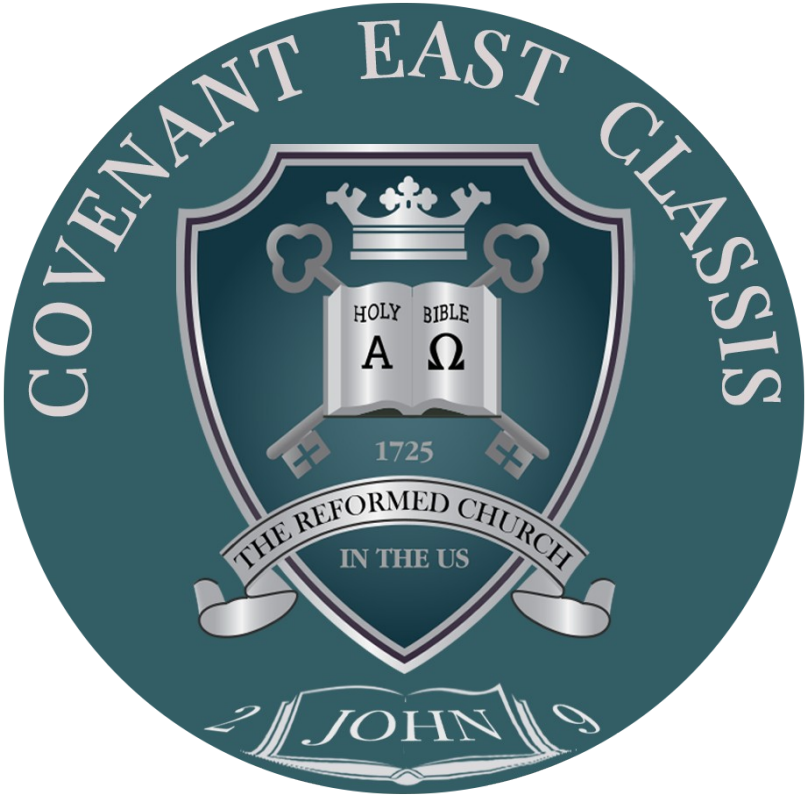
The Covenant East Classis

2025 Abstract of the Minutes



Spring Meeting
March 4th-5th, A.D. 2025
Peace Reformed Church
Napoleon, Ohio

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Informational Summary

Guideline for Giving

General Fund:	$20.00
Missions:	$40.00
Benevolence Fund:	$0.00
Student Aid:	$8.00
Total:	**$68.00 per communicant**

Officers of Covenant East Classis

President:	Rev. Samuel Rodriguez
Vice-President:	Rev. Chuck Muether
Stated Clerk:	Rev. James Grossmann
Treasurer:	Elder Alan Hermmann

Treasurer Contact Information

Mr. Alan Hermmann
14620 County Rd 31
Hamburg, MN 55339
(952) 288-4364

Permanent Committees of Classis

(Underline indicates Convener)

Executive Committee: Rodriguez; Grossmann; Van Heest
Candidates/Credentials: Groseclose; Macedo; Wright; Drewes
Church Camp: Kron; Stuebbe; Dawn; Grossmann; Schnabel
Communications/Publications: Muether; Herrmann; Luquette; Campbell
Interchurch Relations: Carr; Nelson; Witt
Missions: Kron; Baas; Lau; Macedo

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2024 Directory for Covenant East Classis

Ministers of the Word

Altman, Steve

Campbell, Christopher (Northland, Kansas City)

Carr, Steve (Grace, Arkansas)

Dawn, Matthew (Peace, Garner)

Groseclose, Win

Grossmann, James (Salem Ebenezer, Manitowoc)

Kron, Ryan (Emmaus Road, Edina)

Larson, Mark (Retired)

Macedo, Breno

Muether, Charles (Immanuel, Pella)

Potter, Ron (Retired)

Rodriguez, Samuel (Covenant, Gettysburg)

Sawtelle, James

Schnabel, Daniel (St. Paul's, Hamburg)

Sorensen, Kyle

Primarius Elders

Barker, Chuck (Grace Arkansas)

Demland, Tim (Peace, Napoleon)

Hermmann, Orrin L. (St. Paul's, Hamburg)

Lau, Graydon (Peace, Garner)

Luquette, Dennis (Covenant, Gettysburg)

Nelson, Ben (Redeemer, Golden Valley)

Stock, Larry (Salem Ebenezer, Manitowoc)

Van Heest, Walt (Emmaus Road, Edina)

Witt, Luther (Northland, Kansas City)

Wright, Dan (Heritage, Waymart)

Secundus Elders

Baas, Michael (Northland, Kansas City)

Drewes, Jim (Peace, Napoleon)

Foster, Bob (Covenant, Gettysburg)

Kangas, Rob (Redeemer, Golden Valley)

Reimann, Tracy

Rothwell, Dustin (Emmaus Road, Edina)

Stuebbe, Steve (Salem Ebenezer, Manitowoc)

Students Under Care

Hennen, Andrew

Nelson, John

Schmieg, Dale

Churches and Mission Works

Rogers, ARKANSAS, 72756 ---------- (479) 372-1108
Grace RCUS, 3318 N. 2nd St., Rogers, AR
Mail: 3320 N 2nd St., Rogers, AR 72756
Pastor: Rev. Steven Carr (Wife: Crystal)
Service Times: Worship – 11 AM; SS 10 AM & 5:30 PM Worship
Email: srutherford77@gmail.com
Website: www.gracereformednwa.org

Garner, IOWA, 50438 ---------- (641) 923-3060
Peace RCUS, 1907 200th Street, Garner, IA
(3 Miles south of Garner on US 69)
Pastor: Matthew Dawn
Service Times: Worship – 10:30 AM; Sunday School – 9:30 AM
Email: prcgarner@gmail.com Website: www.peacereformedchurch.org

Pella, IOWA, 50219 ---------- (641) 295-9264
Immanuel Reformed Fellowship, 612 Franklin St., Pella, IA
Mail: 310 Prarie St., Pella, IA 50219
Pastor: Rev. Charles Muether (Wife: Kristie)
Service Times: Worship – 9:30 AM; Sunday School – 10:45 AM
Email: chuckmuether@thekirkside.com

Edina, MINNESOTA, 55439 ---------- (612) 751-2096
Emmaus Road RCUS, 6817 Antrim Road, Edina, MN
Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kron (Wife: Colleen)
Service Times: 10:30 AM; SS 9:30 AM (Sept-May)
Email: pastor@emmausrcus.org Website: www.emmausrcus.org

Golden Valley, MINNESOTA, 55422 ---------- (763) 417-9835
Redeemer RCUS, 1300 Lilac Dr. N., Golden Valley, MN
Pastor: Vacant
Service Times: Worship 10:15 AM & 5:00 PM; SS: 9:00 AM

Email: redeemerrcus.secretary@gmail.com
Website: www.redeemerrcus.org

Hamburg, MINNESOTA, 55339 ---------- (952) 467-3872
St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, 15480 County Road 31, Hamburg, MN
Pastor: Rev. Dan Schnabel (Wife: Marie)
Service Times: Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School: 8:30 PM
Email: stpaulsrcus@gmail.com Website: www.stpaulsrcus.org

Kansas City, MISSOURI, 64164 ---------- (816) 420-9700
Northland RCUS, 2901 NW Cookingham Drive, Kansas City, MO
Pastor: Christopher Campbell (Wife: Megan)
Service Times: Worship: 9:30 AM & 5:00 PM
Email: info@northlandreformed.org Website: northlandreformed.org

Napoleon, OHIO, 43545 ---------- (419) 599-3106
Peace RCUS, 638 Huddle Rd, Napoleon, OH
Pastor: Vacant
Service Times: Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Email: info@peacercus.com Website: www.peacercus.com

Gettysburg, PENNSYLVANIA, 17325 ---------- (717) 253-6591
Covenant RCUS, 1495 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA
Mail: P.O. Box 3981, Gettysburg, PA 17325
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Rodriguez (Wife: Amanda)
Service Times: Worship 11:00 AM; Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Email: rodriguezsam6@gmail.com
Website: http://covenantreformedchurchgettysburg.com

Waymart, PENNSYLVANIA, 18472 ---------- (570) 702-1404
Heritage RCUS, 200 Belmont Turnpike, Waymart, PA
Mail: 2821 Elkdale Rd., Clifford Township, PA 18470
Pastor: Vacant
Service Times: Worship: 10:30 AM; Sunday School: 9:45 AM;
Wed. Prayer: 7:00 PM
Website: heritagercus.org

Manitowoc, WISCONSIN, 54220 ---------- (920) 726-4940
Salem Ebenezer RCUS, 6524 HWY C, Manitowoc, WI
Pastor: Rev. James Grossmann (Wife: Michelle)
Service Times: Worship: 10:00 AM; Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Email: info@salemebenezer.org Website: www.salemebenezer.org

40th Annual Spring Meeting – March 4-5, AD 2025

Peace Reformed Church – Napoleon, Ohio

1. Services

For the opening devotion, President Dennis Luquette opened with prayer, and presented a devotion from I John 4:12-16.
On Tuesday evening at 6:30pm, the Classis met for a worship service with the congregation of Peace Reformed Church of Napoleon, Ohio. Rev. Samuel Rodriguez conducted the worship service and Rev. Daniel Schnabel preached a sermon entitled, "Living Eagerly & Fully in Light of Christ's Return" using I Peter 4:7-11 as his text.
The Covenant East Classis opened its session on Wednesday, March 6th, A.D. 2024 with a hymn 286, "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing" and a devotion led by Rev. Dr. Breno Macedo from Acts 28:17-31 entitled, "Kingdom Encouragements."

2. Organization

The 40th Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis convened at 8:25am on Tuesday, March 4th, A.D. 2025, at Peace Reformed Church of Napoleon, Ohio.
The President called the assembly to order at 8:27am. The roll was called following the devotion. There were ten ministers and nine elders present for a total of nineteen, a quorum.
President Luquette defined the bar of the house as the first eight pews; Elder Dan Wright, and Rev. Steve Carr as tellers; and Rev. Ryan Kron as the *Reformed Herald* reporter.
Election of Officers: Election by ballot was held for men to serve in the following capacities: President: Rev. Samuel Rodriguez; Vice-President: Rev. Chuck Muether; and Stated Clerk: Rev. James Grossmann. Treasurer, Elder Alan Hermmann, was elected by acclamation.

3. Adoption Of Agenda, Services, Order of the Day, and Special Orders

The agenda and orders of the day were adopted as presented by the executive committee.

4. Welcome and Seating of Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

Austin Reifel from the United Reformed Churches in North America and Arjen Vreugdenhill of the Canadian Reformed Churches were welcomed as fraternal delegates.
Elders Jay Kroese and Robert Kangas of Redeemer, Golden Valley, MN; Bob Foster of Covenant, Gettysburg, PA; Tim Demland, Randy Schroder, Jason Demland, John Honeck, David Oberhaus, and Mike Altman of Peace, Napoleon, OH; Alan Herrmann (Classis Treasurer) from St. Pauls, Hamburg were welcomed and seated in the bar of the house.
Rev. Todd Seay from Sovereign Grace RCUS of Morrill, NE was also welcomed.

V. Reception of New Ministers

Rev. Matthew Dawn was extended the right hand of fellowship as a new minister.

VI. Reception of New Churches

There were no new churches to receive.

7. Announcement of Standing Committees

The chairman of the committee is underlined.

Benevolences: Rev. Sorensen, Elder Nelson
Communications & Publication – Rev. Muether, Elder Luquette
Examinations and Licensure: Rev. Groseclose, Rev. Macedo Elder Van Heest
Excuses – Rev. Sawtelle, Rev. Dawn, Elder Stock
Finances: Rev. Campbell, Elder Herrmann
Judicial: Rev. Schnabel, Rev. Carr, Rev. Rodriguez, Elder Wright, Elder Graydon Lau
Minutes of Synod and Minutes of Classis: Rev. Grossmann, Elder Witt
Missions: Rev. Kron, Elder Drewes
Nominations & Services: Rev. Sorensen, Elder Nelson

8. Presentation Of Overtures, Reports, and Communications

The Overtures, Permanent Committee Reports, and Communications were distributed to the Standing Committees.

9. Reports of Officers

A. President's Report on the State of the Church

2025 President's Report on the State of the Church
Covenant East Classis, Elder Dennis Luquette
Esteemed Brethren,

It is with great joy that we stand with the history of witnesses that have gone before us to declare and give testimony of the glorious work of God through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Indeed John 17 continues to ring with prophetic power how Jesus Christ received unto Him self the penalty of the sins of His People.

> John 17:4-7 I have glorified You on earth by accomplishing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world existed. I have revealed Your name to those You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I have given them the words You gave Me, and they have received them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

Further, it is with a mouth of praise that we stand in the history of 300 years of the Reformed Church in the United States. There will be many speeches and comments made throughout the year regarding this moment in time. My comment is simple. It is the grace of God at work in us as the scriptures declare:

> Phil 1:3-5 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

2024 has been a year of many world events, storms, floods, earthquakes, threats of war, and unpredictable political outcomes in our country. Still this letter to the Philippians is our great encouragement. I am thankful to be able to serve as your president in my second year of service. I appreciate greatly the confidence you have given me. The work of Covenant East Classis Committees has been a delight.

Your Covenant East Classis committees have been doing due diligence in their respective areas:

The Inter-church Relations Committee communicated with our brothers in fraternal relations regarding attending the various presbytery and classis meeting, only one of the meetings of Classis Eastern U.S. of the URCNA was attended by Rev Ron Potter, which conveniently was held in his neighborhood. It was held in the Covenant URCNA in Carbondale, PA. The meeting time included their annual Semper Reformada Conference with the featured speaker Dr. Eric Watkins, director of the Center for Missions and Evangelism at Mid-America Reformed Seminary. This was an encouraging and challenging time regarding church outreach.

The Church Camp experienced growth in attendees and had an encouraging time. CEC Heidelberg Youth Camp met at Camp Sinawa on July 9-12. The theme of the camp was The World Needs the Good Shepherd with theme verses from Matthew 9:35-38. The dates for the 2025 camp are July 8-11.

The Candidates and Credentials have been working with a number of inquiries, some which have flowed from the work of the Welcoming Committee. The committee is also working on a study guide for candidates to prepare for licensure exams. The support of students under care is also a vital work of the committee.

The Missions Committee has implemented the new Missions Manual and supports our Classis' mission works. They continue to visit mission works, make assessments, and helpful recommendations.

The Communications and Publications Committee (C&PC) has been working in conjunction with the Communication and Welcoming Committee of Synod. The focus of the C&PC includes Mission 2025/Legacy efforts, obtaining news media for various publications and providing direction for communication issues that may arise.

Summaries of the various parochial reports are offered below:

For Grace Reformed, Rogers, Rev Steve Carr reports that prayers regarding all things are a regular part of the church activity. Rev Carr has been preaching the Word through the Minor Prophets. He was regularly teaching through a local radio station that ceased operation. Pray that the Lord will open new doors to this form of ministry. He continues to use podcast as a means of getting the message out. The church continues ministry of a men's breakfast, working with home schools, being involved in city council meetings, and catechism instruction.

For Covenant Reformed Church, Gettysburg (CRCG) Rev Samuel Rodriguez reported encouragement in providing counseling, teaching, and working with the saints at CRCG. Rev. Rodriguez is on the Interchurch Relations Committee of Covenant East Classis, and on the Archives Committee and Interchurch Relations Committee of the RCUS Synod. He expressed his love for the RCUS and being thankful to be serving our God. Teaching has included a study in Titus at the men's breakfast, young peoples class covered Empowered Witness and having a biblical approach to finances. Current sermon series is from Exodus.

Associate Pastor Rev. Chuck Muether with Immanuel Reformed Fellowship, Pella is overseen by Covenant Reformed Church in Gettysburg. Rev Muether encourages the exercise of patience while working in missions. The gospel goes out to those walking in darkness. Time is required for teaching, leading, and developing a relationship as we look for conversion by the work of the Holy Spirit. There are many details in his report that deserve mentioning, but it is clear the effort being put forth in this outreach is extensive and within the frame of mission work.

Pray that the financial needs of the church will be met and the government of this work will be established by bringing elders on board, but more so that the encouragement of faith would be manifested.

For Emmaus Road, Rev. Ryan Kron reports continued growth in resting in God's continued provision to lead and guide the Church. 'Resting in God' was the theme of a conference and is mentioned several times in their report. The resting extends to areas of the blessing of corporate worship, the word, congregational singing, prayer and sacraments. Having the support of elders, the facilities that provide for many ministries, and the support of the congregation is understood as God's provision. The members of Emmaus know God is able. (Heb 7:25) "Therefore He is also

able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Thus, they continue to grow in a spiritual rest.

For St. Paul's Evangelical, Hamburg, Rev. Dan Schnabel reports pulpit exchange with Peace RCUS in Garner. Rev. Matthew Dawn preached at St. Paul's, while Rev Schnabel preached at Garner. In Rev Schnabel ministry he regularly visiting seniors at home, and labors among God's people in counsel and study. Two members of the church are considering study toward ministry. Issues of health remain a concern for Rev Schnabel, but with the help of the church to reduce his outside workload and following his doctor's orders has resulted in relief and strength. Keep the Church in your prayers.

For Garner, Rev. Matthew Dawn reports that it has been an encouraging time in his first year of ministry. The time was not without a requirement of most pastors to conduct funeral services. The church saw four members die in 2024. Don Larson, who served many years as an elder, and later in the year his son John Larson, who was currently serving as an elder. Without minimizing the struggle Rev Dawn reports great encouragement is God's provision. Closing his report with Deuteronomy 31:6, "for the Lord your God, He is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

For Salem Ebenezer in Manitowoc, Rev. James W. Grossmann reports his ministry has been a privilege and joy. Leading regular worship, teaching, and preaching through Galatians, Acts, 2nd Kings, Ephesians, and Isaiah's Servant Songs; all while looking to Christ's second coming. He also provided instruction in the Three Forms. It was a sad experience for the church to see four members pass away. Nonetheless, a number of students were added to the time at Camp, which proved to be very successful. This past year at Classis, Rev Grossman began to serve as stated clerk. I am grateful for his service and help to me. His efforts also include working with the churches in the Congo; and proofreading and assembling updates to the Catechism Handbook. He requests prayer to balance the care for God's church in Manitowoc with his duties to his family and to the broader RCUS. One of my favorite statements from Rev Grossman last year's report was, "every church is a mission work, even those that have been established for over 100 years."

For Northland, Kansas City, Rev Christopher Campbell, by God's grace, Northland Reformed Church offers a more encouraging report from the previous year. The report speaks of being healthy and growing. In 2024 they grew from 113 to 130 members. The Church is well staffed with 3 active elders and 6 active deacons with on going training for others. There are a number of other regular study groups. Also, the church seeks to involve every member in the use of their gifts for the good of others. Finally, they are working on the process of organizing new Evangelism and Missions Teams.

