

2021  
Abstract of the Minutes

**SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**



Annual Spring Meeting  
March 22-23, 2021  
Menno, South Dakota



This Abstract is dedicated in loving memory  
of Rev. Dr. Robert Grossmann.  
(1937-2021)

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.  
Psalm 116:15*

## INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

### Officers of South Central Classis

**President:** Rev. Matthew Powell  
**Vice President:** Rev. Lee Johnson  
**Stated Clerk:** Rev. Michael McGee  
**Treasurer:** Elder Scott Velgersdyk

### Permanent Committees

**Executive:** Powell, McGee, J. Smith

**Missions:** Opp, Koerner, Grassmid, Hofmann, D. Mettler, Josh Savage

**Publications:** Fagrey, Klynsma, R. Davis, Frey

**Christian Education:** D. Dawn, Horner, Hart, Henry, Brouwer, D. Griess

**Interchurch Relations:** L. Johnson, Van Stedum, Nuss, Stevens, Carroll

**Candidates & Credentials:** Blair, Vusich, Moulton, Rydell, John Savage

**\*Heidelberg Youth Camp:** L. Johnson, Fagrey, Mosley, Gobleman, Kimble

*\*Indicates a special committee. Convener is underlined.*

### 2021-2022 Guidelines for Giving per Communicant Member

Classical Dues:	\$9.39
Missions:	72.11
Heidelberg Seminary:	\$3.50
<u>New Geneva Seminary:</u>	<u>\$2.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$87.00</b>

# CLASSIS GUIDELINE REMITTANCE FORM

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Communicant Members\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Found on pp. 62-66 under the 2020 Membership & Financial Statistics – “Total Communicant Members This Year”*

<b>Amount / Communicant Member</b>	<b>Amount Remitted</b>
Classical Expense Fund      \$9.39	_____
Missions                              \$72.11	_____
Heidelberg Seminary              \$3.50	_____
New Geneva TS                      \$2.00	_____
<b>Total:</b> <b>\$87.00</b>	_____

Please make check payable to South Central Classis.

Send to: Scott Velgersdyk  
SCC Treasurer  
3608 S. Anita Ave.  
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## DIRECTORY OF CLASSIS

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## DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

### Colorado

#### **COLORADO SPRINGS**

*Trinity Covenant RCUS*

(719) 590-1477; [www.trinity-covenant.org](http://www.trinity-covenant.org)

Pastor: Chris Moulton (Wife: Carole)

Mail: P. O. Box 49021, Colorado Springs, CO 80949

Location: 2511 N. Logan Ave.

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 12:30 PM

#### **GREELEY**

*Grace RCUS*

(970) 336-9927; [www.reformedgreeley.org](http://www.reformedgreeley.org)

Pastor: Jon Blair (Wife: Wendy)

Mail: 1505 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Greeley, CO 80631

Location: 1501 10th Ave.

Worship: 10:00AM

#### **LIMON**

*Providence RCUS*

[www.prclimonco.wordpress.com](http://www.prclimonco.wordpress.com)

Pastor: Vacant

Mail: P.O. Box 848, Limon, CO 80828

Location: 725 Michigan Ave.

Worship: 10:00AM; Sunday School: Immediately after worship service.

### Nebraska

#### **LINCOLN**

*St. John's RCUS*

(402) 476-1827; [www.stjohnsreformedlincoln.org](http://www.stjohnsreformedlincoln.org)

Pastor: Lee Johnson (Wife: Jenny Jo)

Mail and Location: 1101 South 26th St. Lincoln, NE 68502

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM

#### **OMAHA**

*Omaha RCUS*

(402) 281-3263; [www.omahareformed.org](http://www.omahareformed.org)

Pastor: Randy Klynsma (Wife: Julie)

Mail: 8340 Sheffield Dr., Omaha, NE 68122

Location: 4905 N. 96<sup>th</sup> St.

#### **SUTTON**

*Emmanuel RCUS*

(402) 773-4218; [www.emmanuelreformedrcus.org](http://www.emmanuelreformedrcus.org)

Pastor: Carl Gobleman (Wife: Linda)

Mail: PO Box 362, Sutton, NE 68979

Location: 110 South Way Ave.

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 9:30 AM

#### **SUTTON**

*Hope RCUS*

(402) 773-4330; [www.hopereformedrcus.com](http://www.hopereformedrcus.com)

Pastor: Scott Henry (Wife: Maria)

Mail: PO Box 372, Sutton, NE 68979

Location: 311 E. Hickory

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 9:00 AM

## South Dakota

### **MENNO**

*Zion RCUS*

(605) 387-2816; [www.sermonaudio.com/solo/travisgrassmid](http://www.sermonaudio.com/solo/travisgrassmid)

Pastor: Travis Grassmid (Wife: Charity)

Mail and Location: 220 South Pine St. Menno, SD 57045

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School: 9:30 AM

### **MITCHELL**

*Grace RCUS*

(605) 996-2803; [www.gracereformed.com](http://www.gracereformed.com)

Pastor: Kevin Carroll (Wife: Tammy)

Mail: 505 S. Davison St., Mitchell, SD 57301

Location: 1021 S. Davison St.

Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School 9:00 AM

### **RAPID CITY**

*Grace RCUS*

(605) 399-1711; [www.gracereformedrapidcity.com](http://www.gracereformedrapidcity.com)

Pastor: David Fagrey (Wife: Bonnie)

Mail and Location: 5626 Haines Ave., Rapid City, SD 57701

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:00 AM

### **SIOUX FALLS**

*Trinity RCUS*

(605) 271-0754; [www.trinityrcus.org](http://www.trinityrcus.org)

Pastor: Michael McGee (Wife: Jenny)

Associate Pastor: Maynard Koerner (Wife: Marcia)

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

Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School: 9:00 AM

### **VERMILLION**

*Providence RCUS*

(605) 624-4337; [www.providencercus.com](http://www.providencercus.com)

Pastor: Harvey Opp (Wife: Carol)

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

Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM

## Wyoming

### **CASPER**

*Christ RCUS*

(307) 277-5901; [www.christreformedrcus.org](http://www.christreformedrcus.org)

Pastor: Matthew Powell (Wife: Andrea)

Mail: 6061 W. Incline Rd., Casper, WY 82604

Location: 600 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St.

Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School 11:45 AM

### **ROCK SPRINGS**

*Providence RCUS*

(307) 352-9518; [www.providencerocksprings.org](http://www.providencerocksprings.org)

Pastor: Joe Vusich (Wife: Gioia)

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

Location: 1001 9<sup>th</sup> St.

Worship: 10:00 AM, Fellowship & Sunday School: 11:15 AM

## **ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**

### **Services**

Classis delegates, members of Zion Reformed Church, and visitors met on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM to worship our gracious Triune God. Rev. Michael McGee presided over the service, and Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll preached a sermon based on Luke 1:67-80 entitled *Benedictus*.

Immediately following the opening roll call on Tuesday morning, Rev. Randy Klynsma led the delegates in the singing of *Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way of Truth* and presented a devotional from Proverbs 3:19-35 entitled *The Final Reasons to Follow Wisdoms Ways*. Prayer was also offered for the opening session of classis.

At the end of the Tuesday sessions of Classis, Elder Daniel Mettler closed with a devotion entitled “Everyone is Replaceable”. He read from John 14:6, various Heidelberg Catechism questions and answers and offered a word of prayer.

Prayers were also offered for concerns and requests that arose from the parochial reports of ministers and other business of Classis.

### **Organization**

Following the opening worship service, the President of the Executive Committee, Rev. Travis Grassmid, called the 2021 Annual Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis to order at 8:25 PM and led the body in prayer. The Stated Clerk, Rev. Kevin Carroll, called the roll, which showed 13 ministers, 1 licentiate and 13 elders present, a total of 27. The opening and closing roll call on Tuesday showed 13 ministers, 1 licentiate and 12 elders present, a total of 26.

The President appointed Rev. Grassmid, Elder Joshua Savage and Elder Ted Schieffelin to serve as tellers for the meeting. He also designated Rev. Klynsma as the reporter for the *Reformed Herald*.

Elections by ballot were held for men to serve in the following capacities:

*President:* Rev. Matthew Powell

*Vice President:* Dr. Lee Johnson

*Stated Clerk:* Rev. Michael McGee

*Treasurer:* Elder Scott Velgersdyk

### **Adoption of Agenda, Services and Order of the Day**

The Agenda, Services, and Order of the Day were adopted.

### **Welcome & Seating of Fraternal Delegates, Visitors & First-Time Elders**

The following fraternal delegates were welcomed and given the privilege of the floor:

- Rev. Spencer Aalsburg from the United Reformed Churches of North America and serving at Christ Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.
- Rev. Thomas Brown from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and serving at

Bethlehem Reformed OPC, Freeman, SD.

The following visitors were welcomed:

- Mr. Chris Bradley, student at New Geneva Theological Seminary who has been providing occasional pulpit supply to the RCUS work in Limon.
- Rev. Doug Schlegel, pastor at Providence Reformed Church, Lodi, CA.
- Mr. Matthew Dawn, student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and member of Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.
- Mr. Dave Johnson, student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and member of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Lic. Carl Gobleman, stated supply of Emmanuel RCUS, Sutton, NE.
- Elder Daniel Mettler, an active elder in Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.
- Rev. Dr. Jeff Doll, Director of the Institute for Reformed Biblical Counseling, Hudsonville, MI.
- Dr. Gary Cookson, the Counseling Ministry Coordinator at the Shepherd's Way, Sioux Falls, SD.
- Elder Darrell Mehlhaf, elder from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.

The following elders were recognized as first time elder delegates:

- Elder Kip Matkins from Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD.
- Elder Gene Bender from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.
- Elder Joshua Savage from Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO.

### **Reception of New Ministers**

There were no new churches to welcome into the Classis.

### **Reception of New Churches**

There were no new ministers to welcome into the Classis.

### **Announcement of Standing Committee**

The President announced the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

*Benevolence, Ministerial Aid, Education & Student Aid:* Johnson, Burbach

*Publications, Examination & Licensure:* Blair, Vusich, Moulton, Rydell

*Finances:* Matkins, Velgersdyk, Dan Griess

*Missions:* Opp, Grassmid, Savage, Hofmann

*Services:* Vusich, Bender

*Judicial:* Koerner, Henry, Frey, Scott

*Special Judicial:* Mosley, Klynsma, Schieffelin, Smith

*Nominations:* Johnson, Grassmid, Bender

*Minutes of Synod:* Carrol, McGee, Kimble

*Minutes of Classis:* Carrol, McGee, Kimble

### **Distribution of Overtures and Communications**

The overtures and communications were distributed to the Standing Committees as determined by the Executive Committee. The actions taken on the Permanent Committee recommendations are found in the Standing Committee reports (pp. 52-59).



## **Presentation & Referral of Permanent Committee Reports**

### Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee received two items of business during the past Classical year, both concerning placing students under care for the ministry:

1. Your committee met with Mr. David Johnson on Monday evening February 1st by way of conference call. We interviewed him in relation to the RCUS Constitution Articles 16-18 regarding Students for the Ministry, and particularly his request to be taken under care of Classis. Your Committee found him to meet the qualifications as to his fitness for a student under care. He gave assurance that he is committed to preparing himself for the ministry according to the requirements established by the Constitution.

Recommendation: That David Johnson be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.

2. Your committee met with Mr. Jesse Smith on Monday evening February 1st by way of conference call. We interviewed him in relation to the RCUS Constitution Articles 16-18 regarding Students for the Ministry, and particularly his request to be taken under care of Classis. Your Committee found him to meet the qualifications as to his fitness for a student under care. He gave assurance that he is committed to preparing himself for the ministry according to the requirements established by the Constitution.

It is to be noted, however, that he is pursuing his study at Sangre de Christo Seminary near Colorado Springs where he lives, which is not “a theological institution recommended by the Reformed Church in the United States” (per Constitution Article 17). Recognizing this, he is not asking for student aid in the form of financial support, as he has his own means to support himself and his family throughout his seminary training. His request for care is that of desiring accountability through formal oversight of the Classis.

Recommendation: That Jesse Smith be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.

Your committee is also planning to administer the ordination examination of licentiate Carl Gobelman at the 2021 South Central Classis Meeting. As stated on page 67 in the 2020 Abstract of the Minutes, the exam will be over:

“Doctrine of Scripture; Hermeneutics; RCUS Constitution/Polity; Creeds/Heidelberg Catechism, and 15 minutes of Systematic Theology.” Also, Rev. Dr. Lee Johnson will be submitting a written evaluation of the 8-month internship completed under his oversight.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J. Blair, Rev. J. Vusich, Rev. C. Moulton, Elder J. Rydell, Elder John Savage

*Addendum*

Gentlemen of the Committee,

I am writing to give my report on the internship and overseeing Carl Gobelman.

I met with Carl monthly since his licensure and exchanged emails and texts in between visits. These were usually one on one meetings although we did have a "welcome to the Classis" meal for him and his wife that included Rev. Klynsma and his wife. I did make sure he knew what to study and what was expected for the ordination exam. I recommended he look through the book "The Infallible Word" by the Westminster Faculty, which he owned already. Dr. Grossmann recommended that for me when I retook that portion of the exam, so I did the same for Carl. We spoke often about the RCUS and its practices. We talked a lot about the local church in working with elders, deacons, and running the Consistory. We talked over some difficult and challenging circumstances, and I think it was helpful. Carl seems fine with our position paper and peculiarities. He assures me he is ready for the ordination exam.

I was able to observe Carl interact with his own church on two separate occasions, which included teaching Sunday School. Those were times I served the Lord's Supper (I encouraged him to see someone different for the third Lord's Supper). I believe Carl has a good connection with his people, and they with him. He communicates effectively and with a view to helping the people in the pew. He has great enthusiasm for the word of God and for the church in Sutton.

I enjoyed getting to know Carl and his wife. I hope I was able to help him with pastoral questions, prepare for the exam, as well as make him feel welcome into the RCUS. I pray the Lord's blessing on him in the years to come.

In Christ,  
Lee Johnson

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

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*Christian Education*

Esteemed brothers,

Your committee did not meet during this past classical year, 2020-2021. We did no business.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev D. Dawn, Rev. S. Henry, Rev. H. Hart, Rev. G. Horner, Elder D. Griess,  
Elder W. Brouwer

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

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### Executive Committee Report

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee represents the Classis in the interval between classis meetings (per Article 91 of the RCUS Constitution) and conducts the business of Classis via executive circulars. Your committee also serves as advisors (as requested) to member congregations. The following is a review of Executive Committee business since the Spring 2020 Classis meeting. All circulars passed, with only one objection to the proposed actions.

