

SOUTH CENTRAL CLASSIS



2023

Abstract of the Minutes

Annual Spring Meeting
March 27-28, 2023
Casper, Wyoming

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INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

Officers of South Central Classis

President:	Rev. Matthew Powell
Vice President:	Rev. Randall Klynsma
Stated Clerk:	Rev. Michael McGee
Treasurer:	Elder Fred Hofmann

Permanent Committees

Executive: Powell, McGee, J. Smith

Missions: Koerner, Grassmid, Opp, Hofmann, D. Mettler, Bradley

Christian Education: Klynsma, Henry, Oliver, Michael Burbach

Interchurch Relations: Mosley, Gobelman, Hyber, Velgersdyk

Candidates & Credentials: Vusich, Horner, Moulton, Kimble, Rydell

Heidelberg Youth Camp: Gobelman, Fagrey, L. Johnson, Nuss, Josh Savage

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

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

2023-2024 Guidelines for Giving per Communicant Member

Classical Dues:	\$14.18
Benevolence:	\$27.36
Heidelberg Youth Camp:	\$6.00
Missions:	\$41.96
Heidelberg Seminary:	\$3.50
<u>New Geneva Seminary:</u>	<u>\$2.00</u>
Total:	\$95.00

CLASSIS GUIDELINE REMITTANCE FORM

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Date: _____ Number of Communicant Members*: _____

Church: _____

Treasurer: _____

Email: _____

**Found on pp. 46-47 under the 2022 Membership Statistics – “2022 Communicants”*

Amount / Communicant Member		Amount Remitted
Classical Dues	\$14.18	_____
Benevolence	\$27.36	_____
Heidelberg Youth Camp	\$6.00	_____
Missions	\$41.96	_____
Heidelberg Seminary	\$3.50	_____
New Geneva Seminary	\$2.00	_____
Total:	\$95.00	_____

Please make check payable to South Central Classis.

Send to: Fred Hofmann
SCC Treasurer
2411 Rd. 1
Sutton, NE 68979

Email: fhofmann2010@gmail.com

DIRECTORY OF CLASSIS

Ministers of the Word

- BLAIR, Jon** (Retired)
6914 W 3rd St., Unit 38, Greeley, CO 80634
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- DAWN, David** (Retired)
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11755 Anderson Grove, Bellevue, NE 68123
(402) 314-9196, cwembree@gmail.com
- FAGREY, David** (Grace RCUS, Rapid City, SD)
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106 S Way Ave., P.O. Box 550, Sutton, NE 68979
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(605) 271-0754, pastor@trinityrcus.org

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2412 Bandelier Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80910
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818 Madison St., Vermillion, SD 57069
(641) 494-8587, harveyopp@gmail.com

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(719) 332-1482, mattpowell74@gmail.com

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1007 9th St. Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 352-9518, providencerocksprings@gmail.com

Elders Primarius

- BRADLEY, Chris** (Providence RCUS, Limon CO)
4914 Barnstormers Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80911
(937) 321-1929, cbradley7703@gmail.com
- BROUWER, Will** (Trinity Covenant RCUS, Colorado Springs, CO)
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DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

Colorado

COLORADO SPRINGS

Trinity Covenant RCUS

(719) 590-1477; 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

Pastor: Vacant

Mail: 1505 10th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631

Location: 1501 10th Ave.

Worship: 10:00AM

LIMON

Providence RCUS

(719) 760-0772; www.limonreformed.org

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

Pastor: Vacant

Mail: 3525 Heeb Rd., Manhattan, MT 59741

Location: 305 N 5th St., Manhattan, MT, 59741

Worship: 10:00 AM

Nebraska

LINCOLN

St. John's RCUS

(402) 476-1827; www.stjohnsreformedlincoln.org

Pastor: Vacant

Mail & 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

Pastor: Randall Klynsma (Wife: Julie)

Mail & Location: 4905 N. 96th St., Omaha, NE 68134

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

SUTTON

Emmanuel RCUS

(402) 773-4218; 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, Bible Study: 7:00 PM

SUTTON (402) 773-4330; www.hopereformedrcus.org
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, Bible Study: 7:00 PM

South Dakota

MENNO (605) 387-2816; www.zionrcus.org
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

RAPID CITY (605) 399-1711; www.gracereformedrapidcity.com
Grace RCUS Pastor: David Fagrey (Wife: Bonnie)
Mail & 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
Trinity RCUS Pastor: Michael McGee (Wife: Jenny)
Associate Pastor: Maynard Koerner (Wife: Marcia)
Mail & Location: 7301 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108
Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School: 9:00 AM

VERMILLION (641) 494-8587; www.providencercus.com
Providence RCUS Pastor: Harvey Opp (Wife: Carol)
Mail & Location: 830 E. Madison St., Vermillion, SD 57069
Worship: 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:30 AM

Wyoming

CASPER (307) 277-5901; www.christreformedrcus.org
Christ RCUS Pastor: Matthew Powell (Wife: Andrea)
Mail: 6061 W. Incline Rd., Casper, WY 82604
Location: 600 W. 21st St.
Worship: 10:00 AM, Sunday School 11:45 AM

ROCK SPRINGS (307) 352-9518; www.providencerocksprings.org
Providence RCUS Pastor: Joe Vusich (Wife: Gioia)
Mail: 1007 9th St., Rock Springs, WY 82901
Location: 1001 9th 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 Christ Reformed Church, and visitors met on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:33 PM to worship our gracious Triune God. Rev. Joe Vusich presided over the service, and Elder Chris Bradley preached a sermon based on Matthew 18:1-5 entitled, “Lessons from the Little Ones.”

Immediately following the opening roll call on Tuesday morning, Student for the Ministry Dave Johnson led the delegates in the singing of *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* and presented a devotional from Psalm 119:129-136. Prayer was also offered for the opening session of Classis.

At the end of the Tuesday sessions of Classis, Elder Marty Scott closed with a brief devotional from Psalm 51:1-17 and concluded with prayer.

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

Organization

Delegates of the South Central Classis met on the afternoon of Monday, March 27, 2023, at Christ Reformed Church, 600 W 21st St., Casper, WY, to begin their Spring Meeting.

The President of the Executive Committee, Rev. Matthew Powell, called the 2023 Annual Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis to order at 3:03 PM. In accordance with Article 79 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States, the meeting was opened with a prayer of invocation by the President.

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Michael McGee, called the roll, which showed 9 ministers and 9 elders present, a total of 18 delegates. The opening and closing roll call on Tuesday showed 12 ministers and 12 elders present, a total of 24 delegates.

The President appointed Elder Chris Bradley, Rev. Travis Grassmid, and Elder Dave Kimble to serve as tellers for the meeting. He also designated Rev. Carl Gobelman 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. Randall Klynsmas

Stated Clerk: Rev. Michael McGee

Treasurer: Elder Fred Hofmann

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 & 1st Time Elders

There were no fraternal delegates present.

The following visitors were welcomed:

- Rev. Todd Seay, minister at Sovereign Grace Reformed Church in Morrill, NE.
- Elder Roger Gallimore, President of the Synod of the RCUS and an elder at Grace RCUS in Rapid City, SD.
- Elder Dave Ehly, an elder at Hope RCUS in Sutton, NE.
- Mr. Chris Nelson, a student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, and member at St. John's RCUS in Lincoln, NE.
- Mr. Dave Johnson, student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and member of Trinity RCUS in Sioux Falls, SD.
- Elder Larry Lynch, formerly an elder of Grace Reformed Church in Lancaster, CA, a student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, and a member at Trinity RCUS in Sioux Falls, SD.
- Elder Mike Johnson, an elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wheatridge, CO.
- Mr. Jeremy Inman, a visitor from Providence RCUS in Rock Springs, WY.
- Mr. Clark Saltz, a member of Providence RCUS in Rock Springs, WY.
- Elder John Savage, an elder at Providence RCUS in Limon, CO.
- Mr. Dan Woodward, a member of Grace RCUS in Rapid City, SD.
- Mr. Frank James and Elder Bernie Westra of the Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT.

The following elders were recognized as first time elder delegates:

- Elder Michael Mehlhaff from Zion RCUS in Menno, SD.

Reception of New Churches

There were no new churches to welcome into the Classis.

Reception of New Ministers

There were no new ministers to welcome into the Classis.

Announcement of Standing Committee Appointments

The President presented the following Standing Committee appointments:

Benevolences: Fagrey, Mehlhaf, Scott

Education & Student Aid: Mosley, Horner, Burbach, Oliver

Examination & Licensure: Vusich, Moulton, Kimble, Rydell

Finances: Grassmid, Huber, Hoffmann, Velgersdyk

Judicial: Mosley, Horner, Burbach, Oliver

Ministerial Aid: Fagrey, Mehlhaf, Scott

Missions: Koerner, Gobelman, Horner, Bradley

Minutes of Classis: Klynsma, Connelly

Nominations: Mosley, Koerner, Matkins, Burbach

Publications: Opp, Smith, Huber

Services: Opp, Smith, Huber

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. 53-59).

Presentation & Referral of Permanent Committee Reports

Candidates and Credentials

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

During the past year, your Candidates and Credentials Committee convened several times, both in person and by conference call. We also communicated by email.

At the Spring 2022 meeting of Classis, Mr. Chris Nelson was “recommended to the Permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee for examination as a potential student under care” (SCC 2022 Abstract). Our committee then met with Mr. Nelson during the 2022 RCUS Synod meeting to inquire about his desire to become a student under care, per Articles 16-18 of the RCUS Constitution. Mr. Nelson is a member of St. John's RCUS in Lincoln, NE. He has a Master of Arts degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, GA, and is currently enrolled as a student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary. He has exhorted the St. John's congregation seven times in the last year while they have been without a pastor, and has also taught Sunday school and other classes at the church. Mr. Nelson has expressed his commitment to pursue ordination in the RCUS upon completion of his studies. Your committee is agreed that Mr. Nelson meets the constitutional qualifications to be received as a student under care.

On August 15, 2022, your committee received a letter from the Providence RCUS Consistory in Limon, CO, requesting that Mr. Chris Bradley be examined for licensure at the Spring 2023 meeting of Classis, even though Mr. Bradley is not scheduled to graduate from New Geneva Theological Seminary until December 2023. The request was per Article 21 of the RCUS Constitution, which states that “for good reasons,” licensure may be granted to an applicant who has not yet completed his prescribed ministerial studies. Mr. Bradley has served as a Limon elder since 2020. Since then he has often exhorted the church, and his ministry has been well-received by the Limon saints. The congregation has experienced growth, and many regular visitors are now attending. Given that the Limon congregation has been without a pastor since the summer of 2019, and that Mr. Bradley has expressed strong interest in becoming their new pastor, it is understandable that their Consistory would like to have Mr. Bradley examined for licensure in Spring 2023 rather than having to wait another year. Your committee has corresponded frequently with Mr. Bradley. We interviewed him on February 24, 2022, and recommended that he be received as a student under care, which Classis adopted last spring. We have reviewed Mr. Bradley's seminary progress

and transcripts, evaluated his printed and recorded sermons, and read his theological and exegetical papers. He has demonstrated good exegetical skills, giftedness in the pulpit, and a commitment to the Reformed faith. Given the longstanding need for a pastor in Limon and Mr. Bradley's evident progress toward becoming a faithful Reformed minister, your committee has concluded that there are indeed “good reasons” to proceed with his licensure hearing at our upcoming meeting.

Mr. Bradley will have completed approximately 87% of his ministerial studies by the time the delegates assemble in Casper, WY, and he has submitted a written sermon and theological papers as required by Article 20 of the Constitution. Your committee believes he will be sufficiently prepared for his examination. One item to note is that per Article 21, his exam will require a two-thirds vote to be sustained. Also, since Mr. Bradley would no longer be a student under care if he is licensed, we hope in that case that Classis will overture the 2023 Synod to continue providing him financial aid until he graduates from seminary.

On January 27, 2023, your committee met with Mr. Larry Lynch via conference call. Mr. Lynch served more than six years as an elder at Grace RCUS in Lancaster, CA, and his church membership was recently dismissed to Trinity RCUS in Sioux Falls, SD. He is currently enrolled as a student at Heidelberg Theological Seminary, and has completed 40+ hours toward his ministerial degree. Your committee interviewed Mr. Lynch per Articles 16-18 of the Constitution regarding Students for the Ministry, and particularly regarding his request to be taken under the care of Classis. Mr. Lynch gave assurance that he is committed to preparing himself for the ministry according to the requirements established by the Constitution, and to submit to the guidance provided by Classis if he is taken under care. He has also expressed his commitment to pursue ordination in the RCUS upon completion of his studies. Your committee is agreed that Mr. Lynch meets the constitutional qualifications to be received as a student under care.

On February 17, 2023, your committee met with Mr. George Young via conference call. Mr. Young is a member of Trinity Covenant RCUS in Colorado Springs, CO. He has audited a number of classes at Northwest Theological Seminary in Lynnwood, WA, and is currently enrolled as a student at New Geneva Theological Seminary. He has served as a ruling elder in the OPC, and has exhorted about 40 times at various Reformed churches, including Trinity Covenant RCUS, Grace RCUS in Greeley, Providence RCUS in Limon, and the Denver mission work. Your committee interviewed Mr. Young per Articles 16-18 of the Constitution regarding Students for the Ministry, and particularly regarding his request to be taken under the care of Classis. Mr. Young gave assurance that he is committed to preparing himself for the ministry according to the requirements established by the Constitution, and to submit to the guidance provided by Classis if he is taken under care. He has also expressed a commitment

to pursue ordination in the RCUS upon completion of his studies. Your committee is agreed that Mr. Young meets the constitutional qualifications to be received as a student under care.

Your committee has remained in contact with Mr. Matthew Dawn, who has been a student under the care of the SCC since 2018. Mr. Dawn informed us that he graduated from Heidelberg Theological Seminary in May 2022 and remains committed to pursuing ordination in the RCUS. Your committee encourages prayers for Mr. Dawn and for the Lord's clear leading as he seeks to serve Him and the RCUS as a pastor.

Your committee has also remained in contact with Mr. Dave Johnson, Mr. Josh Savage, and Mr. Jesse Smith, who are currently listed as students under care. Each of these men has submitted a report about the progress they have made during the past year, and your committee has also received updated transcripts from the seminaries they are attending. Those who are receiving financial aid from Synod have reaffirmed their commitment to pursue ordination in the RCUS upon completion of their studies. All three would like to remain under the care of Classis.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Recommendations:

- 1) That Mr. Chris Bradley be examined for licensure during the Spring 2023 meeting of Classis.
- 2) That Mr. Chris Nelson, Mr. Larry Lynch, and Mr. George Young be received as students under care.
- 3) That Mr. Dave Johnson, Mr. Josh Savage, and Mr. Jesse Smith would like to continue as students under care, take note.
- 4) That Mr. Matthew Dawn be removed from the list of students under care, take note.
- 5) That Mr. Bradley be removed from the list of students under care, provided he is successfully examined for licensure, take note.
- 6) That Classis overture the 2023 Synod to continue providing financial assistance for Mr. Bradley's seminary studies until he graduates in December 2023, provided he is successfully examined for licensure.
- 7) That SCC congregations be encouraged to offer up regular prayers on behalf of all our students under care, and for Mr. Matthew Dawn as he seeks a pastoral calling, take note.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J. Vusich, Rev. J. Blair, Rev. C. Moulton, Elder J. Rydell, Elder D. Kimble

Biographies for Men Applying for Students for the Ministry

Mr. Larry Lynch

I grew up in a divided home, where my mother was a Christian but my dad was not. We certainly did not live like a Christian family, but my mother was faithful to take us to a Baptist church semi-regularly growing up. There was never a time that I did not believe in Jesus but there was not much content to that faith, and going to church was not a priority in my young adult life.

While serving in the Air Force, a chaplain was very good to me and stirred up my thoughts about Christ and His church, but it wasn't until the end of my enlistment, when I returned home, that I became a member of a Calvinist Baptist church. That pastor introduced me to Calvinism and RC Sproul. Gradually, over several years, I slowly fell down the proverbial Reformational stairs and became a member of Grace RCUS Lancaster in 2003. Soon after, I married Idelette Riffert. We have one son, Lawrence, who is 17 years old. He will soon be off to college, where he hopes to attend Reformation Bible College in Florida, which will leave his parents with heavy hearts in his absence.

I became a Deputy Sheriff for Los Angeles County in 2006. I now serve as a sergeant at Lancaster Station and hope to retire in less than three years. Shortly before becoming a sergeant, I was elected as an elder in Lancaster and served for 6 plus years. While doing so, for most of that time, we did not have a full-time pastor and those duties fell on us as elders, being involved in the work of the church by engaging in exhorting, teaching, and counseling. We certainly appreciated how much we missed having a good full-time pastor. It was during this time that I started taking seminary classes at Heidelberg Theological Seminary through Zoom, with the initial intention of being a better elder; however, the desire to become a pastor grew in me as I progressed in my studies. I was doing well and with the encouragement of Dr. Koerner and Dr. Mosley, along with much prayer, our family decided to move to Sioux Falls to finish the seminary work and get more in-person training with the hope of becoming an RCUS minister.

I've completed about 40+ units and am currently taking Pentateuch, Reformation Church History, Evangelism and Missions, and Greek IV. I hope to be able to complete my seminary training in about 2.5 years.

Thank you for your prayers and consideration in becoming a student under care in the South Central Classis.

In Christ,
Larry Lynch

Mr. Chris Nelson

I am Chris Nelson, and I am a member of St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, NE. I have been married to Samantha for 32 years and we have three grown

children and four grandchildren. I am a route sales representative for Schwan's Sales and have been for almost 20 years. I have been a part-time interim pastor at a small Baptist church, Calvary, in Lincoln, NE, about ten years ago and I believe God has called me to His ministry. I have a Master of Arts degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia.

I have completed 12 credit hours at Heidelberg Theological Seminary since the spring of 2022: Biblical Theology, Greek Grammar I, Prolegomena and Ancient Church History. I am now taking Reformed Worship, Greek II, Hermeneutics and Homiletics. I have filled the pulpit at St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, NE 7 times in the last year and I generally preach about once a month. My last few sermons have been in the Gospel of Mark. I also filled the pulpit at Omaha Reformed Church on New Year's Day. I taught an adult Sunday School Class, at St. John's, on the Psalms for several months. I was teaching the youth twice a month until classes started in September of 22'. I spoke with the elders, and we enlisted a young man, George, to help with the youth group and we switch on and off with teaching the youth. I drove the youth of St. John's to Heidelberg Youth Camp last summer and served as a Counsellor. My wife prints the weekly bulletin on Saturdays, and I get the coffee prepared for Sunday morning and help fold the bulletins.

Mr. George Young

I am married to Cara, with six children, Sylvia (12), George (10), Timothy (8), Martha (6), Thomas (4), and Rebecca (1). I was born in upstate New York and grew up in Palo Alto, California (10 years) and Lausanne, Switzerland (3 years). I lived for a year with my grandparents on their cattle ranch south of Castle Rock, Colorado, and then we remained in Colorado. I went away to high school at Stony Brook in New York, a Christian school with strong links to Tenth Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Philadelphia. I did my undergraduate work at Arizona State University, and after working for a bit less than a year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, I did two master's degrees (MBA and M.A., Latin American Studies) at Tulane University in New Orleans. I started a Ph. D. (Internal Business/Latin American Studies) there but ended up learning software development and getting recruited to go work at Microsoft before writing my dissertation. After about 13 years in the Seattle area, I left (somewhat retired) Microsoft, married, and moved to Colorado. I have been doing consulting, and occasional language teaching, since then.

I was raised in the Episcopal Church, under the classic 1928 Prayer Book. After we moved to Switzerland, my parents stopped going to church. While in Washington, around 2002-3, I determined to get back in church. After visiting a local Episcopal Church once, and sensing something was wrong, I was invited to visit a Stony Brook classmate of mine, the daughter of James Boice. While back there, she, her widowed mom, and I went to Tenth, and my socks were knocked off by the worship there. I asked the pastor, Phil Ryken, if there was anything

similar in the Seattle area. He pointed me to Faith Tacoma, a similarly traditional PCA church south of Seattle. I then heard about the OPC and found a church, Lynwood OPC, much closer to me than Tacoma. I worshipped at Lynwood from around 2005 until I left Washington in 2010, was a member since 2006 or 2007, I believe. While there, I audited a number of classes at Northwest Theological Seminary, and grew close to Jim Dennison, the academic dean there. I quickly fell in love with and became (easily) convinced of the Reformed faith (which is, in some important areas, similar to the XXXIX Articles in the Anglican Prayer Book). In addition to being under the tutelage of Rev. Dennison, although never as a full-time student at the seminary, I also did all of the web site programming and maintenance for the seminary and the theological journal, Kerux. After marrying, my wife and I spent a little over a year in Twin Falls, Idaho (her hometown) where we were members of the URCNA. After moving to Colorado, we have been members of the OPC and the RCUS (current). We spent three years under the ministry of Bud Powell, before his passing, and the past three under Chris Moulton. I was a Ruling Elder in the OPC when we were members there, around 2018-2020.

I am a first-year student a New Geneva Seminary in Colorado Springs. I have been taking a class here and there, piecemeal, until this year, when I am picking up the pace, as I have felt that I may have a call, which I am in the process of discerning, primarily as a result of providing pulpit supply to the RCUS church in Greeley from Oct-Jan. I have provided occasional pulpit supply in other Colorado RCUS churches (Limon, Colorado Springs, and Denver) for two years, and have been on a regular rotation for about five years of men affiliated with the seminary, leading worship and preaching at the Winslow Court Rest Home in Colorado Springs. In total, I have exhorted about 40 times. I would sincerely appreciate being taken on as a student under care of the South Central Classis.

Reports from Students for the Ministry

Mr. Chris Bradley

Since coming under the care of the South Central Classis in March 2022, I have completed the following courses at New Geneva Theological Seminary (NGTS):

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>	<u>Term</u>
The Life of Christ	2	Spring 2022
Christian Worldview II	2	Spring 2022
Creeds and Confessions	3	Summer 2022
NT Biblical Theology	2	Summer 2022
OT Survey III (Prophets)	2	Fall 2022
Pastoral Counseling B (Marriage & Family)	2	Fall 2022
Ref. Perspectives – Christ/Culture	2	Fall 2022
New Testament Exegesis I	2	Winter 2022
Cumulative GPA: 3.86/4.00	Cumulative Credits: 84	M.Div Required Credits: 100

In the current term, my focus is to finish NT Exegesis II and thereby complete my MDiv language courses before my licensure examination at the end of March. In addition to my seminary coursework, I'm preparing for licensure exams by memorizing the Heidelberg Catechism, studying RCUS history, and refreshing myself on the other required topics for the examination.

After my licensure examination in March, I will still have some coursework to complete at New Geneva for my MDiv, so my plan is to request more tuition aid for the 2023-2024 academic year. I have a planned schedule that I've worked out with New Geneva whereby I could graduate around December 2023.

As of August 2022, I have begun work formally as the paid pastoral intern at Providence Reformed Church in Limon. I have entered an agreement with the consistory to provide pulpit supply on an occasional basis (approximately twice per month), teach Sunday school and/or new member classes, and weekday bible studies. I also serve on the Consistory as one of three elders. As an elder I continue to serve the congregation with sundry counseling needs and spiritual council matters.

I have "mostly resigned" from my employer, Fregata Systems, where I did program management for defense contracts. I still have a contract with them to do some work on an hourly basis (to supplement my income), but I am no longer a regular employee so that I can focus on the work of the church and seminary.

My plate has been very full, but my wife (Janene) and I are both fulfilled as we're occupied with the Lord's work at Providence, and are excited to see what He will do in the coming months and years. We are still living in Colorado Springs, about 70 miles from Limon, and are considering more and more the need to move to Limon to be closer to the congregation. Lord willing, we expect to attempt that move in about a year, when we expect our oldest son to leave for college.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher J. Bradley

Mr. Matthew Dawn

The following is my student under care report for the year 2022. Since my last report the previous year, I have graduated from Heidelberg Theological Seminary. After which I had an extended leave of absence from work so that I could be an intern at Manitowoc Wisconsin. I was an Intern from June to Early August and learned a great deal from time there. It was a great time to study and to learn how it would be to work with a church. After my internship ended I came back to Sioux Falls and continue to work as a Customer service representative at Walmart.

During this time, all the visa paperwork has been completed for my fiancé to come to the USA. The only thing keeping her from coming her at the moment is that she applied for a passport and the Philippine government is taking a while to give it to her. Indeed, in the last few months the news I have received from the

Philippines is that there are delays concerning the passport due to the government misplacing it and thus, having to reorder a passport. Currently my fiancé and I are hoping that she will get it this month and then in March I will go over to the Philippines to bring her over to the USA.

During this time I have also held out for some church to give me a call. So far no church has reached out to me. I am eager and ready for a church to get in touch with me so I can start my service to the denomination. I am currently continuing in my work praying about both my fiancé and the prospect of a church calling me. I have had some opportunities to fill the pulpit but as there are other students at Heidelberg Theological Seminary, I have tried to let them pick up most of these opportunities so that it may help more with their studies.

