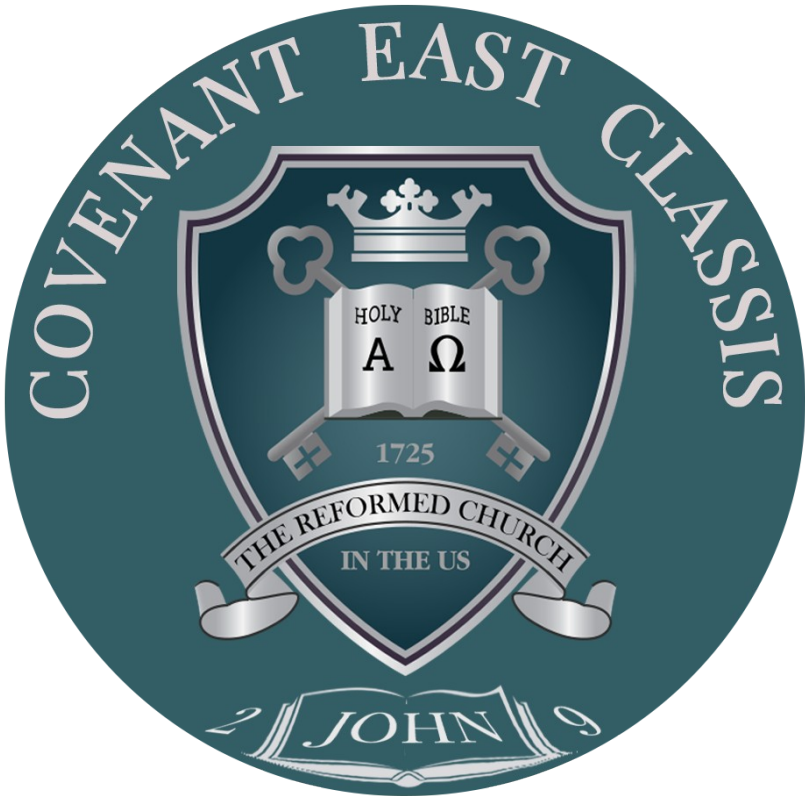


The Covenant East Classis

2026 Abstract of the Minutes



Spring Meeting
March 3rd - 4th, A.D. 2026
Northland Reformed Church
Kansas City, Missouri

June 2nd, A.D. 2025 Special Zoom Meeting

July 31st, A.D. 2025 Special Zoom Meeting

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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. Christopher Campbell
Stated Clerk:	Rev. James Grossmann
Treasurer:	Elder Alan Herrmann

Treasurer Contact Information

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

Permanent Committees of Classis

(Underline indicates Convener)

Executive Committee: Rodriguez; Grossmann; Schroeder

Candidates/Credentials: Muether; Gobelman; Fluck; Wright; G. Bass

Church Camp: Kron; Grossmann; Schnabel; Stock

Communications/Publications: Muether; Campbell; Barker

Interchurch Relations: Gobelman; Dawn; Luquette; Lau

Missions: Schnabel; M. Baas; Reimann

(Due to various considerations, the President has adjusted the committees adopted at our annual meeting.)

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2026 Directory for Covenant East Classis

Ministers of the Word

Altman, Steve

Campbell, Christopher (Northland, Kansas City)

Dawn, Matthew (Peace, Garner)

Fluck, Jay (retired)

Gobelman, Carl (Peace, Napoleon)

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)

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

Primarius Elders

Baas, Glenn (Northland, Kansas City)

Barker, Chuck (Grace Arkansas)

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

Lau, Graydon (Peace, Garner)

Luquette, Dennis (Covenant, Gettysburg)

Rothwell, Dustin (Emmaus, Eden Prairie)

Schroeder, Randy (Peace, Napoleon)

Stock, Larry (Salem Ebenezer, Manitowoc)

Wright, Dan (Heritage, Waymart)

Secundus Elders

Drewes, Jim (Peace, Napoleon)

Foster, Bob (Covenant, Gettysburg)

Reimann, Tracy

Stuebbe, Steve (Salem Ebenezer, Manitowoc)

Van Heest, Walt (Emmaus Road, Edina)

Witt, Luther (Northland, Kansas City)

Students Under Care

Hennen, Andrew

Monson, Joshua

Nelson, John

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: Vacant

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

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: Carl Gobelman (Wife: Linda)

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

41st Annual Spring Meeting – March 3-4, AD 2026

Northland Reformed Church – Kansas City, Missouri

I. Services

For the opening devotion, President Samuel Rodriguez opened with prayer, Singing of “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” and presented a devotion from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

On Tuesday evening at 7:00pm, the Classis met for a worship service with the congregation of Northland Reformed Church of Kansas City, Missouri. Rev. Ryan Kron conducted the worship service and Rev. James Grossmann preached a sermon entitled, “The Holy Spirit Overcomes Worldly Opposition” using Acts 12:25-13:12 as his text.

The Covenant East Classis opened its session on Wednesday, March 4th, A.D. 2026 with the singing of “It is Well With My Soul” and a devotion led by Rev. Gobelman from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

II. Organization

The 41st Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis convened at 8:00am on Tuesday, March 3rd AD 2026, at Northland Reformed Church of Kansas City, MO.

The President called the assembly to order at 8:25am. The roll was called following the devotion. There were eight ministers and six elders present for a total of fourteen, a quorum.

The President defined the bar of the house as the first five pews; Rev. Ryan Kron and Elder Chuck Barker as tellers; and Rev. Dan Schnabel as the *Reformed Herald* reporter

Election by ballot was held for men to serve in the following capacities: President: Rev. Samuel Rodriguez; Vice-President: Rev. Christopher Campbell; and Stated Clerk: Rev. James Grossmann. Treasurer, Elder Alan Herrmann, was elected by acclamation.

III. 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.

IV. Welcome and Seating of Fraternal Delegates and Visitors

First Time Elders Tracy Reimann, Hamburg, MN; and Glenn Baas, Kansas City, MO were introduced.

Synod President Roger Gallimore and Rev. Jay Fluck were welcomed and seated in the bar of the house.

Elder Lee Blank, Kansas City, MO was introduced.

Mr. Joshua Monson, who was seeking to be received as a student under care, was introduced.

V. Reception of New Ministers

Rev. Carl Gobelman was extended the right hand of fellowship as a new minister in the Covenant East Classis.

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 + Excuses: Rev. Gobelman, Elder Schroeder

Communications & Publications: Rev. Dawn, Elder Reimann

Examinations and Licensure / Judicial: Rev. Charles Muether, Elder Graydon Lau

Finances: Rev. Schnabel, Elder Baas

Minutes of Synod and Minutes of Classis: Rev. Grossmann, Elder Schroeder

Missions: Rev. Kron, Elder Barker

Nominations & Services: Rev. Campbell, Elder Larry Stock

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

President's Report on the State of the Church

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

I have been honored to serve as your president this past year. The year in God's providence has proven to be both a challenge and great encouragement. I would like to thank both past presidents Rev. Campbell and Elder Luquette for their help. Also, I would like to thank Rev. Muether for his help and encouragement. Working with Rev. Grossmann and Elder Van Heest has been a blessing. The RCUS celebrated her tricentennial, our Lord is truly faithful in all His deeds! During this past year Covenant East Classis in particular and the RCUS in general has also had sorrow. We had one church and one minister leave our denomination. While they departed for a sister communion, we will miss them and do pray for their continued sustaining by God.

God continues sustain our work and we give Him all the glory for it. As 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 says, " ³⁰But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom and from God-and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-³¹that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.'" NKJV

Your Covenant East Classis committees report:

The Inter-Church Relations Committee made visits this year to four of our sister churches meetings. Rev. Dawn visited Classis Central US of the URC. Rev. Grossman visited the Presbytery of Wisconsin and Minnesota OPC twice. Rev. Potter visited the Atlantic Presbytery of the RPCNA. The Candidates and Credentials Committee reports that while one student under care has asked to be removed, they are still working with two other men under care. They are also working with Grace Rogers, Arkansas which became vacant with Rev. Carr their previous pastor taking the call to St. John's RCUS Lincoln, Nebraska. But, in God's providence they have a man seeking the call to that vacant pulpit praise God.

The Church Camp was blessed again meeting at Camp Sinawa on July 8-11, 2025. The theme was "Who am I? finding our identity in Christ." There were 47 campers and 22 counselors, including 7 of our ten churches represented. They were thankful to all who help and were part of the work. The Missions Committee continues to work with Rev. Muether and the work of Immanuel Reformed Fellowship in Pella Iowa. They worked with Grace in Rogers Arkansas, but with Rev. Carr leaving they are not requesting aid this coming year.

The Communications and Publications Committee continues to work with three Synodical Committees namely, Communications, Welcoming and Publishing. They are pursuing corresponding relationships churches and groups especially in Pennsylvania.

Summaries of the various parochial reports:

From Grace Reformed, Rogers, Elder Barker reports that the Lord has blessed the work there, though it was with sadness that Rev. Carr left to pursue another call. But the congregation is grateful for the 10 years of service. They had three members join by profession of faith including an Adult baptism. Elder Steve Mankins died and is with the Lord and is greatly missed. The Lord continues to sustain the work and they ask for prayers.

From Covenant Reformed Church, Gettysburg Rev. Rodriguez reports thankfulness for another year of ministry. He is currently preaching through Matthew, having preached through Exodus. He is currently taking one youth through Confirmation Class. He is currently doing studies on prayer Wednesdays and leading a Men's Breakfast monthly through Titus.

From Immanuel Reformed Fellowship, Pella Rev. Muether reports he is preaching and doing outreach for God's glory. He is looking to do tent making with Chaplaincy ministries as he continues the mission work. He is continuing to seek to particularize the work with an augmented Consistory Lord willing. He continues to do outreach with various ministries including Sola Soup (a monthly soup supper with the study of the doctrines of grace) and services at three senior residential homes.

From Emmaus Road, Edina Rev. Kron reports that they look forward to more men serving as officers Lord willing. The Congregation seeks to support mission in the RCUS and beyond. They are reach out in the area with VBS and the local High School. They also do outreach at Brookdale Nursing Home.

From St. Paul's Evangelical, Hamburg Rev. Schabel reports he's been preaching through 2 Peter, Mark, and Exodus. The Lord has sustain his health by His grace. He has been taking two students through the Catechism. They also had joyful VBS with 21 children.

From Peace Reformed, Garner Rev. Dawn praise God for His mercy and strength as the congregation has lost seven members to death. Yet, the Lord continues to work in Garner. They were able to participate with the Covenant East youth camp. He is encouraged to live by Philippians 4:8.

From Salem Ebenezer, Manitowoc Rev. Grossman reports they had four members by profession of faith (including baptizing one) and two children were baptized. He is preaching through Joshua, 2 Kings, James, and Ruth. They finished a study through the Heidelberg Catechism. They also had 11 children at their VBS.

From Northland Reformed, Kansas City Rev. Campbell reports the church has 10 people attending their new members class. Three first time Deacons were ordained and installed. They currently have four Elders and six Deacons serving. He has been preaching through Ecclesiastes, Jude, Esther, Acts, and 1 Timothy.

From Peace Reformed, Napoleon Rev. Gobelman reports that he is grateful to be serving at Peace Reformed having been installed in the summer. He has preached through Psalm 23, Jonah, and Mark. They welcomed three covenant children through baptism. He and the Elders are studying "The Shepherd Leader," by Timothy Witmer.

From Heritage Reformed Church, Waymart Elder Wright reports that the Lord continues to sustain saints at Heritage. They have been receiving the Word from several men as they still seek a pastor. They have enjoyed fellowship at summer picnic, annual hayride, and Reformation celebration. They have continued to receive regular visitors.

From Rev. Macedo who serves Messiah's Independent Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan. Reports he has been preaching through 2 Samuel. They have several Bible studies. He and his Elders share the duties of caring for the flock.

In Christ Service,

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President

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

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 40th Annual Spring Meeting of Classis.

Duties Performed:

1. Completed the Minutes from the 40th Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis, placed them in permanent binders, including all reports, overtures, and other relevant information. They were presented to the 279th 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 2025 Abstract, and sent to the *Reformed Herald*.
3. Prepared the Abstract of the 40th Annual Spring Meeting of Classis and delivered copies of them to the churches of the RCUS at the Synod meeting held in Rapid City, 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. Five Executive Circulars 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 41st Annual Meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted, James Grossmann

Necrology for Elder Steve Mankins – Grace Reformed, Rogers, AR

Elder Steve Mankins, 78 years old, passed on to be with his Lord, November 6th, 2025. He was born in Santa Maria, CA.

He was preceded in death by his father, George, mother, Josephine, brother, George, and sister, Linda.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Mrs. Sandy Mankins, daughter, Sabrina Mankins; son, Steven Mankins II of Washington State; son, Alan Frantz of Washburn, MO; grandchildren, Keith Mankins, Erica Mankins, Joshua Mankins-Sobeck of Washington State, Joey Frantz and Bridget Frantz of Missouri, and six great-grandchildren.

Steve was a logger by trade for over 40 years. He loved sharing the Lord, fishing, raising cattle, and rebuilding old cars.

He served faithfully as a member, deacon, and elder at Grace Reformed Church in Rogers, AR.

C. Report of Executive Committee of Synod

January 27, 2026

ATTN: Classes Clerk

RE: Minutes of Synod Report

Dear Brothers in Christ,

In reviewing the minutes of the 279th Synod, there were no items that required action by the Classes. There are several other matters of note:

Other matters of note:

1. The 280th Annual Session of the Synod of the RCUS is scheduled to meet May 18-21, 2026, at Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church in Manitowoc, WI.
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.
3. Please review the Standing Rules of Synod (2025 Synod Abstract, pp. 167-71).
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. Be reminded that according to Article 91 of the RCUS Constitution, the Executive Committees of the various classes are encouraged to take special care to fulfill their responsibilities to vacant charges and that congregations continue to pray regularly for them.
6. 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

February 26, 2026

Esteemed Brethren,

Your Committee has done business throughout the year mainly via email to discuss matters that were brought before it. Beyond the matters brought before the classis via circulars, we also informed the classis of the decision of Redeemer Reformed Church, Golden Valley to leave the RCUS. We requested advice from the Executive Committee of Synod with regard to the credentials of Rev. Jim Sawtelle after Redeemer's Departure (he later requested that he be removed from the rolls of classis).

Five (5) circulars were sent out this past year and the following is a summary of that business.

Volume 41, Number 1 – Objected to and therefore did not become an action of Classis.

1. That the resignation of Rev. Steve Altman from the pastoral charge of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, Ohio and the acceptance of that resignation by Peace Reformed Church be declared in order.
2. That the pulpit of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, Ohio be declared vacant.
3. That the Covenant East Classis Overture Synod on behalf of Mrs. Sharon Sawtelle to provide Ministerial aid in the amount of the \$18,700 (\$1,558.33 per month) for the Synodical year 2025-2026.

Volume 41, Number 2 - Enacted

1. Scheduled a Zoom Special Meeting of Classis on Monday, June 2nd, 2025 at 7PM central time, for the purpose of:
 1. Discussing the resignation of Rev. Altman from Peace Reformed, Napoleon
 2. Discussing the disposition of the pulpit there.
2. Decided to Overture Synod for Ministerial Aid to Mrs. Sharon Sawtelle for the 2025-2026 Synodical year.

Volume 41, Number 3 - Enacted

1. Scheduled a Zoom Special Meeting of Classis on Thursday, July 31st, 2025 at 7PM central time, for the purpose of:
 1. examining Rev. Carl Gobelman for Orthodoxy and Intent
 2. Considering the disposition of the Call from Peace Reformed, Napoleon, OH to Rev. Carl Gobelman
 3. Making provision for Rev. Gobelman's installation as pastor at Peace Reformed, Napoleon, OH.

Volume 41, Number 4 - Enacted

1. Scheduled the installation service for Rev. Carl Gobelman as pastor of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH on Thursday, September 4th, 2025 at 7pm Eastern Time
2. Added Rev. Christopher Campbell to the installation committee (which, after the July 31st Special Zoom Classis meeting consisted of Rev. Grossmann and the elders of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH.)
3. Rev. Campbell was scheduled to preach the charge to Rev. Gobelman, and Rev. Grossmann to preach the charge to the congregation, with one or both of them leading the installation service.

Volume 41, Number 5 - Enacted

1. Transferred Rev. Kyle Sorensen's Ministerial Credentials to the South Central Classis, RCUS.
2. Transferred Rev. Win Groseclose's Ministerial Credentials to the OPC Presbytery of Ohio.
3. Declared Rev. Steven Carr's resignation of the Call to Grace Reformed Church, Rogers, AR in order and that pulpit vacant.
4. Transferred Rev. Carr's Ministerial Credentials to the South Central Classis, RCUS.

Respectfully Submitted,
The CEC Executive Committee

President
Rev. Samuel Rodriguez
89 Deatrick Dr.
Gettysburg, PA 17372

Stated Clerk
Rev. James Grossmann
7411 Center Rd.
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Member
Elder Walt Van Heest
9437 Libby Ln
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

E. Treasurer’s Report & Auditor’s Opinion

(Handled under Standing Finances)

July 1, 2025 - Feb 28,2026

Detailed Income Report

Guideline Total \$68.

		29%	59%	0%	12.0%			
		\$ 20.00	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 8.00	\$ 68.00		Due
	<u>Members</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Student Aid</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Totals YTD</u>	<u>by 6/15/24</u>
NW Arkansas	19	\$ 345.10	\$ 702.10	\$ -	\$ 142.80	\$ 1,292.00	\$ 1,190.00	\$ 102.00
Eden Prarie MN	101	\$ 1,991.72	\$ 4,052.12	\$ -	\$ 824.16	\$ 6,868.00	\$ 6,868.00	\$ -
Garner IA	29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,972.00	\$ -	\$ 1,972.00
Gettysburg, PA	34	\$ 571.88	\$ 1,163.48	\$ -	\$ 236.64	\$ 2,312.00	\$ 1,972.00	\$ 340.00
Hamburg MN	175	\$ 3,451.00	\$ 7,021.00	\$ -	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 11,900.00	\$ -
Kansas City MO	95	\$ 1,873.40	\$ 3,811.40	\$ -	\$ 775.20	\$ 6,460.00	\$ 6,460.00	\$ -
Manitowoc WI	112	\$ 1,104.32	\$ 2,246.72	\$ -	\$ 456.96	\$ 7,616.00	\$ 3,808.00	\$ 3,808.00
Minneapolis MN	96	\$ 946.56	\$ 1,925.76	\$ -	\$ 391.68	\$ 6,528.00	\$ 3,264.00	\$ 3,264.00
Napoleon OH	53	\$ 1,064.88	\$ 2,166.48	\$ -	\$ 440.64	\$ 3,604.00	\$ 3,672.00	\$ (68.00)
Waymart PA	9	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 612.00	\$ -	\$ 612.00
South Central Iowa	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	723					\$ 49,164.00	\$ 39,134.00	<u>\$10,030.00</u>

Income July 2025 - Feb 2026 \$ 11,348.86 \$ 23,089.06 \$ - \$ 4,696.08 total \$ **39,134.00**

Year to Date Report

Expense July 1, 2025 - Feb 28, 2026

General Fund Expense

Classis Meeting	\$	-	
Clerk/Printing Supplies			
Travel	\$	509.86	
Honorarium	\$	-	
Synod Tricentennial	\$	5,000.00	
Postage/Phone/Checks		\$0.00	
Total			\$ 5,509.86

Mission Fund Expenses

Covenant Reformed PA. (Iowa)	\$	12,500.00	
Grace Reformed Church	\$	9,000.00	
Travel	\$	-	
Total			\$ 21,500.00

Benevolence-

Total	\$	-	
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Student Aid	\$	6,625.00	
Total			\$ 6,625.00

Expense Total	\$	33,634.86	
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Total Classis Income July 1, 2025 - Feb 28, 2026 **\$ 39,134.00**

Total Classis Expense July 1,2025-Feb 28, 2026 **\$ 33,634.86**

Year to Date Report			
Balance July 1, 2025-Feb 28, 2026			
	Beginning Balance July 1, 2025		\$ 59,121.58
General Fund	Balance July 1, 2025	\$ (1,618.74)	
Receipts		\$ 11,348.86	
Expenses		\$ 5,509.86	
Balance 02/28/2026			\$ 4,220.26
Missions Fund	Balance July 1, 2025	\$ 40,639.38	
Receipts		\$ 23,089.06	
Expenses		\$ 21,500.00	
Balance 02/28/2026			\$ 42,228.44
Benevolence Fund	Balance July 1, 2025	\$ 8,134.67	
Receipts		\$ -	
Expenses		\$ -	
Balance 02/28/2026			\$ 8,134.67
Student Aid Fund	Balance Feb 28, 2025	\$ 11,966.27	
Receipts		\$ 4,696.08	
Expenses		\$ 6,625.00	
Balance 02/28/2026			\$ 10,037.35
Begin balance	7/1/2025		\$ 59,121.58
Receipts	7/1/25-2/28/2026		\$ 39,134.00
Expenses	7/1/25-2/28/26		\$ 33,634.86
Balance 2/28/2026			\$ 64,620.72
End Balance Feb 28th, 2026 per bank statement			\$ 64,620.72
Mission expenses-	\$ (21,500.00)		
Classis expenses	\$ (10,000.00)		
Students	\$ (6,000.00)		
Total due 2026	\$ (37,500.00)		
Dues owed	\$ 6,000.00		
Net	\$ (31,500.00)	Estimated bala	\$ 33,120.00

Respectfully Submitted, Alan Herrmann, Treasurer

X. 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.

XI. 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 Manitowoc, which answered, "Needs Improvement."

b. Is Christian discipline faithfully exercised according to the Constitution?

All churches answered "Yes," except Waymart, which answered, "Not Applicable"

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," with the exception of Rogers and Garner, which answered "No."

c. Are the apportionments 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" with the exception of Rogers and Garner, which answered "No."

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 Waymart which answered, "Not Applicable."

7b. Is the temporal contract between minister and people adequate to meet his temporal needs?

All churches answered "Yes," except Waymart, which answered "Not Applicable."

The body was given the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

XII. 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.)

XIII. Reports from Classis Delegates to Fraternal Bodies

Rev. Dawn presented his report from his fraternal visit to Classis Central of the URCNA held at Sanborn, IA.

Rev. Grossmann presented his report from his fraternal visits to the Wisconsin and Minnesota Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

XIV. Addresses by Delegates from other Reformed Churches or Visitors

There were no fraternal delegates or visitors to address the body.

XV. Presentation of Permanent Committee Reports

A. Candidates and Credentials

Fathers and Brothers:

The Candidates and Credentials Committee was largely inactive after Rev. Win Groseclose, the committee chairman, had transferred to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Classis President Rev. Samuel Rodriguez recently appointed Rev. Chuck Muether to the committee, and the committee elected Rev. Muether to be the acting chairman.

Your committee met with Elder Chuck Barker of Grace Reformed Church (Rogers, AR) and Mr. Joshua Monson on January 23. Elder Barker on behalf of the church indicated interest in pursuing Mr. Monson as a potential ministerial candidate. Rev. Steve Carr had vacated the pulpit to take the call at St. John's Reformed Church (Lincoln, NE). Mr. Monson has successfully completed an internship at Grace Reformed Church. He has provided the committee with a written biography and a transcript of his completed studies at Erksine Theological Seminary. He desires to begin the steps toward licensure in the RCUS. Mr. Monson and his wife Denise are members of Grace Reformed Church.

Recommendations

1. That Covenant East Classis take Mr. Joshua Monson under care as a student for ministry in the RCUS upon the Classis' satisfaction of his orthodoxy and intent exam to be given on the floor of this meeting.
2. That Covenant East Classis approve Mr. Joshua Monson, an M.Div. graduate from Erksine Theological Seminary, to supply the vacant pulpit of Grace Reformed Church for one year.

Grounds: The committee believes his supplying the pulpit would be permissible as a student for ministry under the provision of Article 69 of the RCUS Constitution. An internship was considered, but he had recently completed one for GRC. His ministerial labors would be monitored by this committee.

3. That Covenant East Classis remove Mr. Dale Schmieg's name from the roll as a student under care.

4. That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. Andrew Hennen with \$4,800.00 per year toward tuition at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and an additional \$400.00 toward books for seminary study.

5. That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. John Nelson with \$4,800.00 per year toward tuition at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and an additional \$400.00 toward books for seminary study.

6. That Covenant East Classis receive the ministerial credentials of retired minister Rev. Jay Fluck from

South Central Classis per CEC Standing Rule 21.

Grounds: While Rev. Fluck is retired and not seeking a call, the committee believes the Classis should be given the opportunity to ask questions to determine if his theological convictions have changed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Jim Drewes and Elder Dan Wright,

Rev. Breno Macedo and Rev. Chuck Muether (acting chairman)

(Classis Action: The report was referred to the Standing Examinations and Licensure committee.)

B. Interchurch Relations

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The work of Covenant East Classis Interchurch Relations Committee in this past classical year was carried on by email 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 able to send three fraternal delegates this past year: Rev. Matthew Dawn attended the fall meeting of Classis Central US (URCNA) in Sanborn, IA; Rev. James Grossmann to the spring and fall meetings of the Presbytery of Wisconsin and Minnesota (OPC); and Rev. Ron Potter attended the fall meeting of the Atlantic Presbytery (RCPNA) in White Lake, NY. Their reports are attached.

* * *

Report of the RCUS Fraternal Delegate to the Classis Central U.S. of the United Reformed Churches in North America

September 15, 2025

Esteemed Brothers,

I attended the Classis Central U.S of the URC in Sanborn Iowa from September 15th to September 16th 2025 and found the men there welcoming and informative. I had filled the pulpits of several URC churches while I was in seminary and found many of the folks at this gathering to be familiar. I met with and talked to a couple elders from Redeemer Reformed church in Golden Valley Minnesota. I was even able to find family members and others who knew my family quite well much to my surprise. In several ways it felt just as much like a family gathering as it did a classis meeting. The first day was spent mostly welcoming delegates, eating, and fellowshiping over our shared faith. The gathering welcomed two new ministers within classis, Rev. Daniel Hofland, recently ordained and installed in Doon URC, and Rev. Steve Oeverman, recently installed in Oak Glen URC. I wasn't able to give greetings from the RCUS on the first day because it was packed with business. They received reports from mission works and classis functionaries and dealt with certain disciplinary issues within the church. At this meeting of classis, a consistory also requested advice in regard to the suspension of a minister and about removing certain church members from church rolls due to lack of attendance. Advice was given and a meal was had.

I was able to give my greetings from the RCUS the next day after which the Classis dealt with overtures concerning the methods of scheduling and calling for classis meetings, a timeline for the adjudication of appeal, and the financial support of an emeritus minister. Despite some serious topics that were dealt with at the meeting everyone had joyful and hopeful mood that lasted until the rest of the meeting. It was a joy to fellowship with these brothers from another denomination who were

welcoming and eager to talk with the delegates from other denominations. May God continue to strengthen these bonds of fellowship that we may all serve God and his chosen people faithfully. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Matthew J. D. Dawn, Pastor, Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA

* * *

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers,

The Presbytery of Wisconsin and Minnesota held a number of meetings this year, and I was invited to all of them as a fraternal delegate. I was able to attend their stated spring and fall meetings at least in part. They have been VERY gracious in inviting me and the pastor of the only URCNA church in Wisconsin in their meetings and other fellowship opportunities. I addressed their Spring Presbytery (March 21st) with fraternal greetings, noting our upcoming (at the time) celebration of 300 years at our Synod meeting (the URC fraternal delegate had mentioned the relative ages of their denominations before me, giving me an opportunity I couldn't resist).

I was only able to attend their Fall Presbytery (September 12-13) for part of the 12th due to schedule conflicts.

One thing I take away from their fellowship is a need to build relationships within our classis. The OPC brothers near me have included me in a monthly opportunity to have lunch together and I can see that it has been a blessing to their unity. I am not certain what it would look like in our case, but I think we should make greater efforts to fellowship on a regular basis. Perhaps a monthly zoom meeting or something during a meal...

In Christ's Service, James Grossmann

* * *

February 2nd, 2025

Covenant East Classis RCUS,

Interchurch Relations Committee,

The following is the undersigned's report of a visit to the Atlantic Presbytery of the RPCNA on behalf of the CEC IRC on Saturday October 4th, 2025:

The Presbytery, which meets both spring and fall, convened for its fall meeting on the evening of Friday October 3rd, 2025 at the RPCNA Church in White Lake, NY about an hour from where I live. The Church is located very close to the RPNCA summer camp facilities and both are near the old 1969 Woodstock venue, now the location of the Bethel Woods Centre for the Performing Arts. This was my second visit to the White Lake Church.

I was unable to attend the Friday evening meeting but was present for the Saturday session. The Rev. Paul Brace of the Hazelton, PA congregation served as Moderator and Retired Minister, and former Synod Clerk, Rev. Bruce Martin from the Philadelphia area served as Clerk of Presbytery. Both men are longtime friends who I have been privileged to work with over the years. In addition I have been preaching frequently in two of their Presbytery Churches, one in PA and one in NY State, and have gotten to know thereby several of the Elders who were also present at the Presbytery meeting.

The bulk of the Presbytery meeting was taken with three partial ministerial exams of students currently in Seminary and under Presbytery care. Two Candidates were examined on Personal Godliness and one was examined on Systematics and Distinctives. The examinations were thorough and each conducted by an appointed representative of a Church Session. Questions were also asked from the floor. All examinations were confirmed by roll call vote without dissent. Often when a delegate was asked for his vote on the roll call a comment or two was made which might have been positive or negative, a reflection on a perceived strength or weakness perhaps. The candidate was present to hear the comment. Unlike our Classis exams which normally take place on the same occasion the exams of this Presbytery are spread over a far longer period of time.

In other business of the Presbytery the resignation of the Minister of the Cambridge Church to pursue PhD studies in Belfast was confirmed and one new student for the ministry was taken under care. There are currently two pulpit vacancies in the Presbytery. Funds were approved to assist students for the ministry and for the White Lake Camp as well as for other Presbytery expenses. The budget presented was adopted. Currently the Presbytery assessment to fund its activities stands at \$60.00 per communicant member.

The undersigned noted from the various reports that occasionally women were appointed to committees. In questioning this it was explained to me by the Moderator that a Committee is only advisory and has no authority. They are thus called Advisory Committees in distinction from

Commissions. The authority resides in Commissions which do not have women serving. As an example Presbytery has an advisory committee to study the use of marijuana in which female EMT's and others serving in the medical field provide information. This advisory report then reports to a Commission which alone has the authority to act.

In addition to bringing the fraternal address the undersigned was also invited to bring a 30 minute devotional to the Presbytery. So far as I can remember this is the first time I ever heard of a fraternal delegate being invited to lead in worship and to preach. It was a privilege to be invited. I preached on *Persevering in Ministry in The Face of Rejection* from Luke 4:14-32. Not being familiar with their Psalter I was able to prevail upon an Elder from the Coldenham Church where I preach often, to handle the music leadership chores which he graciously did.

The Presbytery consists of a fine group of dedicated ministers and Elders, earnest to promote the Gospel and to be used of the Lord in the building of His Church. It was my privilege to be among them.

Respectfully,

Rev. Ron Potter (Ret.)

On behalf of the committee,

* * *

Rev. Carl F. Gobelman, acting chair CEC Interchurch Relations Committee; Elder Luther Witt

(Classis Action: This Report was Adopted)

C. Church Camp Committee

Dear All,

Covenant Youth Camp met again in 2025 at Camp Sinawa on July 8-11. It was a wonderful week of fellowship, study in the Scriptures, fun, and great food. The theme of the camp was *Who am I? Finding our Identity in Christ*. Our theme verse was Colossians 1:27b: "Christ in you the hope of glory." The theme and lessons were based on the book "*Who am I? Finding our Identity in Christ*" by Jonathan Landry Cruse.

The opening night talk was on creation in the image of God by Pastor Dan Schnabel. Lesson #2 was on the fall by Pastor Chuck Muehther. Lesson #3 was redemption and identity in Christ by Pastor Ryan Kron. Lesson #4 was sanctification by Pastor Matthew Dawn. Lesson #5 was a lesson on the use of technology/A.I./social media, etc. by Pastor Christopher Campbell.

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. In attendance this year we had 47 campers and 22 counselors, with a total of 69 altogether. Of the 22 counselors, 12 were ladies and 10 were males. 7 pastors were in attendance. Attending churches were: Grace Reformed Church (Rogers, AR), Peace Reformed Church (Garner, IA), Immanuel Reformed Fellowship (Pella, IA), Emmaus Road Reformed Church (Edina, MN), Redeemer Reformed Church (Golden Valley, MN), St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church (Hamburg, MN), Northland Reformed Church (Kansas City, MO), Christ Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Janesville, WI), and Salem Ebenezer Reformed Church (Manitowoc, WI).

We are thankful for 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! We want to thank Pastor Grossmann for being the health director and our kitchen staff for keeping our costs tremendously low!

Kayla also writes: "I'd still love to help another church with the plannings of a separate youth camp/waterpark gathering/mission trip in the event Camp Sinawa doesn't work out forever.

Perhaps if there was an identified need such as basic construction/painting or the like with one of your churches, you could reach out and we could collaborate with TASC to gather our teen youth for

a service project with their already-established plannings committee. Please don't let the ideas stop here, these programs are so beneficial for our youth!"

The Camp balance began 2025 with \$2,315.21. Total income was \$6,869.61. Total camp expenses will be \$6,752.70 after we pay Sinawa for 2026. The income includes donations from churches and individuals, for which we give thanks. The current balance as of 7/27/25 stands at \$2,882.12. We want to thank the churches and individuals who donated to the fund.

The dates for the 2026 camp are July 7-10. There has been some discussion of the possibility of raising the camper price next year from \$100 to \$125, but because of generous donations we don't see an actual need for that at this time. 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, Matthew Dawn, Dan Schnabel, 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 conjunction with three Synodical Permanent Committees: Communications, Publishing, and Welcoming.

Synodical Permanent Communications Committee

As has been the request from the Permanent Communications Committee over the years, we urge Covenant East Classis and its congregations to send newsworthy content and media that highlights notable events using either email address: comms@RCUS.org or contact@thekirkside.com. Your C&P Committee would like to commend Immanuel Reformed Fellowship, Emmaus Road Reformed Church, and Northland Reformed Church for their steady contributions over the year. It is always a blessing to share local church and CEC news with our denomination.

The RCUS Permanent Communications Committee has also requested that an individual from each congregation be sought out to be the "content contact." That person would be responsible for sending news items and pictures to this committee. Mr. Brett Kruschke from Emmaus Road Reformed Church has been an exemplary content contact for us.

Synodical Permanent Welcoming Committee

Rev. Chuck Muether had been the Covenant East Classis communications liaison to the Welcoming Committee over the years. Elder Dennis Luquette will be assuming that role for the next synodical year. With respect to Recommendation #1 from last year's Classis meeting (*That communication relative to establishing Corresponding Relationships be run through the Classis Communications and Publications Committee*), Elder Luquette will also be the initial contact for the RCUS Welcoming Committee with the assistance of Rev. Ron Potter in connecting with interested groups and small churches in Pennsylvania.

Synodical Permanent Publications Committee and Website

Your C&P Committee has been working with Hannah Foster (RCUS website administrator and content manager) in providing material for Issue M (the online version of the *Reformed Herald*) and the print edition. Rev. Christopher, who is also on the Permanent Communications Committee, has been reviewing the work of the website.

The CEC Handbook Project, that would include the RCUS Constitution, CEC Standing Rules, and helpful deadline dates for reports and certifications, has been put on hold until the RCUS Special Committee for Constitutional Review has completed its work and final adoption from Synod occurs. Respectfully submitted, Elder Orrin Herrmann, Elder Dennis Luquette, Rev. Christopher Campbell, Rev. Chuck Muether (chairman)

(Classis Action: This report was adopted)

E. Missions

COVENANT EAST CLASSIS PERMANENT MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE 2026 SPRING CLASSIS MEETING

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

On October 27, 2025 Rev. Ryan Kron and Elder Michael Baas had a Zoom meeting with Rev. Chuck Muether. Rev. Kron opened the meeting with reading Acts 9:31 and prayer.

Rev. Muether continues to labor faithfully. They average around 30 on Sunday mornings, with around 15 visitors/new faces each week.

Rev. Muether says “we are on the tail end of financial support as we go off Classis and Synod Mission status. We will still be a work-in-progress under Covenant Reformed Church (Gettysburg, PA) providing oversight and leadership as we work through the particularization process.” One challenge they have faced is that one of IRF's core families will be moving out of Pella, but there are some other families who are showing potential interest in the church. Chuck says “we have invested wisely and we have other resources and we have another family ready to join to become part of the core.” They will not be asking for financial support from synod this year but requesting \$12,000.00 from Classis.

Rev. Muether continues to work with Mariaska Ministries as a chaplain. This involves working with those who are institutionalized who need pastoral care. This will hopefully generate some income to allow them to remain in their current rental facility and to create some financial viability. Your committee is encouraged by the faithful work of Rev. Muether, and we want to continue to lift them up in prayer.

Elder Michael Baas closed the meeting in prayer

Report on Grace Reformed, Rogers, Arkansas

On October 27, 2025 Rev. Ryan Kron and Elder Michael Baas had a Zoom meeting with Elder Chuck Barker. Elder Michael Baas opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Steve Carr is leaving Arkansas to take a call to the RCUS in Lincoln, Nebraska. The congregation is sad to see Rev. Carr and his family move away. The congregation loved Rev. Carr and his family! Chuck says “we see God working in this and we trust that the Lord will call the right man to Arkansas at the right time. I have a lot of hope for the church and I am excited to see God provide!” At this time, Chuck is the only elder. Steve Mankins, who previously has served as an elder, is struggling with cancer.

They had a new member join them recently. They are setting up a committee soon to begin searching for a new pastor. They will be working on providing pulpit supply. Chuck will help to exhort a few times a month. They have a man (Josh Munson) who Rev. Carr has mentored who is willing to provide pulpit supply twice a month. He is currently a student under care in the OPC while he is studying at Erskine Seminary (ARP). He lives a few hours away in Springfield.

Rev. Carr and Elder Chuck have been teaching through Calvin's Institutes. They will begin going through Ursinus' Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism in November.

For now they plan to request the same financial support as last year.

Rev. Kron closed in prayer.

On February 3, 2026 Elder Chuck Barker provided this update:

“Thank you for your prayers and support for Grace Reformed Church in Rogers Arkansas. At this time, we are not requesting financial assistance. I would like to thank the committee and classis for the prior support that we have received. This has been a blessing from the Lord, and the church is very grateful for the help that we have received.”

Elder Barker also reported that “Steve Mankins, who faithfully served the RCUS for many years as a member and as an elder and deacon at Grace Reformed Church, passed away on November 6, 2026.”

Recommendations:

1. That Classis support Covenant Reformed (Gettysburg, PA) with \$6,000 in 2025-2026 for the work in south-central Iowa to offset the operating expenses of the rental facility. The pastor's salary would come from bivocational means.

2. That Classis overture Synod to provide Covenant Reformed (Gettysburg, PA) with \$6,000 in 2025-2026 for the work in south-central Iowa to offset the operating expenses of the rental facility. The pastor's salary would come from bivocational means.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Ryan Kron, Chairman, Rev. Breno Macedo, Elder Michael Baas, Elder Graydon Lau

(This Report was Referred to the Standing Missions Committee)

XVI. 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

The following motions were adopted:

Recommendation #1: That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Sharon Sawtelle in the amount of \$18,700 (\$1,558.33/month) same amount as last year.

Recommendation #2: That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Mrs. Joan Vance in the amount of \$14,400 (\$1200.00/month) same amount as last year.

Recommendation #3: That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Rev. Mark Larson in the amount of \$10,452 (\$871.00/month) same amount as last year.

Recommendation #4: That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for ministerial aid for Rev. & Mrs. Ron Potter in the amount of \$26,200 (\$2,216.67/month) same amount as last year.

Recommendation #5: That Covenant East Classis provide benevolent aid in the amount of \$7,500 (\$625.00/month) to Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA, for the 2026-27 classical year.

Recommendation #6: That Covenant East Classis overture the Synod of the RCUS for benevolent aid in the amount of \$7,500 (\$625.00/month) to Peace Reformed Church, Garner, IA, for the 2026-27 synodical year.

B. Communications & Publications

No Recommendations were brought by the Standing Communications & Publications Committee.

C. Examinations and Licensure

The following motions were adopted:

An Orthodoxy and Intent exam was given to Mr. Joshua Monson, the Classis was given opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

Recommendation #1 That the Exam be found satisfactory.

Recommendation #2 from the permanent Candidates and Credentials Report: That Covenant East Classis approve Mr. Joshua Monson, an M.Div. graduate from Erksine Theological Seminary, to supply the vacant pulpit of Grace Reformed Church for one year.

Recommendation #3 from the permanent Candidates and Credentials report: That Covenant East Classis remove Mr. Dale Schmieg's name from the roll as a student under care.

Recommendation #4 from the permanent Candidates and Credentials report: That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. Andrew Hennen with \$4,800.00 per year toward tuition at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and an additional \$400.00 toward books for seminary study.

Recommendation #5 from the permanent Candidates and Credentials report: That Covenant East Classis provide Mr. John Nelson with \$4,800.00 per year toward tuition at Heidelberg Theological Seminary and an additional \$400.00 toward books for seminary study.

Rev. Muether moved Recommendation #6 from the permanent Candidates and Credentials report: That Covenant East Classis receive the ministerial credentials of retired minister Rev. Jay Fluck from South Central Classis per CEC Standing Rule 21.

D. Excuses

Recommendation #1: That the following excuses from all sessions of the 2026 Spring meeting of Covenant East Classis be approved: Rev. Steve Altman; Elder Dan Wright; The elders of Emmaus Road Reformed Church, Edina, MN; The elders of Covenant Reformed Church, Gettysburg, PA; Rev. Kyle Sorensen; and Rev. Breno Macedo.

Recommendation #2: Regarding the excuse received from Rev. Breno Macedo, that the Executive Committee of Covenant East Classis reach out to the Synod Permanent Committee on Pastoral Care and come alongside our brother to see how we can be of assistance.

E. Finances

Take Note of Recommendation #1: the Consistory of St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church has audited the 2024-2025 year up to date treasurer's report and found it to be in order.

Recommendation # 2: That we approve the financial reports up to February 28 as provided by the Treasurer.

Recommendation #3: That Alan Herrmann be nominated as Covenant East Classis treasurer.

Recommendation #4: that travel reimbursement for the Classis meeting be as follows: Chuck Muether: \$322.00; St. Paul's Ev. Reformed \$376.91; Charles Barker: \$348.60; Larry Stock: \$560.00; Randy Schroeder: \$915.00; Graydon Lau: \$423.50; Samuel Rodriguez: \$513.60; Matthew Dawn (Fraternal Travel): \$315.98; for a total of \$3775.59.

Recommendation #5: that Classis adopt the following Guidelines: General Fund: \$20; Missions Fund: \$30; Benevolence Fund: \$12; Student Aid Fund: \$10; for a total of \$72 per Communicant Member.

F. Judicial

Recommendation #1: That a special committee comprised of Ron Potter, Jay Fluck, Chuck Barker, and Dan Wright be erected to work with the executive committee in applying the Western Classis Study Report to particular situations in Covenant East Classis."

G. Minutes of Classis

Take Note of Recommendation #1: The Minutes of the Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis have been reviewed and corrections have been made in the minutes through 10:00am, March 4th (Line 399).

H. Minutes of Synod

Take Note of Recommendation #3 from the Minutes of Synod Report: Please review the Standing Rules of Synod in preparation for Synod.

I. Missions

Recommendation #1: That Classis support Covenant Reformed (Gettysburg, PA) with \$12,000 in 2025-2026 for the work in south-central Iowa to offset the operating expenses of the rental facility. The pastor's salary would come from bivocational means.

J. Nominations

Recommendation #1: That the Permanent Committees be as follows:

Executive Committee: Rodriguez; Grossmann; Schroeder

Candidates/Credentials: Gobelman; Muether, Fluck, Wright; G. Baas

Church Camp: Kron; Grossmann; Schnabel; Stock

Communications/Publications: Muether; Campbell; Barker

Interchurch Relations: Macedo; Dawn; Luquette; Lau

Missions: Schnabel; M. Baas; Reimann

K. Services

That the following expression of appreciation be printed in the Abstract and in the Northland Reformed Church Bulletin: “We, the delegates of the 41st Annual Spring Meeting of Covenant East Classis, wish to express our gratitude to the congregation of Northland Reformed Church for hosting our meeting. We know that Northland is no stranger to hosting these meetings, and your experience certainly showed. Not only was the food delicious, but the atmosphere and care in serving us went above and beyond all expectations. May our God richly bless you for the kindness you showed to us.”

XVII. Miscellaneous Reports and Other Business

A. Expression of Appreciation to the Hosting Congregation

This was already done under the Standing Services Committee.

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 already adopted.

XVIII. Reading of the Minutes and Their Approval

The president declared the minutes approved as corrected.

XIX. Adjournment

Elder Stock moved that the Classis adjourn to the 42nd Annual Spring Meeting of the Covenant East Classis to begin on March 2nd, A.D. 2027 at 8:00am (CST), at Grace Reformed Church, Rogers, AR. The final roll call showed nine ministers, and six elders present for a total of fifteen, a quorum. Elder Baas closed the meeting with a devotion and prayer. The Assembly stood and united in reciting the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. President Rodriguez pronounced the Benediction and led the Assembly in the singing of the Doxology.
The Classis adjourned at 11:25am on March 4th, A.D. 2026.

June 2nd Special Meeting

Zoom Conference

I. Services

For the opening devotion, President Samuel Rodriguez opened by reading from Philippians 2:1-4 and prayer.

II. Organization

The June 2nd, 2025 Special Meeting of the Covenant East Classis convened at 7:02pm on Monday, June 2, A.D. 2025 via Zoom Teleconference. There were nine ministers and seven elders present for a total of sixteen, a quorum.

III. Adoption Of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented by the executive committee.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Consideration of the Resignation of Rev. Steve Altman from the pastoral call and the Acceptance of that resignation by Peace Reformed Church.

That the resignation of Rev. Steve Altman from the pastoral call of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, OH and the acceptance of the resignation by the consistory be approved.

B. Consideration of the status of the pulpit of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, Ohio.

The relationship between Rev. Altman and Peace Reformed is dissolved. The Pulpit of Peace Reformed Church is declared vacant.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

The Minutes were read and the President declared the minutes approved as corrected.

VI. Adjournment

The closing roll call showed ten ministers, and seven elders present for a total of seventeen, a quorum. Rev. Chuck Muether closed the meeting in prayer. The Body Adjourned at 8:08pm.

July 31st Special Meeting

Zoom Conference

I. Services

For the opening devotion, President Samuel Rodriguez opened by reading from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and prayer.

II. Organization

The July 31st, 2025 Special Meeting of the Covenant East Classis convened at 7:00pm Central Time (8:00 pm Eastern Time) on Thursday, July 31, A.D. 2025 via Zoom Teleconference. There were eleven ministers and seven elders present for a total of eighteen, a quorum. Elder Tim Demland and Elder Randy Schroeder of Peace RCUS, Napoleon, Ohio were seated in the bar and given privilege of the floor.

III. Adoption Of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented by the executive committee.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Orthodoxy and Intent Exam of Rev. Carl Gobelman in fulfillment of Standing Rule #21.

Rev. Win Groseclose examined Rev. Gobelman in Orthodoxy and Intent. The body was given the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

Recommendation: That the Covenant East Classis Approve Rev. Gobelman's Exam.

B. Considering the disposition of the Call from Peace Reformed, