the request for support for the Omaha work be set at #30,000 from Classis and \$30,000 from Synod.
8. That classis direct our resources and energy at this point to the work in Omaha instead of starting up the MAL program as the current mandate defines it.

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Classis Action: On Recommendations # 1, 4, 5: Take Note. Recommendations # 2,3,6-8 carried. The report was adopted.

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### Nominations

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

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Classis Action: The report was adopted as amended.

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### Overtures

The committee carried out the following actions:

1. They read the Interchurch Relations Committee Report.
2. They recommended referring items to the following standing committees: Judicial, Education and Student Aid, Ministerial Aid, Benevolence, and Services.
3. Recommended take note on the Report of the Executive Committee of SCC.

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Classis Action: All recommendations and the report were adopted.

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### Publications

The committee had no business and brought no recommendations:

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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### Services

The committee brought the following recommendation:

1. That the following expression of appreciation be printed in this Sunday’s ( April 1) bulletin of Emmanuel RCUS in Sutton, NE and the 2012 Abstract of the SCC Spring Meeting:  
*“The delegates of the 2012 Annual Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis express our gratitude unto the Lord for the kindness, hospitality, fellowship and meals you provided. We especially enjoyed your excellent prime rib; delicious pork loin and wonderful desserts. Thank you for serving us. We pray God’s riches blessings on you as you seek to glorify God.”*



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Classis Action: The recommendation and the report were adopted.

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### **Minutes of Synod**

After reviewing the 2010 Synodical Abstract, the Synodical Executive Committee's Report to the Classes, and the Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes, the committee found no discrepancies or omissions, nor any matters that required the action of Classis.

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Classis Action: The report was adopted.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

The body adjourned with confession of the Apostle's Creed, praying of the Lord's Prayer, the pronouncement of the Benediction by the President, and the singing of the Doxology, to the 2013 Spring Session of Classis to meet at a yet undetermined location.

## APPENDICES

### *2011 Membership & Financial Statistics*

	Colo. Springs CO	Greeley CO	Limon CO	Lincoln NE	Emmanuel Sutton NE
Number of Elders	4	3	3	3	3
Number of Deacons	2	3	2	4	3
Communicants Last Year	45	57	42	97	121
Received – Confirmation	0	0	0	0	0
Received – Transfer	2	3	0	2	5
Received – Profession	0	1	1	0	0
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Old &amp; New</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>126</b>
Lost – Dismissal	1	1	2	9	0
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	3	2	0	5	2
Lost – Death	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total Lost</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Communicants This Year</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>121</b>
Unconfirmed Members	23	27	21	37	23
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>144</b>
Number of Families	22	32	18	46	73
Children in Sunday School	34	9	17	31	19
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	2	2	3	1	0
<b>Total Baptisms</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Members' Lord's Supper	38	54	41	78	113
Lord's Supper Observed	11	5	12	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$61,162	\$107,630	\$71,567	\$69,776	\$95,900
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$9,079	\$5,946	\$2,984	\$8,379	\$21,091
Receipts – Other Sources	\$8,930	\$827	\$5,250	26,646-	\$0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$80,171</b>	<b>\$114,403</b>	<b>\$79,801</b>	<b>\$104,801</b>	<b>\$116,991</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$3,334	\$10,138	\$12,053	\$17,957	\$35,152
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$3,118	\$4,043	\$4,206	\$7,002	\$1,713
Non-Guideline Causes	0	\$1,311	\$2,052	\$400	\$1,600
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$898	\$5,034	\$600	\$600	\$1,061
Other General Expenses	\$54,770	\$102,161	\$67,893	\$91,769	\$97,751
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$62,120</b>	<b>\$122,687</b>	<b>\$86,804</b>	<b>\$117,728</b>	<b>\$137,277</b>
Value of Church Buildings	0	\$192,000	\$40,000	\$110,000	\$522,000
Value of Parsonage	0	158,000	0	\$99,100	\$157,000
Property Improvements	0	\$13,562	0	25,674	\$5,332
Present Property Debts	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	0	0	0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$74	\$178	\$287	\$185	\$291
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$69	\$71	\$100	\$72	\$14
<b>Total RCUS Per Communicant</b>	<b>\$143</b>	<b>\$272</b>	<b>\$436</b>	<b>\$261</b>	<b>\$318</b>

	Hope Sutton NE	Menno SD	Mitchell SD	Rapid City SD	Sioux Falls SD
Number of Elders	4	4	3	2	5
Number of Deacons	4	4	2	3	5
Communicants Last Year	184	156	67	68	146
Received – Confirmation	0	5	1	2	6
Received – Transfer	0	2	6	9	1
Received – Profession	6	0	1	0	7
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Old &amp; New</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>160</b>
Lost – Dismissal	4	5	0	2	1
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	0	1	0	1	4
Lost – Death	2	2	0	0	0
<b>Total Lost</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Communicants This Year</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>151</b>
Unconfirmed Members	50	20	19	41	69
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>220</b>
Number of Families	87	97	33	38	74
Children in Sunday School	36	14	13	25	22
Adults Baptized Last Year	1	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	2	0	2	7	3
<b>Total Baptisms</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
Members' Lord's Supper	135	151	69	67	134
Lord's Supper Observed	6	4	5	6	6
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$176,362	\$115,176	\$102,986	\$172,734	\$248,354
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$16,699	\$28,376	\$35,198	0	\$10,652
Receipts – Other Sources	\$1,242	\$2,886	6,008	0	\$17,598
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$194,303</b>	<b>\$146,438</b>	<b>\$144,192</b>	<b>\$172,734</b>	<b>\$276,608</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$51,044	\$41,201	\$13,251	\$5,612	\$27,274
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$13,432	\$13,541	\$4,982	\$892	\$10,179
Non-Guideline Causes	0	\$10,399	1,442	\$15,100	\$4,038
Non-RCUS Benevolences	\$18,328	0	\$14,457	\$9,600	\$4,728
Other General Expenses	\$107,874	\$92,937	\$112,104	\$106,074	\$155,273
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$190,678</b>	<b>\$158,078</b>	<b>\$146,236</b>	<b>\$137,278</b>	<b>\$201,492</b>
Value of Church Buildings	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$275,000	\$515,000	\$1,032,191
Value of Parsonage	80,000	\$75,000	\$155,225	\$185,000	0
Property Improvements	\$3254	\$25,169	0	0	\$5,450
Present Property Debts	0	0	\$29,283	0	\$217,765
Debt Paid Last Year	0	0	\$8,266	0	\$59,868
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$277	\$266	\$198	\$83	\$193
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$73	\$87	\$74	\$13	\$72
<b>Total RCUS Per Communicant</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$420</b>	<b>\$294</b>	<b>\$340</b>	<b>\$265</b>

	Vermillion SD	Rock Springs WY	Sherman TX	Total all churches
Number of Elders	2	3	0	39
Number of Deacons	1	2	0	35
Communicants Last Year	22	38	10	1053
Received – Confirmation	0	0	0	14
Received – Transfer	0	2	2	34
Received – Profession	0	1	0	17
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Total Old &amp; New</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1122</b>
Lost – Dismissal	0	6	0	31
Lost – Erasure/Discipline	0	1	0	19
Lost – Death	0	0	0	7
<b>Total Lost</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Total Communicants This Year</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1061</b>
Unconfirmed Members	13	20	1	364
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1422</b>
Number of Families	12	19	6	557
Children in Sunday School	7	9	1	287
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	1
Infants Baptized	0	4	0	26
<b>Total Baptisms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
Members' Lord's Supper	20	37	12	949
Lord's Supper Observed	4	12	3	87
Receipts – Sunday Offerings	\$62,451	\$92,815	\$22,778	\$1,400,691
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$3,100	\$400	0	\$141,904
Receipts – Other Sources	\$1,714	0	\$19,500	\$90,601
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$67,265</b>	<b>\$93,215</b>	<b>\$42,278</b>	<b>\$1,633,200</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$4,191	\$6,949	\$2,000	\$230,156
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$1,590	\$3,176	\$750	\$68,624
Non-Guideline Causes	\$1,000	\$400	\$660	\$38,401
Non-RCUS Benevolences	0	0	\$910	\$56,216
Other General Expenses	\$64,253	\$76,746	\$22,437	\$1,152,042
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$71,034</b>	<b>\$87,271</b>	<b>\$26,757</b>	<b>\$1,540,408</b>
Value of Church Buildings	\$305,000	\$170,000	0	\$4,461,191
Value of Parsonage	125,000	Included	0	\$1,034,325
Property Improvements	\$7,257	\$0	0	\$85,698
Present Property Debts	0	\$7,708	0	\$254,756
Debt Paid Last Year	0	\$3,547	0	\$71,681
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$191	\$204	\$200	\$202
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$72	\$93	\$75	\$68
<b>Total RCUS Per Communicant</b>	<b>\$308</b>	<b>\$298</b>	<b>\$341</b>	<b>\$311</b>

## **NECROLOGIES**

None reported

## **STANDING RULES**

1. Classical dues shall be due on the first of December and are to be paid not later than the Thirty-First of December of the current year (1960, '64, '68, '87).
2. The Parochial Reports and Statistics shall be forwarded two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis; the Parochial Reports to the President of the Executive Committee and the statistics to the Stated Clerk (1976, '77, '87).
3. The writ of certification for delegate elders for the Classical year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis.
4. All congregations shall present an accurate report on confirmation instruction, Sunday School and weekday school. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire Catechism before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include Bible history, Catechism, Bible readings and the study of books and contents of the Bible; also singing, and preferably, Psalm-hymns.
5. The Standing Rules shall be read during the second session of the Spring Meeting (1932, '87).
6. If pastors, elders, and members of congregations request information from the Executive Committee of Classis concerning constitutional matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented to the parties concerned only in written form and relevant only to the item in question (1933).
7. Delegate travel to Classis meetings shall be paid at the rate of forty-five cents (.45) per running mile to each charge, if travel is by automobile. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare (1965, '74, '80, '83, '94, 2006, 2012).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at thirty-three cents (.33) per running mile, also if several ride together in one car; or if by public transportation, the actual fare (1936, '54, '74, '80, '94, 2006).
9. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Classis whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Classis or have been properly excused by Classis (1937, '67).
10. The President of the Executive Committee of Classis shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), and the Treasurer shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the Classical year (1960, '61, '65, '78, '84, '87, '90, 2003).
11. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and designated for which fund and how much for each fund (1957).

12. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to advance the actual fare for public transportation to qualified candidates preaching trial sermons in our vacancies (1958, '87).
13. The Stated Clerk shall prepare for publication an abstract of the Classis minutes. The Spring Abstract shall include a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Classis (1959, '87, '90).
14. The Classis shall have Permanent Committees as follows: Executive, Missions, Christian Education, Candidates and Credentials, Interchurch Relations, and Publications; and the Standing Committee of Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees (1961, '80, '85, '87, '91).
15. Nominations for all officers of Classis shall be made by secret ballot. All names appearing on the nominating ballot shall be candidates and, if there is no election on the first electing ballot, on each succeeding ballot the two candidates with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped until there is an election. (1962, '80, '87, '88).
16. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the Spring Meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge and sent to the Stated Clerk (1963, '87).
17. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to all the Consistories of all the churches, with two copies to be sent to the Stated Clerk, four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis to which these reports and recommendations are to be presented. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis (1963, '70, '79, '82, '87, '90).
18. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and these proposed services shall be circularized before Classis (1966, '72).
19. Students that are under the care of Classis shall be urged to attend only such seminaries approved by Classis. Only students who attend approved institutions shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian Ministry (1978, '87).
20. Classis shall require candidates for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. The internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least 5 years in the RCUS. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidates and Credentials committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the RCUS. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed (1979, '87, '95).
21. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of the Classis meeting shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at anytime (1986, '87).
22. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod and shall start the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of March opening with a worship service at 7:00 p.m., but if the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of March (1987, 2001, 2002, 2009).

23. Members of Classis submitting reports, overtures, and correspondence to Classis which will either be circularized or printed in Classis Minutes and Abstracts and which express personal opinions potentially offensive or slanderous against another brother or sister or to other members of Classis, shall govern themselves by I Peter 4:8 (1991).

24. All requests for reimbursement of expenses be made on the standard reimbursement form. Letters of explanation may be appended but do not substitute for reimbursement forms. Receipts must be attached (1997).