I am very thankful for the opportunities given to me and I continue to pray for a church to reach out to me. I also am praying that the Philippines will give my fiancé a passport so that she can finally come to the USA so that we can plan our marriage. This last year has all been about patience, and so I continue to wait for both the opportunity for marriage and the opportunity to serve a church in this denomination. The good thing about this waiting is that it allows me to prepare for the licensure exam. So far, I have been contacted by Rev. Hank Bowen in the Northern Plains Classis concerning a vacancy in Minot North Dakota. While I haven't yet been contacted by this church, if they do reach out to me, the plan is to have me do my exam in June in the Northern Plains Classis. This is based on if the church does decide to extend to me a call or to do a trial sermon, which hasn't happened yet but God will guide both the church and me in the proper way to proceed. I continue to pray for guidance and also thank God for the support and encouragement I have received from this Classis.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Dawn

Mr. Joshua Savage

Esteemed Brothers of the South Central Classis:

It is my privilege and joy to give a report of my seminary studies thus far. Since moving to the Dyer area in May, 2022, Rachel, Owen, and I have been greatly blessed by the local church and seminary communities. Attending Mid-America Reformed Seminary has been an immense blessing, and the instruction has been excellent. Prior to seminary, I completed both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in English at a secular institution; Mid-America's academic rigor has far exceeded my previous Master's-level work. But while Mid-America sets high standards academically, every professor has stressed the importance of training men for the ministry: it is my firm belief that every professor has a desire first and foremost for equipping and training men for service in the church. It has been a privilege to attend this seminary.

In June, I began the summer Greek intensive, consisting of two beginning Greek courses (Greek 101 and Greek 102). This was my first experience learning a second language, and while it was challenging, I experienced excellent instruction by an adjunct instructor (working through Clayton Croy's *A Primer of Biblical Greek*). By August of 2022, I was able to slowly read through portions of John's Gospel.

The Fall semester began a week after the close of the Greek intensive, and I was enrolled in seven classes for a total of 16 credit hours. Below, you will find a general overview of each class:

- **AS 112 Introduction to Apologetics:** Taught by Dr. Alan Strange, we discussed an overview of apologetic methodology, focusing on the presuppositionalism of Van Til. We studied primarily Greg Bahnsen's writings, and we were assigned a term paper investigating the nature of unbelief in a particular worldview of our choice. I chose to investigate the unbelieving worldview of gender theory/transgenderism; I wrote a paper performing an internal critique of the worldview and the beginnings of a Christian response.
- **CH 112 Ancient Church History:** Taught by Dr. Alan Strange, we studied the Greek and Latin Fathers of the Church (ca. 100-600 A.D.), with particular attention given to the early ecumenical councils, liturgical practices, church order, ancient heresies and heretics, and God's providential preservation and growth of the church. Alongside primary source readings from Augustine and Athanasius, selections from Leo's Tome and other church Fathers were read and discussed.
- **DD 112 Theological Foundations:** Taught by Dr. Cornelis Venema, we studied the nature of the theological encyclopedia, discussed dogmatic theology vs. Biblical theology, and learned about the subjects of revelation and inspiration. The primary source reading for this class was Herman Bavinck's *Reformed Dogmatics*, volume 1. Of all the readings for the semester, Bavinck's work was by far the most enjoyable, edifying, and helpful (if also the most challenging!).
- **GK 201 Greek:** Taught by Rev. Vander Hart, we had weekly quizzes over 20-30 vocab words, paradigms, and principal parts. Using Richard A. Young's *Intermediate New Testament Greek*, we discussed finer details of Greek grammar and syntax, and we applied these principles to translation exercises. Through the course of the semester, I translated Mark chapter 6 and the book of 1 Thessalonians.
- **NT 113 Introduction to New Testament:** Taught by Dr. Marcus Mininger, we discussed a range of topics related to the study of the New Testament, including the formation of the New Testament canon, textual criticism (including a history and comparison of the Textus Receptus, Majority Text, and Critical Text viewpoints), and New Testament history from the intertestamental period through the Apostolic era.
- **OT 113 Basic Hebrew:** Taught by Rev. Vander Hart, we began working through Gary Pratico and Miles van Pelt's *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*, covering

the entirety of the Qal stem, and learning 200 vocab words through the semester. During Advanced Hebrew (OT 122 in the winter interim), we finished Pratico and van Pelt's book, preparing us for translations of Ruth and Jonah this semester (Spring 2023).

• **PS114 Preaching and Church Education:** Taught by Dr. Eric Watkins and Rev. Andrew Compton, this course focused on the basic philosophy of preaching and teaching. Dr. Watkins taught an overview of preaching, introduction to the Redemptive-Historical approach, and we wrote two sermons through the class. Rev. Compton focused on church education--including Sunday School pedagogy and history.

God has been good to us as we have embarked on this journey. We are beginning the Spring Semester, and then we will look for an opportunity to serve a church this summer as an intern. Please pray for continued success in my studies, and for endurance and spiritual growth for Rachel, Owen, and myself.

We request to remain as a student under care in the RCUS, and we covet prayers as we continue to pursue God's calling.

In Christ,
Joshua Savage

Mr. Jesse Smith

Greetings Brothers in Christ,

I want to first thank the classis for counting me as a "student for the ministry" and for allowing me to stay in my home state of Colorado to be closer to my family and church as I complete my seminary studies at Sangre de Cristo Seminary. My 2nd year of studies went well. By God's grace, I survived the heavy demands of an intensive program during a particularly busy season of life. Being Dad of 7 homeschooled kids and a church elder all while being a fulltime student has been stretching for me. The past year included moving 3 times, struggles with covid and a back injury, the birth of my 7th child Palmer, and a broken ankle, along with many opportunities to exhort from different pulpits in and outside the RCUS, all of which has providentially caused me to see that my need for God is much greater than I ever imagined. I am still in the process of learning to "be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and for what is future have good confidence in our faithful God and Father." He has brought me out of every trial and the tender mercies of the LORD are too many to count.

The highlights of my summer studies were probably the 2 week intensive class on the Doctrine of Christ with professor Randy Martin as well as the class on Reformation Church history with Dr. Tony Felich. The most practical class in the fall was Homiletics with Dr. Andrew Zeller, which really changed my approach to sermon preparation and gave me a lot of practice preaching and teaching. I also gained a new appreciation for the usefulness of the original languages in my 2nd year Greek Exegesis class where we spent a semester in 1st Timothy, which was

taught by my former boss Dr. Jim Johnson, formerly the superintendent of Evangelical Christian Academy where I worked as a 4th grade teacher for a couple of years.

In January, I was greatly blessed with the opportunity to make up a missed credit at Heidelberg Seminary. Dr. Maynard Koerner's "Biblical Theology" class was very enlightening and provided a foundation for understanding the covenants. I am also thankful to be auditing Dr. Koerner's RCUS History class via zoom.

Currently my family is living in Greeley CO at the parsonage of Grace Reformed Church RCUS as I complete a 4 month "stated supply." As part of an assigned Hebrew Exegesis project, I will be exhorting through the book of Jonah. I will also be leading a Bible study in our home going through the book of Matthew. The consistory here in Greeley has been so welcoming and supportive of my family and we have already learned so much from joining the life of this vibrant congregation. While the stress of moving to a new place is always difficult, I am amazed at how flexible my wife and kids have been to God's direction. After the challenges of the past year, I can say Amen to Proverbs 18:22, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord."

I am often discouraged that I do not know God's Word better than I currently do at this point in my Christian walk and studies. But more and more, I am learning to get over myself and to remember that this isn't about me. I find great comfort that "I am not my own..." Therefore, I will continue to give myself over to the preparations of pastoral ministry, for the sake of Christ my Savior, for as long as God will allow, and I ask the classis to continue to support me in prayers and allow me to be a "student-under-care" for another year.

Resting in Christ,
Jesse Smith

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

Christian Education

Dear Brothers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior. A few weeks ago I was alerted to the fact that there was work assigned to the Christian Education Committee. Tucked away at the end of the Education and Student Aid standing committee report, was 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 to the next annual meeting of classis.

I sent an email out to the other members of the Student Aid Committee, asking if any of the men had any strong feelings about the matter. One committee member replied: "Sounds like a good idea. But I would go one step further and rather that each congregation/consistory make the decision on what institutions to support."

Here are a few thoughts of the Committee and its Convener:

1. Guidelines involve a joint or shared commitment to financially support agreed-upon mutual needs and causes. They reflect the support that we have covenanted to do. To this degree, I would agree that there is a necessity for receiving funding from the congregations of classis.
2. As a general rule giving to any and all causes ought to be voluntary. Typically, we have seen this work well when there are genuine needs, God's people and congregations generally respond generously.
3. If giving toward or supporting an RCUS institution is commendable for individuals, then it follows that will likely be well supported by congregations and classes as well.

There is surely more that could be said. We are of the conviction that to adequately address this subject, this study request could be continued to the next permanent Christian Education Committee. If continued, it might be good to clarify what is meant by "RCUS institutions."

Sincerely, for the General Education Committee,
Randall Klynsma, David Dawn, Scott Henry, Melvin Burbach, Kip Matkins

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

Executive Committee Report

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 2022 Spring Meeting of the Classis. All circulars passed with no objection to the proposed action.

1. In accordance with the directive of the Classis at the 2022 Annual Meeting, provided advice to the Consistory of Trinity Reformed Church, dated May 10, 2022.
2. Provided advice, dated July 2, 2022, upon the written request of the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO.
3. Executive Circular 37.1, dated August 26, 2022, dealt with the following actions:
 - a. Taking note of the answers to Article 81 of the Constitution of the RCUS provided by the elders of Hope Reformed Church, Sutton, NE and approving of their inclusion in the in the 2022 Classis Abstract.
 - b. Dismissing Rev. Dr. Kevin Carroll to the Northern Plains Classis.
4. Executive Circular 37.2, dated September 15, 2022, dealt with the following actions:

- a. Approving the resignation of Rev. Jon Blair from Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO and acceptance of it by the Consistory, and declaring that the pulpit is vacant effective October 1, 2022.
 - b. Approving the request of Rev. Jon Blair to be honorably retired from the active duties of ministry.
5. Executive Circular 37.3, dated October 8, 2022, approved providing the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE with benevolent aid up to the amount of \$3,200 (\$400 for 8 Sundays) to assist with their ongoing expenses associated with regular pulpit supply, and that this aid is contingent upon their providing a full-time salary for Rev. Lee Johnson. of Delegate and Statistics reports.
6. At their request, met with the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE on October 10, 2022, for the purpose of advising them in the matter of Rev. Lee Johnson.
7. Executive Circular 37.4, dated November 20, 2022, dealt with the following actions:
 - a. Approving the resignation of Rev. Lee Johnson from St. John's Reformed Church, Lincoln, NE and acceptance of it by the Consistory, and declaring that the pulpit is vacant effective December 5, 2022.
 - b. Noting that Rev. Lee Johnson is honorably retiring from the pastoral ministry due to infirmities and approving his addition to the list of retired ministers.
8. Executive Circular 37.5, dated January 12, 2023, dealt with the following actions:
 - a. Adopting the Treasurer's Report for the shortened fiscal year July 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.
 - b. Approving the request of the Consistory of Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO to have Mr. Jesse Smith provide pulpit supply from February 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023.
9. Executive Circular 37.6, dated February 13, 2023, dealt with the distribution of information for the preparation of the 2023 Annual Spring Meeting.
10. Executive Circular 37.7, dated March 3, 2023, dealt with the following actions:
 - a. Presenting the list of overtures submitted four weeks prior to the Spring Meeting.
 - b. Presenting the proposed schedule of service, order of the day and agenda for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the South Central lassis. overtures to be discussed at the 2022 Spring Meeting.
11. 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. Matthew Powell, Rev. Michael McGee, Elder Jesse Smith

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Heidelberg Youth Camp

Dear Brothers,

Your joint committee met on Thursday February 9th, 2023 to conduct the oversight of Heidelberg Youth Camp. The committee examined the evaluations of campers and staff collected during HYC 2022 and considered God's provision through another year. Continuing the practice of the prior year, all attendees had the full week to record their thoughts on the evaluation, leading to many excellent thoughts and more detailed evaluations. This year again brought the largest enrollment in recent history with 136 campers. Yet again the camp was blessed with excellent volunteers, excellent meals, and blessed fellowship. The Lord continues to provide!

The committee spent most of its time working to develop a theme that seeks to encourage campers in their Christian walk. We considered some excellent concepts submitted by members of the committee and settled on the theme of **"Born Again Identity"**. The theme takes its outline from Heidelberg Catechism numbers 31 and 32 and emphasizes Christ's work as Prophet, Priest, and King and our roles as His disciples. As always, we seek to apply the Scriptures to the campers with the hope that the Holy Spirit will do His work of building up the church. The committee brings the following outline for the theme:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lesson 1: Christ as our Prophet. | Lesson 4: Our Role as Priests. |
| Lesson 2: Our Role as Prophets. | Lesson 5: Christ as our King. |
| Lesson 3: Christ as our Priest. | Lesson 6: Our Role as Kings. |
- Sermon 1: The Believers Union with Christ.
Sermon 2: The Believers Reign with Christ.

The committee is encouraged by the continued support of the Classis. Particularly in the addition of a classical guideline adopted by both classes. As is often the case, the Lord provided for needs which arose. While much of camps costs did not see a major increase, Camp Bob Marshall continues to seek to maintain and improve the facilities which we utilize for the week. The per person rate again increased \$3 per person per night. In addition, we are seeking to add an additional \$2,000 payment to Camp Bob for allowing us to access the grounds on Sunday afternoon rather than Monday morning. Camp Bob has long allowed us this convenience at no cost as they rarely have groups scheduled for that night. As they seek ways to maintain and improve the facility, we believe this to be a good middle ground between paying nothing and paying for a full load of campers (totaling nearly \$5,000) when only a small set up crew is present. It is our hope

this will allow us a balance of being good stewards of the resources we have been entrusted and helping to maintain and be good tenants during our time at Camp Bob.