1. Executive Circular 35.1, dated March 31, 2020, dealt with appointing delegates to represent the South Central Classis to the 274th Meeting of the Synod of the RCUS, which was to be held via Zoom.
2. Executive Circular 35.2, dated April 15, 2020, called for a Special Meeting of Classis to be held via Zoom on May 12, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to have a licensure exam for Mr. Carl Gobelman, who had accepted a call from Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, NE.
3. Executive Circular 35.3, dated August 22, 2020, dealt with transferring Rev. Jimmy John Hall's credentials to Covenant East Classis. Your Executive Committee found the request in order and recommend that he be dismissed to Covenant East, pending their reception of him.
4. Executive Circular 35.4, dated October 6, 2020, dealt with Rev. Chris Moulton's resignation from Mercy Street Chapel in Denver, CO and his subsequent call to be the pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church in Colorado Springs. However, because of an objection raised to the wording of the circular, it was rescinded.
5. Executive Circular 35.5, dated October 11, 2020, dealt with Rev. Chris Moulton's resignation from Mercy Street Chapel in Denver, CO and his subsequent call to be the pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church in Colorado Springs. The circular recommended:
  - a. That Rev. Moulton's resignation from Mercy Street Chapel be approved;
  - b. That Rev. Moulton's call to be the pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church be approved;
  - c. That the pulpit of Mercy Street Chapel be declared vacant;
  - d. That current classical guidelines for missions remain the same; and,
  - e. That classical giving to Mercy Street Chapel be reduced by 75% until such time as a new missionary pastor is called.
6. Executive Circular 35.6, dated October 31, 2020, dealt with erecting an Installation Committee to install Rev. Chris Moulton as pastor of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church in Colorado Springs.
7. Executive Circular 35.7, dated February 24, 2021, dealt with information regarding the 2021 Spring Meeting of Classis.

8. Executive Circular 35.8, dated February 26, 2021, dealt with a summary of overtures your Clerk received by at least four weeks prior to the 2021 Spring Meeting of Classis.

9. Your committee communicated via e-mails and phone calls prior to proposing Classis actions via executive circulars, and the committee was in agreement on all actions proposed in its circulars.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Travis Grassmid, Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll, Elder Darrell Mehlhaf

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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*Interchurch Relations*

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee did not meet, as there was no business that required committee decisions. The committee did business as it has in the past, sending out invitations to fraternal bodies to attend our Classis meetings, and fielding invitations from other bodies.

The Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA sent us an invitation to their fall meeting. We did not send a delegate, but we did send greetings. Likewise, the Classis Central of the URCNA sent an invitation to their spring meeting in Beecher, IL, but we did not send a delegate due to the distance. We did send greetings to them as well.

Rev. Koerner attended the Midwest Presbytery meeting of the OPC in the fall. His report will be forwarded on soon.

We were also contacted by the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC, which overlaps our presbytery only in Eastern Nebraska. It does not seem likely that we will send delegates very often to one another's meetings, given the distances, but we will keep them informed of our meetings.

Finally, we sent invitations to the Classis Central URCNA, the Midwest Presbytery of the RPCNA, and the Presbytery of the Dakotas, OPC, to send a delegate to the Classis meeting in March.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. M. Powell, Rev. L. Johnson, Rev. H. Van Stedum, Elder W. Nuss, Elder J. Stevens

*Addenda*

Report on the Fall Meeting of the Presbytery of the Southwest, OPC

This is to report that I attended the fall meeting of the Presbytery of the Southwest of the OPC meeting on September 18-19, 2020 at Tyler, TX. I request to be a Fraternal Delegate to this meeting since I had plans to be present

at this meeting at my own expense having been invited to preach in the OPC in Austin, TX on the following Lord's Day.

I was warmly received and given the privilege of the floor. I was also invited to address the assembly. I assured them that we appreciated our relationship. They assured me that they would like to see more delegate exchanges between our Classis and the Presbytery of the Southwest.

The assembly gave most of its time to a very difficult and potential divisive complaint. The issues had to do with the action of a Session which had banned a member of another OPC congregation from attending services. The Presbytery did not conclude its business and meet about a month later to finish the work. It has been reported to me that the Presbytery was able to resolve the issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Classis in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maynard Koerner

Report on the Fall Meeting of the Classis Central US, URCNA

This is to report that I attended the fall meeting of the Classis Central US of the URCNA meeting at Doon, Iowa on September 14-15, 2020.

I was warmly received and given the privilege of the floor. I was also invited to address the assembly. I assured them that we appreciated our relationship. I encouraged them to send a delegate to our Classis meetings.

Two matters of note. A retired CRC minister was given a colloquium doctum. During the time when local Consistories seek advice from Classis there was a particularly heinous situation which involved banning of a former elder from the services for a time.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Classis in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maynard Koerner

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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Missions

Report on Potential Vacancy in Denver Mission Work

Submitted on September 24, 2020

Esteemed Brethren,

As the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church (TCRC) in Colorado Springs has taken steps to find their next pastor, which would affect Mercy Street Reformed Chapel in Denver, and recognizing that the Home Missions Manual notes that no significant decisions affecting a mission work may be

implemented without consulting with the Classis Home Missions Committee, your committee conducted a meeting with the officers of Trinity Covenant RCUS on September 10, 2020 in order to learn of the things that have transpired since the departure of Rev. J.P. Mosley.

Through their pastoral search, the Consistory determined that the most suitable candidate to fill their pastoral vacancy was Rev. Chris Moulton, who accepted the call to serve and is awaiting the approval of the Classis to take up this new responsibility. In the meantime, Rev. Moulton has continued fulfilling his duties at Mercy Street Reformed Chapel as well as supplying the pulpit in Colorado Springs and providing some pastoral services when called upon by the officers.

Regarding the work in Denver, Mercy Street has moved from a local YMCA to Faith Presbyterian Church in Aurora, CO. Due to the facility being used on Sunday mornings, MSRC holds weekly worship services on Sunday evenings, beginning at 5pm. This move has allowed for a more suitable place for worship, as well as a place to store any equipment and supplies. Although most of the core group has left MSRC, the Lord has replaced those individuals with new attendees. Average weekly attendance is 17 souls, which is an increase from the year prior by five people. Interest in the work has increased over the past three months, with the potential membership totaling 20 souls by the end of the year. In addition to a weekly worship service, a mid-week bible study occurs every Wednesday, with an average attendance of 30 people. Follow up with visitors and potential members occurs as needed.

Recognizing the unusual nature of having a missionary leave the mission work in order to fill a vacancy at the overseeing church, your committee discussed with the officers of TCRC their commitment and interest in continuing with the work in Denver. The consistory assured us of their enthusiasm for MSRC and plan on having Rev. Moulton continue to serve in Denver until a missionary is called by supplying the pulpit each week, holding bible studies, providing follow up with inquires and conducting membership classes.

If the mission work becomes vacant, some adjustments to the financial support provided by classis and synod will need to be made. Currently, Mercy Street Reformed Chapel receives \$45,000 from classis and \$36,000 from Synod. A plan developed by the overseeing consistory and the home missions committee proposes keeping guideline giving at the same amount but reducing the monies provided to the Denver work by 75% as long as they are without a missionary. This reduction would still address all of the expenses of MSRC, including pulpit supply and mileage reimbursement, but would not provide any salary to the new minister in Colorado Springs. As the matter of the resignation of Rev. Moulton is taken up by the South Central Classis, your committee would encourage the Executive Committee to take the necessary steps in order to adjust the financial support for MSRC according to the terms laid out in this report.

In preparation for the potential vacancy in Denver, your committee, in collaboration with the consistory at TCRC, is assembling a list of potential candidates and will contact these men once Classis approves Rev. Moulton to serve in Colorado Springs. It is our desire to present a candidate for Denver at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the South Central Classis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. M. McGee, Rev. M. Koerner, Rev. H. Opp, Elder F. Hofmann, Elder D. Mettler, Elder D. Oliver

### Annual Report

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Over the past few years, the Missions Committee Report has been able to speak of positive growth in our mission works. This year, mainly due to the impact of COVID but also due to some health concerns and other types of challenges, our classis mission works have varied in their development. Christ Reformed in Casper has seen steady growth. Omaha Reformed has lost a key family and struggled with regular attendance among the membership due to the coronavirus. Mercy Street Reformed lost its missionary and a couple of families from its membership. The work in the Gallatin Valley Region has gained three members but lost the involvement of Rev. Horner due to colon cancer. Although this year's report will note the blessings and challenges of 2020, we remain grateful for the Lord's care for His people through the past year and are confident in His plan for the work of missions in the South Central Classis in the coming year.

This past year, your committee fulfilled its responsibilities by corresponding via email, meeting through conference calls, and also visiting with our various mission works through site visits, phone calls and video conferencing.

As we were tasked to make a site visit with each of the mission works and consult with their overseeing consistories, we were able to meet in person with representatives of Omaha and Denver. Although we were unable to travel to Casper and Manhattan, we did visit with them via video conferencing.

### **Christ Reformed Chapel: Casper, WY**

On Monday, March 8, 2021, Elders Fred Hofmann and Daniel Mettler and Rev. Michael McGee conducted a Zoom call with the officers of Christ Reformed Church.

Currently, the congregation has 32 confirmed and 33 unconfirmed members. Attendance remains steady, averaging 65-75 souls per Sunday. Three families and one single woman have begun attending due to the closure of the RPCNA work in Casper. Although these individuals have left a church which held the distinction of exclusive psalm singing, this issue has not created any discord at Christ Reformed Church. In fact, some of these people have expressed

appreciation for the opportunity to attend a Reformed Church and two of the families will become members by the summer of 2021.

Because of the restrictions of Covid-19, services were suspended for two Sundays. Once they resumed, three services composed of 10 people each were conducted for four weeks. Although the coronavirus brought some new and unexpected challenges, the Church remained unified. There were no real struggles or divisions that occurred as the church officers led the congregation through the difficulties of the pandemic. Since that time, regular services have been maintained. All of the congregation, with the exception of one family, have resumed their participation in Sunday morning services. Overall, the morale, participation and occasions for fellowship have remained strong among the membership.

Christ Reformed Church continues to rent the facilities formerly used by College Heights Baptist Church for a reasonable price. Although the building is outdated, fellowship meals are crowded and that they are unable to host midweek studies at the church facilities, the current building arrangements are able to meet the needs of the congregation. However, the officers have begun weighing their options and open to finding a different location to meet.

Financially, Christ RCUS is holding their own. The congregation provided diaconal monies for the Philippines, as well as a local rescue mission and the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Casper. As the church is pursuing financial independence from the classis and synod, the congregation continues to affirm their responsibility in this matter. Monies are set aside monthly in the amount of \$150 per month in a building fund, which currently has a \$14,000 balance.

The congregation devotes an insignificant amount of money to advertising. Their primary means for promoting the local church is through Google ads, Facebook, Sermonaudio and a website. Although more could be done through these and other mediums, the Consistory does not want to lose sight of the importance of building the Church through the medium of preaching and teaching and the work of personal connections. Although this type of growth may be small numerically, the strength of it lies in the stronger bonds that can exist among the membership. Therefore, regular bible studies are held for the men, women and youth of the Church, with an eye toward developing relationships with regular and new attendees.

Overall, the spiritual health of Christ Reformed Church is good. A few challenges facing the officers include some ongoing marriage counseling concerns and the necessary work to integrate the members who previously attended the RPCNA. One gentleman in the congregation has shown himself to be qualified to serve as a deacon. Rev. Powell intends to begin officer training for this individual so that the candidate may be presented to the congregation in the next year.



Your committee rejoices with the saints at Christ Reformed Church in the continued progress that the Lord is bringing in Casper. The mission work currently receives \$15,000 in funding from Classis and the same amount from Synod. For the upcoming classical and synodical year, \$12,000 will be requested, which is \$3,000 less than the funding of the current year and 40% of the original amounts received from classis and synod.

### **Mercy Street Reformed Chapel: Denver, CO**

Your committee met with the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church (TCRC) in Colorado Springs in September of 2020 due to their decision to call the missionary of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel (MSRC). Since that time, a missionary search committee composed of members from the Missions Committee and TCRC have met in order to develop a list of potential candidates to serve as the next missionary in Denver. Potential candidates were contacted. Only one individual, who is two years removed from seminary and has one year of ministerial experience, has expressed interest in being considered at this time.

On February 7, 2021, Revs. Michael McGee and Harvey Opp and Elder Fred Hofmann met at 3 pm with representatives of Trinity Covenant RCUS (Rev. Chris Moulton, Elders Joshua Berg, Will Brouwer and Jesse Smith) and the members of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel at the church room rented from Faith Church (EPC), in Aurora, CO. Members attending were Dave, Patti, and Matthew Johnson, Trish Castillo, and Fred and Sue Lutz. A regular visitor by the name of George Young, and one of his children was also in attendance.

The Johnson family has attended since October of 2019. The others since the summer of 2020. The individuals listed in the previous paragraph are the only members attending regularly at this time, as those of the original core group have moved or gone to other churches. The Youngs are a family of eight, but have yet to join. Although not present at the meeting, there have been some regular visitors which include two married couples and a single man. None of these appear likely to join at this time.

As for church backgrounds, the Johnsons came from an evangelical church, the others having an OPC, PCA, RPCNA or URCNA connection.

During the meeting, questions were asked mainly of the members of the Denver work since a visit with the officers of Trinity Covenant in Colorado Springs had occurred earlier in the day.

The group was asked to identify the strengths, value and importance of Mercy Street. Their answers noted the following:

1. The sermons are good and the reformed liturgy is appreciated.
2. Rev. Moulton's teaching style and delivery is edifying. He is consistent and faithful to the Word of God, no matter who or how many are in attendance.

3. The seriousness that the RCUS takes regarding ordination and commitment to the Three Forms of Unity.
4. The value and benefit of Wednesday evening Bible Studies currently conducted via Zoom.
5. There is appreciation for the oversight and connection with the church in Colorado Springs.
6. The overall commitment of the group to the continuation of the work and their weekly attendance.

