

2022  
Abstract of the Minutes

**SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS**



Annual Spring Meeting  
March 28-29, 2022  
Rock Springs, Wyoming



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY .....	5
Officers of the South Central Classis	
Permanent Committees	
2022-2023 GUIDELINE REMITTANCE FORM .....	6
DIRECTORY OF CLASSIS .....	7-13
Directory of Ministers, Elders, Licentiates & Students Under Care	
Directory of Churches	
SERVICES .....	14
ORGANIZATION .....	14
ADOPTION OF AGENDA, SERVICES & ORDER OF THE DAY.....	14
FRATERNAL DELEGATES AND VISITORS .....	14-15
RECEPTION OF NEW MINISTERS & CHURCHES .....	15
STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS .....	15
PRESENTATION OF OVERTURES & COMMUNICATIONS .....	15
PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS .....	15-24
Candidates and Credentials	
Christian Education	
Executive Committee	
Interchurch Relations	
Missions	
Publications	
REPORTS OF OFFICERS .....	24-33
President’s Report on the State of the Church	
Stated Clerk’s Report	
Report of Synod Clerk to Classes	
Treasurer’s Report & the Auditor’s Opinion	
PAROCHIAL REPORTS OF MINISTERS .....	33
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS .....	33-34
REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP & FINANCIAL STATISTICS .....	34
REPORTS FROM CLASSIS’ FRATERNAL DELEGATES .....	34

ADDRESSES BY DELEGATES & VISITORS FROM OTHER REFORMED CHURCHES .....	35
SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS .....	35-37
Heidelberg Youth Camp	
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS .....	37-44
Benevolences	
Education & Student Aid	
Examination & Licensure	
Finances	
Judicial	
Ministerial Aid	
Missions	
Nominations	
Publications	
Services	
Minutes of Classis	
EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO THE HOST CONGREGATION ...	44
READING OF THE MINUTES .....	44
ADJOURNMENT .....	44
Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Doxology	
APPENDICES .....	45-56
Membership and Financial Statistics	
Standing Rules of the South Central Classis	
Index of Resolutions and Positions	

## INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

### Officers of South Central Classis

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

### Permanent Committees

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

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

**Christian Education:** Klynsma, Henry, Dawn, Matkins, M. Burbach

**Interchurch Relations:** Vusich, Mosley, Van Stedum, Griess, Maassen

**Candidates & Credentials:** Blair, Vusich, Moulton, Kimble, Rydell

**Heidelberg Youth Camp:** Gobelman, L. Johnson, Fagrey, Nuss, Bradley

**\*Handbook Committee:** Koerner, Horner, Klynsma, Gallimore, John Savage

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

### 2022-2023 Guidelines for Giving per Communicant Member

Classical Dues:	\$12.81
Missions:	\$45.25
Heidelberg Seminary:	\$3.50
New Geneva Seminary:	\$2.00
Heidelberg Youth Camp:	\$6.00
<u>Benevolence:</u>	<u>\$14.64</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$87.00</b>

# CLASSIS GUIDELINE REMITTANCE FORM

April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

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

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

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

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

*\*Found on pp. 46-47 under the 2021 Membership Statistics – “2021 Communicants”*

<b>Amount / Communicant Member</b>		<b>Amount Remitted</b>
Classical Dues	\$12.81	_____
Missions	\$45.25	_____
Heidelberg Seminary	\$3.50	_____
New Geneva TS	\$2.00	_____
Heidelberg Youth Camp	\$6.00	_____
Benevolence	\$14.64	_____
<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.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Email: [scottvelgersdyk@gmail.com](mailto:scottvelgersdyk@gmail.com)

## DIRECTORY OF CLASSIS

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- DAWN, David** (Retired)  
4428 W. Kinsley Pl., Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
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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*

(719) 760-0772

Pastor: Vacant

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

Location: 725 Michigan Ave.

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

### Montana

#### **MANHATTAN**

*Covenant RCUS*

(406) 579-4020; [www.covenantreformedmanhattan.com](http://www.covenantreformedmanhattan.com)

Pastor: Vacant

Mail: 3525 Heeb Rd., Manhattan, MT 59741

Location: 305 N 5<sup>th</sup> St., Manhattan, MT, 59741

Worship: 10:00 AM

### 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** (402) 773-4330; [www.hopereformedrcus.com](http://www.hopereformedrcus.com)  
*Hope RCUS* 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** (605) 387-2816; [www.sermonaudio.com/solo/travisgrassmid](http://www.sermonaudio.com/solo/travisgrassmid)  
*Zion RCUS* 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** (605) 996-2803; [www.gracereformed.com](http://www.gracereformed.com)  
*Grace RCUS* 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** (605) 399-1711; [www.gracereformedrapidcity.com](http://www.gracereformedrapidcity.com)  
*Grace RCUS* 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** (605) 271-0754; [www.trinityrcus.org](http://www.trinityrcus.org)  
*Trinity RCUS* 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** (605) 624-4337; [www.providencercus.com](http://www.providencercus.com)  
*Providence RCUS* 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** (307) 277-5901; [www.christreformedrcus.org](http://www.christreformedrcus.org)  
*Christ RCUS* 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** (307) 352-9518; [www.providencerocksprings.org](http://www.providencerocksprings.org)  
*Providence RCUS* 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 Providence Reformed Church, and visitors met on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM to worship our gracious Triune God. Rev. Travis Grassmid presided over the service, and Rev. Matthew Powell preached a sermon based on Galatians 5:13-26 entitled “Give No Place to the Flesh”.

Immediately following the opening roll call on Tuesday morning, Rev. Jon Blair led the delegates in the singing of *Jesus What a Friend for Sinners* and presented a devotional from Matthew 14:22-33 entitled “Worshipping God in Christ Who Saves Us”. Prayer was also offered for the opening session of Classis.

At the end of the Tuesday sessions of Classis, Elder Dave Kimble closed by reading from Romans 8:1-11 and presented a brief devotional using various passages from the Scriptures and select articles from the Fifth Head of Doctrine from the *Canons of Dort*. He closed with prayer.

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

### **Organization**

Following the opening worship service, the President of the Executive Committee, Rev. Matthew Powell, called the 2022 Annual Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis to order at 8:21 PM. The Stated Clerk, Rev. Michael McGee, called the roll, which showed 10 ministers and 10 elders present, a total of 20 delegates. The opening and closing roll call on Tuesday showed 12 ministers and 11 elders present, a total of 23 delegates.

The President appointed Rev. Grassmid, Elder Dave Kimble, Rev. Randy Klynsmas, and Elder Glenn Ross to serve as tellers for the meeting. He also designated Rev. Chris Moulton 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:* Rev. Randy Klynsmas

*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. Patrick Morgan of the Prebytery of Wisconsin and Minnesota of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and serving at Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The following visitors were welcomed:

- Mr. Robert Bartsdale, Mr. Frank James, and Mr. Bernie Westra of the Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT.
- Mr. Dave Johnson, student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and member of Trinity Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

The following elders were recognized as first time elder delegates:

- Elder Jared Schortzman from Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.
- Elder Glenn Ross from Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY.
- Elder Chris Bradley from Providence Reformed Church, Limon, CO.

### **Reception of New Churches**

There were no new churches to welcome into the Classis.

### **Reception of New Ministers**

Rev. Carl Gobelman was welcomed as a new minister of the Classis. The President offered prayer and the Classis extended the right hand of fellowship to the new minister.

### **Announcement of Standing Committee Appointments**

The President announced the following appointments for the Standing Committees:

*Benevolences:* Grassmid, Carroll, Ross

*Education & Student Aid:* Grassmid, Carroll, Ross

*Examination & Licensure:* Klynsma, Vusich, Schortzman

*Finances:* Velgersdyk, Hofmann, Bradley

*Judicial:* Gobelman, Blair, Moulton, Savage, Rydell

*Ministerial Aid:* Grassmid, Carroll, Ross

*Missions:* Opp, Kimble, Smith

*Minutes of Classis:* Koerner, Mosley, Matkins, Burbach

*Nominations:* Mosley, Koerner, Matkins, Burbach

*Publications:* Klynsma, Vusich, Schortzman

*Services:* Klynsma, Vusich, Schortzman

### **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. 37-44).

### **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. Chris Bradley on Thursday evening February 24th 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 Chris Bradley be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.*

2. Your committee met with Mr. Josh Savage on Thursday evening February 24th 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 Josh Savage be placed under the care of South Central Classis as a student for the ministry.*

Respectfully submitted,

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

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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 was given one task this classical year.