HYC continues to receive generous offerings during our two worship services. Last year nearly \$2,100 was raised. This year, we noted two causes we recommend supporting in this way. Your committee recommends the designation of the first offering to go to Hope Haven and the second to go toward the RCUS’s work in Kenya with particular attention to care of orphans. Our care of orphans includes providing basic necessities like food and clothing along with educating the youth in their native Kiswahili and English, allowing them to study the Scriptures on their own.

The committee notes the following dates for future camps: July 24-28, 2023, July 22-26, 2024, July 21-25, 2025, July 27-31, 2026, & July 26-30, 2027.

Your committee brings the following recommendations:

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

Recommendation 2: That the theme of “*Born Again Identity*” be adopted as the theme of HYC 2023.

Recommendation 3: That the offerings collected during HYC 2022 be designated for Hope Haven (first offering) and the RCUS Kenya Work (second offering) as coordinated by Providence in Lodi, CA.

Recommendation 4: That congregations take note of the registration deadlines for early registration (by May 31st) and final registration (no later than June 30th) and that congregations be encouraged to submit registrations as early as possible.

Representing the SCC: Revs. Fagrey, Gobelman, Johnson; Elders Bradley, Nuss

Representing the NPC: Revs. Henderson, Lassley; Elders Haak, Fickbohm

Heidelberg Youth Camp Financial Report and Proposed Budget

	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>(under)/over</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
Opening Fund				
Balance (1/1/22)		3,151.43		
REVENUE				
Camp Fees (136 campers)	\$ 27,675.00	\$ 27,258.00	\$ (417)	\$ 29,025
Donations	3,500.00	2,109.50	(1,391)	3,500
Worship Offering	-----	2,596.31	1,598	-----
Classis Support #	-----	769.00	269	650
Camp Store Sales	650.00	615.00	(35)	700
Interest		0.13		
TOTAL				
REVENUE	31,825.00	33,403.12		37,925
EXPENSES				

Camp Bob Marshall Rental	20,555.00	20,069.02	(485)	25,432*
Food	6,500.00	6,184.51	(315)	6,500
T-Shirts & Counselor Gifts	3,316.00	3,392.07	76	3,635
Camp Store Supplies	650.00	712.87	63	700
Supplies/Equipment	200.00	1,154.94	955	200
Arts & Crafts	250.00	188.75	(61)	250
Administration	25.00	0.00	(25)	25
Designated Offering Recipient	-----	2,097.49	2,097	-----
Hotel Lodging for Cooks	-----	503.88	504	
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,746.00	31,964.32		36,742
Operating Gain (Loss)		(900.41)		1,183
Ending Fund Balance (12/31/22)		\$ 2,251.02		

Will not know the extent of SCC dues until March. Budgeting full amount (\$6,216) less \$339 to account for some change from PY.

* Rental cost: \$600 (kitchen use) + \$2,000 (early access) + [\$25 (daily rate/person) x 4 (days) x 190 (people)] + 6.5% tax.

Proposed 2023 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.

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

Interchurch Relations

Fathers and Brothers,

Your committee conducted our business via email. We received several invitations to Classes and Presbytery meetings with fraternal churches. We were able to send a delegate to the RPCNA Midwest Presbytery Meeting. We were unable to attend the other Presbytery or Classis meetings on account of being in different Classical bounds of the RCUS.

Our committee chairman is working with the Classis Clerk on better means to receive and send requests for interchurch correspondence. This is an ongoing work.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J.P. Mosley, Jr., Rev. Joe Vusich, Rev. Herman Van Stedum, Elder Dan Griess, Elder Gary Maassen

Report from Rev. Chris Moulton who represented the South Central Classis at November 3rd, 2022 Midwest Presbytery Meeting of the RPCNA.

On Thursday, November 3rd, 2022, I attended the RPCNA Presbytery Meeting held at Black Forest Reformed Church near Monument, CO. Other than observing the regular business meeting, including the preliminary examination of a potential student under care, I spoke to those in attendance on behalf of the RCUS, letting them know that we are seeking to grow as a denomination (spiritually and numerically), and that we are grateful for the prayerful support of our brothers and sisters in the RPCNA even as we seek to offer the same support for them.

Pastor Chris Moulton

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Missions

Your committee met by means of zoom on February 28, 2023, with the task of producing and approving this report. Contact with committee members and mission works was carried out during the year on an individual basis.

Home Mission plants of the SCC include Christ Reformed Church of Casper, WY which is a particular congregation with 2022 Classical year being the final year of support and oversight. Being in its final year of Home Mission status there was a minimal amount of contact by the committee. We rejoice and praise God that this church has reached the point of being able to continue without financial support and missions oversight. A final assessment from the pastor is included in this committee report.

Omaha Reformed Church (chapel) of Omaha, NE is a mission plant under the oversight of the Consistory of St. John's Reformed Church of Lincoln, NE. Monthly reports are received from the church planter, Rev. Randall Klynsma. On January 30, 2023, Rev. Harvey Opp and Elder Fred Hofmann met pastor Klynsma, one Elder and two Deacons from St. John's Consistory and several church members. The report of the visitation committee is included.

Covenant Reformed Church (chapel) of Gallatin Valley, MT was identified by the South Central Class as a mission plant. This work is under the oversight of the Consistory of Zion Reformed Church of Menno, SD. The Menno Consistory has faithfully provided oversight for this work. Several of the men involved with the mission plant join the monthly Menno Consistory meeting for a time to provide updates. Your chairman has maintained regular contact with Rev. Grassmid concerning this work. As two members of the Zion Consistory are also members of the Home Missions Committee, Rev. Grassmid and Elder Mettler, the task of visiting and reporting on this mission plant was accomplished by them. Their report is included.

Your chairman did maintain some contact during the Classical year with Rev. Chris Moulton of Colorado Springs, CO to inquire whether there was any development with the potential of reestablishing a work in Denver. Thus far there is none.

Your chairman has also had some very limited discussions with other potential groups with interest in a mission plant. Thus far there have been no developments.

Your committee presents the following reports:

Home Mission Report for the Year of Our Lord 2022

Christ Reformed Church of Casper WY

2022 was the tenth and final year of mission support for Christ Reformed Church. We are thankful for the support that we have received over the decade that has enabled us to exist and to grow.

We received financial support in the amount of \$60,000, half from classis and half from Synod, our first year, and for three years after that. After that we decreased that amount by 15% each year for two years, and then 10% each year for the five years remaining. We also received the Synodical Day of Prayer offering twice.

We also received visits from the Missions Committee during several of the years. These visits were a great value on several fronts. First, they provided the opportunity for the overseeing committee to have an up-front look at how the church was progressing. It also provided good opportunities for advice and counsel from other brothers on various issues which gave us good ideas for improvement. And thirdly it gave a good glimpse into what it means to be part of a denomination to many of the members of this work, especially since most of them over the years have not come from Reformed denominational backgrounds. I want to take this opportunity to thank those that have made the effort for these trips over the years and to commend the importance of this work to those who serve on the home missions committee in the future.

We ended the year with 37 communicant and 38 non-communicant members, for a total of 75. Our attendance currently averages around 70. We also have five families regularly attending and in some stage of the new membership process. This compares to a first and second year average attendance, after the usual initial drop-off, of the high twenties or low thirties. So the Lord has richly blessed us over the years. And naturally the numbers only tell part of the story. Along with this is development from a church plant where almost everything was done by Andrea and I, with a generous assist from Andrea's parents, Greg and Terri, to a more fully functioning church with three elders, a deacon, a ministerial assistant, and a high level of involvement in all sorts of activities of the church by many of the members. I'm excited for the Classis to see the fruit of their support this March when we host the South Central Classis spring meeting here in Casper.

Financially we are healthy. With the ending of Classis support we are a little behind on a monthly basis, but have a healthy bank account that will by God's grace help us weather the transition to being fully self-supporting. The offering we received from the Synod also did much to swell our building fund, which is good because as we grow the desire and utility for having our own building just increases, though our space right now remains adequate.

We give thanks again for the Synod of the RCUS and the South Central Classis in particular for their support this last ten years. By God's grace we will be able to reciprocate and help support new church plants for many years into the future.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Matt Powell
Christ Reformed Church, Casper, Wyoming

2023 Mission Visitation at Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE

On January 30, 2023, Rev. Harvey Opp and Elder Fred Hofmann visited the work in Omaha, in person. We met with Rev. Randall Klynsma at 4:00 pm, at the church building. The discussion began with his parochial report presented to St. John's RCUS, whose consistory has oversight of the mission work. The report said, "The ministry at Omaha has been holding its own." Two young men were added in the last year. And a new couple, with three children, were recently taken in as members. Another couple is "nearly finished with membership class and are looking forward to taking their membership vows sometime in the next month." Those classes may include ten sessions, for instance, depending on the need.

On the other side, two couples with a total of three children moved away for work and have been transferred to other denominations. Two other families that moved to SD previously were also taken off the roll. Thankfully, no other moves are expected, as with military families, in the past. The Lord has answered prayers that more visitors, with local roots, have come and stayed in the last year. Membership will soon total 23 communicants and 8 baptized children. There are several visiting families with children.

Regarding the Omaha work, and with Lincoln, it was stated that Rev. Klynsma and his wife "are grateful for the love and friendships that have continued to grow. During the time of Pastor Johnson's stroke and recovery, our relationship with St. John's congregation has grown to a deeper level."

Monthly reports contain many details of the work. Besides worship services, they have Sunday School studies, and a mid-week Bible study and prayer time. Their website shows what to expect on Sunday, being "creedal, confessional, and Reformed". Live streaming and Sermon Audio are used. Since some people came through the Truth Project previously, they may go through that again. Other outreach efforts have included ads on bus stop benches, Twitter, Facebook, and 'boosting' of items that receive the most positive feedback. They were also recognized by having a vegetable stand outside in the summer.

After a fine supper meal, we also met with Randy's wife, Julie, along with two couples, and a single man from the congregation. One couple had been involved with the work since its beginning in 2016, and believed this was the one truly Reformed church in Omaha. All were attracted to the preaching, Bible studies, and the "very good fellowship for growth". The one couple invites others to their home for meals about once every two months, at this time. A typical discovery of the work was through the internet.

The work now has its local treasurer. And various projects have been completed, such as carpet, and painting inside the building, and installation of outside cameras. Those have helped stop vandals in breaking of some windows, which occurred for several months. Church cleaning is taken on by members. A Reformed youth group helped with some renovation and in placing door hanger invitations in the surrounding area.

Rev. Klynsmas expressed gratitude for the giving of the congregation, and the RCUS, to provide for the work. An unusual source of support has been that some former members, and one family that never were members, have continued to give generous amounts.

We also met with one elder and two deacons from the Lincoln consistory, apart from the congregation members. They expressed appreciation that Rev. Klynsmas did "double duty" for two and a half months in the summer, preaching at Lincoln also when they did not have other pulpit supply. We discussed their perception of the Omaha work, which they thought was "very viable". It was said that Randy can easily be seen as a friend to new people, which has been a help for bringing newcomers in. Also, St. John's members are there typically to help with playing piano for the services.

Along with the recent local treasurer, it was stated that Omaha basically "takes care of itself". We asked about the Lord's Supper administration, which occurs six times per year, and encouraged that a Lincoln elder might be present for that each time, if possible, as in the past. As for the building, it meets their needs for now. If packed, it could seat nearly 100 people.

In discussion on finances, we noted that the work is to be nearly self-supporting. Yet, with expenses outpacing income, your visitors agree with the plan to take only a 5% reduction from original support resulting in amounts of \$4500 from Classis and \$3600 from Synod in 2023-2024. We also noted that the upcoming three-year budget, being worked on, had flat-lined amounts for missionary support in the next years. That does not seem reasonable, especially with the current inflation.

Therefore, we suggested the consistory put in some cost-of-living increases in the finished budget. We realize that may require reaching into savings somewhat, unless there is a good increase in offerings. However, support for our missionaries is important. The checkbook balance is healthy at this time. And we also thought

that the same support after 2023-2024, would be reasonable if needed. Therefore, the above amounts are listed in the budget tentatively for 2024-2025.

As said before, the continued obstacle to organization of this work is the finding and training of suitable men for officers. That is a continued item for prayer. Rev. Klynsma expressed his desire for the work, in his report, saying, "I've realized over the years that I never feel more like I'm doing what I ought to be doing than when I'm in the pulpit preaching, in front of a class teaching, or making pastoral visits and calls among God's people." Your visitors recommend the continued support of Omaha Chapel and are glad we have the work there.