The group was asked to identify the challenges and difficulties of Mercy Street. Their answers noted the following:

1. Their small size.
2. Their current location. The space used is better than their previous location (a local YMCA). However, a Spanish charismatic group, which meets upstairs at the same time that Mercy Street conducts its services can be loud.
3. The meeting time of 4pm is not ideal. (Other groups rent the current facilities in the morning.)
4. Denver has many churches. MSRC only has the personal outreach of the members, though several do invite others.
5. The Reformed Church is very new and difficult for many people, which takes a lot of time to discuss reformed distinctives with others.

Further comments and suggestions offered to the committee include:

1. The desire for a full-time missionary since Rev. Moulton is only able to serve in a limited capacity.
2. The continuation of the work even though only one member, Trish Castillo, will be present beginning in the summer of 2021. The Lutzs retired to Arkansas at the end of February and the Johnsons will move to Sioux Falls, SD in the summer so that Dave can attend Heidelberg Theological Seminary.
3. To measure the value of the mission work by the few who are being served and not just by the numbers present in the work.
4. Prayer was recognized by the missionary as essential. Prayer meetings were encouraged by the committee, whether mid-week or Sundays. They have not had such times yet.

In reflecting on the situation in Denver, your committee is proposing that classis suspend funding for MSRC. Although this is not the type of recommendation that we want to bring, we believe that it is time to pull back financial support from the mission work. The basis for this is as follows:

**Size.** Since its inception, MSRC has always struggled to secure and maintain a core group. When the work was begun, many in attendance were young singles in their twenties. All of these individuals have moved elsewhere. The Lord has

brought others. In time, many of these have also left. Of the three families that are currently members, one has already moved away. Another will be departing in June. Although MSRC has had many participants, at least 40 or more people over the span of two and half years, the mission work has struggled to establish a base in Denver.

**Missionary.** In October of 2020, Rev. Moulton moved from the Denver area in order to serve as the pastor of TCRC in Colorado Springs. Since that time, he regularly fills the pulpit at MSRC and meets with visitors and members as needed. A missionary search committee was erected and began the work of finding a suitable candidate for Denver. Although the committee is only six months into the process of finding a new missionary, the amount of time needed in order to secure another man for the work and have him move into the area will take a minimum of six to nine months. Furthermore, at this point in time, potential candidates would come from outside the denomination which could create some challenges in securing a missionary.

If Classis approves suspending the funding for the work, consideration would need to be given to the monies that are currently in the treasury of MSRC. Recognizing that TCRC may be interested in redeveloping a mission work, your committee is recommending that TCRC retain any funds through the 2021-2022 classical year, at which point in time the remaining monies would be turned over to the classis and designated for future mission works.

One further matter to address relates to synodical funding. Although classical support was reduced in the fall of 2020, synodical support has yet to be adjusted. The committee would encourage MSRC to return the 75% of the monies they have received from synod since November of 2020 to the synodical treasuries as was noted in the September 24, 2020 Missions Committee Report which was distributed with SCC Executive Circular 35.5.

Although we are recommending that funding for MSRC be suspended, your committee still believes that the Denver Metro area would be a good place for an RCUS work. These reasons, as identified in the 2017 Missions Committee Report, continue to be the size of the population, the proximity to other RCUS works and the small number (2) of churches that subscribe to the *Three Forms of Unity*. Your committee would encourage TCRC to continue seeking ways to generate interest in an RCUS work in the Denver metro area.

### **Omaha Reformed Chapel – Omaha, NE**

Rev. Randy Klynsma remains positive concerning the direction of Omaha Reformed Chapel (ORC). There have been some struggles with Covid-19 and members leaving. However, the membership statistics show little change as that of the previous year. Although in-person attendance has been negatively affected due to the pandemic, the church has continued to experience God's blessings in 2020.

Some items of note include the addition of five infants, one of which was by adoption. Rev. Klynsmas continues the work of discipleship with perspective members and has seen four individuals added to the membership roll of ORC. Two additional couples have been regularly attending the work and are in the process of joining the church. At the end of the year, the Bergstroms moved to Florida to be closer to family. Their void is significant as they were a family of nine and faithful members who regularly participated in the services and studies of the church.

With the exception of one Sunday in early 2020, Lord's Day worship services were held throughout the year. Some of these were limited to 10 individuals during the lock-down, but were livestreamed through Facebook and projected in the overflow room in the basement of the church building.

Statistically, the congregation is holding its own. Giving has continued in spite of the struggles of some to attend the in-person weekly worship services. At the end of 2020, there was a modest increase in the account balances over the previous year. Communicant membership has seen little fluctuation from the previous year. Weekly attendance currently averages 20-25 souls per Lord's Day.

Your committee makes two observations about the circumstances of ORC. First, though they are two years away from being fully self-supporting, at this time, they are not yet in a position to particularize due to a lack of qualified elder candidates. Second, though there has not been significant increase in the numerical membership, their ability to sustain the work financially has enabled them to continue to reduce their financial dependence on classis and synod. Consequently, they are prepared to reduce their financial support to 30% of the original amounts, which is a decrease of \$6,750 from their current support from classis and \$4,500 from their current support from synod.

Your committee requests that you would pray that God would raise up godly and faithful men to serve as officers in the church in Omaha. The mission work currently receives \$20,250 in funding from Classis and \$16,200 from Synod. For the upcoming fiscal year, \$13,500 will be requested from classis and \$10,800 from synod, both of which are 30% of the original amounts received.

### **Covenant Reformed – Manhattan, MT**

Your Committee continues to interact with the work which identifies as Covenant Reformed Church (CRC) in the Gallatin Valley Region via Zoom meetings and phone calls. We had intended to send two of our committee members to make a site visit but were providentially hindered by the weather and scheduling conflicts.

We continue to be encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Group and are thankful for their willingness to listen and implement our counsel. We are also appreciative of the labors of Revs. Wes Brice and George Horner over the past

year. As you are aware, due to the diagnosis of stage three colon cancer in November of 2020, Rev. Horner was no longer able to serve the saints in Manhattan. Since that time, Rev. Brice has been living in a rented home provided by the Group and serving them on a weekly basis.

Concerning the labors of Revs. Brice and Horner, they have sought to fill the pulpit, teach a weekly Sunday School class, work with those of the appropriate age through the confirmation process, serve the saints through the work of hospitality and encourage the group through pastoral leadership and care. The Group speaks affectionately of these men and are appreciative for their labors.

Under the direction of Rev. Brice, materials have been developed for the purpose of outreach. Although these have yet to be distributed to the residents in Manhattan due to COVID restrictions, Lord willing, the Group will be able to canvas the neighborhoods in the next three to six months. A list of contacts continues to be developed and efforts are made to invite these individuals to attend weekly services and bible studies.

Numerically, the Group has made slight gains. Three individuals have started attending due to the lack of Covid restrictions observed during worship services. Weekly attendance averages around 25-30 souls. In 2020, \$55,000 was provided through tithes and offerings, which is an increase of \$20,000 in giving over 2019. These monies do not include the financial support provided by the Classis.

The Episcopalian church building in Manhattan, MT continues to be rented for the cost of \$100 per month. The facility is sufficient for now although it is lacking in size and space for a nursery and Sunday School. Continued efforts are being made to find a different meeting location that is closer to Bozeman, but due to the extremely high real estate prices in the area and unavailable suitable rental facilities, the Group is content to remain in their current location for the time being.

As the saints in Manhattan have displayed a commitment to the Reformed Faith and the distinctives of the RCUS, and also show themselves submissive to the guidance of the Classis, your committee maintains the belief that we should continue to work with the families in the Gallatin Valley Region. Although we are not ready to recommend that they become a mission work of the RCUS, we are proposing that an overseeing consistory be identified to receive these individuals into membership. In addition to the reasons listed above, we believe that this Group would best be served by having spiritual accountability to a local consistory and provided the opportunity to receive the sacraments, especially as there are three children that have yet to be baptized. In presenting this idea to the officers at Rock Springs, that Consistory has indicated that they are “favorably disposed to becoming the overseeing consistory of the Manhattan, Montana work, subject to Classis clarifying their commitment to the work and their expectations of the overseeing consistory”.

Your Committee is also recommending that funding for the work increase to \$18,000 for the next classical year. We believe this increase of \$6,000 over the current funding is warranted since additional financial assistance in the areas of advertising, pulpit supply and housing would be beneficial.

As to the matter of housing, the current accommodations that are being rented has been purchased by a new landlord. Although he is willing to honor the contract on the house for now, the cost of the rental or the need to find something different may occur in 2022, which could bring about some additional expenses.

Regarding the potential increase in pulpit supply, currently Rev. Wes Brice is fulfilling this need at a minimal cost. Due to his age and potential health concerns, it may be necessary for him to step away from serving in the Gallatin Valley Region. If that were to occur, the additional support provided by the classis would help offset this expenditure.

Your committee is grateful for the work that has occurred among the Manhattan Group. God has truly blessed the developing relationship with the saints in the Gallatin Valley Region. We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for this work in the coming year.

**Goals:**

Your committee desires to see greater growth in our mission churches yet recognizes that the challenges of 2020 have been difficult to overcome. We still remain optimistic regarding the work occurring in the classis and pray for God's richest blessings in Casper, Denver, Omaha and Manhattan. In accordance with the Home Missions Manual's guidelines, the committee has the following goals in mind:

1. That the congregation in Omaha will experience sufficient growth to become an established, particularized RCUS congregation within the next two to three years.
2. That the congregation in Casper continue to experience financial and numerical growth so that it no longer is identified as a mission work of the RCUS in three years.
3. That the Lord would raise up a core group in the Denver metro area so that a classically funded mission work would be present within the next three years.
4. That within the next five years, the Lord would raise up new RCUS works in metropolitan areas within our classis where established RCUS congregations already exist. These areas include, but are not limited to: Lincoln, NE; Council Bluffs, IA; Colorado Springs, CO; Denver, CO and Sioux Falls, SD.
5. That cities with few to no existing NAPARC churches be identified within our classical boundaries and consideration be given to the possibility of starting RCUS mission works in these areas within the next five to ten years.

## **Recommendations:**

*Recommendation #1:* That the South Central Classis support the work in Casper in the amount of \$12,000 for the upcoming classical year (represents a \$3,000 reduction from the current year and 40% of the amount originally received).

*Recommendation #2:* That the South Central Classis overture the 275th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$12,000 for the next synodical year (represents a \$3,000 reduction from the current year and 40% of the amount originally received).

*Recommendation #3:* That the South Central Classis no longer recognize Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, Denver, CO as a mission work of the Classis, suspend funding for the work effective April 1, 2021 and have the Stated Clerk of the Classis inform the Synod of the RCUS of this action.

*Recommendation #4:* That Rev. Chris Moulton and the saints at Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO and Mercy Street Reformed Chapel be commended for their commitment and labors toward establishing a church in the Denver area.

*Recommendation #5:* That the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO be encouraged to consider redeveloping a mission work in the Denver area.

*Recommendation #6:* That the remaining monies belonging to Mercy Street Reformed Chapel be held in a separate fund in the treasury of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO with oversight by the South Central Classis, for use in the redevelopment of a mission work in the Denver area.

*Recommendation #7:* That as of July 1, 2022, any unused portion of the remaining monies in the treasury of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO, which belonged to Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, be submitted to Classis and designated for future mission works of the Classis.

*Recommendation #8:* That the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis send a letter to the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO, expressing the appreciation of the Classis for their oversight of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel and requesting them to submit any remaining monies from the mission work in Denver being held in their accounts as of July 1, 2022 to the treasurer of the Classis.

*Recommendation #9:* That the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis send a letter to the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO encouraging them to return 75% of the monies they have received from synod since November of 2020 to the synodical treasuries.

*Recommendation #10:* That the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$13,500 for the upcoming classical year (represents a reduction of \$6,750 from the current year and 30% of the amount originally received).

*Recommendation #11:* That the South Central Classis overture the 275th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$10,800 for the upcoming synodical year (represents a reduction of \$4,500 from the current year and 30% of the amount originally received).

*Recommendation #12:* That the South Central Classis support the work in the Gallatin Valley Region in the amount of \$18,000 for the upcoming classical year for the purpose of assisting with the costs for housing, pulpit supply, travel expenses and advertising (represents an increase of \$6,000 from the current year).

*Recommendation #13:* That the South Central Classis recognize the willingness of the Consistory of Providence Reformed Church in Rock Springs, WY to oversee the group in the Gallatin Valley Region and direct the Permanent Missions Committee to assist in the development of this relationship.

*Recommendation #14:* That the South Central Classis set aside \$30 per communicant member in the upcoming classical year for the purpose of funding future mission works.

Grounds:

1. In 2010, Classis approved this type of action. (See page 41 of the 2010 SCC Abstract.)
2. The monies being sought are less than the yearly cost for funding Mercy Street Reformed Chapel.
3. The Missions Fund needs to be developed so that monies would be available for future mission works.
4. Setting aside monies now enables us to support future works without drastically increasing our future guideline.
5. Approval of the amount would not dramatically impact our Guidelines. If all the other items included in the Guideline remained at the same levels as in the 2019-2020 classical year, our cost per communicant member, approximately \$94, would be less than the yearly guideline for the past eight years.

*Recommendation #15:* That the congregations of the South Central Classis continue to pray for our mission works, as well as the saints in the Gallatin Valley Region, particularly noting:

- a. That God would raise up some qualified men to serve as elders in Omaha;
- b. That a more suitable building for the saints in Casper would become available;
- c. That a mission work would be redeveloped in the Denver area;
- d. That further development would occur in the Gallatin Valley Region;
- e. That the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace would be evident in our mission works;
- f. That our missionaries would be provided with wisdom, discernment, strength and energy as they labor in their respective fields; and



g. That the challenges of numeric growth and attending worship services in person due to the pandemic would be overcome.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. M. McGee, Rev. M. Koerner, Rev. H. Opp, Elder F. Hofmann, Elder D. Mettler, Elder D. Oliver

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Home Missions.**

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Publications

Dear Brothers,

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Klynsma, Tertiary Convener

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Publications.**

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**Reports of Officers**

President's Report on the State of the Church

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

*Oh give thanks to the LORD for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.  
(Psalm 136:1)*

Twenty-six times, over a span of twenty-six verses, the 136<sup>th</sup> Psalm reminds the hearer of the eternal nature of the mercy of the Lord. Whether we consider the wondrous works of creation (verse 5-9), to His judgement upon Egypt and the nations of the Canaan (10-22), God through them all is showing His mercy to His people.

Twenty-six times the refrain is repeated, for we must be reminded time and time again of the good hand of providence of our heavenly Father, whereby we may have good confidence that no trial shall separate us from His love, through the finished work of Christ.

By the time I read this report, there will be a new president of the South Central Classis. For six years I have been blessed to serve this classis as president. There have been times of encouragement, and times of discouragement. I am thankful to you as a Classis for the opportunity to serve you in this way. I pray that the Lord would be pleased to strengthen our next president to the labors which are before him, equipping him to be a blessing to the churches of this Classis. Thank you!

Nearly to a man, the minister's parochial reports this year referenced the challenges of ministry in the midst of the disruption, which was caused by the Coronavirus, COVID 19. There were challenges in worship, in visitation, in the health of the congregation members, in the health of pastors, in the convening of every level of church judicatory; in short, all of life became a challenge.

Recognizing the great challenge of the past year, it was truly humbling and astounding to read of the many ways in which the Lord was pleased to flourish His church. Truly His mercy endures forever.

At last spring's classis meeting we were concerned with what the effects of the looming health scare would have upon our churches. Today, we see that the Lord has used the world-wide scare in part to strengthen the churches, and even to grow them both spiritually and numerically in some instances. Our total number of communicant members is down ever so slightly (-3) while our total number of baptized members has grown slightly (+5). The Lord has sustained His church.

The Word continued to be preached. Most consistories decided to suspend the full gathering of the congregation for a few weeks while the world waited to see the extent of the fallout from COVID 19, but even as the full gathering was suspended, the churches were quick to move to a greater online presence. In some places that even meant trenching cable lines to the church in a rush to be prepared. The work was accomplished, and the Word was preached to an anxious world.

Not only was the Word preached, but the sacraments were properly administered, church discipline was lovingly applied, the teaching ministry not only continued, but grew in scope as the churches sought ways in which to reach out and point the surrounding communities to the only true source of comfort, union with Jesus Christ.

Reverends Jon Blair and Scott Henry have chosen to teach through the Belgic Confession in the past year, while several others have focused on Genesis and Romans in their teaching and preaching. I find these to be some very helpful choices as the church speaks words of assurance from our Creator and Redeemer; the Lord who forever defends His church.

Financially, the churches have weathered the storm of the past twelve months quite well. Giving was down from last year, but only slightly. This is very encouraging considering all that has transpired in this year.

On the missions front we find a mixed review in the Missions Report. Trinity Covenant Reformed in Colorado Springs has called Rev. Chris Moulton as their pastor; this leaves Mercy Street in Denver without a missionary pastor. We are saddened to read of the recommendation "that the South Central Classis no longer recognize Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, Denver, CO as a mission work

of the Classis”. It is our prayer that the Lord would form a strong core group, and in time call a minister to renew the work in Denver.

In the Gallatin Valley of Montana, we read of the Lord blessing the beginning work of the Classis. We are grateful for the countless hours which two retired ministers, Reverends Wes Brice and George Horner, have given in building up this mission of the South Central Classis. We are encouraged by the recommendation that “an overseeing consistory be identified to receive these individuals into membership.”

We weep with those who weep. Our necrologies show the loss of two men who served the church faithfully over the years. From Mitchell we read of the passing from this life-to-life eternal of Elder Gerald A. Gramm. Gerald served in Mitchell as an elder for “more than twenty years”. Our sympathies are with his family and church family in this time of loss; even as we rejoice with Mr. Gramm.

None of us could have anticipated that last year would be the final Classis meeting with Dr. Robert Grossmann. Although our dear friend died a member of Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD, he was truly a member of the church at large, of the RCUS which he loved, and most recently as a beloved minister of the South Central Classis. Rev. Grossmann will be sorely missed at our Classis and Synod meetings. We thank God for the positive influence which Bob has had upon the church and express our sympathies to the entire family. Our dear brother has inherited that which is incorruptible, and we long for that day when we shall be joined together with all the saints in the presence of our glorious God.

There have been some changes within the Classis since we last convened via Zoom (I don’t ever want to “zoom” anything or anywhere ever again!). Dr. J. P. Mosley has moved with his lovely family to Sioux Falls, SD for the purpose of beginning ministry in the form of teaching at Heidelberg Theological Seminary. We pray that the Lord would bless the church and the Mosley’s through this new chapter in his ministry.

In Sutton, NE Licentiate Carl Gobelman has begun his ministry running at full speed. It is encouraging to read of the many labors in which he is engaged, of the positive review from his overseeing pastor, Rev. Lee Johnson, and the positive comments concerning his preaching from the elders of Emmanuel Reformed Church. Lord willing Mr. Gobelman will shortly be ordained, and his ministry we pray will be blessed for many years to come.

Last year was far different than anyone could have imagined. We have no idea of what to expect for the coming year. We know from the Word of God, and have learned from experience, that we can enjoy a good confidence for the future, because we belong to our faithful God and Father, for His mercy endures forever.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Travis Grassmid

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted and to be spread in the minutes, printed in the Abstract, and submitted to the *Reformed Herald*.**

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*Stated Clerk's Report*

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

Following is the list of the duties performed by your Clerk since the 2020 Spring Classis meeting:

1. Your Clerk recorded the business of the 2020 Spring Classis Meeting in the Minutes of Classis; prepared the formal Abstract of the Minutes for publication; and mailed copies of the Abstract to member churches. Your Clerk will format, index, and place in a permanent binder the 2019 Minutes of Classis, along with all reports and relevant documents as soon as the binder is received from the previous Clerk.
2. Per page 31 of the 2020 Abstract, the Classis President's Report on the State of the Church was sent to the editor of the *Reformed Herald*.
3. Per page 47 of the 2020 Abstract regarding Recommendation #4 of the Standing Judicial Committee: an overture was sent on March 9, 2021 to the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS, "to provide an interpretation of Article 12 of the Constitution of the RCUS." The reasons for the delay in sending the overture were two-fold. First, because last year's Synod was delegated, Synod chose not to take up any business that was considered non-essential. Synod decided that such business could wait until its 275<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2021. Second, and as a result, your Clerk simply forgot to send this overture to Synod until preparing this report. Your Clerk deeply apologizes for the oversight and assures Classis that it will not happen again.
4. Per page 48 of the 2020 Abstract regarding Recommendation #2 of the Standing Missions and Inter-Church Relations Committee: an overture was sent on May 5, 2020 to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS, "for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Chapel, Casper, WY in the amount of \$15,000 for the next synodical year (represents a 10% reduction from the current year and 50% of the amount originally received)."
5. Per page 48 of the 2020 Abstract regarding Recommendation #4 of the Standing Missions and Inter-Church Relations Committee: an overture was sent on May 5, 2020 to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS, "for funding on behalf of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, Denver, CO in the amount of \$36,000 for the next synodical year (represents the same amount from the current year)."
6. Per page 48 of the 2020 Abstract regarding Recommendation #7 of the Standing Missions and Inter-Church Relations Committee: an overture was sent on May 5, 2020 to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS, "for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$16,200 for the

upcoming synodical year (represents a reduction of 15% from the current year and 45% of the amount originally received).”

7. Per page 49 of the 2020 Abstract regarding Recommendation #10 of the Standing Missions and Inter-Church Relations Committee: an overture was sent on May 5, 2020 to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS, “that membership in ecumenical organizations and fraternal relations be re-evaluated by the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee and re-affirmed by Synod once every three years.”

8. Per page 49 of the 2020 Abstract regarding Recommendation #1 of the Standing Finance, Benevolence, Ministerial Aid, Education and Student Aid Committee\*, an overture was sent May 5, 2020 to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS, “to provide \$1,550.00 per month in benevolent aid to Mrs. Amy Stevens during the 2020-2021 synodical year (same amount as last year).” [\*Note: Because the 2020 meeting of the South Central Classis was delegated and met over Zoom, numerous Standing Committees were consolidated to facilitate their work.]

9. Per pages 49-50 of the 2020 Abstract Recommendation #3 of the Standing Finance, Benevolence, Ministerial Aid, Education and Student Aid Committee, an overture was sent May 5, 2020 to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS “requesting ministerial aid for the following recipients for the next synodical year:

- a. Rev. and Mrs. David Dawn, \$2,000 per month (same amount as previous year).
- b. Mrs. Kay Savage, \$1,200 per month (same amount as previous year).
- c. Rev. and Mrs. Herman Van Stedum, \$1,800 per month (same amount as previous year).
- d. Mrs. Phyllis Grossman, \$1,000 per month (same amount as previous year).
- e. Mrs. Penny Powell, \$1,200 per month (same amount as previous year).
- f. Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart, \$1,850 per month (same amount as previous year).
- g. Mrs. Lori Kingswood, \$1,500 per month (a monthly reduction of \$300; \$3,600 less than the previous year).”

10. Per page 50 of the 2020 Abstract Recommendation #5 of the Standing Finance, Benevolence, Ministerial Aid, Education and Student Aid Committee, an overture was sent May 5, 2020 to the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS “requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$1,800, of which \$200 is for books, for Mr. Matthew Dawn, a Student Under Care of the South Central Classis and a member of Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.”

11. Per page 50 of the 2020 Abstract Recommendation #8 of the Standing Finance, Benevolence, Ministerial Aid, Education and Student Aid Committee, your Clerk sent a note of thanks on February 25, 2021 to Mr. Gary Maassen, who audited South Central Classis’ 2020 books.

12. Your Clerk prepared and sent a Certificate of Licensure to Mr. Carl Gobelman on August 4, 2020.
13. Your Clerk prepared and sent a letter to Rev. Chris Moulton, certifying that he is an ordained minister in good standing in the South Central Classis of the RCUS on August 4, 2020.
14. Executive Circulars, Volume 35, #'s 1-8 (see Classis Executive Committee Report) were prepared and emailed to Classis delegates.
15. A proposed Agenda, Services, and Order of Business for the Spring 20210 Classis meeting was prepared and emailed to the delegates.
16. Delegate and membership and financial statistics forms were sent to the member churches.
17. A Docket containing the reports to be considered at the Spring 2021 Classis meeting was prepared and sent to the delegates.
18. Completed Statistics and Delegate Forms submitted by the member churches of Classis were reviewed and compiled, and the Report of Numerical and Financial Statistics was prepared in spreadsheet form and distributed with the Docket.
19. Delegate credentials were sent to the Clerk of Synod, along with the Report on Ministerial Changes and the Informational Form on the Congregations of the Classis.
20. Your Clerk also served on the Executive Committee of Classis.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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*Report of Synod Clerk to Classes*

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 274th Synod, there are several items that the Classes should take note of, but none that require action by the Classes:

1. Since last year's Synod Meeting convened as a delegated assembly, via Zoom, as per our agreement according to Executive Circular 273.3, that "a delegated body should restrict itself only to necessary business," we took action only on such items as required our attention before the 2021 Synod.
2. The 275th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 17-20, 2021, at Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.
3. The following two overtures from the 274th Synod were postponed until the 275th Synod Meeting:
  - a. According to Standing Ecumenical, Recommendation 2 (see 2020 Synod Abstract, page 74): "That Overture #22 be tabled until the 2021 meeting of the RCUS Synod. Seconded and carried."

[Overture #22: The SCC overtures Synod that membership in ecumenical organizations and fraternal relations be re-evaluated by the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee and re-affirmed by Synod once every three years.

Grounds:

- 1) This is how the Synod operates in other areas such as continuing support for Seminaries;
  - 2) This allows the Synod to be able to discuss openly the benefits, merit, or shortcomings of the relationships, which currently is unavailable.
  - 3) This provides an active element of oversight for and participation in these bodies and relationships.
  - 4) Synod ought not approve things by passing a budget for a committee.
  - 5) Every Synod has the right to re-evaluate past Synodical decision, it is especially important when it comes to membership in other bodies.]
- b. According to Standing Judicial, Recommendation 1 (see 2020 Synod Abstract, pages 78-79), “That Overture #23 [to establish a permanent Communications committee] be postponed until the 2021 Synod meeting.

[Overture #23: Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The undersigned delegates respectfully overture the following:

1. That the Synod establish a permanent Communications Committee to work with the other committees of synod to communicate to the general membership and to the world at large about the work of the RCUS. The general scope and work shall be as follows:

- a. The Communications Committee shall work with the other committees of Synod to develop and disseminate materials that may be used by our local congregations to promote the work of the RCUS, such as missions, benevolences, and giving.
- b. The Communications Committee shall, as appropriate, publish this content on the RCUS website and through social media.
- c. The Website Committee will become a subcommittee within the Communications Committee. The RCUS website design, content, and maintenance duties, along with any integration with the other digital initiatives of the church, will be under the oversight of the Communications Committee.
- d. The Communications Committee shall designate from its members two pastors and two elders who will approve the content of the website and social media communications. (NOTE: it is understood that content already committed to by Synod, such as statements from the Bible, our confessions, and

our constitution, do not need specific approval. The precise way these may be posted, however, requires pastoral wisdom and strategy, for which this team would be responsible. Furthermore, this team would be the funnel through which other submitted content would flow--such as updates on RCUS missions, benevolence opportunities, events, etc.)

2. That the Communications Committee build upon the work of the Special Strategic Planning Committee in seeking the best communications platforms for internal communications among RCUS leadership, as well as the broader membership. One of these platforms should be suitable for the committees of Synod and the Classes to securely store and share documents, and serve as a clearing house for synodical and classical work.

3. That the Communications Committee be permitted to recruit additional advisory members from our congregations who have expertise in websites and social media.

4. That the Communications Committee be responsible for raising its own funding this year.

Rev. Kyle Sorensen Rev. Dan Schnabel Rev. Doug Schlegel

4. The following two overtures, deemed unnecessary business by the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod, will be taken up by the 275th Synod:

a. Overture #15: The SCC overtures Synod to amend Article 79 of the RCUS Constitution as follows:

Current Article 79: The annual meeting of a Classis shall be opened with religious services, including the preaching of a sermon by the President, or by one of its members designated by him or by the Classis, after which the roll shall be called; if a quorum is present, the officers for the ensuing year shall be elected, and the business shall proceed according to the Rules of Order prescribed by the Synod.

Proposed changes: The annual meeting of a Classis shall be **preceded by a prayer of invocation and** opened with ~~religious services, including the preaching of a sermon by the President, or by one of its members designated by him or by the Classis, after which the roll shall be called;~~ **the roll being called.** If a quorum is present, the officers for the ensuing year shall be elected, and the business shall proceed according to the Rules of Order prescribed by the Synod. **Classis shall conduct religious services either during or before its annual meeting, which shall include** the preaching of a sermon by the President, or by one of its members designated by him or by the Classis.

Amended Article 79 would read as follows (above changes included): The annual meeting of a Classis shall be preceded by a prayer of invocation and opened with the roll being called. If a quorum is present, the officers for the ensuing year shall be elected, and the business shall proceed according to the Rules of Order prescribed by



the Synod. Classis shall conduct religious services either during or before its annual meeting, which shall include the preaching of a sermon by the President, or by one of its members designated by him or by the Classis.

Reasons:

- 1) The goal of this amendment is to allow the Classes greater liberty when scheduling required religious services for their annual meetings, rather than requiring that a service be scheduled to begin the meeting.
  - 2) There are occasions when it may be convenient for a Classis to begin its annual meeting with an afternoon or morning session; e.g., when a licensure examination is on the agenda. However, afternoons and mornings are usually not the best times to schedule worship services since many members of the host church are not available to attend. The proposed amendment would permit greater flexibility to the Classes to open their meetings and conduct business in the afternoon or morning, and still schedule an evening worship service as is typical.
  - 3) By helping the Classes conduct their business in a more timely and efficient manner, the proposed amendment will potentially save money by preventing business from spilling into an additional day, eliminating the need for increased lodging costs.
  - 4) The amendment resolves a logical difficulty in Article 79's current wording. The article states that the annual meeting "shall be opened" with a religious service; however, is it logically consistent to suggest that a Classis meeting can begin before the presence of a quorum has been determined? Current practice argues that the answer to this question is no, since at present a Classis delegate may miss the entire opening service and not be considered late to the meeting, provided he is present for the roll call. This observation illustrates what is already implicitly understood: that Classis meetings in fact open only when the roll is taken and a quorum has been determined. The amended article clears up the difficulty, yet without eliminating the option of scheduling a worship service before the opening roll call.
  - 5) It is appropriate for men of God to call upon the Lord before attending to the business of His church, which is why the amended article calls for a prayer of invocation to be offered before the opening roll is taken.
  - 6) The proposed amendment still requires religious services to be conducted as part of the annual meeting of Classis, and does not require any Classis to discontinue its current practice of scheduling a worship service before the meeting.
- b. Overture #16: "That the NPC overture the 274th Synod of the RCUS to reconsider the Yes answer in the Standing Judicial Committee Report

of the 273rd Synod in recommendation 1.

Grounds: This answer is problematic in several ways in that it seems contradictory to the principle of mutual submission to the positions of the RCUS as decisions of the Synod. We believe that the discussion of this was inadequate when it came to the floor due to circumstances and that given the implications and magnitude of this issue there needs to be a more deliberative consideration.”

Standing Judicial Committee Report of the 273rd Synod, recommendation 1 (2019 Synod Abstract, pages 72-73): “Regarding overture 21 from Covenant East Classis, requesting “That Synod make a ruling on the following question: may a church take an action or make a change to its constitution that is contrary to a position of the RCUS?” We answer Yes, but with this explanation:

- a. The constitution of a congregation must be in accordance with the Constitution of the RCUS (Article 10). The Constitution is “the fundamental law for government, doctrine, worship and work” within the RCUS and has “binding authority on all its members, congregations and judicatories.” (Preamble to the Constitution)
- b. To be strictly binding upon the whole church, a position of the RCUS must first be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Synod at a stated meeting and ratified by the Classes pursuant to Article 104. See the RCUS Position Paper “The Authority of Position Papers” adopted by the Synod (Abstract 2000:48-50), which states in part, “Should the RCUS desire to make a position strictly binding, it must use the process spelled out in Article 104.”
- c. Nevertheless, positions of the RCUS are not to be ignored. Adopted recommendations of position papers are “authoritative advice to the members” of the RCUS, serving as the RCUS’ “understanding of Holy Scripture and our subordinate ordinances.” Furthermore, the decisions made at Synod, including decisions to adopt position paper recommendations, “set precedents by which we determine what we believe and how we will act together as a mutually submissive confessing body.” (from the “Authority of Position Papers”) As recommendation 2 of that report states, “the expectation should be that when a matter relating to a position taken comes to the judicatory, the adjudication will be consistent with the position taken.”
- d. Since the Bible requires that our submission be in the Lord, and since the covenant of membership in the RCUS binds a congregation to the rest of the RCUS, and the covenant of ordination vows binds the church officers to the decisions and authority of the church, when a congregation or its officers believe a position of the RCUS is in error they have the privilege and responsibility to call the RCUS to revisit a position by providing Biblical, confessional, and constitutional arguments through the

normal overture process. (See Article 22, Article 49, The 5th vow at the installation of elders and deacons).”

5. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the calendar year.
6. Please review the Standing Rules of Synod (2020 Synod Abstract, pp.84-87).
7. That the Stated Clerk of each Classis regularly provide the webmaster, in electronic form, an updated roll of ministers, elders, and churches following their spring Classis meeting.
8. Standing Ministerial Aid recommendation 8 (2013 Synod Abstract page 76), that pursuant to Article 28 of the RCUS Constitution, Classes shall not consider a pastoral call letter as “adequate support” to the temporal needs of the called pastor, unless retirement is addressed and funded in the terms of the call.
9. That treasurers of the various churches be reminded to comply with Synod standing rule 8 with regard to designating for which fund the monies delivered to the RCUS are to be attributed.
10. Please remember to send necrologies to the Synod clerk in time for Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fagrey Stated Clerk, RCUS

*Addendum*

#### STATED CLERK’S REPORT ON THE MINUTES 2021

Esteemed Brothers in Christ,

In accordance with the requirements of this office, the previous clerk (Rev. David Fagrey) has preserved the minutes of the 274th Synod with all supporting documents in a post hole binder. An Abstract of the actions of Synod, including reports was prepared and published in accord with Standing Rule 9. Copies of this Abstract and a Directory of Congregations were distributed to all ministers and congregations of Synod, as well as to all churches with which we maintain fraternal relations. The Index of Positions and Resolutions included in the Abstract was updated. The same number of Abstracts will be sent out this year, as last year, unless I hear from you otherwise.

The following items were completed:

1. On January 5, 2021, your committee accepted the resignation of David Fagrey from his position as Stated Clerk, per his Consistory’s request that he take a sabbatical from his pastoral duties at Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD, effective Feb. 1, 2021. Rev. Ruben Zartman was chosen to serve as Stated Clerk for the remainder of the current Synodical term.
2. On January 14, 2021, the previous clerk (David Fagrey) sent to the Classis clerks, the Minutes of Synod Report along with FORMS A-D and Reimbursement Form E.

**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

*Treasurer's Report*

CHECKBOOK (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

Beginning Balance	\$68,416.42	<u>Mission Fund (Sub-fund of Checking)</u>	
Deposits	\$104,635.06	Starting Balance	\$ 28,000.00
Checks	\$(116,239.00)	Expenses	\$ 7,497.00
Interest	\$181.86	Ending Balance	\$ 20,503.00
Bank Charges	\$(195.86)		
Ending Balance	\$56,798.48		
Variance	\$(11,617.94)		

INCOME & EXPENSES (July 1, 2019 - Jun 30, 2020)

**INCOME**

	<u>Church</u>	<u>Com.</u> <u>#</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
			\$99.98			
	Casper	24	2399.52	2400	.48	
	Sutton (E)	94	9398.12	9398.12	0.00	
	Greeley	50	4999.00	4999.00	0.00	
	Mitchell	93	9298.14	8098.38	-1199.76	
	Rapid City	72	7198.56	7198.56	0.00	
	Sutton (H)	156	15596.88	15596.88	0.00	
	Denver	5	499.90	0.00	-499.90	With C. Springs Excess next FY
	Omaha	20	1999.60	3358.60	1359.00	
	Limon	34	3399.32	0.00	-3399.32	
	R. Springs	38	3799.24	3799.24	0.00	
	Vermillion	28	2799.44	2799.44	0.00	
	Lincoln	86	8598.28	12736.28	4138.00	Excess next FY
	C. Springs	73	7298.54	6313.04	-985.50	
	S. Falls	150	14997.00	12497.60	-2499.40	Pd. In Aug. 2020
	Menno	149	14897.02	15439.92	542.90	
SUBTOTAL		1072	107178.56	104635.06	-2543.50	
ACCT. INTEREST				181.86		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>				<b>104816.92</b>		

**EXPENSES**

<b><u>Guidelines</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Paid</u></b>	<b><u>Due</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
Heidelberg Seminary	8040.00	8040.00	0.00	
New Geneva Seminary	6432.00	6432.00	0.00	
<b><u>Missions</u></b>				
Christ – Casper	18,000.00	18,000.00	0.00	
Mercy Street – Denver	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	
St. John’s (Omaha)	27,000.00	27,000.00	0.00	
Total Missions	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	
Other (Manhattan)		7,497.00	0.00	6,300.00 from Reserves
<b><u>Classis Expenses</u></b>				
Equipment				
Supplies		185.17		
Printing & Reproduction				
Travel Exp.		3,234.83		
Officer Stipend		650.00		
Total Classis Expenses	9,000.00	4,070.00		
<b><u>Total Guideline Exp.</u></b>	<b>113,472.00</b>	<b>116,039.00</b>		
<b><u>Other Expenses</u></b>				
Bank Svc. Charges		195.86		
Donation		200.00		HTS Host Zoom
<b><u>Total Expense</u></b>		<b>116,434.86</b>		
<b>Net Cash Flow for Fiscal Yr.</b>		<b>\$ -11,617.94</b>		

**GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY** (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Amount/Member</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Received</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>
Classical Dues	8.40	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,994.26	\$ (5.74)
Missions	78.08*	\$ 90,000	\$ 82,750.80	\$ (7,249.20)
Heidelberg Sem.	7.5	\$ 8,040	\$ 7,152.00	\$ (888.00)
New Geneva Sem.	6.0	\$ 6,432	\$ 5,738.00	\$ (694.00)
Benevolence/ Uncategorized	0.0	\$ 0	----	----
Total Guidelines	99.98	\$ 113,472	\$ 104,635.06	\$ (8,836.94)
* Reserves Used		\$ 6,300		
		\$ 107,172		
Total Membership (1072)	99.98	\$ 107,178.56	\$ 104,635.06	\$ (2,543.50)

\* Figures based on 1,072 Communicant Members

CHECKBOOK (July 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021)

Beginning Balance	\$ 56,798.48	<u>Mission Fund (Sub-fund of Checking)</u>
Deposits	\$ 86,569.77	Starting Balance \$ 20,503.00
Checks	\$ (49,604.14)	Expenses \$ ----
Interest	\$ 61.22	Ending Balance \$ 20,503.00
Bank Charges	\$ (115.10)	
Ending Balance	\$ 93,710.23	
Variance	\$ 36,911.75	

\* Projected Balance on June 2021 is \$76,700.

INCOME & EXPENSES (July 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021)

**INCOME**

<u>Church</u>	<u>Com.</u> <u>#</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Rec'd.</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
		\$100.78			
Casper	30	3023.40	0.00	-3023.40	
Sutton (E)	83	8364.74	8364.74	0.00	
Greeley	49	4938.22	2469.12	-2469.10	
Mitchell	81	8163.18	8163.18	0.00	
Rapid City	71	7155.38	7155.38	0.00	
Sutton (H)	150	15117.00	15117.00	0.00	
Denver	5	503.90	0.00	-503.90	w/C. Springs Pd. \$1359 June 2020
Omaha	27	2721.06	1362.06	-1359.00	
Limon	33	3325.74	0.00	-3325.74	
R. Springs	40	4031.20	4031.20	0.00	
Vermillion	35	3527.30	3527.30	0.00	
Lincoln	83	8364.74	4183.74	-4181.00	Pd. \$4181 June 2020
C. Springs	74	7457.72	7457.72	0.00	
S. Falls	152	15318.56	11435.37	-3883.19	\$2449.40 last FY
Menno	132	13302.96	13302.96	0.00	
Subtotal	1045	105315.10	86569.77	-18745.33	
Account Interest			61.22		
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>86630.99</b>		

**EXPENSES**

<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Budget</u> <i>Fiscal Year</i> <i>(Jul. 1 – Jan. 31)</i>	<i>Paid</i> <i>(Jul. 1 – Jan. 31)</i>	<u>Notes</u> <i>Due</i>
Heidelberg Seminary	3657.50	2133.53	1523.97
New Geneva Sem.	2090.00	1219.19	870.81

**Missions**

Christ – Casper	15000.00	8750.00	6250.00	
Covn't. – Manhattan	12000.00	7000.00	5000.00	
Mercy Street – Denver	45000.00	17812.50	3750.00	Reduced to 937.50/mo.
St. John's (Omaha)	20250.00	11812.00	8437.50	
Total Missions	92250.00	45375.00	23437.50	

**Classis Expenses**

Equipment			
Officer Stipend			
Postage		365.34	
Print & Reproduction		424.83	
Supplies			
Travel Exp.		86.25	
Total Classis Expenses	7315.00	876.42	
<b><u>Total Guideline Exp.</u></b>	105312.50	49604.14	

**Other Expenses**

Bank Svc. Charges		115.10	
<b><u>Total Expense</u></b>		49719.24	

**Net Cash Flow**

**Jul. 2020 – Jan. 2021** **36911.75**

**GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY (July 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021)**

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Amount/ Member</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Received</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>
Classical Dues	8.40	\$ 7,315	\$ 6,073.52	\$ (1,241.48)
Missions	78.08*	\$ 92,250	\$75,595.87	\$ (16,654.13)
Heidelberg Sem.	7.50	\$ 3,657.50	\$ 3,082.07	\$ (575.43)
New Geneva Sem.	6.00	\$ 2,090	\$ 1,818.31	\$ (271.69)
Benevolence/ Uncategorized	0.00	\$ 0	----	----
Total Guidelines	99.98	\$ 105,312.50	\$ 86,569.77	\$ (18,742.73)
Total Membership (1045)	99.98	\$ 105,315.10	\$ 86,569.77	\$ (18,745.33)

*\* Figures based on 1,045 Communicant Members*

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**Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Finance.**

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**Parochial Reports of Ministers**

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

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**Classis Action: Took note of each report.**

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## Constitutional Questions to Elders

The President addressed the questions found in Article 81 of the RCUS Constitution to the elder delegates of each congregation. The following answers were given:

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?* All answered, “Yes.”
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?* All answered, “Yes.”
- 3a. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation, is visitation faithfully preformed?* All answered, “Yes.”
- 3b. *Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?* All answered, “Yes.”
4. *Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution?*  
All answered, “Yes.”
- 5a. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?* All answered, “Yes,” with the exception of Elder Scott Velgersdyk from Sioux Falls, SD, who answered, “No.”
- 5b. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* All answered, “Yes,” with the exception of Elder Scott Velgersdyk from Sioux Falls, SD, who answered, “No.”
- 5c. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are the apportionments for the Synod paid according to the Guideline for Giving?*  
All answered, “Yes,” with the exception of Elder Fred Hofmann from Emmanuel RCUS in Sutton, NE and Elder Scott Velgersdyk from Sioux Falls, SD, who answered, “No.”
- 5d. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered, “Yes,” with the exception of Elder Scott Velgersdyk from Sioux Falls, SD, who answered, “No.”

The reasons for the responses in question 5 are as follows:

Emmanuel Reformed church in Sutton, NE was unable to pay their synod guidelines due to a shortfall in the monies provided through the offerings of the congregation.



Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD paid the whole of their 2020 guidelines but failed to submit these payments prior to the end of the fiscal year.

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.”

Due to the absence of the elder delegate from Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD, the President directed Rev. Kevin Carroll to have the Consistory in Mitchell submit written answers to the constitutional questions, which would be circularized by the Stated Clerk upon receipt.

### **Report of Numerical and Financial Statistics** (pp. 62-66)

The Stated Clerk presented the report.

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted.**

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### **Reports from Classis’ Fraternal Delegates**

The reports from Classis’ fraternal delegates were included in the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee Report (pg. 19) and not read aloud during the meeting. Classis delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions of the fraternal delegate.

### **Addresses by Delegates and Visitors from Other Reformed Churches**

The President invited Rev. Thomas Brown of the Presbytery of the Dakotas (OPC) to address the body. Rev. Mosley responded on behalf of the Classis and prayed for the relationship between the OPC and the RCUS.

The President also invited Rev. Spencer Aalsburg of the Classis Central US of the United Reformed Churches in North America to address the body. Rev. Blair responded on behalf of the Classis and offered prayer for the relationship between the URCNA and the RCUS.

### **Reports of Special Committees**

#### *Heidelberg Youth Camp*

Dear brothers,

Your joint committee met on Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to conduct the oversight of Heidelberg Youth Camp. We examined the evaluations of campers and staff collected during HYC 2020 and rejoiced in God’s provision for another blessed year of edification and fellowship. This year brought the largest enrollment in recent history with 119 campers. Even with the growth we were

blessed with excellent volunteers and no word of any illnesses following the event – praise the Lord!

The committee recommends the theme Biblical Justice and Mercy, with the following lesson and services:

*Day 1 – Theme: The God of Justice and Mercy*

Lecture One: “What Does God Require?” – Micah 6:7-8 (Define justice, mercy, humility)

Lecture Two: “Loving Justice, Loving Mercy, & Walking Humbly with your God” – Romans 12

Sermon: “Justice and Mercy in Jesus Christ” - Romans 3:21-26.

*Day 2 – Theme: The Church reflects God’s Justice and Mercy*

Lecture Three: “The Church of Justice and Mercy” – Ephesians 2:11-22

Lecture Four: “Justice and Mercy Shows No Partiality” – James 1:27-2:7  
(For Seniors: compare/contrast Biblical justice & the social justice movement)

Sermon: “Living as Doers of Justice and Mercy” - James 1:21-26

*Day 3 – Theme: Walk humbly with your God!*

Lecture Five: “Walking Humbly with your God” - James 4:1-10.

(Apply humility to our relationships)

Lecture Six: “Wait for the coming of Jesus Christ the Judge” – Revelation 4-5.

Your committee recommends the designation of the offerings collected during HYC 2021 for Grace Reformed Church of Dickinson, ND. The saints in Dickinson have purchased a church building in Dickinson, which the committee believes to be an excellent cause for HYC 2021 to support. We pray God will bless the outreach of Grace in Dickinson, even as He has provided this opportunity to purchase a physical location.

The committee notes the following dates for future camps: July 26-30, 2021, July 18-22, 2022, July 24-28, 2023, July 22-26, 2024, & July 21-25, 2025.

Your committee brings the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1:** That the budget and registration fees (attached) be adopted.

**Recommendation 2:** That the theme of Biblical Justice and Mercy be adopted as the theme of HYC 2021.

**Recommendation 3:** That the offerings collected during HYC 2021 be designated to Grace Reformed Church of Dickinson, ND.

**Recommendation 4:** That the Northern Plains Classis request their Permanent Audit Committee to review the financial records for HYC 2021 and add this as an annual practice in the future.

**Recommendation 5:** That congregations take note of the registration deadlines for early registration (by May 31<sup>st</sup>) and final registration (no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>) and that congregation be encouraged to submit

registrations as early as possible.

*Representing the SCC:* Rev. J. Blair, Rev. D. Fagrey, Rev. L. Johnson, Rev. J.P. Mosley, Elder D. Kimble, Elder W. Nuss

*Representing the NPC:* Rev. H. Bowen, Rev. M. Lassely, Elder D. Haak, Elder M. Fickbohm

*Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget*

	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>Difference (under)/over</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
<b>Opening Fund Balance (1/1/20)</b>		<b>2,902.71</b>		
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Camp Fees (119 campers)	\$ 19,725.00	\$ 21,440.00	\$ 1,715	\$ 23,250
Donations	2,000.00	2,166.50	167	2,000
Worship Offering	1,000.00	1,934.38	934	1,000
Camp Store Sales	500.00	530.43	30	500
Interest		0.08		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>23,225.00</b>	<b>26,071.39</b>		<b>26,750</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Camp Bob Marshall Rental	12,259.00	16,383.96	4,125	16,571*
Camp Bob Sewage Surcharge	1,700.00	-----	(1,700)	-----
Food	4,400.00	5,314.20	914	5,500
T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	3,000.00	1,955.20	(1,045)	2,800
Arts & Crafts	100.00	50.27	(50)	150
Supplies/Equipment	200.00	552.72	353	200
Administration	100.00	3.85	(96)	25
Camp Store Supplies	500.00	438.26	(62)	500
Designated Offering Recipient	1,000.00	1,934.38	934	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,259.00</b>	<b>26,633.11</b>		<b>26,746</b>
<b>Operating Gain (Loss)</b>		<b>(561.72)</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance (12/31/20)</b>		<b>2,340.99</b>		

\* Rental cost: \$600 (kitchen use) + [\$22 (daily rate/person) x 4 (days) x 170 (people)] + 6.5% tax.

**Proposed 2021 Camper Fees:**

\$190 per camper if registration and fee received by June 1. (\$5 increase)

\$220 per camper if received June 1 or after. (\$5 increase)

No fee for adult volunteers.

Proposed budget is based upon 120 campers and 50 adults.

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**Classis Action: The recommendations and report were adopted.**

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Special Judicial Committee

The Classis spent time in executive session from 4:03 PM to 4:41 PM on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, to address a judicial appeal.

**Reports of Standing Committees**

Benevolences, Education, Ministerial Aid and Student Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that Classis submit an overture to the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting benevolent aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens in the amount of \$1,550 per month for the next synodical year. (Note: this is the same as last year.)

Recommendation #2, that Classis submit an overture to the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$4,200 and \$400 for books for Matthew Dawn, a student under care of the South Central Classis. Dawn is a member of Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD. (Note: He is attending Heidelberg Theological Seminary.)

Recommendation #3, that the Permanent Christian Education Committee be reminded that they are to evaluate the necessity and desirability of funding RCUS institutions at the classical level and make a report to the next annual meeting of Classis.

Recommendation #4, that Classis submit an overture to the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting ministerial aid for the following recipients for the next synodical year:

1. Rev. and Mrs. David Dawn for \$2,000 per month (same amount as previous year).
2. Mrs. Kay Savage for \$1,600 per month (a \$400 monthly increase).
3. Rev. and Mrs. Herman Van Stedum for \$1,800 per month (same amount as previous year).
4. Mrs. Phyllis Grossmann for \$1,000 per month (same amount as previous year).
5. Mrs. Penny Powell for \$1,200 per month (same amount as previous year).
6. Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hart for \$1,850 per month (same amount as previous year).
7. Mrs. Lori Kingswood for \$1,200 per month (a decrease of \$300 per month, total of \$3,600).
8. Rev. and Mrs. George Horner for \$460 per month. Please pray for

George as he was recently diagnosed with Stage 3 colorectal cancer.

Lee Johnson, Robert Davis

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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Examination and Licensure

The committee conducted an ordination exam of Licentiate Carl Gobelman in the areas of the Doctrine of Scripture, Hermeneutics, the Constitution of the RCUS, the Creeds of the Church, with particular attention on the Heidelberg Catechism, Theology Proper, Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology.

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the ordination exam of Carl Gobelman be found satisfactory, and that Classis proceed with his ordination and installation.

Recommendation #2, that Mr. David Johnson be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.

Recommendation #3, that Mr. Jesse Smith be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.

Recommendation #4, that South Central Classis recognize that the work of Dr. J.P. Mosley as a professor at Heidelberg Theological Seminary be recognized as a work of the Church, as stated in Article 31 of the RCUS Constitution.

On recommendation #5, that it be noted that Rev. Jimmy John Hall has been received as a minister of the RCUS by the Covenant East Classis into their fellowship and confidence, take note.

Jon Blair, Joe Vusich, Chris Moulton, Jim Rydell

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted except for Recommendation 5, which was a take note.**

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Judicial

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the host congregation of a Classis meeting may live stream the meeting with the exception of any Executive Session or at any point the Judicatory determines that a portion should not be streamed.

Recommendation #2, that the Abstract of the 2021 Spring meeting of South Central Classis be dedicated to the memory of Rev. Robert Grossmann.

Recommendation #3, that the South Central Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS to dedicate the Abstract of the 2021 Synod meeting to the memory of Rev. Robert Grossmann.

On recommendation #4, that the South Central Classis re-submit to Synod the overture submitted in 2020 requesting an interpretation of Article 12 of the Constitution of the RCUS, take note.

Recommendation #5, that the Stated Clerk print a copy of the Abstract of the Spring Classis meeting for each Consistory within the Classis, two (2) copies to be provided to the Executive Committee of Synod, and six (6) copies maintained for archival purposes.

Recommendation #6 was ruled out of order.

Maynard Koerner, Scott Henry, Marty Scott

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted except for Recommendation #1, which was defeated and Recommendation #6, which was ruled out of order.**

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### Missions

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the South Central Classis support the work in Casper in the amount of \$12,000 for the upcoming classical year (represents a \$3,000 reduction from the current year and 40% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #2, that the South Central Classis overture the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY in the amount of \$12,000 for the next synodical year (represents a \$3,000 reduction from the current year and 40% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #3, that the South Central Classis no longer recognize Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, Denver, CO as a mission work of the Classis, suspend funding for the work effective April 1, 2021 and have the Stated Clerk of the Classis inform the Synod of the RCUS of this action.

Recommendation #4, that Rev. Chris Moulton and the saints at Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO and Mercy Street Reformed Chapel be commended for their commitment and labors toward establishing a church in the Denver area.

Recommendation #5, that the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO be encouraged to consider redeveloping a mission work in the Denver area.

Recommendation #6, that the remaining monies belonging to Mercy Street Reformed Chapel be held in a separate fund in the treasury of Trinity Covenant

Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO with oversight by the South Central Classis, for use in the redevelopment of a mission work in the Denver area.

Recommendation #7, that as of July 1, 2022, any unused portion of the remaining monies in the treasury of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO, which belonged to Mercy Street Reformed Chapel, be submitted to Classis and designated for future mission works of the Classis.

Recommendation #8, that the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis send a letter to the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO, expressing the appreciation of the Classis for their oversight of Mercy Street Reformed Chapel and requesting them to submit any remaining monies from the mission work in Denver being held in their accounts as of July 1, 2022 to the treasurer of the Classis.

Recommendation #9, that the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis send a letter to the Consistory of Trinity Covenant Reformed Church, Colorado Springs, CO requesting them to return 75% of the monies they have received from synod since November of 2020 to the synodical treasuries.

Recommendation #10, that the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$13,500 for the upcoming classical year (represents a reduction of \$6,750 from the current year and 30% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #11, that the South Central Classis overture the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$10,800 for the upcoming synodical year (represents a reduction of \$5,400 from the current year and 30% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #12, that the South Central Classis support the work in the Gallatin Valley Region in the amount of \$18,000 for the upcoming classical year for the purpose of assisting with the costs for housing, pulpit supply, travel expenses and advertising (represents an increase of \$6,000 from the current year).

Recommendation #13, that the South Central Classis immediately begin planning for the establishment of the work in the Gallatin Valley Region as an official mission work of the Classis, in accordance with the directions in the Home Missions Manual. Once a positive assessment has been presented by the Permanent Home Missions committee, a congregation identified that is willing to serve as an overseeing church, and a plan developed for searching for a missionary pastor; then the Classis will meet to approve a final plan.

Recommendation #14, that the South Central Classis set aside \$30 per communicant member in the upcoming classical year for the purpose of funding future mission works.

Grounds:

1. In 2010, Classis approved this type of action. (See page 41 of the 2010 SCC Abstract.)
2. The monies being sought are less than the yearly cost for funding Mercy Street Reformed Chapel.
3. The Missions Fund needs to be developed so that monies would be available for future mission works.
4. Setting aside monies now enables us to support future works without drastically increasing our future guideline.
5. Approval of the amount would not dramatically impact our Guidelines. If all the other items included in the Guideline remained at the same levels as in the 2019-2020 classical year, our cost per communicant member, approximately \$94, would be less than the yearly guideline for the past eight years.

Recommendation #15, that the congregations of the South Central Classis continue to pray for our mission works, as well as the saints in the Gallatin Valley Region, particularly noting:

- a. That God would raise up some qualified men to serve as elders in Omaha;
- b. That a more suitable building for the saints in Casper would become available;
- c. That a mission work would be redeveloped in the Denver area;
- d. That further development would occur in the Gallatin Valley Region;
- e. That the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace would be evident in our mission works;
- f. That our missionaries would be provided with wisdom, discernment, strength and energy as they labor in their respective fields; and
- g. That the challenges of numeric growth and attending worship services in person due to the pandemic would be overcome.

Harvey Opp, Travis Grassmid, Josh Savage, Fred Hofmann

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.**

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### Nominations

The following nominations were made for the 2021-2022 Permanent Committees (underlined indicates convener):

**Executive:** Powell, McGee, Smith

**Missions:** Opp, Koerner, Grassmid, Hofmann, D. Mettler, Josh Savage

**Publications:** Fagrey, Klynsma, R. Davis, Frey

**Christian Ed.:** Dawn, Horner, Hart, Henry, Brouwer, D. Griess

**Interchurch Relations:** L. Johnson, Van Stedum, Nuss, J. Stevens, Carroll



**Candidates & Credentials:** Blair, Vusich, Moulton, Rydell, John Savage  
**\*Heidelberg Youth Camp:** Johnson, Fagrey, Mosley, Gobleman, Kimble.

*\* Denotes a special committee.*

Lee Johnson, Travis Grassmid, Gene Bender

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendation was adopted.**

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Publications

The committee brought no recommendations.

Jon Blair, Joe Vusich, Chris Moulton, Jim Rydell

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendation was adopted.**

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Services

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that an overture regarding livestreaming services be referred to the Judicial Committee.

Recommendation #2, that the South Central Classis grant Rev. David Fagrey's request to be excused from this year's meeting, and also grant Elder John Frey's request to be excused from Tuesday's proceedings.

Recommendation #3, that the South Central Classis accept the invitation from Providence Reformed Church in Rock Springs, WY, to host the 2022 meeting of Classis. Seconded and carried.

Recommendation #4, that the South Central Classis send the following note of appreciation to the brothers and sisters of Zion Reformed Church in Menno, SD, and that this note be printed in their March 28 bulletin:

*To the beloved saints of Zion Reformed Church, the delegates of the South Central Classis extend our sincere appreciation for hosting our 36th annual meeting. Thank you for your kind and generous hospitality, and especially for the delicious meals you provided. We thank God for you, and ask Him to richly bless you in the days ahead as you seek to grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory in the church, both now and forever!*

Joe Vuisch, Gene Bender

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendation was adopted.**

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Minutes of Synod

The committee brought the following recommendations:

On recommendation #1, regarding the items referenced in the Minutes of Synod Report, take note.

On recommendation #2, regarding the items referenced in the addendum to the Minutes of Synod Report, take note.

Recommendation #3, that this committee be permanently dissolved.

Grounds:

1. There is no Standing Rule that requires this committee to exist.
2. There are rarely recommendations that rise from the report.
3. Today was handled as a direct referral to the Clerk. The report was adopted by the Classis.
4. Given the constant challenge finding men for committees, this could be part of the solution.

Kevin Carroll, Michael McGee, Dave Kimble

**Classis Action: On recommendation 1 and 2, take note. The report and recommendation 3 were adopted.**

Finances

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the auditor’s opinion be approved.

Recommendation #2, that the stated clerk send a note of thanks to the auditor.

Recommendation #3, that the treasurer’s report be approved.

On recommendation # 4, that if congregations fulfill their financial obligations to Classis and expenses remain as projected, the checkbook balance on June 30, 2021 will be approximately \$76,700, take note.

Recommendation #5, that the total budget for the 2021-2022 classical year be set at \$89,871.37 and that the classical guideline per communicant member for the upcoming year be allocated as follows:

Classical Dues:	\$9.39
Missions:	\$72.11
Heidelberg Seminary:	\$3.50
New Geneva Seminary:	\$2.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$87.00</b>

Recommendation #6, that Classis pay the submitted travel expenses in the amount of \$5,260.16:

Robert Davis -- \$306.88

Dave Kimble -- \$397.80

Marty Scott -- \$646.24  
Daniel H. Griess -- \$246.40  
Harvey Opp -- \$67.20  
David Johnson -- \$140.95  
Chris Moulton -- \$230.00  
Maynard Koerner -- \$56.00  
Randall Klynsma -- \$224.00

Doug Schlegel -- \$604.41  
Jesse Smith -- \$140.00  
Joe Vusich -- \$487.80  
Carl Gobelman -- \$245.28  
Jon Blair -- \$733.60  
Kevin Carroll -- \$126.56  
Chris Bradley -- \$607.04.

The following recommendation was made from the floor:

That the South Central Classis amend Standing Rule #10 to read as follows: *The President of the Executive Committee of Classis shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), and the Treasurer shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the Classical year.*

Grounds:

1. The annual payment to the Classis clerk was increased in 2015, from \$250 to \$500, while the payments to the president and treasurer were last updated in 2003. Given that it has been 18 years since the payments to the President and Treasurer were last amended, they seem low, considering the amount of work those officers do during the classical year.
2. Although it has been six years since the payment to the Clerk was last updated, given the amount of work the Clerk is required to do, \$500 still seems very low.
3. While serving as an officer of Classis is a labor of love for Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, a total increase of \$800 per year in Classis funding is an appropriate way to honor the sacrificial work of our Classis officers.

Kip Matkins, Scott Velgersdyk, Dan Griess

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**Classis Action: The recommendation made from the floor was carried by a two-thirds vote. On recommendation #4, take note. The report and its remaining recommendations were adopted.**

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Minutes of Classis

The committee brought the following recommendations:

On recommendation #1, your committee received the draft minutes through page 10 from the Stated Clerk and made corrections which were then incorporated into the revised minutes, take note.

On recommendation #2, your committee received the draft minutes from page 10-12 from the Stated Clerk and made corrections which were then incorporated into the revised minutes, take note.

Kevin Carroll, Michael McGee, Dave Kimble

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**Classis Action: On recommendation 1 and 2, take note. The report was adopted.**

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### **Expression of Appreciation to the Host Congregation**

Item was addressed by the Standing Services Committee (p. 57).

### **Reading of The Minutes**

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

### **Adjournment**

The 2020 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 8:06 PM on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, until the convening of the next Spring Meeting, on March 28-29, 2022 at Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY.

### **Roll Call**

The final roll call showed 13 minister, 1 licentiate and 12 elders present.

### **Devotions**

Elder Daniel Mettler closed with a devotion entitled “Everyone is Replaceable”. He read from John 14:6, various Heidelberg Catechism questions and answers and offered a word of prayer.

### **Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer, Benediction, Doxology**

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

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

Rev. Michael McGee

Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis

# APPENDICES

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

	C. Springs CO	Greeley CO	Limon CO	Lincoln NE
Number of Elders	4	3	2	3
Number of Deacons	2	3	2	3
Communicants Last Year	69	49	33	83
Received – Confirmation	1	0	2	2
Rec'd – Letter of Dismission	0	2	0	2
Rec'd – Profession of Faith	2	1	0	0
<b>Total Members Received</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Old/New Members</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>87</b>
Lost by Dismissal	1	0	0	1
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	2	1	0	1
Lost by Death	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Members Lost</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Comm. Mem. This Year</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>84</b>
Unconfirmed Members	35	18	13	24
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>108</b>
Number of Families	29	26	15	41
Number of Children in S. School	20	11	12	17
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized Last Year	0	2	0	1
<b>Total Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Members Rec'd Lord's Supper	72	53	34	80
Lord's Supper Observed	8	9	4	5
Receipts – Regular Offerings	\$144,378	\$117,697	\$54,903	\$106,460
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$4,452	\$6,645	\$1,077	\$7,192
Receipts – Other Sources	\$0	\$0	\$563	\$10,100
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$148,830</b>	<b>\$124,342</b>	<b>\$56,543</b>	<b>\$123,752</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$16,659	\$12,750	\$7,788	\$20,448
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$6,953	\$4,899	\$3,325	\$8,364
Non-Guideline Causes	\$1,323	\$8,000	\$0	\$0
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	\$1,980	\$75	\$0	\$946
Other General Expenses	\$84,219	\$96,613	\$31,230	\$72,064
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$111,134</b>	<b>\$122,337</b>	<b>\$42,343</b>	<b>\$101,822</b>
Value of Church Building	\$0	\$242,000	\$45,000	\$110,000
Value of Parsonage	\$0	\$158,000	\$0	\$99,100
Property Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Present Property Debts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Paid Last Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$241	\$260	\$236	\$246
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$101	\$100	\$101	\$101
<b>Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.</b>	<b>\$361</b>	<b>\$523</b>	<b>\$337</b>	<b>\$347</b>

	Emmanuel Sutton NE	Hope Sutton NE	Menno SD	Mitchell SD
Number of Elders	2	3	4	3
Number of Deacons	3	4	4	2
Communicants Last Year	83	149	132	81
Received – Confirmation	0	0	3	1
Rec'd – Letter of Dismission	2	17	0	0
Rec'd – Profession of Faith	0	6	2	3
<b>Total Members Received</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Old/New Members</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>85</b>
Lost by Dismissal	13	1	1	2
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	9	1	2	4
Lost by Death	2	4	4	3
<b>Total Members Lost</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Comm. Mem. This Year</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>76</b>
Unconfirmed Members	0	37	14	20
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>96</b>
Number of Families	34	105	73	48
Number of Children in S. School	0	30	5	15
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	1
Infants Baptized Last Year	0	1	1	4
<b>Total Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
Members Rec'd Lord's Supper	55	162	116	66
Lord's Supper Observed	3	5	4	3
Receipts – Regular Offerings	\$99,133	\$274,927	\$191,884	\$121,622
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$18,618	\$51,125	\$22,497	\$579
Receipts – Other Sources	\$117,751	\$2,106	\$4,679	\$47,021
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$235,502</b>	<b>\$328,158</b>	<b>\$219,060</b>	<b>\$169,222</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$7,728	\$37,340	\$31,152	\$5,250
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$9,938	\$15,117	\$13,303	\$3,098
Non-Guideline Causes	\$0	\$4,000	\$22,813	\$0
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	\$3,064	\$104,343	\$14,992	\$0
Other General Expenses	\$73,858	\$138,649	\$126,448	\$105,662
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$94,048</b>	<b>\$299,449</b>	<b>\$208,708</b>	<b>\$114,010</b>
Value of Church Building	\$525,000	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$525,000
Value of Parsonage	\$170,000	\$100,000	\$350,000	\$189,000
Property Improvements	\$12,383	\$10,624	\$6,635	\$0
Present Property Debts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Paid Last Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$93	\$251	\$236	\$65
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$113	\$101	\$101	\$38
<b>Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.</b>	<b>\$206</b>	<b>\$379</b>	<b>\$510</b>	<b>\$103</b>

	<b>Rapid City SD</b>	<b>Sioux Falls SD</b>	<b>Vermillion SD</b>	<b>Rock Springs WY</b>
Number of Elders	3	6	2	3
Number of Deacons	2	6	1	1
Communicants Last Year	71	152	35	40
Received – Confirmation	0	3	0	0
Rec'd – Letter of Dismission	5	10	0	0
Rec'd – Profession of Faith	2	2	0	2
<b>Total Members Received</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Old/New Members</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>
Lost by Dismissal	3	3	6	0
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	2	13	0	0
Lost by Death	1	0	0	0
<b>Total Members Lost</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Comm. Mem. This Year</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>
Unconfirmed Members	28	49	10	19
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>61</b>
Number of Families	38	67	14	23
Number of Children in S. School	22	46	9	11
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized Last Year	2	2	0	2
<b>Total Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Members Rec'd Lord's Supper	72		32	39
Lord's Supper Observed	4	3	4	10
Receipts – Regular Offerings	\$238,980	\$210,035	\$84,603	129,344
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$0	\$5,864	\$0	2,333
Receipts – Other Sources	\$0	\$161,155	\$5,206	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$238,980</b>	<b>\$377,054</b>	<b>\$89,809</b>	<b>\$131,677</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$17,428	\$37,511	\$11,953	\$9,780
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$7,155	\$15,158	\$3,827	\$4,031
Non-Guideline Causes	\$24,402	\$6,155	\$600	\$2,333
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	\$18,000	\$6,179	\$160	\$0
Other General Expenses	\$178,431	\$273,962	\$71,909	\$103,216
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$245,416</b>	<b>\$338,965</b>	<b>\$88,449</b>	<b>\$119,360</b>
Value of Church Building	\$900,000	\$2,326,778	\$320,000	\$240,000
Value of Parsonage	\$235,000	\$0	\$160,000	Included
Property Improvements	\$27,500	\$23,097	\$2,643	\$5,745
Present Property Debts	\$0	\$977,433	\$0	\$0
Debt Paid Last Year	\$0	\$32,005	\$0	\$0
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$245	\$247	\$342	\$245
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$101	\$100	\$109	\$101
<b>Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.</b>	<b>\$690</b>	<b>\$387</b>	<b>\$468</b>	<b>\$404</b>



	Omaha NE	Denver CO	Casper WY	TOTAL
Number of Elders	0	0	3	41
Number of Deacons	0	0	0	33
Communicants Last Year	30	5	30	1042
Received – Confirmation	0	0	0	12
Rec'd – Letter of Dismission	0	0	2	40
Rec'd – Profession of Faith	1	6	2	29
<b>Total Members Received</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Total Old/New Members</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,123</b>
Lost by Dismissal	5	2	0	38
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	0	0	2	37
Lost by Death	0	0	0	15
<b>Total Members Lost</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Total Comm. Mem. This Year</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,033</b>
Unconfirmed Members	11	0	33	311
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1,344</b>
Number of Families	14	6	15	548
Number of Children in S. School	2	0	30	230
Adults Baptized Last Year	0	0	0	1
Infants Baptized Last Year	2	0	5	22
<b>Total Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>
Members Rec'd Lord's Supper	30	11	32	61
Lord's Supper Observed	6	2	11	5
Receipts – Regular Offerings	\$98,542	\$16,610	\$74,247	\$1,963,365
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$829	\$0	\$355	\$121,566
Receipts – Other Sources	\$44,325	\$75,375	\$33,000	\$501,281
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$143,696</b>	<b>\$91,985</b>	<b>\$107,602</b>	<b>\$2,586,212</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$6,572	\$1,205	\$6,000	\$229,564
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$2,721	\$525	\$2,400	\$100,274
Non-Guideline Causes	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$71,226
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$150,939
Other General Expenses	\$105,662	\$94,531	\$101,122	\$1,657,576
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$114,955</b>	<b>\$96,261</b>	<b>\$112,322</b>	<b>\$2,209,579</b>
Value of Church Building	\$160,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,693,778
Value of Parsonage	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,461,100
Property Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$88,357
Present Property Debts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$977,433
Debt Paid Last Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,005
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$219	\$241	\$200	\$220
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$91	\$105	\$80	\$96
<b>Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.</b>	<b>\$310</b>	<b>\$346</b>	<b>\$333</b>	<b>\$385</b>

	TOTAL	LAST YEAR	DIFFERENCE
Number of Elders	41	40	-1
Number of Deacons	33	33	0
Communicants Last Year	1042	1,062	-20
Received – Confirmation	12	13	-1
Rec'd – Letter of Dismission	40	23	+17
Rec'd – Profession of Faith	29	34	-5
<b>Total Members Received</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>+9</b>
<b>Total Old/New Members</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>-9</b>
Lost by Dismissal	38	35	+3
Lost by Erasure/Discipline	37	40	-3
Lost by Death	15	12	+3
<b>Total Members Lost</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>+3</b>
<b>Total Comm. Mem. This Year</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>-12</b>
Unconfirmed Members	311	303	+8
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>-4</b>
Number of Families	548	549	-1
Number of Children in S. School	230	213	+17
Adults Baptized Last Year	1	2	-1
Infants Baptized Last Year	22	30	-8
<b>Total Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-9</b>
Members Rec'd Lord's Supper	61 (avg.)	72 (avg.)	-11
Lord's Supper Observed	5 (avg.)	8 (avg.)	-3
Receipts – Regular Offerings	\$1,963,365	\$1,969,332	\$ -5,967
Receipts – Special Offerings	\$121,566	\$153,910	\$-32,344
Receipts – Other Sources	\$501,281	\$328,301	\$+172,980
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$2,586,212</b>	<b>\$2,451,993</b>	<b>\$+134,219</b>
Budgeted Synodical Funds	\$229,564	\$256,501	\$-26,937
Budgeted Classical Funds	\$100,274	\$103,651	\$-3,377
Non-Guideline Causes	\$71,226	\$34,431	\$+36,795
Non-RCUS Benevolent Causes	\$150,939	\$123,801	\$+27,138
Other General Expenses	\$1,657,576	\$1,755,750	\$-98,174
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$2,209,579</b>	<b>\$2,264,636</b>	<b>\$+55,057</b>
Value of Church Building	\$6,693,778	\$6,613,969	\$+79,809
Value of Parsonage	\$1,461,100	\$1,411,100	\$+50,000
Property Improvements	\$88,357	\$1,354,445	\$-1,266,088
Present Property Debts	\$977,433	\$1,009,437	\$-32,004
Debt Paid Last Year	\$32,005	\$0	\$+32,005
Synod Giving Per Communicant	\$220	\$229	\$-9
Classis Giving Per Communicant	\$96	\$90	\$+6
<b>Total RCUS Giving Per Comm.</b>	<b>\$385</b>	<b>\$346</b>	<b>\$+39</b>

## NECROLOGIES

### **Gerald A. Gramm** (*Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD*)

Gerald A. Gramm was born November 5, 1947 to Herbert and Louise (DeWald) Gramm in Pierre, SD. He graduated from Menno High School in Menno, SD, and then attained his Bachelor's degree in teaching and coaching from Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD. In 1967 he married Eva Schnabel of Menno. He started his teaching career and family in Alpena in 1970 where he taught business education and coached basketball. He moved to White Lake, SD and then to Avon, SD where he taught and coached basketball, football and track. While living in Avon, he helped reestablish the Avon Town Baseball Team. In 1989, he moved to Parkston, SD where he taught and coached basketball until 2004.

Gerald served as the local chapter adviser and later the state adviser for the Future Business Leaders of America from 2004 to 2012. After retiring from teaching in 2004, he took on the leadership for all business management and administration, finance, information technology and marketing education programs for the state of South Dakota Department of Education. While being honored by Governor Dugaard in 2012, Gramm said his most rewarding thing about working in education was helping students build a foundation for a future. He was Executive Secretary of the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association from 1994 to 2004 and was a Region Representative for the SDIAAA and its President in 1985 - 1986. In 2006, he received a SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award and was also inducted to the SDBCA Hall of Shrine. He enjoyed attending his grandchildren's church programs, concerts, and sporting events, watching all basketball games, golf, traveling with his wife, Eva, and their friends. His students and his grandchildren were the greatest joys in his life.

He was a long-time member of Grace Reformed Church in Mitchell, SD where he served as a deacon for one term and then as an elder for more than twenty years. Gerald died at Avera St. Benedict Hospital in Parkston at the age of 72. Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Eva of Parkston; 3 sons, Michael (Keri) Gramm of Spicer, MN, James (Connie) Gramm of Parkston, SD and Brian (Shanna) Gramm of Sioux Falls, SD, sister, Shirley (Gale) Groenhagen of Oldham, SD, brother-in-law, Earl (Patsy) Schnabel of Menno, SD, sister-in-law, Lillian Luckey of Lincoln, NE, and 6 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, sister, Yvonna Cram, sisters-in-law, Bernice Decker, Shirley Walker, Lynette Schnabel, and brothers-in-law, Randy Henke, Willys Walker and Wayne Decker.

**Rev. Robert Grossmann** (*Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD*)

Robert Edwin Grossmann, age 83, left his earthly tent on January 14, 2021, translated to the triumphant throng worshipping around the throne of God in heaven.

Robert was born to Walter and Dorothy Grossmann August 7, 1937, in Eureka, South Dakota. He lived in Hosmer until the age of 15, when he moved to Shafter, CA with his parents. He received bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering and philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Master of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He received a Th.M. from Whitefield Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Reformation International Theological Seminary.

He was a loved and loving husband of 58 years to Pauline (Carman) Grossmann. They were married in Philadelphia, PA December 21, 1962.

They were blessed with six children and fifteen grandchildren: Samuel Robert Grossmann; Jonathan (Glenda) Grossmann, Matthew, Ava, Nicholas, Ian; Dorthea (Harry) Groenendyk, Jacob, Elizabeth, Jessan, Hannah; Lydia (Jay) Kroese, Caleb, Claire, Aaron; Ruth (Ryan) Nicholson; James (Michelle) Grossmann, Daniel, Josiah, Joanna, Abigail.

Bob was an energetic and faithful pastor and teacher in Christ's church; a third-generation minister ordained in the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS) for 57 ½ years. He served congregations in Pierre, SD; Artas and Herreid, SD; Kansas City, MO; Mitchell, SD; as professor at Mid-America Reformed Seminary, Orange City, IA, returning to the pastorate in Garner, IA and Vermillion, SD. He was instrumental in the founding of 3 additional RCUS congregations, and was closely involved in the foreign ministries/missions of the denomination. He was a beloved father and brother in the Christian faith to many.

He taught and mentored many men in the ministry both informally, and formally at Mid-America Reformed Seminary, Heidelberg Theological Seminary, and Reformation International Theological Seminary.

Even through this final test of cancer, he continued to grow in his love and submission to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He knew he was a sinner, and he marveled at God's glorious grace demonstrated to him in Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Grossmann and Dorothy Grossmann Mattes, his brother Peter, infant son Samuel, and daughter Dorthea Groenendyk.

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants." Psalm 116:15*

## **STANDING RULES OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**

1. The fiscal year of the South Central Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. The Classis guidelines shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid no later than the thirtieth of June of the current fiscal year (1960, '64, '68, '87, 2015).
2. The Parochial Reports and Statistics shall be forwarded two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis; the Parochial Reports to the President of the Executive Committee and the statistics to the Stated Clerk (1976, '77, '87).
3. The writ of certification for delegate elders for the Classical year shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring Meeting of Classis.
4. All congregations shall present an accurate report on confirmation instruction, Sunday School and weekday school. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire Catechism before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include Bible history, Catechism, Bible readings and the study of books and contents of the Bible; also singing, and preferably, Psalm-hymns.
5. The Standing Rules shall be read during the second session of the Spring Meeting (1932, '87).
6. If pastors, elders, and members of congregations request information from the Executive Committee of Classis concerning constitutional matters and procedures, as provided in Article 91, the answer shall, if the request is in order and in written form, be presented to the parties concerned only in written form and relevant only to the item in question (1933).
7. Delegate travel to Classis meetings shall be paid at the current IRS yearly mileage rate per running mile to each charge, if travel is by automobile. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare (1965, '74, '80, '83, '94, 2006, '12, '15, '17).
8. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel in behalf of Classis at the current IRS yearly mileage rate per running mile, also if several ride together in one car; or if by public transportation, the actual fare (1936, '54, '74, '80, '94, 2006, '15, '17).
9. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only those delegates to Classis whose congregations have paid the Classical dues in full to the Classis Treasurer, and those delegates who have attended all sessions of Classis or have been properly excused by Classis (1937, '67).
10. The President of the Executive Committee of Classis shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300.00), the Stated Clerk shall receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), and the Treasurer shall receive three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the Classical year (1960, '61, '65, '78, '84, '87, '90, 2003, '15, '21).

11. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and designated for which fund and how much for each fund (1957).
12. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to advance the actual fare for public transportation to qualified candidates preaching trial sermons in our vacancies (1958, '87).
13. The Stated Clerk shall prepare for publication an abstract of the Classis minutes. The Spring Abstract shall include a cumulative index of resolutions and positions taken by Classis (1959, '87, '90).
14. The Classis shall have Permanent Committees as follows: Executive, Missions, Christian Education, Candidates and Credentials, Interchurch Relations, and Publications; and the Standing Committee of Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees (1961, '80, '85, '87, '91).
15. Nominations for all officers of Classis shall be made by secret ballot. All names appearing on the nominating ballot shall be candidates and, if there is no election on the first electing ballot, on each succeeding ballot the two candidates with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped until there is an election. (1962, '80, '87, '88).
16. Every charge that will not have an elder delegate at the Spring Meeting of Classis shall, before the date of the meeting, send in the answers to the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the constitution. This copy shall be signed by all the elders of the charge and sent to the Stated Clerk (1963, '87).
17. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to all the Consistories of all the churches, with two copies to be sent to the Stated Clerk, four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis to which these reports and recommendations are to be presented. Excuses for this requirement are to be made only on written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved, at least two weeks before the meeting of Classis (1963, '70, '79, '82, '87, '90).
18. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and these proposed services shall be circularized before Classis (1966, '72).
19. Students that are under the care of Classis shall be urged to attend only such seminaries approved by Classis. Only students who attend approved institutions shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian Ministry (1978, '87).
20. Classis shall require candidates for the ministry to complete an eight-month internship before his ordination exam. The internship shall be spent with a pastor who has served at least 5 years in the RCUS. The pastor shall provide a written evaluation of the candidate to the Candidates and Credentials committee. During this internship particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the RCUS. This internship

requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed (1979, '87, '95).

21. Overtures sent to the Stated Clerk of Classis four weeks in advance of the Classis meeting shall be circularized, but overtures may be submitted to Classis at anytime (1986, '87).
22. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod and shall start the 4th Monday of March opening with a worship service at 7:00 p.m., but if the 4th Monday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet the 3rd Monday of March (1987, 2001, '02, '09).
23. Members of Classis submitting reports, overtures, and correspondence to Classis which will either be circularized or printed in Classis Minutes and Abstracts and which express personal opinions potentially offensive or slanderous against another brother or sister or to other members of Classis, shall govern themselves by I Peter 4:8 (1991).
24. All requests for reimbursement of expenses be made on the standard reimbursement form. Letters of explanation may be appended but do not substitute for reimbursement forms. Receipts must be attached (1997).

## **INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS**

### **(Spring 1986, Abstract p. 110)**

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

### **(Spring 1987, Abstract p. 5)**

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

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Be present at as many of the sessions as possible, register arrival with the Stated Clerk, hold private conversations with as many delegates as possible, and try to establish good relations between the Classis and the church which is being visited.
2. **PREPARATION:** Request reports, agendas, etc. from the Church which is being visited, be prepared to address actions taken by Classis or Synod, and take the current Abstract.
3. **ADDRESSING THE BODY:** Have a prepared address to present, seek to commend the body in the spirit of Philippians 4:8, inform the body of significant developments in the Classis and Synod, keep personal remarks to a minimum, and make clear which remarks are personal, and try to avoid negative criticisms. If a rebuke is needed refer the matter to the Interchurch Relations Committee.
4. **STANDING COMMITTEES:** Attend as many Standing Committee meetings as possible.
5. **DECISIONS:** Get as many copies of reports as possible and report any significant actions taken by the body.
6. **REPORT:** The report is to be sent to the Interchurch Relations Committee within one month of the meeting and is to include all actions taken by the body as well as any comments which the delegate thinks would be helpful to the Committee and Classis.
7. **EXPENSES:** Travel expenses are to be paid by the Classis and should be submitted to the Interchurch Relations Committee and the Classis Treasurer.

### **(Fall 1987, Abstract p. 5)**

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

### **(Fall 1987, Abstract p.9)**

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



**(Spring 1988, Abstract p. 23)**

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

**(Spring 1989, Abstract p. 25)**

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

**(Spring 1989, Abstract pp. 27-28)**

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

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

**(Spring 1990, Abstract p. 27)**

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

**(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 20)**

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

**(Spring 1991, Abstract p. 21)**

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

**(Fall 1991, Abstract p. 22)**

That no official stance be taken on the matter of fundraising. That no constitutional impediment is found regarding using the word “Presbyterian” in the name of one of our churches.

**(Spring 1992, Abstract p. 41)**

All bills submitted to the Treasurer must be signed by the one submitting the bill. The Treasurer should inform the Finance Committee of those churches that have failed to pay their Classical dues.

**(Spring 1997, Abstract p. 33)**

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

**(Spring 2007, Abstract)**

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

**(Spring 2015, Abstract, pg. 46)**

That the Consistories of South Central Classis be reminded of the Constitutional requirements regarding the establishment and dissolution of pastoral relations: (Based on Art. 30, 76, 81, 82, 91 of RCUS Constitution)

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