“That the Permanent Christian Education Committee evaluate the necessity and desirability of funding RCUS institutions at the classical level and make a report at the next annual meeting of classis.”

Unfortunately, this task was not addressed, which we regret. This was due to ill health and the pressure of work on the part of a portion of the membership of the committee. In an informal exchange of emails, it was obvious that opinions on this question differed within the committee. Perhaps it would be wise to appoint a committee with different members to deal with this question thoughtfully. Also, it might be as well to consider including younger ministers not retired.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev D. Dawn (*Convener*), 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 (Article 91) and conducts the business of the 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 2021 Spring Meeting of the Classis. All circulars passed with no objection to the proposed action.

1. Executive Circular 36.1, dated April 9, 2021, dealt with the following actions:
  - a. Establishing an Ordination and Installation Committee for the purpose of ordaining and installing Licentiate Carl Gobelman as the pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church on Friday, April 30, 2021.
  - b. Taking note of the answers to Article 81 of the Constitution of the RCUS provided by the elders of Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD and approving of their inclusion in the in the 2021 Classis Abstract.
  - c. Approving the renumbering of Executive Circular 36.1 to 35.7 & 36.2 to 35.8 and having the Stated Clerk make the appropriate changes in the classis records.
2. Executive Circular 36.2, dated April 27, 2021, dealt with appointing Rev. J.P. Mosley and Rev. Randy Klynsma as its designated representatives for the purpose of defending its action to the Synod of the RCUS in the matter of the appeal of Providence Reformed Church, Rock Springs, WY.
3. Provided advice, dated May 30, 2021, upon the written requests of the Consistories of Emmanuel Reformed Church and Hope Reformed Church.
4. Executive Circular 36.3, dated February 5, 2022, dealt with the announcing of the Spring 2022 Meeting of Classis, and the submission of Delegate and Statistics reports.
5. Executive Circular 36.4, dated February 28, 2022, dealt with the distribution of overtures to be discussed at the 2022 Spring Meeting.
6. Executive Circular 36.5, dated March 7, 2022, dealt with the presentation of the proposed schedule of service, order of the day and agenda for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the South Central Classis.
7. Your committee communicated via e-mails and phone calls prior to proposing Classis actions via executive circulars and agreed on all actions proposed in its circulars.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. M. Powell, Rev. M. McGee, Elder J. Smith

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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 Classis Central of the URCNA and the Midwest Presbytery of the OPC sent us invitations to their fall meetings, which I went to. Please see the appended report. They also sent us invitations to their spring meetings, but as we were unable to attend those, we sent letters of greeting instead.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. K. Carroll, Rev. L. Johnson, Rev. H. Van Stedum, Elder W. Nuss, Elder J. Stevens

Addenda

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

This is to report that I attended the fall meeting of the Classis Central US of the URCNA meeting in Kansas City, Kansas on September 13-14, 2021.

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.

I was deeply impressed with how involved their elders were in the governance of their churches and in the activities of the classis. A significant amount of time during the second day of the classis was taken up with elders seeking advice from the classis on various issues, a number of which were issues of which were disciplinary in nature. The most significant dealt with the removal from office of a minister for domestic violence. It was a very sobering meeting and I hope that the Lord will grant healing to the church, the former minister, and his family.

I was supposed to fly from Kansas City to Chicago to attend the Midwest Presbytery of the OPC meeting immediately following, but because of a COVID scare, was unable to. Instead, I had to cut my trip short and return home.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll

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

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Missions

Your committee met by means of zoom to conduct business on 5/27/21, 8/26/21, 12/21/21, and 2/28/22. On 12/21/21 members of the Montana group joined for part of the meeting.

Most of the work of the committee this past year was in relation to the group which meets in the Gallatin Valley of Montana. It was determined to send an assessment committee consisting of Travis Grassmid and Daniel Mettler to visit the folks involved with this work.

After the committee received the report of the Assessment Committee efforts were made to seek a Consistory to oversee the work.

Regarding oversight of current mission works, Harvey Opp and Fred Hofmann visited the mission work in Omaha, Nebraska. Travis Grassmid and Maynard Koerner visited with Rev. Matthew Powell, pastor of the work in Casper, WY.

The Consistory of Colorado Springs has informed the committee that they will no longer hold evening services in Denver, CO, although they plan to continue to hold bible studies.

The Committee now presents the following reports on the mission works of SCC.

### **2022 Visitation of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE**

On January 18, 2022, Rev. Harvey Opp visited the work in Omaha, in person. Elder Fred Hofmann was also a visitor for the South Central Classis Missions Committee. He had to participate by zoom, since there was Covid in his family.

We met with Rev. Randy Klynsma at 3:45 pm, at the church building. The discussion covered the various aspects of the work, and it was evident that Rev. Klynsma continues to be enthusiastic for the mission work. He continues to seek new means of outreach for the numerical growth of the congregation. The current membership is officially at 27 communicants and 7 baptized children. However, there are two families (4 communicants) still on the roll, though they moved to SD in 2021.

As for the attitude in the congregation, it was reported that most members simply see it as their church. For example, one man who has been with the group, since its time of meeting in Bellevue, now collects and tallies the offerings, which Rev. Klynsma deposits.

Since his arrival in Feb. 2016, there have been many activities undertaken. The internet has been used extensively with advertisements, and services and studies put on Facebook. A recent means of outreach is to have some ads placed on bus stop benches near the church. Also, door hanger brochures have been made to be distributed in the surrounding area. Involvement in a summer flea market has been done. Also, Randy is the unofficial ‘chaplain’ for the Douglas Co. Republicans.

We also met in the early evening with three members, who responded to the invitation for such. Two elders and two deacons from the Lincoln consistory also joined us, as they have oversight of the work. Most of the members have some reformed church background. One described the work as the “most Bible-based Reformed Church in the area”. Some have come from non-Christian backgrounds. Seeing advertising for ‘The Truth Project’ attracted some, and they have become

members, after viewing that series, and having membership classes. Two other membership classes have been held recently. “The Complete Gospel” booklet is now translated from English into Spanish and Afrikaans. A UCC congregation gave \$2,000 toward that work.

Members expressed appreciation for the teaching ministry of Rev. Klynsma, for their spiritual growth. The Trinity Psalter is used in services, which is appreciated. Hospitality in their homes was practiced regularly by some, more so, before Covid. They still invite people to the church. Members have taken on other tasks, such as the cleaning of the building. The building meets their needs at this time.

In a meeting with Rev. Klynsma and the Lincoln officers alone, other input was received. It was mentioned that at his arrival it was the right time and place. They found their current building to rent in 2016, in the northwest Omaha area, instead of the southeast city of Bellevue. One officer said, “God brought people looking for a solid Reformed Church, and he (Rev. Klynsma) can help lower defenses in people.” In the first 4-5 years, families came and stayed. Comments were also that Randy is doing “a fabulous job”.

The giving of the congregation has been strong. Of course, a number of the families have been military families with the presence of Offutt AFB. Therefore, they can be temporarily in the area. In Dec. 2020, one family of nine moved which had been probably the top givers financially, and were very involved in the aspects of the congregation. Although the chapel has a good amount of savings, the cost of a larger building when needed, will be substantial. Your committee therefore suggested that the 15% reduction in yearly support, as has been taken, could be reduced if needed in the next two years. They are nearing the end of support, in any case, in a reasonable amount of time.

With a decrease in offerings foreseen as several families have moved elsewhere in the last year, it is believed that savings will be used somewhat to meet the budget. That is true even when the contributions to the building fund have been reduced from \$15,000 to only \$1500 in the current budget. Therefore, your visitors are in agreement with the plan to take a 15% reduction, resulting in \$6750 to be received from Classis and \$5400 from Synod in 2022-2023. Then only a 5% reduction is sought in the following year. That would leave support at \$4500 from Classis and \$3600 from Synod in 2023-2024, presumably the last year for support.

The continued obstacle to organization is the finding and training of suitable men for officers. That is a continued item for prayer for this work. Your visitors do recommend the continued support of Omaha Chapel, and are very glad we have the work there. It was an enjoyable and encouraging visit.

### **2022 Visitation of Christ Reformed Church of Casper, WY**

On Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:00 PM, Maynard Koerner and Travis Grassmid met with Matt Powell, in the offices of Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

While we recognize that this is irregular, and far from the ideal way in which to conduct a church visit, yet the dictates of providence, time and schedules has left us with this recourse. I am sorry for the irregularity (TG).

That being said, the meeting was very encouraging from the beginning to the end. The meeting was opened and closed in prayer, and throughout our conversation there was constant gratitude to God for the wonderful works which He is doing at Christ Reformed Church in Casper, Wyoming.

Rev. Powell reported that they are averaging 62 souls in worship, with a recent high of 86. This is remarkable on at least two counts: 1) they have a baptized membership of 64 souls (32 communicant, 32 baptized); and 2) the church has been showing a steady growth year after year.

The congregation now enjoys a working consistory, complete with three active elders and one recently ordained deacon.

The congregation continues to use the same building which they have utilized for several years, and has proven to serve them well.

One of the marks of the true church according to our standards is the faithful exercise of church discipline (Belgic Confession art. 29). The Spiritual Council shows itself faithful to her calling in shepherding the flock through the proper use of the keys of the kingdom.

Rev. Powell reports that there is good harmony among the members of the consistory.

As I noted at the beginning, this is a very irregular visit; Although Rev. Powell was gracious, he did emphasize how encouraging it is when the Missions committee sends men to the church in order to meet with the many members. In this way, the unity of the church is set upon display. Your committee wholeheartedly agrees, and will endeavor to prioritize an in-person meeting in Casper next classical year.

Giving at Christ Reformed has been very good; last year they were able to cover expenses. This coming year is scheduled to be the final year of receiving support, which support will be appreciated so as to help in case of unanticipated expenses, and to prepare for future needs.

### **Report of the Assessment Committee to Visit Gallatin Valley**

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021 Elder Daniel Mettler and Pastor Travis Grassmid met throughout the day with members and regular visitors of the mission work of the South-Central Classis of the RCUS, which is known as “Covenant Reformed Church” located in Manhattan, of the Gallatin Valley of Montana.

In the morning we toured around the valley seeking to gain a better understanding of the geography and population density of the area.

At noon your team met at Sir Scott's Oasis in Manhattan for a meeting with Mr. Bernie Westra, Mr. Frank James and Rev. Dennis Roe. In this meeting we gained a general idea of the state of the mission work. We were encouraged to hear of the faithful labors of the church group, as well as that of the retired pastors and their wives as they have diligently served the ministerial needs of the mission work.

We learned that the group has been active in numerous evangelistic labors; labors which are beginning to bear sweet fruit for the kingdom of God.

In the evening we met with the majority of the congregation at the home of core members of the group as we enjoyed pizza and fellowship. The group was welcoming and open as they expressed gratitude for the faithful work of God through the ministries of Rev. Brice, Horner and Roe. Likewise, they were glad for the support of the South Central Home Missions Committee and prayers of the churches.

On Wednesday, August 25, 2021 Travis Grassmid telephoned Rev. Wes Brice in order to hear his perspective on the viability of the work in Manhattan. It is encouraging to report that both Rev. Dennis Roe and Rev. Wes Brice gave glowing reports concerning the fidelity and commitment of the mission work. These men (and their wives) have much more hands on experience with the core group, and they expressed zero hesitancy about moving forward.

This ministry has been gathering now for over 4 years, and despite the COVID mess of the past year, they continue to grow slowly. There is good reason to anticipate that the Lord would continue to bless this congregation as she matures and grows over the coming years.

Giving continues to be strong from the congregation. In 2021 their actual offerings amounted to \$71,776

Pastor Grassmid recently spent six days with the group upon the funeral service of Pastor Wes Brice. Upon formal and informal meetings with the congregation during this time, it appears as if the commitment of the group is only growing stronger. They are actively looking for a more permanent church building, although the market is tough to find anything affordable at this time. Likewise, they have expressed their debt of gratitude for the faithful labors of Pastor Brice right up until the Lord was pleased to bring this servant home; and they are now eager to see who the Lord is pleased to send as an organizing pastor.

In the opinion of the assessment team, the core group is strong and sincerely desires to be recognized as a mission work.

Your committee presents the following recommendations:

**Recommendation #1:** That the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$6,750 for the upcoming classical year (represents a reduction of \$6,750 this amount is 15% of the amount originally received).

**Recommendation #2:** That the South Central Classis overture the 276th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$5,400 for the upcoming synodical year (represents a reduction of \$5,400 from the current year and 15% of the amount originally received).

**Recommendation #3:** That Classis approve funding for Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY in the amount of \$9,000, for the next classical year (which is a 10% reduction from last year).

**Recommendation #4:** That Classis overture the 276th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY in the amount of \$9,000 for the next synodical year (represents a 10% reduction from last year).

**Recommendation #5:** That Covenant Reformed Chapel of the Gallatin Valley of Montana be established as a mission work of South Central Classis with Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD named as the overseeing Consistory.

**Recommendation #6:** That Classis approve funding for Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT in the amount of \$36,000 for the next classical year.

**Recommendation #7:** That Classis overture the 276th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT in the amount of \$20,000 for the next synodical year.

Note: The funding request for the Montana work is based on the cost of having a mission pastor on board for the work and represents approximately 65% support from SCC and 35% support from Synod. The budget includes \$74,000 from the Montana group. The Standing Committee of Classis will need to consider what amount to actually budget based on projected needs since we do not know when there will be a fulltime pastor ready to take up the labors of this work.

The Committee has prepared a potential budget for the Montana work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. M. Koerner (chairman), Rev. T. Grassmid, Rev. H. Opp, Elder F. Hofmann, Elder D. Mettler, Elder Josh Savage

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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,

Rev. D. Fagrey (convener), Rev. R. Klynsma, Elder R. David, Elder J. Frey

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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 Classis, 2021*

As I read the parochial reports from our congregations, the word that comes to me is “continuing.” Many congregations speak of a return to some degree of normalcy after the great disruptions of 2020, and yet new challenges present themselves. Perhaps speaking of “normalcy” in the Christian ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century no longer has a great deal of meaning. We face many challenges in the present culture that would have shocked our predecessors, I believe.

Nonetheless, the ministers and congregations of the South Central Classis of the RCUS appear very much to be committed to continuing the work of the ministry as they are called. The work of the ministry is for the most part a work of continuation, of the daily, repeated, often mundane work of preaching, administering the sacraments, providing leadership for the church, counseling, loving, and supporting the members of the congregation to which we are called.

I note from the statistical report a small loss in communicant members, something we observed in last year's report as well. Many of our congregations report outreach efforts, and I believe we are committed to reaching our communities with the gospel, but perhaps we also need to focus more on the other side of the equation as well, of nurturing supportive and loving communities within our congregations, so that people will be drawn to our churches as places of peace and support in a culture increasingly devoid of such spaces. Church growth is not everything, of course, and we know that God gives the increase, but we also know that He works through means, and He has called us to be faithful. Jesus told us that “By this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you love one another.” Overall growth comes not only from bringing in new people, but also in preventing the loss of members. No doubt you all have this in mind already, but we all need encouragements and reminders.

But the congregations and pastors of the South Central appear to me to be committed to continuing, to patiently doing the work they are called to. I am very conscious of the fact that my knowledge of the congregations is limited, coming from statistics and parochial reports that can hardly paint anything like an exhaustive picture. There are always challenges and hardships, and these weigh on us, sometimes more greatly than other times. The Scriptures call on us to “weary not in well doing,” but we should also be wise about our own frail natures, and learn to gain the support and strength we need, both through prayer, through reliance on God and not our own human strength, cleverness, or diligence. We pastors often feel a need to project an image of strength, competence, and spiritual health, and yet we all know that we suffer our own failings, foibles, sin, and trials. We have our dark seasons. Perhaps we need to be more willing to admit weakness and seek help and support when we need it.



I also see a need to be in prayer and in intentional effort to raise up new men to the ministry. With deaths, disabilities, and retirements, we have men at the end of their labors; we need new men to pick up the spade and take up the work. As with all things in the ministry, we should not be simply waiting for this to happen on its own, but to be praying, and to be identifying promising candidates in our congregations and encouraging them to the work of the ministry.

This first year of my presidency has been a blessing for me; it is an honor to be able to serve the Classis in this way. It has given me a greater appreciation for those who have done this work in the past. It has also given me a new appreciation for the work our clerks do, and I am thankful for Rev. McGee and all his labors over this last year. One thought that we have had is that it would perhaps be helpful to have additional guidance on the work that each committee needs to be considering each year. Perhaps it would be helpful to put together a committee handbook, or something similar, that would give each new permanent committee a document telling them what they need to be doing through the year, rather than just relying on oral tradition and institutional knowledge as we have in the past.

I thank you for the trust you placed in me to do the work of the presidency this past year. I am honored and privileged to be part of this body, and I pray God's blessings on our labors this year. May He honor us with wisdom to do the work well.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. M. Powell

*Note: At the conclusion of the report, a motion was made and approved to refer the matter of a handbook for the permanent committees to the Nominations Committee.*

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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,

The following is the list of the duties performed by your Clerk since the 2021 Spring Classis meeting:

1. Recorded the business of the 2021 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 and retired pastors.
2. Submitted the credentials of classis delegates to the Stated Clerk of Synod, along with the Report on Ministerial Changes, the Informational Form on the Congregations of the Classis and the 2020 Numerical and Financial Report.
3. Corrected the errors identified by the Synodical Minutes of Classis Committee in the 2021 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the South Central Classis.

4. Per page 36 of the 2021 Abstract, the Classis President's Report on the State of the Church was sent to the editor of the Reformed Herald.

5. Per page 52 of the 2021 Abstract, submitted overtures to the Stated Clerk of the RCUS Synod regarding benevolent aid, student aid and ministerial aid.

6. Per page 53 of the 2021 Abstract, submitted an overture to the Stated Clerk of the RCUS requesting that the 2021 synodical abstract be dedicated to the memory of Dr. Robert Grossmann.

7. Per page 54 of the 2021 Abstract, submitted overtures to the Stated Clerk of the RCUS Synod requesting missions funding for the works in Casper, WY and Omaha, NE.

8. Per pages 54-55 of the 2021 Abstract, sent a letter to Trinity Covenant RCUS expressing appreciation for their involvement with the mission work in Denver and requesting them to send any unused monies for Mercy Street Reformed Chapel to the classis treasurer.

9. Per page 57 of the 2021 Abstract, sent SCC's expression of appreciation to the host congregation so that it could be printed in their bulletin on the Sunday immediately following the 2021 Annual Meeting.

10. Per page 58 of the 2021 Abstract, sent a note of thanks to Mr. Gary Maassen, who audited South Central Classis' 2021 books.

11. Prepared and emailed Executive Circulars, Volume 36, #'s 1-5 (see Classis Executive Committee Report) to Classis delegates.

12. In preparation for the 2022 Annual Meeting, your clerk performed the following duties:

- a. Prepared and emailed a proposed Agenda, Services, and Order of Business.
- b. Distributed the delegate forms and the membership and financial statistical forms.
- c. Prepared and distributed the docket containing the reports to be considered at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- d. Completed and distributed the 2021 Numerical and Financial Statistics Report.

13. Your Clerk also served on the Executive Committee of Classis.

As I have reviewed the Standing Rules, I would like to propose an amendment to Standing Rule 17. In its current form, Standing Rule 17 requires two things: 1. That the reports of permanent and special committees be completed and mailed to the local consistories and Stated Clerk four weeks prior to the start of classis; and 2. That if a committee is late in distributing its report and recommendations, to secure an excuse from the Executive Committee two weeks prior to the beginning of the Classis meeting.

As I have thought about the requirements of this rule, I have observed two issues: 1. We don't follow it; and 2. A committee can be late in the submission of its report and recommendations up to two weeks without seeking an excuse from the Executive Committee.

Based on these considerations, I would propose an amendment to Standing Rule 17 as follows:

The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and submitted to the Stated Clerk at least four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. Upon reception of the materials, the Stated Clerk shall then distribute them electronically to the Consistories of all the churches. Excuses for this requirement are to be made at least four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis, only on written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved. (1963, '70, '79, '82, '87, '90, 2022).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Michael McGee

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**Classis Action: The proposed amendment to Standing Rule 17 was referred to the Standing Judicial Committee, and the report was adopted.**

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Report of Synod Clerk to Classes

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod, there is one item that requires action by the Classes, and several other matters of note:

1. The adopted recommendation of the Standing Judicial Committee (concerning Overture 3 from the South Central Classis, to amend Article 79 of the RCUS Constitution) will need to be acted upon by the several Classes in their respective meetings.

With reference to Overture #3 From South Central Classis to amend Article 79 of the RCUS Constitution:

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. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

[This overture was deemed non-essential business by the 274<sup>th</sup> Synod and was therefore left to be taken up by the 275<sup>th</sup> Synod.]

We concur with South Central Classis in their proposed amendments to Article 79.

*[This recommendation passed with the required majority, but the Classes will need to vote on this constitutional amendment at their 2022 annual meetings.]*

*(Abstract 2021:80–82)*

2. The 276<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 16–19, 2022, at Salem-Ebenezer Reformed Church, Manitowoc, WI.
3. Both membership statistics and financial statistics should be according to the calendar year.
4. Please review the Standing Rules of Synod (*2021 Synod Abstract*, pp.91–94).
5. 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.
6. Please remember to send necrologies to the Synod clerk in time for Synod.
7. It should be observed that in the printed version of the 2021 Abstract there was an error in the statistics for Ebenezer Reformed Church, where the total members should have read **91** rather than **101**. This will have an impact on the percent of change figure.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Ruben Zartman

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

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### *Treasurer's Report*

I would like to express my gratitude to the congregations of the South Central Classis for their faithfulness in their commitment to the established financial guidelines of Classis. Because of the churches fulfilling their obligations for fiscal year 2020-2021, Classis was able to support our obligations to missions, Heidelberg Theological Seminary and New Geneva Seminary without undue hardship.

This current year the guidelines as of the end of January are 77% funded and Classis obligations are being paid monthly. Part of the Mission Fund guideline this year included \$30 per communicant member for a future mission work. The cash balance in the bank account reflects this. We are well positioned for not only our current mission works but also for the future.

As I reflect on the past years reports that I have given, I would like to bring to your attention two items that I have observed. First, I am concerned that the information reported is inherently incomplete, or so far removed from the present that relevance wanes. The final report for fiscal year 2020-2021 is just now being presented and this current year's report is only half complete, the final not to be presented for another year. Considering a change in the fiscal year could resolve the problem. If the fiscal year ran from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, Classis could be given a full year's report. Moreover, the approved delegate travel expenses would be known which would help set the budget for Classis Dues for the next fiscal year.

The second item I have observed would also help budget for Classis Dues. Classis has traditionally set the Classis Dues budget item somewhat arbitrarily based on past expenses. If the Interchurch and Mission committees would present a budget of expected travel expenditures for the next year, setting Classis Dues would be more straight forward and accurate. I would recommend referring this report to the Standing Finance Committee for consideration.

My position as treasurer is coming up on 10 years. I have enjoyed working as your treasurer and getting to know a lot of like-minded brothers. I am willing to serve as treasurer another year if that is the will of the body, but I believe periodically changing the treasurer is good for the Classis. So, I ask that you may consider someone new to step in by next year.

The Lord is blessing the work of Classis, and I am humbled to have had a small part in proclaiming His kingdom.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elder Scott Velgersdyk

Auditor's Opinion

Just a short note to let you know that I have performed an audit of the Classis books for the period of 2/1/21 to 1/31/2022. There were no concerns as the financials are in good order. Scott Velgersdyk and I met and accomplished this task on March 13, 2022. Please let me know if anything else might be needed from me.

Thanks,  
Gary Maassen

CHECKBOOK (July 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022)

Beginning Balance	\$ 74,545.32	<u>Mission Fund (Sub-fund of Checking)</u>	
Deposits	\$ 69,389.75	Starting Balance	\$ 20,503.00
Checks	\$ (32,870.56)	Expenses	\$ -----
Interest	\$ 86.17	Additions	\$ -----
Bank Charges	\$ (114.76)	Ending Balance	\$ 20,503.00
Ending Balance	\$ 111,035.92		
Variance	\$ 36,490.60		

GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY (July 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount/ Member</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Classical Dues	\$9.39	\$ 9,699.87	\$ 7,489.29	\$ (2,210.58)
Missions	\$72.11	\$ 74,490.00	\$57,513.75	\$ (16,976.25)
Heidelberg Sem.	\$3.50	\$ 3,615.50	\$ 2,791.56	\$ (823.94)
New Geneva Sem.	\$2.00	\$ 2,066.00	\$ 1,595.15	\$ (470.85)
Benevolence/ Uncategorized	0.00	\$ 0	-----	-----
Total Guidelines*	\$85.00	\$ 89,871.37	\$ 69,389.75	\$ (20,481.62)

\* Figures based on 1,033 Communicant Member

INCOME & EXPENSES (July 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022)

**INCOME**

	<b><u>Church</u></b>	<b><u>Com. #</u></b>	<b><u>Guidelines</u></b>	<b><u>Received</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>
			\$87.00		
	Casper	32	\$2,784	\$0.00	-\$2784
	Sutton (E)	61	\$5,307	\$5,307	\$0.00
	Greeley	51	\$4,437	\$2,218.50	-\$2,218.50
	Mitchell	76	\$6,612	\$0.00	-\$6,612
	Rapid City	72	\$6,264	\$6,264	\$0.00
	Sutton (H)	166	\$14,442	\$14,442	\$0.00
	Omaha	26	\$2,262	\$2,262	\$0.00
	Limon	35	\$3,045	\$0.00	-\$3,045
	R. Springs	42	\$3,654	\$3,654	\$0.00
	Vermillion	29	\$2,523	\$2,523	\$0.00
	Lincoln	84	\$7,308	\$7,308	\$0.00
	C. Springs	78	\$6,786	\$6,438	-\$348
	S. Falls	151	\$13,137	\$7,663.25	-\$5,473.75
	Menno	130	\$11,310	\$11,310	\$0.00
Total					
Guidelines		1033	\$89,871	\$69,389.75	-\$20,481.25
Acct. Interest				\$86.17	
<b>Total Income</b>				<b>\$69,475.92</b>	

**EXPENSES**

**Guideline Payments**

**Budget**

*Jul. 1 – June*

*Paid – July to Jan.*

*Due June 30*

Heidelberg Seminary	\$3,615.50	\$2,109.03	\$1,506.47
New Geneva Sem.	\$2,066.00	\$1,205.12	\$860.88
<b><u>Missions</u></b>			
Christ Ref. – Casper	\$12,000.00	\$7,000	\$5,000
Covn't. – Manhattan	\$18,000.00	\$10,500	\$7,500
St. John's (Omaha)	\$13,500.00	\$7,875	\$5,625
Future Missions	\$30,990.00	NA	NA
Total Missions	\$74,490.00	\$25,375	\$20,492.35
<b><u>Classis Expenses</u></b>	\$9,699.87		
Equipment		\$0.00	
Officer Stipend		\$0.00	
Postage		\$0.00	
Print & Reproduction		\$337.23	
Supplies		\$0.00	
Travel Exp. Other		\$3,844.18	
Travel Exp. Classis Mtg.		\$0.00	
Total Classis Expenses		\$4,181.41	
<b><u>Total Guideline</u></b>			
<b><u>Budget/Payments</u></b>	\$89,871.37	\$32,870.564	
<b><u>Other Expenses</u></b>			
Bank Svc. Charges		\$114.76	
<b><u>Total Expense</u></b>		\$32,985.32	
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>			
<b>Jul. 2021 – Jan. 2022</b>		<b>\$36,490.60</b>	

CHECKBOOK (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

Beginning Balance	\$56,798.48	<u>Mission Fund (Sub-fund of Checking)</u>	
Deposits	\$101,770.76	Starting Balance	\$ 20,503.00
Checks	\$(83,938.84)	Expenses	\$ -----
Interest	\$112.16	Ending Balance	\$ 20,503.00
Bank Charges	\$(197.24)		
Ending Balance	\$74,545.32		
Variance	\$(17,746.84)		

GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount/ Member</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Classical Dues	\$8.40	\$7,315.00	\$7,129.42	\$ (185.58)
Missions	\$78.08	\$ 92,250.00	\$88,911.42	\$ (3,338.58)
Heidelberg Sem.	\$7.50	\$3,657.50	\$3,609.96	\$ (47.50)
New Geneva Sem.	\$6.00	\$2,090.00	\$2,119.96	\$ 29.96
Benevolence/ Uncategorized	\$0.00	\$0.00	----	----
Total Guidelines*	\$99.98	\$ 105,312.50	\$101,770.76	\$ (3,541.74)

\* Figures based on 1,072 Communicant Members

INCOME & EXPENSES (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

INCOME

<u>Church</u>	<u>Com. #</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Rec'd.</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
		\$100.78			
Casper	30	\$3023.40	\$3023.40	0.00	
Sutton (E)	83	\$8364.74	\$8364.74	0.00	
Greeley	49	\$4938.22	\$4938.22	0.00	
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	\$3325.74	0.00	
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	\$17818.12	2499.56	\$2553.10 last FY
Menno	132	\$13302.96	\$13302.96	0.00	
Subtotal	1,045	\$105315.10	\$101770.76	-3544.34	
Interest			\$112.16		
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$101882.92</b>		



## **EXPENSES**

<b><u>Guideline Payments</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Paid</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
Heidelberg Seminary	\$3,657.50	\$3,657.48	
New Geneva Seminary	\$2,090.00	\$2,090.04	
<b><u>Missions</u></b>			
Christ – Casper	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Covn't. – Manhattan	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	
Mercy Street – Denver	\$45,000.00	\$19,687.50	April 1, 2021 – ceased funding
St. John's (Omaha)	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	
Total Missions	\$92,250.00	\$66,937.50	
<b><u>Classis Expenses</u></b>	\$7,315.00		
Equipment		\$213.10	
Officer Stipend		\$1,300.00	
Postage		\$365.34	
Printing & Reproduction		\$424.83	
Supplies		\$0.00	
Travel Exp. Other		\$3,690.39	
Travel Exp. Classis Mtg.		\$5,260.16	
Total Classis Expenses		\$11,253.82	
<b><u>Total Guideline Exp.</u></b>	\$105312.50	\$83,938.84	
<b><u>Other Expenses</u></b>			
Bank Svc. Charges		\$197.24	
<b><u>Total Expense</u></b>		\$84,136.08	
<b>Net Cash Flow for Fiscal Yr.</b>		<b>\$ 17,746.84</b>	

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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,” with the exception of Elder Dave Kimble from Rock Springs, WY, who answered, “Needs Improvement.”
- 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.”
- 5b. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer?* All answered, “Yes.”
- 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.”
- 5d. *In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship, are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer?* All answered, “Yes.”
6. *Are the Church records properly kept?* All answered, “Yes.”
- 7a. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?*  
All answered, “Yes,” with the exception of Elder Chris Bradley who said, “Not Applicable.”
- 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?* All answered, “Yes,” with the exception of Elder Chris Bradley who said, “Not Applicable.”

*Note: Following the Spring Meeting, the elders of Hope Reformed Church in Sutton, NE submitted their answers to the constitutional questions, which was circularized. Their responses to all the questions were “Yes.”*

### **Report of Numerical and Financial Statistics** (pp. 46-50)

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 report from Classis’ fraternal delegates were included in the Permanent Interchurch Relations Committee Report (pg. 18) 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. Patrick Morgan of the Presbytery of Wisconsin and Minnesota (OPC) to address the body. Rev. Klynsmas responded on behalf of the Classis and prayed for the relationship between the OPC and the RCUS.

## **Reports of Special Committees**

### Heidelberg Youth Camp

Dear Brothers,

Your joint committee met on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to conduct the oversight of Heidelberg Youth Camp. As we considered our work, we were particularly blessed to enjoy the labors of the committee with both Rev. Henderson, who broke a hip only a week prior, and Rev. Johnson, who continues his stroke recovery. The committee examined the evaluations of campers and staff collected during HYC 2021 and considered God's provision through another year. This year, all attendees had the full week to record their thoughts on the evaluation, leading to many excellent thoughts and overall more detailed evaluations. This year again brought the largest enrollment in recent history with 135 campers. Yet again the camp was blessed with excellent volunteers, excellent meals, and blessed fellowship. The Lord provides!

The committee was blessed to receive six theme outlines from its members. Rev. Johnson had drafted three in the book of Daniel in late 2020 and Rev. Henderson submitted one more from Daniel and two topical outlines. After some very good discussion, your committee recommends the theme *Life in the Exile*, from the book of Daniel with the following lesson and services:

Lecture One: "Taking a Stand in Faith" (Daniel 1)

Lecture Two: "Taking a Stand Against Idolatry" (Daniel 3)

Sermon: "Ancient of Days" (Daniel 7)

Lecture Three: "Avoiding Pride" (Daniel 4)

Lecture Four: "Holding on to the Promises" (Daniel 5)

Sermon: "Man Greatly Loved"

(Book of Daniel, an often-repeated phrase throughout the book)

Lecture Five: "Taking a Stand for Prayer" (Daniel 6)

Lecture Six: "Never Apart from His Love" (Book of Daniel)

Of particular note this year, the Committee is working to budget for known price increases. Camp Bob has increased their nightly rate by \$3/person/night. This translates to a \$12 increase per person. However, as we do not collect registration fees from our adult volunteers, it makes it challenging to recover that price increase (along with other known and projected price increases for food, shirts, etc.) without drastically increasing camper registration fees. The Committee determined our recommendation for this year is a \$15/camper increase, along with a suggested donation from congregations of \$20/adult volunteering from the congregation. Our

hope is to increase the already generous giving of congregations so we do not have to pass the full cost of these increased costs to families.

Your committee whole heartedly recommends the designation of the offerings collected during HYC 2022 for Rev. Lee Johnson to help offset his medical costs.

The committee notes the following dates for future camps: July 18-22, 2022, July 24-28, 2023, July 22- 26, 2024, July 21-25, 2025, & July 27-31, 2026.

Your committee brings the following recommendations:

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

**Recommendation #2:** That the theme of “Life in the Exile” be adopted as the theme of HYC 2022.

**Recommendation #3:** That the offerings collected during HYC 2022 be designated for Rev. Lee Johnson to help with medical costs.

**Recommendation #4:** 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. D. Fagrey, Rev. C. Gobelman, Rev. L. Johnson, Rev. J.P. Mosley, Elder D. Kimble

*Representing the NPC:* Rev. P. Henderson, Rev. M. Lassley, Elder D. Haak, Elder M. Fickbohm

Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget

Camp Statistics	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Est. 2022</u>
Campers	135	119	135
Kitchen	6	7	7
Counselors	51	39	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>187</b>

**Proposed 2022 Camper Fees:**

\$205 per camper if registration and fee received by June 1. (\$15 increase)

\$225 per camper if received June 1 or after. (\$5 increase)

No fee for adult volunteers. Additional fundraising, recommending congregations donate \$20/adult to help offset increased costs for 2022.

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>Difference (under)/over</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>
<b>Opening Fund Balance (1/1/21)</b>		<b>3,319.39</b>		
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Camp Fees (135 campers)	\$ 23,250.00	\$ 25,880.00	\$ 2,630	\$ 27,675
Donations	2,000.00	2,549.00	549	3,500
Worship Offering	1,000.00	2,596.31	1,598	-----

Camp Store Sales	500.00	769.00	269	650
Interest		0.05		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	26,750.00	31,796.36		31,825
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Camp Bob Marshall Rental	16,571.00	18,445.80	1,874	20,555*
Food	5,500.00	6,201.59	702	6,500
T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	2,800.00	2,815.24	15	3,316
Camp Store Supplies	500.00	613.57	114	650
Supplies/Equipment	200.00	1,095.34	895	200
Arts & Crafts	150.00	194.47	44	250
Administration	25.00	0.00	(25)	25
Designated Offering Recipient	1,000.00	2,598.31	1,598	-----
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	26,746.00	31,964.32		31,496
<b>Operating Gain (Loss)</b>		(167.96)		330
<b>Ending Fund Balance (12/31/21)</b>		<b>\$ 3,151.43</b>		

\* Rental cost: \$600 (kitchen use) + [\$25 (daily rate/person) x 4 (days) x 170 (people)] + 6.5% tax.

Note: Camp Bob increasing prices by \$3, to \$25 per person per night (\$12/person).

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted except for Recommendation #4, which was a take note.**

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## Reports of Standing Committees

### Benevolences

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that Classis submit an overture to the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting benevolent aid for Mrs. Amy Stevens in the amount of \$1,650 per month for the next synodical year. (Note: This is an increase of \$100 per month.)

Recommendation #2, that Classis provide the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church with benevolent aid of \$14,800 (or \$400 for 37 Sundays) in order to help with their unanticipated expenses of paying regular pulpit supply until November 6, 2022.

Rev. T. Grassmid, Rev. K. Carroll, Elder G. Ross

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

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### Education & Student Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that Classis submit an overture to the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$11,890 and \$400 for books for Mr. Joshua Savage, a student under care of the South Central Classis. Savage is a member of Grace Reformed Church in Greely, Colorado. He is enrolled at Mid-America Reformed Seminary.

Recommendation #2, that Classis submit an overture to the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$7,300 and \$400 for books for Mr. Chris Bradley, a student under care of the South Central Classis. Bradley is a member of Providence Reformed Church in Limon, Colorado. He is enrolled at New Geneva Theological Seminary.

Recommendation #3, that Classis submit an overture to the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$2,730 and \$400 for books for Mr. Dave Johnson, a student under care of the South Central Classis. Johnson is a member of Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is enrolled at Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Recommendation #4, that the Permanent Christian Education Committee evaluate the necessity and desirability of funding RCUS institutions at the local classical level and make a report at the next annual meeting of classis.

Rev. T. Grassmid, Rev. K. Carroll, Elder G. Ross

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

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### Examination & Licensure

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that Mr. Chris Bradley be placed under the care of the South Central Classis as a student for ministry.

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

On recommendation #3, that Mr. Chris Nelson be recommended to the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee for examination as a potential student under care, take note.

Rev. R. Klynsma, Rev. J. Vusich, Elder J. Schortzman

*Note: During the report, a motion was made and approved to have the Stated Clerk send a letter reminding our Students Under Care of their responsibilities specified in Standing Rule #15 of the RCUS Synod.*

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted except for Recommendation #3, which was a take note.**

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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.

Recommendation #4, that the Classis change the fiscal year to run April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> beginning April 1, 2022.

Recommendation #5, that the guidelines for the fiscal year 2021-2022 be retroactively reduced by 75% of the original guideline for the full fiscal year to compensate for the shortened fiscal year in July 2021 – March 2022 and that any church guideline amounts paid in excess of the 75% guideline be applied to the following fiscal year’s guidelines.

Recommendation #6, that the budgeted mission expense for Omaha Reformed Chapel be increased in the 2022-2023 fiscal year by \$1,687.50 and that the budgeted mission expense for Christ Reformed Church (Casper) be increased in the 2022-2023 fiscal year by \$750 to fulfill the outstanding balance of the 2021-2022 mission work obligation.

Recommendation #7, that Standing Rule #1 be modified in accordance with Recommendation #4 as follows: The fiscal year of the South Central Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States shall run from ~~July 1 to June 30~~ April 1 to March 31 of the following year. The Classis guidelines shall be due on the ~~first of June~~ first of March and are to be paid no later than the ~~thirtieth of June~~ first day of the Classis meeting of the current fiscal year.

Recommendation #8, that the treasurer prepare and circulate the financial report for the shortened fiscal year July 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

Recommendation #9, that the total budget for the 2022-2023 classical year be set at \$85,126.20 and that the classical guideline per communicant member for the upcoming year be allocated as follows:

Classical Dues:	\$12.81	Heidelberg Youth Camp:	\$6.00
Missions:	\$45.25	Benevolence:	\$14.64
Heidelberg Seminary:	\$3.50	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$84.20.</b>
New Geneva Seminary:	\$2.00		

Recommendation #10, that Classis pay the submitted travel expenses in the amount of \$7,452.13:

Fred Hofmann:	\$391.95	Maynard Koerner:	\$976.95
Harvey Opp:	\$1,004.84	Michael McGee:	\$994.50
Randall Klynsma:	\$892.13	Jesse Smith:	\$368.55
Jared Schortzman:	\$175.50	Kevin Carroll:	\$1,054.17
Chris Bradley:	\$471.51	Joshua Savage:	\$386.10
Matt Powell:	\$267.93	Chris Moulton:	\$486.00.

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted. Recommendation #4 & #7 were carried by a two-thirds vote.**

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Judicial

The following recommendations were approved during the report:

That the Classis petition Synod to redraw the classical boundaries to include Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD in the Northern Plains Classis.

That the Executive Committee of the SCC appoint a special committee to evaluate Rev. Lee Johnson's fitness to return as a full-time minister of St. John's Reformed Church (Lincoln). The consistory proposes this evaluation to begin in August 2022 and that a decision be arrived upon by November 6, 2022.

That the South Central Classis of the RCUS receive Rev. Jay Fluck, a retired minister of the RCUS in connection with the Covenant East Classis in good and regular standing. Upon reception into the SCC, that official notice be given to Covenant East Classis.

That the Classis deny the request of the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD due to insufficient grounds to warrant the overture.

That Classis respond in the negative to the overture of the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Rapid City, SD in that Synod has already spoken amply to the matter [of RCUS position papers].

That the SCC amend its Standing Rule #17 as per the recommendation in the Stated Clerk's Report.

That the Executive Committee work with the Consistory of Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD and advise them on this matter.

Rev. C. Gobelman, Rev. J. Blair, Rev. C. Moulton, Elder J. Rydell, Elder Josh Savage

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted. The recommendation regarding classical boundaries was approved without dissenting voice, and the recommendation regarding Standing Rule #17 was carried by a two-thirds vote.**

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Ministerial Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that Classis submit an overture to the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS requesting ministerial aid for the following recipients for the next synodical year:

1. Mrs. Penny Powell in the amount of \$1,400 per month. (\$200 per month increase)
2. Rev. Howard Hart in the amount of \$1,950 per month. (\$100 per month increase)



3. Mrs. Lori Kingswood in the amount of \$1,200 per month. (same as last year)
4. Rev. & Mrs. Jay Fluck in the amount of \$2,000 per month. (same as last year)
5. Rev. & Mrs. George Horner in the amount of \$460 per month. (same as last year)
6. Rev. & Mrs. David Dawn in the amount of \$2,500 per month. (same as last year)
7. Mrs. Kay Savage in the amount of \$1,600 per month. (same as last year)
8. Rev. & Mrs. Herman Van Stedum in the amount of \$1,800 per month.  
(same as last year)
9. Mrs. Phyllis Grossman in the amount of \$1,000 per month. (same as last year)

Recommendation #2, as to the request for advice from St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE, concerning the "appropriate course of action with regard to the support of Rev. Lee Johnson and his family if it is determined he is unable to resume his duties as our minister", we recommend that if the pulpit should be declared vacant due to infirmity, then the Consistory of St. John's should overture Classis for Ministerial Aid.

Rev. T. Grassmid, Rev. K. Carroll, Elder G. Ross

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

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Missions

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$6,750 for the upcoming classical year. (This represents a reduction of \$6,750 and is 15% of the amount originally received.)

Recommendation #2, that the South Central Classis overture the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$5,400 for the upcoming synodical year. (This represents a reduction of \$5,400 from the current year and is 15% of the amount originally received.)

Recommendation #3, that Classis approve funding for Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY in the amount of \$9,000 for the next classical year (which is a 10% reduction from last year).

Recommendation #4, that Classis overture the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY in the amount of \$9,000 for the next synodical year (represents a 10% reduction from last year).

Recommendation #5, that Covenant Reformed Chapel of the Gallatin Valley of Montana be established as a mission work of South Central Classis with Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD named as the overseeing Consistory.

Recommendation #6, that Classis approve funding for Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT in the amount of \$30,000 for the next classical year.

Recommendation #7, that Classis overture the 276<sup>th</sup> Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT in the amount of \$20,000 for the next synodical year.

*(Note: The funding request for the Montana work is based on the cost of having a mission pastor on board for the work and represents approximately 60% support from SCC and 40% support from Synod. The budget includes \$75,000 from the Montana group. The Standing Committee of Classis will need to consider what amount to actually budget based on projected needs since we do not know when there will be a fulltime pastor ready to take up the labors of this work.)*

Recommendation #8, from the Welcoming Committee of the RCUS Synod, that Rev. Chris Moulton be designated as the liaison of South Central Classis to serve as a regular member of the Welcoming Committee.

Recommendation #9, that the Permanent Missions Committee be reminded of Synod Home Mission Manual II.4 which calls for a 3-5 year strategic plan for our mission endeavors. This plan should be included in the Classis Missions Report. This reminder is an encouragement for the Classis Missions Committee to actively consider new areas for mission works, given that funding is available.

Rev. H. Opp, Elder J. Smith, Elder D. Kimble

*Note: During the report, a motion was made and approved to have the Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for approval of Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT as a synodical mission work.*

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

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### Nominations

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the following nominations were made for the 2022-2023 Permanent Committees:

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

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

**Christian Education:** Klynsma, Henry, Dawn, Matkins, M. Burbach

**Interchurch Relations:** Vusich, Mosley, Van Stedum, Griess, Maassen

**Candidates & Credentials:** Blair, Vusich, Moulton, Kimble, Rydell

**Heidelberg Youth Camp:** Gobelman, L. Johnson, Fagrey, Nuss, Bradley

**\*Handbook Committee:** Koerner, Horner, Klynsma, Gallimore, Jn. Savage

*(Convener is underlined; \* denotes a special committee.)*

Recommendation #2, that Standing Rule #14 of the South Central Classis be amended to include Heidelberg Youth Camp as a permanent committee.

Rev. J. Mosley, Rev. M. Koerner, Elder M. Burbach, Elder Kip Matkins

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**Classis Action: The report and its recommendations was adopted. Recommendation #2 was carried by a two-thirds vote.**

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Publications

The committee brought no recommendations.

Rev. R. Klynsma, Rev. J. Vusich, Elder J. Shortzman

*Note: During the report, a motion was made and approved to amend Standing Rule #14 by striking the word "Publications" from the list of required committees.*

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**Classis Action: The report was adopted. The recommendation from the floor was carried by a two-thirds vote.**

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Services

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the invitation by Christ Reformed Church in Casper, Wyoming, to host the 2023 Spring meeting of the South Central Classis, be accepted.

Recommendation #2, that the following delegates be excused from all sessions of Classis:

- a. that the elders of Grace Reformed Church in Mitchell be excused.
- b. that Rev. Kevin Carroll be excused from all sessions of Classis.
- c. that Rev. David Fagrey be excused from all sessions of Classis.
- d. that Rev. Scott Henry be excused from all sessions of Classis.
- e. that the elders of Hope Reformed Church in Sutton, NE be excused from all sessions of Classis.

Recommendation #3, that the following delegates be excused from some of the sessions of Classis: that Rev. Harvey Opp and Elder Rydell be excused from the Monday evening session of Classis.

Recommendation #4, that Rev. David Dawn's request to be excused from the sessions of Classis be granted, though his request as a retired minister was not necessary.

Recommendation #5, that the South Central Classis send the following note of appreciation to the brothers and sisters of Providence Reformed Church in Rock Springs, WY, and that this note be printed in their April 3 bulletin:

*"Classis extends our sincere appreciation for hosting our 37<sup>th</sup> 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!"*

Rev. R. Klynsma, Rev. J. Vusich, Elder J. Schortzman

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

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Minutes of Classis

The committee brought the following recommendation:

On recommendation #1, your committee received the draft minutes from pages 1-11 from the Stated Clerk and made corrections which were then incorporated into the revised minutes, take note.

Rev. M. Koerner, Rev. J. Mosley, Elder M. Burbach, Elder K. Matkins

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**Classis Action: On Recommendation #1, 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. 43).

**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 2022 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 10:09 PM on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, until the convening of the next Spring Meeting, on March 27-28, 2023 at Christ Reformed Church, Casper, WY.

**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

## 2021 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	Casper WY	Greeley CO	C. Springs CO	Limon CO	Lincoln NE	Menno SD	Mitchell SD	Omaha NE
Number of Elders	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	0
Number of Deacons	1	3	2	2	4	4	2	0
Communicants 2020	32	51	78	35	84	137	78	26
Rec'd. – Confirmation	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0
Rec'd. – Dismission	0	5	1	4	4	4	0	3
Rec'd. – Profess Faith	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Old/New Members</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>31</b>
Lost by Dismissal	0	0	7	2	3	1	2	0
Lost by Erase/Discipline	3	0	10	3	1	3	8	0
Lost by Death	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
<b>Total Lost</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2021 Communicants</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>31</b>
Unconfirmed Members	30	21	33	16	25	17	22	7
<b>Total Baptized Members</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>38</b>
Number of Families	16	33	27	14	41	74	44	14
Children in S.S.	29	14	20	14	11	6	18	3
Adult Baptisms	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Baptisms	0	2	0	1	3	1	1	4
<b>Total Baptisms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
Mem. Rec'd. L. Supper	33	58	62	36	87	116	61	32
Times L. Supper Served	12	9	12	12	6	4	5	6

## 2021 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS (cont'd.)

R. City SD	R. Springs WY	S. Falls SD	Sutton NE (E)	Sutton NE (H)	Vermillion SD	2021 Totals	2020 Totals	Difference
3	2	6	3	4	2	43	41	2
2	1	4	3	4	2	34	33	1
72	42	151	61	166	29	1042	1042	0
0	0	4	0	2	1	13	12	1
3	0	9	6	0	0	39	40	-1
4	2	2	1	3	1	22	29	-7
7	2	15	7	5	2	74	81	-7
<b>79</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1116</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>-7</b>
7	0	2	0	4	1	29	38	-9
0	2	2	2	4	0	38	37	1
0	0	1	2	4	1	13	15	-2
7	2	5	4	12	2	80	90	-10
<b>72</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>3</b>
30	19	54	0	39	9	322	311	11
<b>102</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1358</b>	<b>1344</b>	<b>14</b>
38	25	73	36	104	14	553	548	5
24	11	53	0	33	8	244	230	14
0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2
2	1	5	0	1	0	21	22	-1
<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>
72	38	127	57	160	29	968	854	114
5	12	6	6	6	6	107	91	16

## 2021 FINANCIAL STATISTICS

	Receipts Reg. Sun. Offerings	Receipts Special Offerings	Receipts Other Sources	Total Receipts	Budgeted Synodical Funds	Budgeted Classical Funds
Casper WY	\$99,632	\$6,115	\$27,000	<b>\$132,747</b>	\$7,280	\$3,023
Greeley CO	\$134,273	\$6,455	\$0	<b>\$140,728</b>	\$12,552	\$4,969
C. Springs CO	\$170,883	\$7,401	\$0	<b>\$178,284</b>	\$17,272	\$6,438
Limon CO	\$80,983	\$3,061	\$583	<b>\$84,627</b>	\$7,788	\$3,325
Lincoln NE	\$112,184	\$19,000	\$0	<b>\$131,184</b>	\$19,972	\$7,308
Menno SD	\$196,603	\$24,129	\$53,755	<b>\$274,487</b>	\$30,096	\$11,310
Mitchell SD	\$135,989	\$6,156	\$0	<b>\$142,145</b>	\$21,460	\$9,500
Omaha NE	\$82,429	\$12,021	\$30,375	<b>\$124,825</b>	\$6,208	\$2,282
R. City SD	\$252,645	\$0	\$0	<b>\$252,645</b>	\$17,136	\$6,264
R. Springs WY	\$129,558	\$2,317	\$0	<b>\$131,875</b>	\$9,576	\$3,654
S. Falls SD	\$288,842	\$14,135	\$192,994	<b>\$495,971</b>	\$35,820	\$14,228
Sutton NE (E)	\$119,778	\$41,416	\$0	<b>\$161,194</b>	\$21,416	\$13,671
Sutton NE (H)	\$288,658	\$73,185	\$1,389	<b>\$363,232</b>	\$39,948	\$14,442
Vermillion SD	\$77,841	\$0	\$4,741	<b>\$82,582</b>	\$10,460	\$2,523
2021 Totals	\$2,170,298	\$215,391	\$310,837	<b>\$2,696,526</b>	\$256,984	\$102,937
2022 Totals	\$1,963,365	\$121,566	\$501,281	<b>\$2,586,212</b>	\$229,564	\$100,274
Difference	\$206,933	\$93,825	(\$190,444)	<b>\$110,314</b>	\$27,420	\$2,663



## 2021 FINANCIAL STATISTICS (cont'd.)

	Giving, Non-Guide/line Causes	Giving, Non-RCUS Benevolence	Other General Expenses	Total Disbursements	Value of Church Building	Value of Parsonage
Casper WY	\$0	\$1,800	\$108,362	<b>\$120,465</b>	\$0	\$0
Greeley CO	\$0	\$8,926	\$98,941	<b>\$125,388</b>	\$242,000	\$158,000
C. Springs CO	\$0	\$4,336	\$119,078	<b>\$147,124</b>	\$0	\$0
Limon CO	\$8,074	\$0	\$26,597	<b>\$45,784</b>	\$50,000	\$0
Lincoln NE	\$0	\$1,983	\$97,040	<b>\$126,303</b>	\$391,200	\$191,000
Menno SD	\$73,557	\$19,675	\$121,095	<b>\$255,733</b>	\$500,000	\$375,000
Mitchell SD	\$0	\$0	\$111,185	<b>\$142,145</b>	\$525,000	\$185,000
Omaha NE	\$0	\$5,588	\$89,980	<b>\$104,058</b>	\$160,000	\$0
R. City SD	\$15,000	\$22,900	\$214,803	<b>\$276,103</b>	\$1,035,000	\$270,300
R. Springs WY	\$2,317	\$0	\$109,027	<b>\$124,574</b>	\$250,000	Included
S. Falls SD	\$9,470	\$16,884	\$231,618	<b>\$308,020</b>	\$2,326,778	\$0
Sutton NE (E)	\$2,616	\$4,122	\$119,252	<b>\$161,077</b>	\$525,000	\$170,000
Sutton NE (H)	\$4,000	\$123,899	\$166,413	<b>\$348,702</b>	\$800,000	\$100,000
Vermillion SD	\$600	\$207	\$73,290	<b>\$87,080</b>	\$350,000	\$180,000
2021 Totals	\$115,634	\$210,320	\$1,686,681	<b>\$2,372,556</b>	\$7,154,978	\$1,628,400
2022 Totals	\$71,226	\$150,939	\$1,657,576	<b>\$2,209,579</b>	\$6,693,778	\$1,461,100
Difference	\$44,408	\$59,381	\$29,105	<b>\$162,977</b>	\$461,200	\$167,300

## 2021 FINANCIAL STATISTICS (cont'd.)

	Property Improvements	Present Property Debts	Debt Paid in 2021	Giving per Communicant to Synod	Giving per Communicant to Classis	Giving per Communicant to RCUS
Casper WY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$227.50	\$94.47	<b>\$322</b>
Greeley CO	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$246	\$97.43	<b>\$343.55</b>
C. Springs CO	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$221.44	\$82.54	<b>\$303.97</b>
Limon CO	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$222.51	\$95	<b>\$548.20</b>
Lincoln NE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$237.76	\$87	<b>\$324.76</b>
Menno SD	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$219.68	\$82.55	<b>\$839.15</b>
Mitchell SD	\$5,773	\$0	\$0	\$275.13	\$121.79	<b>\$396.92</b>
Omaha NE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$238.77	\$87.77	<b>\$326.54</b>
R. City SD	\$50,790	\$0	\$0	\$238	\$87	<b>\$533.33</b>
R. Springs WY	\$10,168	\$0	\$0	\$228	\$87	<b>\$370.17</b>
S. Falls SD	\$0	\$776,847	\$200,586	\$237.22	\$94.23	<b>\$394.16</b>
Sutton NE (E)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$351.08	\$224.11	<b>\$618.08</b>
Sutton NE (H)	\$8,862	\$0	\$0	\$240.65	\$87	<b>\$351.75</b>
Vermillion SD	\$676	\$0	\$0	\$360.69	\$87	<b>\$468.38</b>
2021 Totals	\$86,269	\$776,847	\$200,586	\$246.63	\$98.79	<b>\$456.39</b>
2022 Totals	\$88,357	\$977,433	\$32,005	\$220.31	\$96.23	<b>\$384.90</b>
Difference	(\$2,088)	(\$200,586)	\$168,581	\$26.31	\$2.56	<b>\$71.49</b>

## **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 April 1 to March 31 of the following year. The Classis guidelines shall be due on the first of March and are to be paid no later than the first day of the Classis meeting of the current fiscal year (1960, '64, '68, '87, 2015, '22).
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 Heidelberg Youth Camp; and the Standing Committee of Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees (1961, '80, '85, '87, '91, '22).
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 submitted to the Stated Clerk at least four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis. Upon reception of the materials, the Stated Clerk shall then distribute them electronically to the Consistories of all the churches. Excuses for this requirement are to be made at least four weeks prior to the meeting of Classis, only on written request to the Executive Committee of Classis by the chairman of the committee involved (1963, '70, '79, '82, '87, '90, 2022).
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 any time (1986, '87).
22. The Spring meeting of Classis shall be held at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod and shall start on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of March, but if the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of March. The Spring meeting of Classis shall be preceded by a prayer of invocation and shall conduct religious services which shall include the preaching of a sermon by the President, or by one of its members designated by him or by the Classis (1987, 2001, '02, '09, '22).
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.