Harvey Opp and Fred Hofmann

Covenant Reformed Chapel, Gallatin Valley, MT assessment 2023

June 12, 2022 was a big day for Covenant Reformed Chapel, as that was the day in which they were brought in as members of Zion Reformed Church. Elder Daniel Mettler and Rev. Travis Grassmid had the privilege of representing Zion Reformed Church in the receiving of fifteen members, and confirming three young people into full communicant membership.

Additionally, three children were baptized, making a total of four baptized youth, and eighteen communicant members.

There have been a few visitors throughout the year, but only one visitor is consistent in her attendance at this point.

The congregation continues to worship in the church building of a small Episcopal church. This arrangement is very financially viable, and it is sufficient to seat the current congregation. The downside is that they are only able to rent the facility on Sunday mornings, (no afternoon or evening), it has no room for growth or fellowship, and is not in a highly visible part of town. If we are going to be a presence in the community, we must prioritize finding a more suitable location soon.

A storefront new construction is being discussed; this would be in a far better location and would allow for room for growth and fellowship; as well as giving a future pastor a place for a study and be a presence in the community throughout the week.

The congregation has been blessed with great pulpit supply; Pastor George and MaryJo Horner and have spent months with the church. The congregation very much appreciates the ministry of Rev. Horner.

With that said, the congregation needs her own full-time pastor moving forward. Zion, the Montana group and the Missions committee have been very careful in whom we approach for this position, knowing that particularly in a mission work, a pastor with unique qualifications is imperative. We are currently speaking with a couple potential candidates, but thus far none have been willing to meet the group and be considered as a church planter.

The church currently rents a loft apartment for visiting pulpit supply. This loft serves well, but will need to be replaced with a house once we call a minister.

Travis Grassmid was able to spend ten days, including two Lord's days in February of 2023. During this time he met house to house with the congregation, finding that they are committed to the work of the church, happy with their regular pulpit supply and hopeful for the future. The group expressed their gratitude for being a part of the RCUS, and are thankful for the support of Classis, Synod and the guidance of Zion Reformed Church.

Travis Grassmid and Daniel Mettler

Your committee has compiled 3-year budgets for the Omaha and Gallatin Valley work. We are recommending a minimum of continued support for Omaha. Financial support for the Galatin Valley work will only be needed when a church planter is on scene. In addition to securing a missionary for this work there is a need for a more suitable place to worship. In anticipation for this need the committee is recommending an increase of support from the Classis.

The committee is very interested in seeking new opportunities for church planting. The committee would encourage members of Classis to provide information concerning any potential new groups.

We ask that particular attention be given to praying that the Lord would open new doors for church planting.

The committee presents the following recommendations.

Recommendation #1: That the South Central Classis congratulate and commend Christ Reformed Church of Casper, WY in the diligent work of planting a congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, that this church no longer be identified as a Home Mission Church, and that SCC offer a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Recommendation #2: That the South Central Classis overture the 2023 meeting of Synod to no longer list Christ Reformed Church of Casper, WY as a Home Mission of the Synod.

Recommendation #3: That the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$4,500 for the upcoming classical year (this represents a reduction of \$2,250 which is 10% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #4: That the South Central Classis overture the 277th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE in the amount of \$3,600 for the upcoming synodical year (this represents a reduction of \$1,800 from the current year which is 10% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #5: That Classis approve funding for Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT in the amount of \$40,000 for the next classical year.

Recommendation #6: That Classis overture the 277th 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. The budget includes \$80,000 in contributions from the group in Montana and \$60,000 from Classis and Synod. The monies from Classis and Synod will only be needed when a fulltime missions pastor has taken up the labor. The request for support amounts to 66.7% from Classis and 33.3% from Synod.

The permanent mission committees should communicate with the treasurers that monies only be sent once a missionary is on the field. The actual amount to be sent would be prorated according to the approved budget.

Recommendation #7 on page 42 of the 2022 Classis Abstract directed the committee to develop a 3-5 year strategic plan. We would note that with Casper going off support and Omaha nearing the end of the time that they are a Mission Church there is a real need and desire to seek to plant new works. This will require not only responding to requests when they come to us, but actually consciously thinking about locations where we would seek to establish a work. This could be in locations where there is no RCUS presence or in large cities where a 2nd RCUS work could be planted.

The first step in a strategic plan is to pray that the Lord would open doors for planting mission works. An initial step in the way of strategic planning is to remind all congregations to pray for missions and to be sure to contact the committee if anyone is aware of a group that would like to plant a mission work. The committee has no specific recommendation regarding strategic planning at this time.

Respectfully submitted:

Maynard Koerner, chairman; Travis Grassmid; Harvey Opp; Fred Hofmann; Daniel Mettler; Joshua Savage

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Missions.

Reports of Officers

President's Report on the State of the Classis, 2022

Esteemed fathers and brothers,

It's been an honor and a joy to serve as your president for another year. This year was relatively quiet, with little in the way of controversy or difficulty that required the attention of the president or executive committee, and for that I am grateful. We did have plenty to do, however, fielding a number of questions and issues regarding procedure and helping churches manage various issues. We traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska to assist St. John's think through the situation regarding the Johnson family, and we also conferred via email with a number of pastors and churches regarding various procedural issues.

Reading through the parochial reports, I sense a time of relative peace and building in the South Central Classis. After a number of churches experienced difficulties through the “plague years” this is a welcome respite. At the same time I want to caution my brothers not give in to the temptation to turn parochial reports into press releases. They are intended to give a true state of the church and of our labors. This does not mean that we need to air all our dirty laundry of course, or violate people’s privacy, but we should be honest with one another about the trials and difficulties we face. Otherwise the parochial reports serve no real purpose.

Nonetheless the picture I get from the parochial reports is one of zealous labor to fulfill the office of pastor, and of churches that are pursuing the Word of God and life together as a community of God’s people. No great controversies appear to have wracked any of our churches this previous year, and while we know God works His perfect will through those events, we are nonetheless thankful for the respite and rest God gives us at times from the trials of life.

The RCUS as a whole and the South Central Classis as part of it continue to struggle to grow. We know that though one man plants and another waters, that the Lord gives the increase and we rest content in His providence. At the same time, a wise farmer, if his crops do not grow, does not complacently do nothing, but he certainly will examine whether he is planting and watering, and all the other things that go into farming, as well as he could. Similarly, while we cannot override the sovereignty of God, we can certainly look to see if we are planting and watering as well as we could, and be careful to examine these things by God’s standards and not by worldly wisdom. No church and no church tradition has a corner on truth, and we must be willing to challenge ourselves to ensure that we as pastors are being faithful to the call. In the South Central Classis at least (and I believe in the other Classes as well) I believe we have been zealous to look for and seize opportunities to plant churches. I would challenge us to be at least as zealous about growing the churches we have. And here, I am personally convicted that the key is not so much about pursuing clever opportunities to reach our communities in new ways, but more about nurturing true Christian community and life within our churches. Outreach is a good thing of course, but God is always bringing people through our churches for one reason or another, or bringing them in contact with our people in one context or another, and when people see a church that loves the gospel and loves each other truly, they are much more likely to want to be part of such a community. “By this will all men know that you are My disciples, that you love one another.” I know that all of you know these things, but timely reminders are always useful.

As the president I have been in communication with the Northern Plains president regarding the issue of Classis boundaries. We did transfer one church to the Northern Plains, the Mitchell congregation, but were unable to come to greater agreement on adjusting the boundaries in a mutually beneficial way. We did discuss, however, joint meetings of the two classes to see ways we might build

cooperation and trust and pursue mutual activities especially in the area of church planting. At this time we decided to recommend to our respective missions committees pursuing a joint missions committee meeting in the next year, and perhaps even making such a meeting open to the pastors and elders of both classes so that such a meeting can be a broader time of fellowship and discussion between the two classes. I would recommend that our Standing Missions Committee consider this proposal.

I want to especially thank Rev. Michael McGee for his service as a clerk, without whose organization, insight, and attention to detail, my job would be much harder. I also want to thank Jesse Smith, the elder member of the executive committee, for all his wise contributions through the year.

And again I want to thank you for the privilege of being your president this past year. I've learned a great deal about the broader work of the Classis and the particular church of Jesus Christ of which I am a part, and for that I am thankful. To be used in some small but new way to advance the kingdom of Christ is such an incredible privilege and I am thankful for the grace of God who is mighty to make use of my meager gifts for His purposes.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,
Rev. Matthew Powell
President, South Central Classis

Note: At the conclusion of the report, a motion was approved to refer the matter of having the permanent Missions Committee meet with the permanent Missions Committee of the NPC to the Standing Missions Committee.

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

Stated Clerk's Report

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The following is the list of the duties performed by your Clerk since the 2022 Spring Classis meeting:

1. Recorded the business of the 2022 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, and the Informational Form on the Congregations of the Classis.
3. Corrected the errors identified by the Synodical Minutes of Classis Committee in the 2022 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the South Central Classis.
4. Per page 25 of the 2022 Abstract, sent the Classis President's Report on the State of the Church to the editor of the Reformed Herald.

5. Per pages 27-29 of the 2022 Abstract, informed the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the RCUS of the decision of the SCC to ratify Article 79 of the Constitution of the RCUS.
6. Submitted the following overtures to the Stated Clerk of the RCUS Synod:
 - a. Request for Benevolent Aid as noted on page 37 of the 2022 Abstract.
 - b. Request for Student Aid as noted on page 38 of the 2022 Abstract.
 - c. Request to redraw the classical boundaries between the South Central Classis and the Northern Plains Classis to include Grace Reformed Church, Mitchell, SD in the NPC as noted on page 40 of the 2022 Abstract.
 - d. Request for Ministerial Aid as noted on pages 40-41 of the 2022 Abstract.
 - e. Request for Missions Funding for Casper, WY, Manhattan, MT, and Omaha, NE as noted on pages 41-42 of the 2022 Abstract.
 - f. Request for approval of Covenant Reformed Chapel, Manhattan, MT as a synodical mission work as noted on page 42 of the 2022 Abstract.
7. Per page 38 of the 2022 Abstract, sent a letter to our Students for the Ministry reminding them of their responsibility specified in Standing Rule #15 of the RCUS Synod.
8. Per page 39 of the 2022 Abstract, sent a note of appreciation to Mr. Gary Maassen for his work in auditing our financial records.
9. Per page 40 of the 2022 Abstract, sent correspondence to the Stated Clerk of the Covenant East Classis informing him of our reception of Rev. Jay Fluck.
10. Per page 43 of the 2022 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 2022 Annual Meeting.
11. Prepared and emailed Executive Circulars, Volume 37, #'s 1-7 (see Classis Executive Committee Report) to Classis delegates.
12. In preparation for the 2023 Annual Meeting, your clerk performed the following duties:
 - a. Prepared and emailed a proposed Agenda, Services, and Order of Business.
 - b. Prepared and distributed the docket containing the reports to be considered at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
 - c. Completed and distributed the 2022 Numerical and Financial Statistics Report.
13. Your Clerk also served on the Executive Committee of Classis.

I would like to express my appreciation for Rev. Matthew Powell and Elder Jesse Smith in their work on the Executive Committee. Their input and guidance has been a tremendous help to me as I have served in this office over the past year.

Thank you for entrusting me with the work of the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis. It has been my privilege to serve you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael McGee

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

The Minutes of Synod Report

January 23, 2023

ATTN: Classes Clerks

RE: Minutes of Synod Report

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 276th Synod, there are two items that require action by the Classes, and several other matters of note:

1. The adopted Recommendation 3 of the Standing Judicial Committee (to amend Article 8 of the RCUS Constitution) will need to be brought to a ratification vote at the annual meetings of the Classes, and the results communicated to me.

That Article 8 of the RCUS Constitution would be amended by removing:

A congregation, whether independent or belonging to another denomination, which conforms to the requirements of the Reformed Church in the United States, may be admitted to membership.

And then replacing it with:

To facilitate churches transitioning from another denomination, or seeking to leave independence, a church or group of churches may be received as provisional members of a classis. Such church or churches shall be organic members of the Reformed Church in the United States, subject to its Constitution and creeds, and entitled to all rights, responsibilities, and privileges thereof, except that they cannot propose or vote on constitutional amendments. Provisional member churches may elect to withdraw without consequence for a period of up to two years, after which conforming to the requirements of the RCUS, they may be received as regular member churches. A classis, presbytery or denomination may seek provisional membership in the RCUS by member churches applying to the classes within whose bounds they exist.

Grounds: This gives such churches time to acclimate, as well as a Classis the ability to court a church which has confessional affinity to us. It also allows us to come alongside them and give them time to align with the RCUS.

[This motion passed with the required two-thirds majority. The Classes will vote on this amendment at their Spring meeting and if 2/3 are in favor the Constitution will be amended.] (Abstract 2022:82)

2. The adopted Recommendation 9 of the Standing Judicial Committee (to amend Article 95 of the RCUS Constitution from requiring 4 to only requiring 3 classes) will need to be brought to a ratification vote at the annual meetings of the Classes, and the results communicated to me.

From the report of the Special Committee to Study Classis boundaries about Synod amending the language of Article 95 to state, “The Synod is composed of at least three Classes....” That Synod change Article 95 accordingly. (It is understood that any amendment will need to be ratified by two-thirds of the classes.)

Grounds: It is constitutionally in order for the Synod to review this change.

[This motion passed with the required two-thirds majority. The Classes will vote on this amendment at their Spring meeting and if 2/3 are in favor the Constitution will be amended.] (Abstract 2022:83)

3. The 277th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 8–11, 2023, at Grace Reformed Church, Bakersfield, CA.

4. The Finances Committee has developed a new process for reporting both membership and financial statistics. While they will still be reckoned from January 1 – December 31, 2022 they are now to be reported by filling out electronic forms. The membership and financial forms are accessible at the links below. Elder Gary Maassen of the Permanent Finances Committee is the point of contact for any questions or difficulties. These links will be distributed to the congregational clerks by email shortly.

Membership Statistics:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceEhl6VbQ0QStndBQOPHrc_1T7WoAHc5A5_KMqZ5-eKMhZrQ/viewform

Financial Statistics:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrX82Ki4-GPkR-9vC6ywghnRy-4ARWcPqSh-ocZjF7TLY96Q/viewform>

5. Please review the Standing Rules of Synod (2022 Synod Abstract, pp.90–93).

6. Be reminded that any requests for ministerial aid must be accompanied by the ministerial aid request form and be received at least 14 days prior to the meeting of Synod in order to be considered.

7. Please remember to send necrologies to the Synod clerk in time for Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruben Zartman

Stated Clerk, RCUS

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Treasurer's Report

This year marks the 10th year as your Classis treasurer. There have been many changes over the years. When I started as treasurer, the books were completely kept by hand, now they are recorded using accounting software. We now utilize the bank's online automated bill pay for our monthly recurring checks. Last year we changed the fiscal year to run from April through March. This has already proven to be more efficient, and should prove easier for everyone to understand the Classis financial status, as two partial reports covering two different fiscal years no longer needs to be prepared, presented, and published.

The fiscal year change was relatively uneventful. All the churches in the Classis have met their guideline obligations on time. As a Classis, we were also able to meet our obligations to our mission works, the support for Heidelberg and New Geneva seminaries, Heidelberg Youth Camp, and our designated benevolence assistance. Our Mission fund also had a large increase with the transfer of funds from the prior Mercy Street work. With a Mission fund balance of over \$65,000, we are well positioned to support future mission works.

It has been a privilege to serve Classis as your treasurer for the past 10 years. I have witnessed brotherly love being practiced, men zealous for the building up and expanding of the church, a group with a heart for missions, and an overall desire to glorify God in the many ways that God has called them to serve. I am also aware that a regular change in treasurers is good for the fiscal responsibility for any organization. Last year I indicated that this would be my last year that I should serve as treasurer. I will be happy to help the new treasurer transition into their new position and serve as a resource throughout the year.

Thank you for the patience and grace you all have extended to me over the years. I pray that God will continue to bless every one of you and the churches that you represent, that He may strengthen you and help you, to uphold you with His righteous right hand. (Isa 41:10)

In His Service,
Scott Velgersdyk

Auditor's Opinion

Dear South Central Classis Members:

I have traced the deposits from the deposit slips to the bank statements from February 1, 2022 to March 18, 2023 and noted no exceptions.

I have also traced the checks paid from the bank statements to the paid invoices or other payment-request documentation from February 1, 2022 to March 18, 2023 and noted no exceptions.

No discrepancies were noted to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Bindert

INCOME & EXPENSES (April 1, 2022 – March 27, 2023)

INCOME

	<u>Church</u>	<u>Com. #</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Variance</u>
			\$84.20		
	Casper	32	\$2,784.00	\$4,866.60	\$2,088.00
	Sutton (E)	64	\$5,388.80	\$4,062.05	-\$1,326.75
	Greeley	60	\$5,052.00	\$5,052.00	\$0.00
	Rapid City	72	\$6,062.40	\$4,496.40	-\$1,566.00
	Sutton (H)	159	\$13,387.80	\$9,777.30	-\$3,610.50
	Omaha	31	\$2,610.20	\$2,044.70	-\$565.50
	Limon	34	\$2,862.80	\$5,146.55	\$2,283.75
	R. Springs	42	\$3,536.40	\$2,622.90	-\$913.50
	Vermillion	29	\$2,441.80	\$1,811.05	-\$630.75
	Lincoln	87	\$7,325.40	\$5,498.40	-\$1,827.00
	C. Springs	62	\$5,220.40	\$3,871.90	-\$1,348.50
	S. Falls	161	\$13,556.20	\$13,556.20	\$0.00
	Menno	136	\$11,451.20	\$8,623.70	-\$2,827.50
Total Guidelines		970	\$81,674.00	\$71,429.75	-\$10,244.25
Account Interest				\$421.04	
Mercy St. Transfer				\$23,046.13	
Total Income				\$94,896.92	

EXPENSES

<u>Guideline Payments</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>	<u>Paid</u>	
Heidelberg Youth Camp	\$6,066.00	\$5,820.00	
Heidelberg Seminary	\$3,538.50	\$3,538.48	
New Geneva Sem.	\$2,022.00	\$2,022.03	
<u>Missions</u>			
Christ Ref. – Casper	\$9,000.00	\$9,749.95	(Honoring Commitment)
Covn't. – Manhattan	\$30,000.00	\$18,000	(Total Pd. if FT Pastor)
St. John's (Omaha)	\$6,750.00	\$8,437.47	(Honoring Commitment)
Future Missions	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Missions	\$45,750.00	\$36,187.42	
<u>Classis Expenses</u>			
Equipment		\$0.00	
Officer Stipend		\$1,300.00	
Postage		\$0.00	
Print & Reproduction		\$976.68	
Supplies		\$89.45	
Travel Exp. Classis Mtg.		\$7,452.13	
Travel Exp. Ex. Cmte.		\$1,391.77	
Travel Exp. Missions		\$426.72	
Total Classis Expenses	\$12,950.00	\$11,636.75	
<u>Total Guideline</u>			
<u>Budget/Payments</u>	\$85,126.50	\$74,004.68	
<u>Other Expenses</u>			
Bank Svc. Charges		\$180.00	
<u>Total Expense</u>		\$74,184.68	
Net Cash Flow		\$36,490.60	

CHECKBOOK (April 1, 2022 – March 27, 2023)

Beginning Balance	\$ 111,405.79	<u>Mission Fund (Sub-fund of Checking)</u>	
Deposits	\$ 94,475.88	Starting Balance	\$ 42,238.00
Checks	\$ -74,004.68	Expenses	\$ ----
Interest	\$ 421.04	Additions (Mercy St. Transfer)	\$ 23,046.13
Bank Charges	\$ -180.00	Ending Balance	\$ 65,284.13
Ending Balance	\$ 132,118.03		
Variance	\$ 20,712.24		

GUIDELINE INCOME BY CATEGORY (April 1, 2022 – March 27, 2023)

<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

Classis Action: The report was referred to Standing Finance.

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 each pastoral charge and minister.

Classis Action: Took note of each report.

Constitutional Questions to Elders

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

1. *Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God?* All answered, “Yes.”
2. *Is careful attention given to the instruction of the youth for confirmation, the reception of members into the Church, and the Christian nurture of the members?* All answered, “Yes.”
- 3a. *In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation, is visitation faithfully preformed?* All answered, “Yes,” except for Elder Chris Bradley from Limon, CO, who answered, “No;” Elder Michael Burbach from Lincoln, NE, who

answered “Needs Improvement;” and Elder Dave Kimble from Rock Springs, WY, who answered “Working Towards 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.”
- 7b. *Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?* All answered, “Yes.”

Report of Numerical and Financial Statistics (pp. 64-68)

The Stated Clerk presented the report.

Classis Action: The report was adopted.

Reports from Classis’ Fraternal Delegates

Moulton read the report of his visit to the Midwest Presbytery Meeting of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (p. 32). Classis delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions of the fraternal delegate.

Classis Action: Took note of each report.

Addresses by Delegates and Visitors from Other Reformed Churches

There were no delegates present from other Reformed churches.

Reports of Special Committees

Provide Directives for the Work of Permanent Committees of the SCC

Your committee presents the following directives for the work of Permanent committee of South Central Classis. We believe it would be best to submit these to the delegates for review and request the committees to employ them and to report any feedback to the Special Committee for a final presentation of directive to be approved in 2024. Once the directives are approved, they should be printed in the Abstract.

Executive

Purpose: As stated in Article 91 of the RCUS Constitution, “The Executive Committee shall aid in stimulating the spiritual life of the Church by coordinating the work of the Committees of the Classis; preparing the order of business for the meetings of Classis, and, with the pastor loci, preparing the program of the Classis meetings.”

Specific Duties:

1. Regularly pray for and encourage the work of the South Central Classis.
2. Address matters of the South Central Classis in between meetings of Classis as delineated in Article 91 of the RCUS Constitution. Only the following matters shall be determined by means of circular letter:
 - a. Dissolve a pastoral relation.
 - b. Dismiss or receive a minister or licentiate.
 - c. Confirm a call.
 - d. Appoint a committee to ordain a licentiate and install a pastor.
 - e. Permit a minister or a licentiate to serve as a regular supply of a vacant congregation.
 - f. Authorize the organization of new congregations.

Further duties include:

- a. Provide counsel and advice to the Consistory and Spiritual Council of a vacant charge and aid the Consistory in securing a pastor.
 - b. Assist a minister in obtaining a suitable field of labor.
 - c. Serve as advisors in the amicable adjustment of disputes in the administration of the affairs of the congregations or charges of the Classis.
3. Regularly communicate to delegates the activity of the executive committee (RCUS Constitution Art. 111).
4. Maintain a record of the executive committee and submit to Classis.
5. Ensure that actions of Classis are addressed in coordination with permanent committees.
6. Identify key issues raised at Classis and incorporate potential resolutions, recommendations and information in coordination with permanent committee chairs for the subsequent meeting of Classis.
7. The committee should be aware of further duties as they relate to the section on discipline in the RCUS Constitution.

Yearly Objectives:

1. Each meeting of the executive committee is to include a time of prayer for both spiritual and numerical growth of the RCUS. Each member of the executive committee likewise personally commits to such time in prayer.
2. Conduct executive committee business efficiently, timely and in full transparency in reliance on God's grace.
3. Establish a pattern of communication with permanent committees to encourage completion of Classis actions specific for each committee; proactively identify key issues that will contribute to the spiritual life of the church.
4. Establish a line of communication with the Synod Executive Committee to foster understanding between Synod and Classis committees.
5. Draft a Scope of Work in coordination with permanent committee chairs. Included in the Scope of Work is a statement as to how that committee impacts the current fiscal year focus. Once completed, the Scope of Work is to be circularized among Classis delegates.
6. Prepare for the annual meeting of Classis in such a way that:
 - a. Permanent committee and special committee reports are received by the specified deadline.
 - b. Specific recommendations are brought forward to address the current fiscal year focus directly or indirectly.
 - c. All meeting components are planned and organized to allow for thoughtful and purposeful discussion and decisions toward managing resources, developing strategies, reinforcing the unified work of the church and edifying delegates.

Missions

Specific Duties:

1. The convener is to call for a meeting soon after Classis for the purpose of selecting a chairman.
2. Regularly pray for the work of RCUS home missions.
3. Promote RCUS home missions through thoughtful and direct communication toward elevating the importance of home missions and eliciting response to a call to action.
4. Provide for visits by two members of the committee of all mission works of the Classis.
5. Facilitate requests for Synodical funding in coordination with Classis funding for proposed or current home missions works in a way that both enhances early viability and leads to long-term financial self-sufficiency.
6. Be aware of the Synodical Home Missions Manual and implement all directions contained therein.
7. Submit a report of activities and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis by four weeks prior to the Annual Spring Meeting.

Yearly Objectives:

1. Pray that the Lord would raise up men for the Gospel Ministry.
2. A meeting shall be called by the convenor soon after Classis for the purpose of selecting a chairman.
3. Check the work of the committee from the previous year and ascertain as to any unfinished work and check the actions of Classis as to work assigned to the committee.
4. Submit a report of activities and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis by four weeks prior to the Annual Spring Meeting.

Christian Education

Purpose: The purpose of the Permanent Christian Education Committee is to provide oversight of all that is needed to educate/disciple God's people in the Word of God.

Specific Duties:

1. A meeting shall be called by the convenor soon after Classis for the purpose of selecting a chairman.
2. Regularly pray for the equipping of pastors and elders in the work of teaching, preaching and shepherding responsibilities to include providing encouragement and support for the Christian education of our children.
3. Evaluate all enquiries related to Christian education within the South Central Classis.
4. Facilitate extended learning opportunities and support systems for pastors and elders.
5. Submit a report of activities and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis by four weeks prior to the Annual Spring meeting.

Yearly Objectives:

1. Each meeting of the Christian Education Committee is to include a time of prayer for strengthening and equipping pastors and elders in in the work of preaching, teaching and shepherding responsibilities.
2. Consider, develop and recommend to Classis pastoral support systems that may include such items as a model sabbatical program and safe Biblical counseling availability for pastors.

Interchurch Relations

Purpose: The purpose of the Interchurch Relations committee is to foster and maintain excellent communications with Classes and Presbyteries who are in close proximity and with whom the RCUS is in Fraternal Relations.

Specific Duties:

1. A meeting shall be called by the convenor soon after Classis for the purpose of selecting a chairman.
2. Coordinate the attendance of Classis delegate(s) at regional assemblies of fraternal denominations.

3. Submit a report of activities and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis by four weeks prior to the Annual Spring Meeting.

Yearly Objectives:

1. Regularly pray for God-honoring relationships between the South Central Classis and Classes and Presbyteries with which the RCUS is in Fraternal Relations.
2. Check the work of the committee from the previous year and ascertain as to any unfinished work and check the actions of Classis as to work assigned to the committee.

Candidates & Credentials

Purpose: To assist the Classis in its responsibilities regarding the examination of applicants for the ministry, and in the necessary attention given to the education of pious men for the Gospel ministry. (RCUS Constitution Art. 82)

Specific Duties:

1. The convener is to call for a meeting soon after Classis for the purpose of selecting a chairman.
2. Regularly pray that the Lord of the harvest would call pious men for the Gospel ministry.
3. Interview and provide recommendation(s) to Classis when a student or potential student seeks to be received under Care of Classis. (RCUS Constitution Art. 17)
4. Maintain contact and receive reports from students under care of Classis. (RCUS Constitution Art. 17)
5. Provide advice to students for the ministry who are seeking tuition aid as to the requirements spelled out in Synodical Standing Rule #15.
6. Prepare all candidates for appropriate examinations who are applying for licensure, ordination, or in the case of ordained men from another denomination seeking ministry in the RCUS. (RCUS Constitution Art. 82)
7. Prepare and conduct examinations at Classis meetings of all applicants for licensure, ordination, or in the case of ordained men from another denomination seeking ministry in the RCUS. (RCUS Constitution Art. 20, 82)
8. When a charge is seeking to declare an ordained minister from another denomination as a candidate for the office of minister, the committee shall conduct an interview of orthodoxy and intent and provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee as to his fitness. (RCUS Constitution Art. 35)
9. Prepare and conduct an appropriate exam of ministers transferring into the Classis from another Classis within the RCUS. Such an exam may be conducted either by the committee itself or before the Classis. (RCUS Constitution Art. 87)

Yearly Objectives:

1. Pray that the Lord would raise up men for the Gospel Ministry.

2. Check the work of the committee from the previous year and ascertain as to any unfinished work and check the actions of Classis as to work assigned to the committee.
3. Submit a report of activities and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis by four weeks prior to the Annual Spring Meeting.

Heidelberg Youth Camp

This committee is a joint committee with members comprised of South Central and Northern Plains Classes.

Purpose: To provide oversight of the annual HYC in coordination with the HYC Director and to ensure a camp experience designed to support the spiritual growth of RCUS covenant youth.

Specific Duties:

1. The convener is to call for a meeting soon after Classis for the purpose of selecting a chairman.
2. Regularly pray for those attending HYC, including the covenant youth, the HYC Director, lecturers and all those who volunteer in support of camp activities.
3. Recruit, approve and provide oversight of the HYC Director.
4. Review and approve the annual theme and subjects for lessons.
5. Review and approve the annual HYC budget.
6. Review the camper and counselor evaluations and recommend improvements based on the evaluations to the HYC Director.
7. Support HYC organizational efforts as directed by the HYC Director.

Yearly Objectives:

1. Identify, develop, implement and evaluate 1-3 innovative practices each year designed to further enhance the HYC experience.
2. Develop and approve a position description for the HYC Director.
3. Submit a report of activities and recommendations to the Clerk of Classis four weeks prior to the Annual Spring Meeting.

Recommendations

Your committee brings the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: That the directives presented for the work of permanent committees be referred to the delegates for review and that each committee give particular attention to its directives and submit suggested changes to this committee.

Recommendation #2: That the committee be continued.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maynard Koerner, George Horner, Randall Klynsma, Roger Gallimore, John Savage

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

Reports of Standing Committees

Benevolences

The Committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the Classis approve benevolent aid to St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, NE, in the amount of \$2,250 per month to partially fund a salary for Lee Johnson, Pastor Emeritus, for the next classical year.

Recommendation #2, that the Classis submit an overture to the 277th Synod of the RCUS requesting benevolent aid to St. John's Reformed Church in Lincoln, NE in the amount of \$4,000 per month to partially fund a salary for Lee Johnson, Pastor Emeritus, for the next synodical year. This proposed overture would be contingent on St. John's Reformed Church providing a three-year budget and a report outlining the church's plan for getting off such aid as required by the RCUS GUIDELINES FOR BENEVOLENT AND DIACONAL AID (Abstract, 2008:75-76).

GROUNDS: The circumstances regarding Pastor Johnson's health necessitate extraordinary relief in the short-term. We understand that this level of support is not sustainable in the long-term, but we believe it is warranted in order to provide adequate transition funding for the Johnson family.

Rev. David Fagrey; Elders Michael Mehlhaf, Marty Scott

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

Education & Student Aid

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, from overture 12, that Classis submit an overture to the 277th Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$1,250 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, SD. He is enrolled at Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Recommendation #2, from overture 13, that Classis submit an overture to the 277th Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$9,960 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 Greeley, CO. He is enrolled at Mid-America Reformed Seminary.

Recommendation #3, from overture 14, that contingent on Mr. Chris Nelson being received as a Student for the Ministry, Classis submit an overture to the 277th Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the current and upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$9,100 and \$400 for book for Mr. Nelson. Mr. Nelson is a member of St. John's Reformed Church Lincoln, NE, and currently enrolled at Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Recommendation #4, from overture 15, that Classis submit an overture to the 277th Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$3,050 and \$300 for books for Mr. Chris Bradley, a student under care of the South Central Classis. Bradley is a member of Providence Reformed Church Limon, CO. He is enrolled at New Geneva Theological Seminary.

Recommendation #5, from overture 16, that contingent on Mr. Larry Lynch being received as a Student for the Ministry, Classis submit an overture to the 277th Synod of the RCUS requesting tuition assistance for the current and upcoming synodical year in the amount of \$11,100 and \$400 for books for Mr. Lynch. Mr. Lynch is a member of Trinity Reformed Church Sioux Falls, SD, and currently enrolled at Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Recommendation #6, from recommendation #1 of the HYC committee report, that the budget and registration fees be adopted.

Recommendation #7, from recommendation #2 of the HYC committee report, that the theme of “*Born Again Identity*” be adopted as the theme of HYC 2023.

Recommendation #8, from recommendation #3 of the HYC committee report, that the offerings collected during HYC 2023 be designated for Hope Haven (first offering) and the RCUS Kenya Work (second offering) as coordinated by Providence RCUS in Lodi, CA.

Recommendation #9, from recommendation #4 of the HYC committee report, that congregations take note of the registration deadlines for early registration (by May 31st) and final registration (no later than June 30th), and that congregations be encouraged to submit registrations as early as possible, take note.

Recommendation #10, that the permanent HYC committee consider placing a cap upon the amount of counselors in attendance due the continued rising costs of camp registrations (a \$10 increase from last year).

Recommendation #11, that the Permanent Christian Education Committee evaluate the necessity and desirability of funding RCUS approved institutions at the local classical level and make a report to the next annual meeting.

Revs. J.P. Mosley, George Horner; Elders Michael Burbach, Don Oliver

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted except for Recommendation #9, which was a take note.

Examination & Licensure

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, to proceed with the licensure exam of Mr. Chris Bradley according to the order presented in the Agenda.

Recommendation #2, that the licensure exam of Mr. Chris Bradley be declared satisfactory.

Recommendation #3, that Mr. Bradley's ordination exam will be on the following subjects: English Bible, Creeds, and Soteriology, but not limited to these subjects.

Recommendation #4, that Mr. Bradley complete an 8-month internship under the oversight of Rev. Chris Moulton before his ordination exam, per Standing Rule #20.

Regarding recommendation #5, that Mr. Bradley be removed from the list of students under care, take note.

Regarding recommendation #6, per Overture #19 received from the Stated Clerk of the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS, that Rev. Kevin Carroll was received as a Minister of the Word with the Northern Plains Classis of the RCUS on March 8, 2023, per the letter of dismissal received from the Stated Clerk of the South Central Classis, take note.

Recommendation #7, that Mr. Chris Nelson, Mr. Larry Lynch, and Mr. George Young be recognized as students under the care of Classis.

Regarding recommendation #8, that Mr. Dave Johnson, Mr. Josh Savage, Mr. Jesse Smith, and Mr. Matthew Dawn are the continuing students under the care of Classis, take note.

Recommendation #9, that the permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee work with Mr. Dawn in the coming year to help him prepare for a potential licensure exam at a future date.

Regarding recommendation #10, that South Central Classis congregations be encouraged to offer up regular prayers on behalf of all SCC students under care, for Mr. Dawn as he seeks a pastoral calling, and for Mr. Bradley as he takes up his work as a licentiate and prepares for his ordination exam, take note.

Revs. Joe Vusich, Chris Moulton; Elders Dave Kimble, Jim Rydell

Note, The following occurred during the report:

An examination was conducted for Mr. Chris Bradley in the areas of Piety and Intent, English Bible, Doctrine of Scripture, Theology Proper, Christology, Anthropology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, Creeds, Church and RCUS History, Historical Philosophy, Hermeneutics, Apologetics, RCUS Constitution, and Practica. Questions were also taken from the floor.

Upon sustaining a satisfactory exam, Mr. Bradley was informed of the decision of the Classis. He then read aloud and signed the statement set forth in Article 22 of the RCUS Constitution attesting to his adherence to the doctrines and discipline of the RCUS.

During the report, a motion was made and approved to have the permanent Candidates and Credentials Committee develop a plan which allows for a public interview on the floor of Classis of individuals seeking to become students for the ministry and that this plan be presented to the next annual meeting of the Classis.

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted, with Recommendation #2 being carried by a two-thirds vote. Recommendations #5, #6, #8 & #10 were a take note.

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 total budget for the 2023-2024 classis year be set at \$93,765.00, and that the classical guideline per communicant member for the upcoming year be allocated as follows:

Classical Dues: \$14.18	Heidelberg Seminary: \$3.50
Missions: \$41.96	New Geneva Seminary: \$2.00
Benevolence: \$27.36	Total: \$95.00
Heidelberg Youth Camp: \$6.00	

Recommendation #5, that Classis pay the submitted travel expenses in the amount of \$8197.98:

Jim Rydell, \$740.15	Michael Mehlhaff, \$800.41	Michael McGee, \$838.40
George Horner, \$560.68	George Young, \$327.50	Chris Bradley, \$468.98
Carl Gobelman, \$698.23	Jim Connelly, \$301.30	Joe Vusich, \$293.44
David Johnson, \$399.55	Loren Huber, \$741.46	Roger Gallimore \$337.98
Maynard Koerner, \$799.10	Randall Klynsma, \$890.80	

Recommendation #6, that the treasurer be directed to open a money market savings account.

Recommendation #7, that the treasurer be authorized to transfer funds between the savings account and the general checking account as needed or directed by the classis.

Recommendation #8, that any interest earned each year be allocated the missions fund.

Rev. Travis Grassmid; Elders Fred Hoffman, Loren Huber, Scott Velgersdyk

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

Judicial

The following recommendations were approved during the report:

Recommendation #1, according to overture 17, that Rev. Jon Blair be granted the position of Pastor Emeritus of Grace Reformed Church, Greeley, CO without compensation.

Recommendation #2, according to overture 18, that Rev. Dr. Lee Johnson be granted the position of Pastor Emeritus of St. John's Reformed Church of Lincoln, NE.

Revs. J.P. Mosley, George Horner; Elders Michael Burbach, Don Oliver

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted.

Ministerial Aid

The Committee brought the following recommendation:

Recommendation #1, that Classis submit an overture to the 277th 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. (same as last year)
2. Rev. Hart in the amount of \$1,950 per month. (same as last year)
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)
10. Mrs. Ginger Brice in the amount of \$1,600 per month. (new request)

Rev. David Fagrey; Elders Michael Mehlhaf, Marty Scott

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

Minutes of Classis

The committee brought the following recommendation:

Recommendation #1, your committee received the draft minutes from pages 1-14 from the Stated Clerk and made corrections which were then incorporated into the revised minutes, take note.

Rev. Randall Klynsma; Elder Jim Connelly

Classis Action: The report was adopted. Recommendation #1 was a take note.

Missions

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the South Central Classis congratulate and commend Christ Reformed Church of Casper, WY, in the diligent work of planting a congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, that this church no longer be identified as a Home Mission Church, and that SCC offer a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Recommendation #2, that the South Central Classis overture the 2023 meeting of Synod to no longer list Christ Reformed Church of Casper, WY, as a Home Mission of the Synod.

Recommendation #3, that the South Central Classis support the work in Omaha in the amount of \$4,500 for the upcoming classical year (this represents a reduction of \$2,250 which is 10% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #4, that the South Central Classis overture the 277th Synod of the RCUS for funding on behalf of Omaha Reformed Chapel, Omaha, NE, in the amount of \$3,600 for the upcoming synodical year (this represents a reduction of \$1,800 from the current year which is 10% of the amount originally received).

Recommendation #5, that Classis approved funding for Covenant Reformed Chapel in Manhattan, MT, in the amount of \$3,333 per month for the next classical year once a missionary pastor has taken up the labor.

Recommendation #6, that Classis overture the 277th Synod of the RCUS for funding for Covenant Reformed Chapel in Manhattan, MT, in the amount of \$1,666 per month for the next synodical year once a missionary pastor has taken up the labor.

Recommendation #7, that up to \$50,000 from the Missions Fund be made available to Covenant Reformed Chapel in Manhattan, MT, for the securing of a building.

Regarding recommendation #8, that the Permanent Missions Committee of the South Central Classis be reminded of the direction given by the South Central Classis in 2022 to develop a 3-5 year strategic plan, take note.

Recommendation #9, that the Permanent Missions Committee of the South Central Classis be directed to seek a consultation with the Permanent Missions Committee of the Northern Plains Classis concerning strategic plans for planting new churches.

Revs. Maynard Koerner, Carl Gobelman, George Horner, Elder Chris Bradley

Note: During the report, a prayer of thanksgiving for the work in Casper, WY was offered.

Classis Action: The report and its recommendations were adopted except for Recommendation #8, which was a take note.

Nominations

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the following nominations were made for the 2023-2024 Permanent Committees:

Executive: Powell, McGee, J. Smith

Missions: Koerner, Grassmid, Opp, Fred Hofmann, Daniel Mettler, Bradley

Christian Education: Klynsma, Henry, Oliver, Michael Burbach

Interchurch Relations: Mosley, Gobelman, Huber, Velgersdyk

Candidates & Credentials: Vusich, Moulton, Kimble, Rydell, Horner

Heidelberg Youth Camp: Gobelman, Fagrey, Nuss, Josh Savage, L. Johnson

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

(Committee convener is underlined; *Denotes a special committee.)

Rev. Harvey Opp; Elders Jesse Smith, Loren Huber

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation were adopted.

Services

The committee brought the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1, that the invitation by Emmanuel Reformed Church in Sutton, NE, to host the Spring meeting of South Central Classis on March 18-19, 2024, be accepted.

Grounds: Article 22 of our standing rules states that classis shall meet on the 3rd Monday of March if Easter is during the 4th week of March.

Recommendation #2, that the following delegates be excused for their lateness or absence from classis:

a. That Rev. Scott Henry be excused from all sessions of classis.

b. That Elder Jesse Smith and Rev. Chris Moulton be excused for their lateness to classis.

Recommendation #3, that the South Central Classis send the following note of appreciation to the brothers and sisters of Christ Reformed Church in Casper, WY, and that this note be printed in their upcoming Sunday bulletin:

South Central Classis extends our heartfelt thanks for your hosting of our 38th Annual Meeting. We truly appreciate your kind and generous hospitality, including the delicious meals you provided. We thank our God for you, and ask Him to richly bless you as you grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Rev. Harvey Opp; Elders Loren Huber, Jesse Smith

Classis Action: The report and its recommendation was adopted.

Expression of Appreciation to the Host Congregation

Item was addressed by the Standing Services Committee (p. 59).

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 2023 Spring Meeting of the South Central Classis was adjourned at 8:44 PM on Tuesday, March 28th, until the convening of the next Spring Meeting, on March 18, 2024 at Emmanuel Reformed Church, Sutton, NE.

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

NECROLOGY ~ ELDER RAY MILLER

Ray Mettler, age 100 of Menno, SD died Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno, SD. The funeral service was Monday, October 17, 2022, at Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD.

Ray served as an elder at Zion Reformed Church from 1975-81 and again from 1988-94.

He was born to Jacob F. and Magdalena (Mettler) Mettler on April 7, 1922. He was baptized and confirmed in Kassel Reformed Church, rural Menno, SD. He married Velma Haisch on September 19, 1943, at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, SD. They had 3 children. They farmed north of Menno until his semi-retirement in 1984, at which time their son Ronald and family took over the farm and the Polled Hereford cattle operation which Ray began in the 50's. He never lost interest in his cattle. It was his livelihood. He was a member of Zion Reformed Church serving in numerous ways including choir, Sunday school superintendent and offices of Deacon and Elder. He also served on the Board of directors of the Lower James River Sub-district.

He is survived by sons Ronald of Menno, SD and Earl (Lisa) of Albuquerque, NM, and daughter June Aisenbrey of Sioux Falls, SD. Five grandchildren Kevin and Brian (Teresa) Mettler, Dani Mettler, and Cameron (Chelsey) and Marc (Bekah) Aisenbrey. Five great grandchildren, Brooklyn and Jaxen Mettler, Emerson, Luca and Creighton Aisenbrey. Sisters in law Carol Mettler and Pat Mettler. He was preceded in death by his wife, granddaughter Emily Mettler, grandson Brett Mettler, daughter in law, Marcia, and son in law, James. His siblings Erna Tueting, Cecilia Hueneman, Elsie Herrboldt, Helen Handel, Calvin, Gordon and Gerold Mettler.

2022 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	Casper WY	C. Springs CO	Greeley CO	Limon CO	Lincoln NE	Manhattan MT	Menno SD	Omaha NE
Number of Elders	3	3	4	3	3		4	0
Number of Deacons	1	2	3	2	4		4	0
2021 Communicants	33	62	60	34	87		136	26
Rec'd. – Confirmation	0	0	2	3	1	3	0	0
Rec'd. – Dismission	3	10	1	5	0	3	0	0
Rec'd. – Profess Faith	3	2	1	1	0	12	0	2
Total Received	6	12	4	9	1	18	0	2
Total Old/New Members	39	74	64	43	88	18	136	28
Lost by Dismissal	0	5	1	1	2	0	1	4
Lost by Erase/Discipline	2	9	0	0	0	0	4	4
Lost by Death	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
Total Lost	2	14	2	1	2	0	9	8
2022 Communicants	37	60	62	42	86	18	127	20
Unconfirmed Members	38	26	21	21	23	4	18	5
Total Baptized Members	75	86	83	63	109	22	145	25
Number of Families	19	29	35	18	40	9	73	11
Children in S.S.	31	26	12	17	10	7	11	5
Adult Baptisms	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Infant Baptisms	6	1	2	2	1	3	2	1
Total Baptisms	6	2	2	3	1	3	2	1
Mem. Rec'd. L. Supper	37	58	64	42	86	18	118	24
Times L. Supper Served	12	12	13	12	6	2	4	6

2021 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS (cont'd.)

R. City SD	R. Springs WY	S. Falls SD	Sutton NE (E)	Sutton NE (H)	Vermillion SD	2022 Totals	2021 Totals	Difference
4	2	6	3	4	2	41	43	-2
2	1	6	3	4	2	34	34	0
72	42	161	64	159	29	965	1,042	-77
3	0	3	0	1	2	18	13	5
1	1	6	0	0	0	30	39	-9
7	4	3	4	1	0	40	22	18
11	5	12	4	2	2	88	74	14
83	47	173	68	161	31	1,050	1,116	-66
2	0	3	0	2	0	21	29	-8
3	1	0	2	6	1	32	38	-6
2	0	0	2	3	1	13	13	0
7	1	3	4	11	2	66	80	-14
76	46	170	64	150	29	987	1,036	-49
29	18	55	0	42	7	307	322	-15
105	64	225	64	192	36	1,294	1,358	-64
42	26	79	36	104	13	534	553	-19
22	12	48	0	33	6	240	299	-59
4	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	3
1	1	4	0	3	0	27	21	6
5	1	4	0	3	0	33	24	9
76	40	122	59	160	29	933	968	-35
6	12	6	6	6	6	109	107	2

2021 FINANCIAL STATISTICS

	Receipts Reg. Sun. Offerings	Receipts Special Offerings	Receipts Other Sources	Total Receipts	Budgeted Synodical Funds	Budgeted Classical Funds
Casper WY	\$95,478	\$1,500	\$29,054	\$126,032	\$7,832	\$2,088
C. Springs CO	\$233,560	\$17,569	\$0	\$251,129	\$15,404	\$3,872
Greeley CO	\$164,169	\$10,892	\$0	\$175,061	\$12,552	\$4,969
Limon CO	\$82,244	\$2,177	\$689	\$85,110	\$7,980	\$2,283
Lincoln NE	\$134,685	\$3,207	\$65,124	\$203,234	\$21,874	\$5,498
Manhattan MT	\$74,810	\$0	\$25,000	\$99,810	\$0	\$0
Menno SD	\$203,942	\$49,607	\$0	\$253,549	\$34,122	\$8,623
Omaha NE	\$75,832	\$11,540	\$17,918	\$106,295	\$7,782	\$2,045
R. City SD	\$312,945	\$0	\$0	\$312,945	\$18,184	\$4,496
R. Springs WY	\$143,832	\$40,500	\$0	\$184,332	\$10,484	\$2,623
S. Falls SD	\$301,420	\$20,310	\$83,422	\$405,152	\$39,825	\$13,451
Sutton NE (E)	\$165,599	\$30,019	\$0	\$195,618	\$15,476	\$4,062
Sutton NE (H)	\$280,911	\$26,907	\$7,608	\$315,608	\$40,558	\$9,777
Vermillion SD	\$79,314	\$0	\$3,591	\$82,905	\$3,789	\$1,811
2022 Totals	\$2,273,931	\$214,228	\$207,406	\$2,696,970	\$235,862	\$65,598

2021 FINANCIAL STATISTICS (cont'd.)

	Giving, Other RCUS Causes	Giving, Other Non-RCUS Causes	Other General Expenses	Total Disbursements	Value of Church Building	Value of Parsonage
Casper WY	\$600	\$1,550	\$116,741	\$128,811	\$0	\$0
C. Springs CO	\$12,177	\$2,845	\$126,290	\$160,588	\$0	\$0
Greeley CO	\$0	\$11,713	\$120,321	\$149,555	\$242,000	\$158,000
Limon CO	\$0	\$3,500	\$88,966	\$95,966	\$75,000	\$0
Lincoln NE	\$0	\$1,633	\$101,204	\$130,210	\$391,200	\$191,100
Manhattan MT	\$8,610	\$0	\$43,240	\$51,850	\$0	\$0
Menno SD	\$76,466	\$11,998	\$132,106	\$263,315	\$500,000	\$375,000
Omaha NE	\$0	\$500	\$95,968	\$106,295	\$160,000	\$0
R. City SD	\$17,500	\$22,800	\$231,388	\$294,368	\$1,138,500	\$337,900
R. Springs WY	\$0	\$0	\$117,680	\$130,787	\$240,000	Included
S. Falls SD	\$3,710	\$17,500	\$340,288	\$414,774	\$2,326,778	\$0
Sutton NE (E)	\$1,158	\$12,363	\$94,351	\$127,980	\$525,000	\$180,000
Sutton NE (H)	\$0	\$48,719	\$181,493	\$280,547	\$800,000	\$100,000
Vermillion SD	\$550	\$711	\$76,046	\$82,907	\$350,000	\$180,000
2022 Totals	\$112,161	\$135,832	\$1,822,842	\$2,366,102	\$6,748,478	\$1,147,000

2021 FINANCIAL STATISTICS (cont'd.)

	Property Improvements	Present Property Debts	Debt Paid in 2021	Total Communicant Members from Previous Year	Giving per Communicant to Synod	Giving per Communicant to Classis	Giving per Communicant to RCUS
Casper WY	\$0	\$0	\$0	32	\$245	\$65	\$310
C. Springs CO	\$0	\$0	\$0	62	\$248	\$62	\$507
Greeley CO	\$0	\$0	\$0	60	\$209	\$83	\$292
Limon CO	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	35	\$228	\$65	\$293
Lincoln NE	\$0	\$0	\$0	87	\$251	\$63	\$315
Manhattan MT	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$478
Menno SD	\$7,955	\$0	\$0	127	\$268	\$67	\$938
Omaha NE	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	26	\$299	\$78	\$2,875
R. City SD	\$16,973	\$0	\$0	72	\$253	\$62	\$558
R. Springs WY	\$0	\$0	\$0	46	\$228	\$57	\$285
S. Falls SD	\$0	\$715,015	\$61,816	161	\$247	\$84	\$354
Sutton NE (E)	\$5,547	\$0	\$0	64	\$242	\$323	\$323
Sutton NE (H)	\$9,882	\$0	\$0	159	\$255	\$62	\$317
Vermillion SD	\$0	\$0	\$0	29	\$131	\$62	\$212
2022 Totals	\$77,357	\$715,015	\$61,816	960	\$2,925	\$1,133	\$7,579

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 4th Monday of March, but if the 4th Monday is in the week before Easter, Classis shall meet on the 3rd 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, p. 34)

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, p. 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.