## **INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS**

(Spring 1986, Abstract p. 110)

The body voted "South Central Classis" as the official name for Classis.

(Spring 1987, Abstract p. 5)

The following guidelines were adopted by Classis for delegates from the Classis to corresponding bodies:

1. ATTENDANCE: Be present at as many of the sessions as possible, register arrival with the Stated Clerk, hold private conversations with as many delegates as possible, and try to establish good relations between the Classis and the church which is being visited.

2. PREPARATION: Request reports, agendas, etc. from the Church which is being visited, be prepared to address actions taken by Classis or Synod, and take the current Abstract.

3. ADDRESSING THE BODY: Have a prepared address to present, seek to commend the body in the spirit of Philippians 4:8, inform the body of significant developments in the Classis and Synod, keep personal remarks to a minimum, and make clear which remarks are personal, and try to avoid negative criticisms. If a rebuke is needed refer the matter to the Interchurch Relations Committee.

4. STANDING COMMITTEES: Attend as many Standing Committee meetings as possible.

5. DECISIONS: Get as many copies of reports as possible and report any significant actions taken by the body.

6. REPORT: The report is to be sent to the Interchurch Relations Committee within one month of the meeting and is to include all actions taken by the body as well as any comments which the delegate thinks would be helpful to the Committee and Classis.

7. EXPENSES: Travel expenses are to be paid by the Classis and should be submitted to the Interchurch Relations Committee and the Classis Treasurer.

(Fall 1987, Abstract p. 5)

That all reports from the Permanent Committee's be on 8 1/2" by 11" paper in order to better fit the Minutes.

(Fall 1987, Abstract p.9)

That as soon as it is conveniently possible after each meeting of the South Central Classis, the Clerk of Classis send an Abstract of the Classis minutes to each Classis delegate. This Abstract does not have to be in a formally published form.

(Spring 1988, Abstract p. 23)

The Classis does not see any theological problem with using one or many cups for communion; in light of the uncertainties concerning the transmission of AIDS, it may be advisable to use individual cups.

(Spring 1989, Abstract p. 25)

That the Classis use a double entry ledger for Classis records.

(Spring 1989, Abstract pp. 27-28)

The following procedures be used in calling an organizing pastor to a new mission work:

- a. The Consistory overseeing the mission work shall select a pastoral candidate in consultation with the members of the mission work and the Classis Home Missions Committee.
- b. The members of the proposed mission work, under the supervision of the Consistory, shall vote on calling the candidate.
- c. The Consistory shall extend the call.
- d. The organizing pastor shall work under the oversight of the Consistory as long as the work is unorganized.
- e. The mission work shall be under the oversight of the Classis Home Missions Committee as long as it has the status of a Mission Church.

(Spring 1990, Abstract p. 27)

That all congregations - new and old - should see themselves as actively involved in the whole ministry of the church and should strive to meet the annual guidelines for giving.

(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 20)

That a congregation requiring voting members to sign the constitution of a local congregation is not contradictory with the Constitution of the RCUS or Scripture.

(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 21)

That the Permanent Home Missions Committee of Classis and the Permanent Foreign Missions Committee of Classis be combined into one Permanent Missions Committee, allowing either interest to be addressed by Classis.

(Fall 1991, Abstract p. 22)

That no official stance be taken on the matter of fundraising.

That no constitutional impediment is found regarding using the word "Presbyterian" in the name of one of our churches.

(Spring 1992, Abstract p. 41)

All bills submitted to the Treasurer must be signed by the one submitting the bill.

The Treasurer should inform the Finance Committee of those churches that have failed to pay their Classical dues.



(Spring 1997, Abstract p. 33)

That the position papers of the Reformed Church in the United States be declared to be pastoral and advisory, giving the present consensus of the RCUS regarding the teaching of Scripture, and are of lesser authority than the Three Forms of Unity and the Constitution. Recommendations which make judicial decisions in connection with such papers are binding.

(Spring 2007, Abstract)

That Classis nominations Committee regularly consider the workload borne by Classical delegates during the year and refrain from recommending that Executive Committee members be appointed as chairman of a permanent or special committee of Classis.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CLASSIS MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting was to examine Rev. Travis Grassmid who had accepted a call to serve as Minister of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD

### **REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**

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Special Meeting of Classis

Nov. 8, 2011

Zion Reformed Church, Menno SD

#### **I. Organization**

The Vice President, Rev. Lee Johnson, assumed the chair in the excused absence of the President. The Vice President called the body to order at 3:01p.m. on November 8, 2011.

#### **II Services**

The Rev. Travis Grassmid, candidate to be examined, preached a sermon from Ps 45 entitled "The Kingly Groom and His Bride" and led the body in prayer.

#### **II. Organization**

##### **A. Roll Call**

The Clerk, Rev. George Horner, read the roll. Opening roll call showed 11 Ministers and 7 Elders present. The Vice-President declared a quorum.

The Vice-President appointed Revs. Joe Vusich and C.W. Powell as tellers.

##### **B. Defining the Bar of the House.**

The Vice President defined the Bar of the House as the first seven rows.

#### **III. Adoption of Agenda and Order of the Day.**

Horner moved the adoption of the agenda and order of the day. Seconded and carried.

#### **IV. Announcement of Standing Committees.**

The Vice President appointed the following committees:

- a. Standing Finances: Rev. Howard Hart, Rev. Ron Morris.
- b. Standing Examination and Licensure: Koerner, Rev. David Fagrey, C.W. Powell  
Elder Charles Zeeb, Elder Greg Van Holland

#### **V. The Examination of Rev. Travis Grassmid**

Koerner read from Article 35 of the RCUS Constitution as basis for the examination.

Zeeb examined in Piety & Intent.

Koerner examined in RCUS Constitution & History.

#### **I. Organization**

The chairman declared the Order of the Day at 3:59p.m.

The chairman reconvened the body at 4:10p.m.

## **V. The Examination of Rev. Travis Grassmid**

Van Holland examined in Creeds.  
Koerner examined in Prolegomena.  
Koerner examined in Theology Proper  
C.W Powell examined in Anthropology  
Fagrey examined in Christology.  
C.W.Powell examined in Soteriology

### **I. Organization**

The chairman declared the Order of the Day.  
Rev. Darrell Kingswood offered prayer for the meal.  
Vusich provided a meal devotion.  
The chairman reconvened the body at 6:37p.m.

## **V. The Examination of Rev. Travis Grassmid**

C.W. Powell examined in ecclesiology.  
Fagrey examined in Practica  
Fagrey examined in Eschatology  
Koerner moved that the exam be arrested. Seconded and carried.

## **VI. Reports of Standing Committees.**

### **A. Finance**

The committee brought the following recommendation:

That the total amount of travel expenses submitted be paid. Seconded and carried.

### **B. Excuses** (no committee – handled by motion from floor)

Rev. Robert Grossman moved that all those who submitted excuses be excused. Seconded and carried.

### **I. Organization**

The Chairman called recess at 7:25p.m. until call of the chair.  
The Chairman reconvened the body at 7:27p.m.

## **VI. Reports of Standing Committees.**

### **C. Standing Examination and Licensure Committee.**

The Committee brought the following recommendations:

1. That the exam of Rev. Travis Grassmid be sustained and that upon signing the Form of Subscription he be enrolled as a Minister of the South Central Classis. Seconded and carried.
2. That Rev. Maynard Koerner be an advisor to Rev. Grassmid to assist in his adjustment to the ministry in the RCUS until the Spring 2012 meeting of Classis. Seconded and carried.

C.W. Powell prayed for Rev. Grassmid and for other prayer concerns.

### **VII. Licensure of Rev. Grassmid.**

Grassmid read and signed the Form of Subscription.

Grassmid was issued the certificate of Licensure and extended the right hand of fellowship by the body.

### **VIII. Reading of the Minutes**

The clerk read the minutes.

Grossman moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Seconded and carried.

### **IX. Adjournment**

Koerner moved to adjourn. Seconded and carried.

#### **A. Roll Call**

The clerk read the roll.

The roll showed 13 ministers and 7 elders present.

#### **B. Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction**

The body confessed together the Apostle's Creed.

The body prayed together the Lord's Prayer.

The Vice-President pronounced the Apostolic Benediction.

The body closed by singing the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Horner.

Stated Clerk, SCC