At present we have three churches in need of a full time minister. Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, reports that Rev. Steven R. Altman has resigned. He has been pastor and served the church for 15 years. Please keep Rev Altman and PRC Napoleon in your prayers as they look to the Lord to lead. The church continues to run a full program of teaching, community involvement, and ministry. Pray for the search committee and the future of PRC.

Elder Dan Wright reports for Heritage Reformed Church, Waymart. This is the second year since Rev Ron Potter retired. He continues to remain as a member and helps out where he can, preaching and conducting the Lord's Supper monthly. He also continues to work with the Welcoming Committee and helps the ICR Committee. Inquiries from two potential candidates were received, but neither were a good match. Church fellowship, studies, and ministry continues. Although, they look forward to seeing a new pastor established they do not lose heart in the hope they have in Christ. This year ended with some growth. This past year my wife, Janie and I are thankful to have been able to visit the church and hope to do so more often.

Elder David Blauw reports for Redeemer,Golden Valley, MN, while involved in pastor search; they continue to minister through their Sunday school program, fellowship groups, and services. They were blessed with three baptisms and the confirmation of four covenant children this past year. They also had their share of sorrows in the occasion of members facing physical and health challenges. Keep Redeemer in prayer for a new minister and to bring stability and confidence in Christ as they continue in serve of the King of Kings.

Reports were also received by ministers without a call. Rev. Jim Sawtelle, and Rev. Kyle Sorensen are currently working as hospital chaplains. They both described the chaplain work as encouraging

and challenging. Rev. Win Groseclose is living in Western Pennsylvania and is remaining active in Classis and Syndical committees, while regularly serving as pulpit supply in local churches.
The overall state of Covenant East Classis is good but not without challenges. We look to God to lead us, grow us, and work through us to do our part toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. (from Matt 28:19-20)
In Christ respectfully submitted, Elder Dennis Luquette, President CEC

B. Stated Clerk's Report on the Minutes (Including Necrology)

Stated Clerk's Report
Covenant East Classis Spring Meeting, March 4-5, 2025

Esteemed Brethren,

Thank You for the opportunity to serve you as your Stated Clerk over the course of the past year. I will be reporting on my labors since our 39th Annual Spring Meeting of Classis.

Duties Performed:
1. Completed the Minutes from the 39th Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis, placed them in permanent binders, including all reports, overatures, and other relevant information. They were presented to the 278th Synod of the Reformed Church of the United States, and their corrections have been made.
2. The President's Report on the State of the Church was spread in the Minutes, printed in the 2024 Abstract, and sent to the Reformed Herald.
3. Prepared the Abstract of the 39th Annual Spring Meeting of Classis and delivered copies of them to the churches of the RCUS at the Synod meeting held in Menno, SD.
4. Prepared the Statistical Report, Stated Clerk's Report, Executive Committee's Report on their Minutes, as well as other items needed for this meeting.

Correspondence Sent and Received:
1. A letter from the Stated Clerk of Synod regarding the documents to be submitted to the churches prior to the next session of Synod.
2. Items to the Stated Clerk in preparation for Synod:
    1. Overtures from the CEC to the Synod of the RCUS
    2. Report of Changes
3. One Executive Circular to the Delegates of Classis sent via email.
4. Forms for Membership and Financial Statistics, as well as the Form for the Credentials of Elders to Classis to the churches of the CEC to be completed prior to our 40th Annual Meeting.

Thank You to each one of you for your timely submissions.

Respectfully Submitted, James Grossmann

Necrology for Elder John Larson

John H. Larson, 57, of Hardy, Iowa, passed away Monday, June 3, 2024, at the Paula Baber Hospice Home in Fort Dodge.
John Hueneman Larson, the son of Donald and Eunice (Hueneman) Larson, was born August 9, 1966, in Fort Dodge. He was baptized and confirmed at Peace Reformed Church. John graduated from Corwith-Wesley-Lu Verne High School in 1984 and Dordt College in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He was employed by Massman Construction in Jacksonville, FL, and Kansas City, MO, and later at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa. On April 6, 1991, he married

Caroline Veenstra at Sully Christian Reformed Church. They lived on a grain and cattle farm west of Hardy all of their married life. John enjoyed farming, fixing, and doing construction projects with is father and sons. His greatest joy was serving the Lord Jesus Christ and seeing his children and grandchildren grow up in the same faith.

He was a member of Peace Reformed Church where he served as a Sunday school teacher, Deacon, and Elder. John and Caroline were past members of Wright Christian Reformed Church south of Kanawha. He served on the Kanawha Christian School Board and as treasurer for the Humboldt County Cattlemen's Association.

John is survived by his wife, Caroline of Hardy; his mother, Eunice Larson of Livermore; six sons, Jacob (Tatiana) Larson and their two children, James and Joshua of Lu Verne, Luke (Marissa) Larson and their daughter, Grace of Livermore, Jed Larson of Lu Verne, Levi (Karibeth) Larson and their child due this October of Hardy, Clint Larson of Hardy and Jack Larson of Hardy; three sisters, Sarah Larson of Des Moines, Liz (Dave) Schenk of Olathe, KS and Sonja (Mike) Nop of Huxley; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Don, on January 8, 2024; and father and mother-in-law, Dewey and Tillie Veenstra.

Necrology for Elder Reno Stuedeman

Reno Lee Stuedeman was born on June 2, 1945, in Glencoe, Minnesota. He was the son of George and DeLila (Quade) Stuedeman. Reno was baptized as an infant and confirmed in his faith. As a youth, he enjoyed spending time in the lumber yard in Fairfax. Reno graduated from Fairfax High School Class of 1963. He furthered his education at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics.

Reno served his country in the United States National Guards for six years. He received an Honorable Discharge on July 24, 1973.

On November 8, 1969, Reno was united in marriage to Linda Heine at St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. After their marriage, the couple resided in Watertown, Norwood Young America and Litchfield. He was employed at Fullerton Lumber Yard in Fairfax, Norwood and Watertown, Frontier Lumber Yard in Chanhassen, CH Carpenter Lumber Yard in Victoria and Plato Woodworking in Plato. Their marriage was blessed with two sons, Doug and Brian. Reno and Linda shared 54 years of marriage.

Reno loved God's word and the reformed faith. Before coming to the Reformed Church he demanded publicly of his former church "you have to teach and preach the Bible!" After joining St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church in Hamburg Reno taught Sunday School and eventually faithfully served as an elder. Reno was known for his welcoming infectious joy even surprising many by his vast knowledge of economics and other areas. He had many things he enjoyed such as Old Tyme Music, dancing, playing concertina, fishing, raising steers and enjoyed his cabin. He cherished the time he spent with his wife, sons, and grandchildren. He lost one son very young after a long struggle with cancer. After that trial knowing His faithful savior Jesus Christ often declared I am ready to go to Heaven! Even in the months and last days of his life Reno smiled as he found joy in His faithful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the promises about life eternal. After a few years of battling with Parkinson's and dementia the Lord called Reno to his eternal home Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at the age of 78 years.

Reno was preceded in death by his Parents, George and Delila (Quade) Stuedeman; Infant Brother, Dennis Stuedeman; Son, Brian Stuedeman. Reno is survived by his: Wife, Linda (Heine) Stuedeman of 54 years; Son, Douglas (Mary) Stuedeman; Grandchildren, Alex Stuedeman and Cole Stuedeman other relatives and many friends.

Necrology for Elder Darrell Wulff

Darrell Lynn Wulff age 87, of Napoleon, died Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at Promedica Toledo Hospital, Toledo.
Darell was born September 20, 1936 to Aurthur and Doris (Myers) Wulff in Napoleon. In 1955 he graduated from Malinta Grelton High School. On May 3, 1958 he married Carolyn Knipp. He was a welder most of his adult life, most recently employed by Gilson Screen Malinta Darrell served with the Ohio National Guard and was a member of the Malinta American Legion Post 400. Darrell volunteered in his community as an EMT and fire chief for the Monroe Township Fire Department. Darrell was a long time member of the Peace Reformed Church where he served as an Elder.
He is survived by his wife Carolyn; children Sherrie (Regan) Williams, Deshler, Terry (Deb) Wulff, Malinta and Craig (Becky) Wulff, Weston; 11 Grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren and siblings Gwen Piercefield, Oak Harbor, Jane Roberts, Colorado Springs and Anita (Ken) McCabe, Hollywood, FL. Preceeded in death by a son-in-law Ken Harris.
(Classis Action: The report was adopted.)

C. Report of Executive Committee of Synod

January 26, 2025
ATTN: Classes Clerk
RE: Minutes of Synod Report
Dear Brothers in Christ,
In reviewing the minutes of the 278th Synod, there is only one item that requires action by the Classes and several other matters of note:

> The adopted recommendation #6 of the Standing Judicial Committee report (2024 Synod Abstract, p. 134) will need to be brought to a ratification vote at the annual meetings of the Classes. This is pursuant to Article 197 of the RCUS Constitution, which reads: “This Constitution may be amended or altered in any article by a two-thirds vote of the Synod, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Classes.”
>
> The recommendation reads as follows:
>
> Recommendation #6, from the overture from Northern Plains Classis regarding a constitutional matter, that Article 175 be amended by placing a period after the word “communicant member” and striking the rest of the article. [Note, if approved, the article would read as follows: “If a minister shall have been 853 deposed but not excommunicated, he shall be entitled to the rights of a communicant member.”]
> The results of the ratification votes will need to be communicated to me at your earliest convenience.

Other matters of note:

1. The 279th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet **June 9-13, 2025**, at Grace Reformed Church in Rapid City, SD. The 279th Synod will coincide with the Tricentennial Celebration of the RCUS.
2. Membership & Financial statistics are being collected through the RCUS church portal (https://rcus.org/church-portal/). Please make sure these statistics are entered in a timely and accurate manner. (Note: the user ID for the church portal is classisclerks and the password is Psalm119:105).
3. Please review the Standing Rules of Synod (2024 Synod Abstract, pp. 142-46).
4. 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 to be considered. To that effect, included as attachments are “Ministerial Relief Fund

Distribution" instructions and "Ministerial Relief Fund" worksheet developed by the Permanent Finances Committee.

5. Please remember to send necrologies to the Synod Clerk in time for Synod.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Carl Gobelman, Stated Clerk, RCUS

(Classis Action: referred to Standing Minutes of Synod)

D. Executive Committee on their Minutes

March 1st, 2025
Esteemed Brethren,
Your Committee has done business via email throughout the year to discuss matters that were brought forward through our Executive Circulars. This included organizing the called meeting to finish our tabled business from Spring Classis 2024 and establishing the date and committee for the ordination and installation of Rev. Matthew Dawn. Your committee was also asked for comment on a question by the Candidates and Credentials committee.
Three (3) circulars were sent out this past year and the following is a summary of that business. Because no objections were received to the circulars, all the recommendations brought by the Executive Committee became actions of the Classis.

Volume 39, Number 1 (March 2, 2025)

1. Scheduled the Covenant East Zoom Classis meeting on Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30 PM Central (7:30 PM Eastern) for the purpose of:
    1. Examining Licentiate Matthew Dawn for Ordination
    2. Considering the disposition of the Call from Peace Reformed, Garner, Iowa to Licentiate Matthew Dawn.
    3. The presentation of the President's Report.

Volume 39, Number 2 (May 19, 2025)

1. Scheduled the Ordination and Installation of Licentiate Matthew Dawn for 6:00 pm, June 2nd, 2024 at Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA.
2. Nominated the ordination/installation committee consisting of the Elders of Peace Reformed Church, Rev. David Dawn, and Rev. James Grossmann [Rev. Chuck Muether was later added to chair the ordination/installation committee]
3. Designating Rev. David Dawn to give the charge to the pastor, Rev. James Grossmann to give the charge to the congregation, and Rev. David Dawn to lead the service. [Rev. Chuck Muether was later added to lead/officate the service]
4. Took Mr. Andrew Hennen of St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church in Hamburg, MN Under Care of Covenant East Classis as a Student for Ministry.
5. It was decided that the Covenant East Classis would overture the Synod of the RCUS for Student Aid for Mr. Andrew Hennen in the amount of $5,200 for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Volume 39, Number 3 (March 1, 2025)

There were no recommendations adopted through this circular. It was sent to inform the delegates of classis of an overture from Redeemer, Golden Valley, MN asking the classis to overturn the decision of the Candidates and Credentials committee in regard to Rev. Caleb Janson.
Respectfully Submitted,
The CEC Executive Committee

President	**Stated Clerk**	**Member**
Elder Dennis Luquette	Rev. James Grossmann	Elder David Blauw
1189 Mud Run Rd.	7411 Center Rd.	11450 65th Place N

E. Treasurer's Report & Auditor's Opinion

(Handled under Standing Finances)

2023-24 CEC YTD Financial Report
July 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024
Detailed Income Report

Guideline Total $62		20%	65%	8%	7%			
		$12.50	$40.00	$5.00	$4.50	$62.00		**Due by**
	Members	**General**	**Missions**	**Benevolence**	**Student Aid**	**Budget**	**Totals YTD**	**06/15/24**
NW Arkansas	16	$160.80	$522.60	$64.32	$56.28	$992.00	$804.00	$188.00
Eden Prarie MN	103	$1,277.20	$4,150.90	$510.88	$447.02	$6,386.00	$6,386.00	$0.00
Garner IA	32	$396.80	$1,289.60	$158.72	$138.88	$1,984.00	$1,984.00	$0.00
Gettysburg PA	27	$297.60	$967.20	$119.04	$104.16	$1,674.00	$1,488.00	$186.00
Hamburg MN	189	$2,343.60	$7,616.70	$937.44	$820.26	$11,718.00	$11,718.00	$0.00
Kansas City MO	88	$1,091.20	$3,546.40	$436.48	$381.92	$5,456.00	$5,456.00	$0.00
Manitowoc WI	111	$1,512.80	$4,916.60	$605.12	$529.48	$6,882.00	$7,564.00	($682.00)
Minneapolis MN	103	$1,277.20	$4,150.90	$510.88	$447.02	$6,386.00	$6,386.00	$0.00
Napoleon OH	55	$720.00	$2,340.00	$288.00	$252.00	$3,410.00	$3,600.00	($190.00)
Waymart PA	9	$108.00	$351.00	$43.20	$37.80	$558.00	$540.00	$18.00
South Central IA	0							$0.00
	733					$45,446.00	$45,926.00	**($480.00)**
Income Jul 23-June 24		$9,185.20	$29,851.90	$3,674.08	$3,214.82	Total	**$45,926.00**	

Year to Date Report
Expense July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

General Fund Expense			
Classis Meeting			
Clerk/Printing Supplies	$652.59		
Travel	$4,807.67		
Honorarium	$1,000.00		
Postage/Phone/Checks			
Total		**$6,500.26**	
Mission Fund Expenses			
Covenant Reformed PA. (Iowa)	$25,000.00		
Grace Reformed Church	$21,000.00		
Travel	-		
Total		**$46,000.00**	
Benevolence-Rev. Mark Larson	$3,000.00		
Total		**$3,000.00**	
Student Aid	$1,196.28		
Total		**$1,196.28**	
Expense Total		**$56,696.54**	
Total Classis Income July 1, 2023 – February, 2024			**$45,926.00**
Total Classis Expense July 1, 2023 – February, 2024			**$56,696.54**
		net	**($10,770.54)**

Year to Date Report

Balance July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

	Beginning Balance July 1, 2023		$75,715.77
General Fund	Balance July 1, 2023	($832.14)	
Receipts		$9,185.20	
Expenses		$422.35	
Balance 06/30/2024			**$7,930.71**
****Missions Fund**	Balance July 1, 2023	$58,689.08	
Receipts		$29,851.90	
Expenses		$34,500.00	
Balance 06/30/2024			**$54,040.98**
Benevolence Fund	Balance July 1, 2023	$7,460.59	
Receipts		$3,674.08	
Expenses		$2,250.00	
Balance 06/30/2024			**$8,884.67**
Student Aid Fund	Balance July 1, 2023	$10,398.24	
Receipts		$3,214.82	
Expenses		$1,196.28	
Balance 06/30/2024			**$11,819.05**
Begin balance	07/01/23		**$75,715.77**
Receipts	7/1/23-6/30/24		**$45,926.00**
Expenses	7/1/23-6/30/24		**($56,696.54)**
Balance 06/30/2024			**$64,945.23**
	End Balance June 30th, 2024		**$64,945.23**
** $19,144.30	Available for future CEC Mission Works		

Respectfully Submitted, Alan Herrmann, Treasurer

10. Parochial Reports of Ministers

Each minister read his parochial report. Opportunity was given to delegates to ask questions about any report. Prayer was then offered for each of the pastors, elders, and their charges after their report was read.

11. Constitutional Questions to the Elders

(Article 81, with relevant discussion to follow)
Each Elder was asked Individually
1. Are the doctrines of the Gospel preached in your charge in their purity, agreeably to the Word of God? All churches 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 churches answered "Yes."

3. In providing spiritual nurture for the congregation:
a. Is visitation faithfully performed? All churches answered "Yes," except Rogers, Hamburg, and Manitowoc, which answered, "Needs Improvement." and Golden Valley which answered, "No."
b. Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?
All churches answered "Yes."

4. Are the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper properly administered in accordance with the Constitution? All churches answered "Yes."

5. In providing for the furtherance of Christian stewardship:
a. Are the apportionments for the Classis paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?
All churches answered "Yes."
b. Are these monies sent promptly to the Classis treasurer? All churches answered "Yes."
c. Are the approtionments for the Synod paid according to the Guidelines for Giving?
All churches answered "Yes."
d. Are these monies sent promptly to the Synod treasurer? All churches answered "Yes."

6. Are the Church records properly kept? All churches answered "Yes."

7a. Is the temporal contract between minister and people fulfilled in your charge?
All Churches answered "Yes," except Rogers, which answered, "No."
7b. Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?
All churches answered "Yes," except Golden Valley and Waymart, which answered "Not Applicable." and Rogers answered, "No."
The body was given the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

12. Report of Membership and Financial Statistics

The Stated Clerk provided a table of statistics based upon the information submitted by the churches of classis (see Appendix of this Abstract).
(Classis Action: This report was adopted.)

13. Reports from Classis Delegates to Fraternal Bodies

Rev. Carr presented Rev. Potter's report from his fraternal visit to Eastern Classis of the URCNA.

14. Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches or Visitors

Rev. Arjen Vreugdenhil brought greetings from the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Rev. Austin Reifel brought greetings from Classis Eastern of the United Reformed Churches of North America.

15. Presentation of Permanent Committee Reports

A. Candidates and Credentials

Report of the Candidate and Credentials Committee
March 2024-March 2025

Once again, on behalf of the entire Committee, we are grateful for having the opportunity to have served the Classis this year. After a busy previous year, this committee had a relatively light year, yet we did complete some important business.

Candidates for Ministry:
Caleb Janson: On January 30, 2025, your committee met with Rev. Caleb Janson on behalf of Redeemer Reformed Church. Caleb is a minister in good standing in the URCNA, and Redeemer was exploring the possibility of Candidating him for the pastorate. Caleb is a remarkably winsome candidate with views deeply grounded in the Three Forms of Unity. He is articulate and was a joy to meet. With all of that said, it was with great sadness that your committee found that he did not hold to a view of six-day creation, and we could not confirm his orthodoxy exam in good conscience. When asked whether he were willing to submit to the six-ordinary-day view in submission to his brethren in the RCUS, he said he could not. It was discouraging to all involved not to be able to bring this brother to Classis, but we did seek to encourage him in his current call and encourage Redeemer Reformed to continue prayerfully seeking a new shepherd for the flock in Minnesota. There was one dissenting vote.

John Nelson: On February 8, 2025, your committee met with Mr. John Nelson, a member of Northland Reformed Church who is seeking to come under care of Covenant East Classis. We were pleased to confirm his fitness for ministry and encourage him as he prepares to begin classes at Heidelberg Seminary in the Fall. We also voted to extend financial support to this brother as he enters seminary (see Recommendations 1&2 below).

There are several others with whom your committee has spoken over the past year. You will recall that last year we spoke with Mr. David Knott, who was close to graduating from the Log College & Seminary and a potential candidate to serve Heritage Reformed in Waymart and who was facing a bout with cancer. It is with sadness that we report that David passed away on December 3rd of this past year. Please keep his widow and family in your prayers.

Your Chairman also had a conversation with Pastor Keil Reilly, who expressed an interest in coming into the RCUS. Due to weaknesses with his training, your chairman has strongly encouraged him to relocate to and attend Heidelberg Seminary to pursue a Masters of Divinity Degree through them. At this stage, he has taken a step back from seeking to re-enter full-time ministry and is focusing on caring for an ailing father. Currently, he is attending a PCA church in Northwestern PA.

Your chairman has also been in conversation with Rev. Burwell Stark, pastor of Liberty Christian Church in Henderson, NC. He is a former Baptist minister who connected with the Welcoming

Committee and has expressed interest in joining the RCUS. Yet, as a bi-vocational pastor, he has been unable to discuss steps that would need to be taken to make this transition.

Final Update:
Last year, the Classis directed this committee to begin the process of organizing resources with relation to creating guidelines for the facilitation of examinations and kind of study-guide for potential examinees in the future. It was also discovered that this Classis had a file of information in connection to past exams from which we could begin this work. As of yet, the previous Chair of this committee has not forwarded those materials to our current committee chair. It was hoped that we could have at least been able to digitize that information to make it accessible. A final request was made that this file be brought to classis so that it could be transferred to the chair of this committee for the following year. We would like to extend our gratitude to Rev. James Grossmann for forwarding to this Committee the concise handbook put together by the Northern Plains Classis.

Recommendations:

1. That Covenant East Classis take Mr. John Nelson under care as a student for ministry in the RCUS.

2. That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. John Nelson with $4,800 per year toward tuition at Heidelberg Seminary and an additional $400 per year toward books for seminary study.

3. That Covenant East Classis direct the 2025-2026 Candidates and Credentials Committee continue working on a manual for the examination of candidates, continuing the charge given to the committee in the previous year.

Candidates & Credentials Committee:
Rev. Win Groseclose
Elder Dan Wright
Rev. Christopher Campbell

(Classis Action: The issue of Caleb Janson was referred to the Standing Judicial committee; The report was referred to the Standing Examinatins and Licensure committee.)

B. Interchurch Relations

Brothers,
The work of Covenant East Classis Interchurch Relations Committee in this past Classical year was carried on by e-mail correspondence. Invitations to attend Presbytery/Classis meetings were received and invitations to attend this spring meeting of Covenant East Classis were sent to fraternal churches. We were only able to send one fraternal delegate and the report is attached.
Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Samuel Rodriguez (Chair), Elder Dustin Rothwell, Rev. Steve Carr

Classis Eastern U. S. of the United Reformed Church in North America
October 16-17, 2024
Note: This is a two-part report, the report of our delegate, Rev. Ron Potter, followed by a Press Release from the Stated Clerk of Classis Eastern U.S.
Delegate Report
November 25, 2024
Esteemed Brethren:
The undersigned attended the fall meeting of the Classis Eastern U.S. of the URCNA in October 16th and 17th, 2024. It was held in the former RCUS Church in Carbondale, PA. The Classis met for their annual *Semper Reformada Conference* on the afternoon of the 16th. The featured speaker was Dr. Eric Watkins, director of the Center for Missions and Evangelism at Mid-America Reformed

Seminary. His presentation on evangelism within the Reformed tradition was informative and challenging at the same time.
Though scheduled to begin business on the 17th, the Classis, more or less on the spur of the moment, began its deliberations early on the evening of the 16th. I was not able to attend because of prior commitment to a synodical committee meeting. However I was back in attendance for all the business of the 17th. Without doubt the Classis is very much geared to church planting in the eastern U.S. Several church plant reports were presented and discussion took place regarding further efforts and funding.
An appeal by a Church to earlier Classis advice was heard in executive session. The appeal was not sustained. The undersigned was cordially invited to remain for this executive session. Several requests for advice were dealt with as well in accordance with their form of government. The meeting was concluded with prayer for each of the churches of the Classis.
I was given permission to address the body and expressed my appreciation for the invitation to our Classis to send a delegate and for the warm fellowship experienced among these brothers. I also spoke of our 300th anniversary celebration to take place in 2025 and pointed them to our Web Site for additional information.
I have represented our Classis at their meetings on numerous occasions over the years and have come to know many of the brothers personally and have observed their zeal for Christ and love for His Church. They are truly a band of brothers in the LORD.
Respectfully, Rev. Ron Potter

Press Release
On Tuesday, October 16 and Wednesday, October 17, 2024, Classis Eastern U.S. gathered for its sixty first session at Covenant Reformed Church amid the autumnal foliage of Carbondale, PA. Prior to the convening of classis, our annual *Semper Reformanda* conference was held. Dr. Eric Watkins, director of the Center for Missions and Evangelism at Mid-America Reformed Seminary, gave three talks on evangelism within our Reformed tradition and how we might better cultivate a culture of evangelism in our churches today. These talks were well received by the ministers and elders in attendance who found them to be both challenging and encouraging.
Classis convened at 6:00 pm on Tuesday. The officers were Rev. Andrew Eenigenburg (chairman), Rev. Scottie Wright (vice-chairman), and Rev. Dr. Daniel Ragusa (clerk). During this evening session, most of the committee reports were discussed and received and new appointments were made. Rev. Eenigenburg and Rev. Paul Murphy were appointed to visit Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Florida to explore the possibility of them joining the URCNA. The delegates also approved two overtures that added two questions to Classis Eastern U.S.'s classical credentials form about sending synodical askings and delegates to synod. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm until the next morning.
Classis reconvened at 8:00 am on Wednesday. Classical seminarian support was approved for Mr. Henry Marin (MARS) and Mr. Nicholas Costanzo (RTS). There continues to be excitement and eagerness for church planting in the classis. Encouraging updates were given on the church plants in Florence, KY, Madison, IN, and Indianapolis, IN. The Classical Committee on Home Missions also presented their report that set a vision for how we might improve and further our church planting efforts and support in the future. Rev. Ron Potters brought fraternal greetings from the RCUS, which is preparing for its 300-year anniversary by the grace of God. The delegates deliberated on the appeal from Trinity Reformed (Cape Coral) regarding the advice they had received in the Spring 2024 meeting of classis. The appeal was not sustained. Advisory requests were also considered in executive session.
The meeting concluded with a time of prayer for each of the churches in our classis. The next meeting of Classis Eastern U.S. will be held on April 4, 2025 at Grace Reformed Church in Newton, NJ.
In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Daniel Ragusa
Clerk of Classis Eastern U.S.

(Classis Action: This Report was Adopted)

C. Church Camp Committee

Dear Brothers,
Covenant East Youth Camp met again in 2024 at Camp Sinawa on July 9-12. It was a wonderful week of fellowship, study in the Scriptures, fun, and great food. The theme of the camp was *The World Needs the Good Shepherd*. Our theme verses were Matthew 9:35-38.
We talked together about missions. The opening night talk *The Motivation for Missions* by Pastor Dan Schnabel. *Lesson #2* was *Whose Mission is it, Anyway?* by Pastor Steve Carr. *Lesson #3* was *Who is a Missionary?* by Pastor Christopher Campbell. *Lesson #4* was *The Power and Perils of Missions* by Pastor Ryan Kron. *Lesson #5* was *Lessons from Missionaries Around the World* by Pastor Matthew Dawn.
The camp was hosted, as always, by the capable and dedicated servants from Salem-Ebenezer. Kayla Shillcox was the local organizer and she did a wonderful job organizing and serving. She and the members of Salem Ebenezer served faithfully and joyfully. They went above and beyond the call in making the camp work smoothly. The camp committee wants to give thanks to the congregation at Manitowoc for their gracious hosting and service.
The cost of camp was $100 per camper. The camp was a full house! We had 68 campers and 26 counselors, with a total of 94 altogether. Of the 26 counselors, 14 were ladies and 12 were males. 9 pastors were in attendance. Attending churches were: Hamburg, Emmaus, Immanuel in Iowa, Kansas City, Salem Ebenezer, Christ OPC in Janesville Wisconsin, Garner, Redeemer, Rogers, Grace United Reformed Church in Waupun Wisconsin, Sovereign Grace in Nebraska.
We are thankful for those who put in work for the camp music booklet. We would also like to thank each attending church for coming prepared with a game to be played for the Covenant Cup. The games were creative and a lot of fun! As in previous years, once again this year all counselors who stayed over night at camp were required to undergo background checks. We also implemented the new RCUS Policy on Sexual Misconduct Prevention. This served us well, although it was unclear how to apply what is written to the lifeguards that we hire each year.
The Camp balance began 2024 with $2,221.40. Total income was $9,285.26. Total camp expenses were $8,741.45. The income includes donations from churches and individuals, for which we give thanks. The current balance as of 7/25/24 stands at $2,765.21. We want to thank the churches and individuals who donated to the fund.
The dates for the 2025 camp are July 8-11. We are suggesting raising the camper price next year from $100 to $125. Also please note, we likely will be reaching out to all attending churches to see if they desire to help fund another cabin to be built at Camp Sinawa, but we do not have enough details to share about this yet (a committee is in the works of being formed at Camp Sinawa for this).
We would remind the churches, pastors and elders, to continue to spread the word among your members to encourage camp attendance.
Respectfully submitted, Ryan Kron, Kyle Sorensen, Steve Altman, Steve Stuebbe (along with a lot of help from Kayla Shillcox and also James Grossmann)

(Classis Action: This report was adopted)

D. Communications and Publications

Fathers and Brothers:
Your committee has continued to labor in three areas with respect to two RCUS Permanent Committees (Communications and Welcoming) and one subcommittee: Comms-Legacy. Due to the increasing labor of the Finance Committee's subcommittee "Mission 2025" (also known as "Legacy"), communication tasks involving the Barnabas Foundation and the other stewardship items were assigned to a new subcommittee, "Comms-Legacy" this year.
RCUS Permanent Communications Committee (Comms)
The Permanent Communications Committee continues to request newsworthy content and media from Covenant East Classis and its congregations. Pictures and write-ups can be sent to the chair of

this committee to be posted on various social media platforms and the RCUS website. Elder Chuck Barker prepared a spreadsheet (Google Sheet) of Covenant East contacts for content material.

RCUS Permanent Welcoming Committee (WC)

Rev. Chuck Muether resumed serving as the Covenant East Classis communications liaison to the Welcoming Committee. Per the request of WC Chairman Ryan Spitzer, letterhead/stationery items, formatting correspondence, and media were provided. Counsel was also provided to the WC with regard to classis contacts and how to approach interested groups within the CE Classis boundary.

Your C&P Committee created media from last year's Classis meeting, along with updates from one mission work, and congregational news from a few congregations. Articles profiling our new pastors have been either written or are in the pipeline for the Reformed Herald. Material for the social media channels was also produced for the Tricentennial Committee.

Comms-Legacy Subcommittee (CL)

Your C&P Committee has assisted the CL in creating content related to the Barnabas Foundation, wills, and giving opportunities along with writing articles on stewardship themes for the Reformed Herald. Please continue to send your news to comms@RCUS.org for the denomination, and if you need assistance in creating content, email contact@thekirkside.com.

Respectfully submitted, Elder Chuck Barker, Elder Grayden Lau, Rev. Chuck Muether (chair)

(Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Communications & Publications Committee.)

E. Missions

COVENANT EAST CLASSIS PERMANENT MISSIONS COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE 2025 SPRING CLASSIS MEETING

Report on Grace Reformed, Rogers, Arkansas

On January 25, 2025, Rev. Ryan Kron, Rev. Dan Schnabel, Elder Michael Baas, and Elder Jason Demland had a zoom meeting with Rev. Steve Carr and Elder Chuck Barker.

Rev. Kron opened the meeting by reading Psalm 117 and prayer. Rev. Carr then gave us an update on things at Grace Reformed in Arkansas. Overall, they are encouraged and grateful for the blessing of the Lord this past year. They have added one new member this past year and also have another man who is coming regularly. Currently they now have 22 members. They have had as many as 37 in attendance on a Sunday morning. The congregation is faithful in attending worship and they have a "love for the Word of God."

The giving this past year has been good and they are thankful. They have also seen the congregation serving. The fellowship of the church has been healthy. They have had an intern this past year. His name is Joshua Munson, and he is a member of the ARP in Springfield, Missouri. Rev. Carr said he, his wife, and his family have been doing well. They have been able to do some repairs to the church parsonage.

In terms of outreach, they handed out invitations to their Christmas Eve Service and they saw one visitor come. They were hoping to once again have a presence at the Bentonville, Arkansas Farmers Market. But they were unable to do this due to circumstances on how the market passed out invitations.

They have talked about reducing the funding they are receiving. In particular, they are thinking about not asking for funding from synod and asking for the same amount from classis. Rev. Carr's wife, Crystal, has been doing some work with bookkeeping. Rev. Carr could possibly look into finding another job that could be around 20 hours a week (possibly truck driving or hospital chaplain work). They will have an upcoming congregational meeting to approve their budget.

They ask us to continue to pray for them. Pray for God to raise up men to serve as elders and deacons. There are some men attending who could possibly become office bearers. Pray for the Lord to bring visitors and for the Lord to provide for them financially. Pray for opportunities and doors to be opened for Rev. Carr to have boldness to proclaim Jesus.

Report on Mission Work Immanuel Reformed Fellowship (IRF), Pella, Iowa

On November 11, 2024, Rev. Dan Schnabel, Rev. Ryan Kron, and Elder Michael Baas had a Zoom meeting with Rev. Chuck Muether and Rev. Sam Rodriguez (Gettysburg). The potential elder at Immanuel, Ty Gross, was not able to make the meeting.
Rev. Kron opened the meeting with reading Colossians 1:3-6 and prayer. Rev. Muether then gave a helpful and well-organized presentation focusing on worship, outreach, and particularization.
Rev. Muether said they are getting a steady stream of visitors. They average around 20-25 on Sunday mornings. Rev. Muether is to be commended for his involvement in the community. The gospel is going out! Rev. Muether writes: “I continue to make contacts with a constituency associated with a Christian school north of us, and this is sparking some curiosity and make calls in my labors through Mariaska Ministries, and I have been heavily involved with the Pella Ministerial Association, connecting with the hospital, hospices, senior living communities, local law enforcement, etc. I have adapted my monthly reporting to reflect the mission work guidelines and objectives as outlined in the newly updated Home Missions Manual."
They also provide services on most Sunday afternoons at different senior living facilities where they have around 40-48 in attendance. He is involved in a local, confessional Christian school where some of the people are curious about the work they are doing. He has done chaplaincy work, which has opened doors for Rev. Muether in south-central Iowa.
Rev. Muether said: “one of the challenges of planting a church during the year of Covid is that we established a resilient digital presence on several platforms. We continue to receive positive feedback from those locally who watch our livestream and attend our Bible studies. We desire to bring those souls into corporate worship through more concerted personal invites.”
They are currently meeting in a rental facility that serves them well. They have access to the facility 24/7. There is the possibility of moving to the Prairie City area (south-east of Des Moines). They are working toward Ty Gross being ordained as an elder in 2025.
Rev. Rodriguez said the Covenant Reformed Church at Gettysburg is supporting and committed to overseeing the work. He commended Chris Rebmann, the treasurer in the Gettysburg congregation, who oversees the finances for Immanuel Reformed. Rev. Muether is thankful for the excellent consistorial oversight from Gettysburg. They are asking for one more year of financial support in order to become self-sustaining. This year they are requesting the same amount of support as last year ($25,000 from classis and $25,000 from synod).
Your committee is encouraged by the faithful work of Rev. Muether, and we want to continue to support them and lift them up in prayer.
Rev. Schnabel closed the meeting in prayer

Recommendations:

1. That Classis support Covenant Reformed (Gettysburg, PA) with $2,083.34 a month, a total of $25,000 in 2025-2026 for the work in south-central Iowa.
2. That Classis overture Synod to provide Covenant Reformed (Gettysburg, PA) with $2,083.34 a month, a total of $25,000 in 2025-2026 for the work in south-central Iowa.
3. That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with $1,500 per month, a total of $18,000 in the fiscal year 2025-2026 beginning July 2025. This is the same as last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Ryan Kron, Chairman; Rev. Dan Schnabel; Elder Michael Baas; Elder Jason Demland; Elder Richard Kroells

(This Report was Referred to the Standing Missions Committee)

16. Reports of Special Committees

A. Special Committee: Rev. Kyle Sorensen
It was moved and carried that: that we, as a committee of the whole, after much discussion and consideration find that no further investigation is required. Furthermore, we acknowledge that Rev. Kyle Sorensen is a minister in good standing.

17. Reports of Standing Committees

Please Note: All recommendations in the Standing Committee reports appear in their final, amended form, and were adopted unless otherwise indicated.

A. Benevolences

Recommendation #1: That Covenant East Classis overture Synod to provide Ministerial Aid to Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of $14,400 ($1,200 per month) for the Synodical year 2025-2026.
Recommendation #2: That Covenant East Classis overture Synod to provide Ministerial Aid to Rev. Ron Potter in the amount of $26,600 (approximately $2,216.67 per month) for the Synodical year 2025-2026.
Recommendation #3: That Covenant East Classis overture Synod to provide Ministerial Aid to Rev. Mark Larson in the amount of $10,448 (approximately $870.67 per month) for the Synodical year 2025-2026. NOTE: this includes an additional $3,748 for health insurance premiums for one year, due to the significant drop in his ministerial relief due to the new Synod formula based on years of service.

B. Communications & Publications

Recommendation #1: That communication relative to establishing Corresponding Relationships be run through the RCUS Classis Permanent Communications Committee (Comms).

C. Examinations and Licensure

The following motions were adopted:
Recommendation #1: That Covenant East Classis take Mr. John Nelson under care as a student for ministry in the RCUS.
Recommendation #2: That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. John Nelson with $4,800 for the 2025-2026 academic year toward tuition at Heidelberg Seminary and an additional $400 toward books for seminary study.
Recommendation #3: That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. Andrew Hennen (approved Student Under Care) with $5700 for the 2025-2026 academic year toward tuition at Heidelberg Seminary and an additional $400 toward books for seminary study.
Recommendation #4: That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. Dale Schmieg with $3300 for the 2025-2026 academic year toward tuition at Heidelberg Seminary and an additional $400 toward books for seminary study.
Recommendation #6: That Covenant East Classis direct the 2025-2026 Candidates and Credentials Committee continue working on a manual for the examination of candidates, continuing the charge given to the committee in the previous year.

D. Excuses

Recommendation #1: That Brenen Macedo and Mr. Barker be excused.
That the excuses from Rev. Jim Sawtelle and Rev. Steve Altman from all sessions of Classis be granted.

E. Finances

Recommendation #1: That the standing committee on finances has audited the July 2023 to June 30, 2024 year to date treasurer's report and classis finds it to be in order.
ecommendation #2: That Travel reimbursements for the Classis meeting be as follows: Ben Nelson, $571.87; Luther Witt, $869.93; Samuel Rodriguez, $515; Ryan Kron, $536.97; Steve Carr, $733;

Christopher Campbell, $532.36; St. Pauls, $2637.43; Win Groseclose, $350; Graydon Lau, $700; Larry Stock, $393; Dan Wright, $450; Dennis Luquette, $450; for a total of $8739.56.
Recommendation #3: That Classis reimburse Kyle Sorensen $244.62 for his hotel expense.
Recommendation #4: That Classis pay $5,000 from Classis General Fund to the Synod Treasurer in support of expenses incurred for the RCUS Family Convention and Tricentennial Celebration to be held June 9-12, 2025, in Rapid City, SD. (This recommendation is in response to Overture #4, received from Rev. Chuck Muether, on behalf of the Synod Tricentennial Committee.)
Recommendation #5: That Classis adopt the following guidelines: General Fund $20; Missions Fund, $40; Benevolence Fund, $0; and Student Aid, $8; For a total of $68 per Communicant.

F. Judicial

Recommendation #1: That Reverend Richard Stettler's credentials be released from Covenant East Classis to Vanguard Presbyterian Church.
Recommendation #2: Take note of the previous decisions concerning the RCUS and Biblical 6 days of creation by the Eureka Classis and the Synod of the RCUS.
Abstract 85:105 resolution adopted.
That the resolution be adopted: That the Eureka Classis, Reformed Church in the United States, register a protest against the teaching at Westminster Theological Seminary in California and Philadelphia which questions the chronological sequence of the six normal days of light and darkness in Genesis one. We believe that this skeptical interpretation of holy Scripture is dangerous to the faith and theology of the students and to the churches which these students shall serve.
Abstract 86:83 resolution adopted.
That Synod adopt the following resolution: That previous actions of Synod show a unanimity of opinion in favor of six normal days of creation which make it unlikely that other views will receive sympathy.
Abstract 99:50 body of the report
….Finding a suitable place for our position in the governing standards has been more challenging. Part of our difficulty arises from the fact that Synod has not yet adopted the report of the Special Committee on the Authority of Position Papers. Until this is done we do not even know whether there is a need to amend our standards to include our position on creation. Even so, your committeee believes that the best approach would be to recommend that the position taken by the RCUS in 1985 is the correct interpretation of our creeds (specifically Questions 92 and 103 of the Heidelberg catechism), and that our report be adopted as an exposition of the creeds. In this way our report would be useful as evidence in any judicial proceeding that may involve this issue….
Recommendation: These were accepted by the Synod
1. That the 253rd Synod affirm that the position taken by the RCUS in 1985 on the length of the days of creation is the correct interpretation of the Bible and our creeds.
3. That our fraternal delegates and observers to the next OPC GA, RPCNA Synod, and URCNA Synod distribute copies of this report to all delegates of these assemblies, and that the interchurch Relations Committee make this report available to member churches of NAPARC and ICRC, with the request that these churches join us in affirming the doctrine of six-day
2000 Recommendations concerning position papers
1. That the recommendations of position papers adopted by a judicatory of the RCUS are authoritative advice to the members under the authority of that judicatory and serve as its witness to the world of its understanding of Holy Scripture and our subordinate ordinances.
2. That a position paper is intended to be used to enlighten and instruct the church on matters not spelled out in the ordinances of the church, with the goal of promoting unity within the church. Position papers are not judicial decisions, nor can they be used as the charge in an accusation.
Nevertheless, the expectation should be that when a matter relating to a position taken comes to the judicatory, the adjudication will be consistent with the position taken. Should the RCUS desire to make a position strictly binding, it must use the process spelled out in Article 104.

G. Minutes of Classis

Recommendation #1: Take Note that the Minutes of the Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis have been read and corrected through 12:00pm March 5.

H. Minutes of Synod

Recommendation #1: That the Covenant East Classis ratify the amendment of Article 175 of the RCUS Constitution. Carried without Dissent.

I. Missions

Recommendation #1: That Classis support Covenant Reformed (Gettysburg, PA) with $2,083.34 a month, a total of $25,000 in 2025-2026 for the work in south-central Iowa.
Recommendation #2: That Classis overture Synod to provide Covenant Reformed (Gettysburg, PA) with $2,083.34 a month, a total of $25,000 in 2025-2026 for the work in south-central Iowa.
Recommendation #3: That Classis provide Grace RCUS of NW Arkansas with $1,500 per month, a total of $18,000 in the fiscal year 2025-2026 beginning July 2025. This is the same as last year.

J. Nominations

Recommendation #1:
That the Permanent Committees be as follows:
Executive Committee: Rodriguez; Grossmann; Van Heest
Candidates/Credentials: Groseclose; Macedo; Wright; Drewes
Church Camp: Kron; Stuebbe; Dawn; Grossmann; Schnabel
Communications/Publications: Muether; Herrmann; Luquette; Campbell
Interchurch Relations: Carr; Nelson; Witt
Missions: Kron; Baas; Lau; Macedo

18. Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

A. Expression of Appreciation to the Hosting Congregation

The following expression of appreciation to the hosting congregation was adopted:
We, the delegates of the 40th Annual Spring Meeting wish to express our dearest gratitude for your loving and kind hospitality at our 2025 Spring Meeting. It was a blessing to fellowship with the saints of Peace Reformed to pray with you and for you.
We praise God for your exemplary hosting, for your generous provision of fine meals, and your welcoming spirit.
“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10)

B. Adoption of the Stated Clerk’s Report and the Executive Committee’s Minutes Report

The Stated Clerk's and Executive Committee's Reports were adopted.

19. Reading of the Minutes

The president declared the minutes approved as corrected.

20. Adjournment

Elder Wright moved that the Classis adjourn to the 41st Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis to begin on March 3rd, A.D. 2026 at 8:00am (CST), at a place to be determined.
The final roll call showed eleven ministers, and nine elders for a total of twenty, a quorum. Elder Drewes closed the meeting with a devotion from Psalm 100 and prayer. The Assembly stood and united in reciting the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Rev. Rodriguez pronounced the Benediction and led the Assembly in the singing of the Doxology.
The Classis adjourned at 2:34pm on March 5th, A.D. 2025.

APPENDIX

2024 Membership and Financial Statistics

Membership Stats 2024	Emamus Road RCUS, Edina, MN	Redeemer RCUS, Golden Valley, MN	Heritage RCUS, Waymart, PA	Salem Ebenezer RCUS, Manitowoc, WI	Peace RCUS, Garner, IA	Covenant RCUS, Gettysburg Pa (*)
Elders	3	3	1	3	1	2
Deacons	5	4	0	3	3	0
Communicants Last Year	102	101	10	110	36	34
Baptized Members Last Year	50	40			3	10
Total Members Last Year	152	141	10	110	39	44
Received by Confirmation	0	4	0	0	0	0
Received by Letter	2	4	0	0	0	0
Received by Profession of Faith	6	0	0	4	1	2
Baptized Received by Baptism	2	3			0	0
Baptized Received by Letter	0	3			0	0
Total Received	**10**	**14**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**2**
Lost by Dismission	2	8	0	0	2	0
Lost by Erasure / dismissal	6	4	1	0	2	2
Lost by Death	1	1	0	2	4	0
Baptized Erased/Dismissed	5	5			0	0
Baptized now Confirmed	0	4			0	0
Baptized Death	0	0			0	0
Total Lost	14	22	1	2	8	2
Total Communicant Gained	**-1**	**-5**	**-1**	**2**	**-7**	**0**
Communicants This Year	**101**	**96**	**9**	**112**	**29**	**34**
Unconfirmed Members	47	37	2	0	3	10
Total Baptized Members	148	133	11	112	32	44
Families	50	45	6	77	21	13
Children in Sunday School	58	39	5	7	1	7
Adult Baptisms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infants Baptized	2	3	0	0	0	0
Total Baptisms	**2**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
# Received Lord's Supper	0	96	9	100	22	44
Lord's Supper Observed	12	6	11	4	3	12
Receipts from Regular Offerings	$513,390	$302,745	$34,350	$176,182	$69,152	$86,173
Receipts from Special Offerings	$387,000	$15,831	$150	$7,396	$0	$5,118
Receipts from Other Sources	$13,332	$4,945	$0	$659	$6,870	$4,432
Total Receipts	**$913,722**	**$323,521**	**$34,500**	**$184,237**	**$76,022**	**$95,723**
Giving to Synod Guideline	$29,754	$29,474	$2,723	$15,162	$11,495	$8,294
Giving to Classis Guideline	$7,072	$6,627	$540	$3,808	$2,418	$1,972
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	$0	$14,000	$0	$6,700	$0	$6,780
Giving to Non-RCUS	$14,000	$6,000	$1,100	$7,177	$0	$282
Other Expenses	$802,740	$151,356	$0	$127,345	$86,811	$93,956
Total Expenses	**$853,566**	**$207,457**	**$4,363**	**$160,192**	**$100,724**	**$111,284**
Value of Church Building	$2,500,000	$2,100,000	$0	$1,750,000	$700,000	$0
Value of Parsonage	$371,972	$400,000	$0	$400,000	$120,000	$0
Property Improvements	$248,759	$6,940	$0	$0	$0	$0
Present Property Debts	$1,602,616	$154,144	$0	$0	$0	$0
Debt Payments Past Year	$38,347	$5,219	$0	$0	$0	$0
NET ASSETS	$1,479,768	$2,347,577	$0	$2,150,000	$820,000	$0
Giving to Synod	$295	$307	$303	$135	$396	$286
Giving to Classis	$70	$69	$60	$34	$83	$68
Giving to RCUS	**$365**	**$522**	**$363**	$60	**$480**	**$588**

Peace RCUS, Napoleon, OH	St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, Hamburg, MN	Northland RCUS, Kansas City, MO	Grace RCUS, Rogers, AR	Total 2024	Total 2023	Difference
3	3	3	1	23	24	-1
3	3	6	0	27	27	0
60	182	78	16	729	753	-24
	16	35	12	166		
60	198	113	28	895		
0	0	2	2	8	11	-3
0	0	4	1	11	4	7
3	2	15	0	33	23	10
	2	0	1	8		
	0	0	0	3		
3	**4**	**21**	**4**	**52**	**38**	**14**
0	0	1	0	13	7	6
9	8	3	0	35	29	6
1	1	0	0	10	8	2
	3	0	4	17		
	0	0	0	4		
	0	0	0	0		
10	12	4	4	79		
-7	**-7**	**17**	**3**	**58**	**44**	**14**
53	**175**	**95**	**19**	**723**	**747**	**-24**
35	15	35	9	193	210	-17
88	190	130	28	916	957	-41
32	110	47	9	410	434	-24
23	9	24	7	180	165	15
0	0	1	0	1	4	-3
1	2	5	1	14	22	-8
1	**2**	**6**	**1**	**15**	**26**	**-11**
49	138	75	27	560	691	-131
6	7	12	12	85	86	-1
$171,561	$245,722	$394,173	$59,399	$2,052,847	$1,949,562	$103,285
$29,352	$12,275	$13,095	$0	$470,217	$272,889	$197,328
$9,872	$49,357	$0	$39,052	$128,519	$134,152	-$5,633
$210,785	**$307,354**	**$407,268**	**$98,451**	**$2,651,583**	**$2,353,603**	**$297,980**
$12,193	$54,883	$22,308	$4,584	$190,870	$199,555	-$8,685
$4,080	$11,718	$5,304	$1,024	$44,563	$45,676	-$1,113
$2,165	$11,803	$3,647	$0	$45,095	$46,915	-$1,820
$3,243	$2,230	$9,833	$0	$43,865	$51,624	-$7,759
$142,144	$246,919	$293,970	$75,930	$2,021,171	$2,718,671	-$697,500
$163,825	**$327,553**	**$335,062**	**$81,538**	**$2,345,564**	**$3,062,440**	**-$716,876**
$300,000	$3,570,900	$2,000,000	$91,318	$13,012,218	$12,994,761	$17,457
$0	$425,600	$0	$91,318	$1,808,890	$1,808,890	$0
$5,640	$75,374	$0	$0	$336,713	$46,603	$290,110
$0	$0	$180,097	$40,825	$1,977,682	$2,143,316	-$165,634
$0	$0	$28,800	$10,912	$83,278	$228,690	-$145,412
$305,640	$4,071,874	$1,791,103	$130,899	$13,096,861	$12,478,248	$618,613
$230	$314	$235	$241	$262	$265	-$3
$77	$67	$56	$54	$61	$61	$0
$348	**$448**	**$329**	**$295**	**$385**	**$388**	**-$3**

Standing Rules of Covenant East Classis

1. The fiscal year of the Covenant East Classis of the Reformed Church in the U.S. shall run from July 1st to June 30th of the following year. The Classical Dues shall be due on the first of June and are to be paid not later than the thirtieth of June of the current fiscal year. [2011]

2. The Consistory of the Church to which the treasurer belongs shall audit the final Classis Treasurer report in July. The Treasurer shall distribute their findings and his report to the Consistories of Classis. [2012]

3. The parochial reports shall be forwarded to the President and the statistics to the Stated Clerk of Classis two weeks before the Spring Session of Classis.

4. The writ of certification of delegate elders shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk two weeks before the Spring session of Classis.

5. All congregations shall present an annual report on confirmation instruction, Sunday School and weekday school at the Spring Meeting of Classis. The period of instruction shall, if possible, be so extended that the pupils memorize and are able to recite the entire Heidelberg Catechism before confirmation. The course of instruction shall include Bible history, Bible survey, Bible reading, Catechism, and also singing of “Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.”

6. The Standing Rules shall be read immediately after defining the bar of the house.

7. If pastors, elders, or members of congregations request information from the Executive 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 in written form and pertain only to the item in question. This correspondence shall be part of the official minutes of the Executive Committee.

8. A pastor and his elder delegate to Classis shall be paid a maximum of fifty cents per running mile; when an elder or pastor drives his own car, he shall be paid fifty cents per mile; when a pastor or elder rides with another person he shall be paid $20 per day. When distance and time require delegates to use public transportation to Classis, they shall be granted full fare. [2009]

9. The Treasurer shall reimburse travel on behalf of Classis at fifty cents per running mile, or, if several ride together in one car or travel by public transportation, the actual fare. Travel reimbursement shall be paid only to 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. [2009]

10. The monies sent to the Treasurer shall be made out in check form and shall be designated for which fund and how much for each fund.

11. The Classis shall designate the following Permanent Committees when needed as follows: Executive, Candidates and Credentials, Church Camp, Interchurch Relations, Missions, Publications. The Standing Committee on Nominations each year is to nominate men to serve on these committees. [2014] The members of the Executive Committee shall not be from the same congregation. [2016]

12. The complete Classis statistics shall be made part of the minutes at the Spring Meeting of Classis.

13. 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 not an election on the first ballot, only the names with the two highest totals of votes shall be candidates until there is an election.

14. Prior to the Spring Meeting of Classis, the Spiritual Council of each charge shall direct the elder delegate how to answer the questions placed before the elders according to Article 81 of the Constitution. 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. [2003] Whenever the congregation amends its constitution and/or bylaws, these amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee of Classis for its information. [2017]

15. The reports and recommendations of the Permanent and Special Committees of Classis shall be completed and mailed to the Consistories of all the Churches at least three weeks prior to the meeting in which these recommendations are being made to Classis. If possible, overtures with their supporting grounds shall be submitted to 64 the clerk of classis at least three weeks before the scheduled meeting for circulation among the churches of classis. [2006]

16. The services of Classis shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and these proposed services shall be circulated before Classis.

17. Students for the ministry of the Reformed Church in the United States shall be urged by Classis to attend seminaries which are listed as institutions receiving benevolent monies from the Reformed Church in the United States. Only students who attend institutions so listed shall be eligible for student aid while preparing for the Christian ministry.

18. It shall be the practice of Classis before ordaining candidates for the ministry to require an internship of eight months for them to be spent with a pastor who has served in the RCUS for at least five years. During this internship, particular emphasis shall be placed on learning the peculiarities and practices of the Reformed Church in the United States. This internship requirement may be fulfilled either before or after the candidate has received a call or is licensed.

19. The Stated Clerk shall be paid an honorarium of $500.00 annually. [2005]. The President shall be paid an honorarium of $500 annually [2015]. The Treasurer shall be paid an honorarium of $500 annually. [2020]

20. The Spring Meeting of Classis shall begin on the first Tuesday of March, and shall meet each day until all business regularly brought before it has been disposed. [2002]

21. It shall be the practice of Covenant East Classis to examine ministers coming to it from other Classes of the RCUS to ensure that they have not departed from Reformed teaching or have developed major objections to the peculiar practices of the RCUS. Such examinations shall be completed before these candidates shall enter into a charge in Covenant East Classis and shall be conducted in such a way that each minister and delegate shall have opportunity to put questions to the candidate. [2003]

[Standing Rule #22 was removed 2018.]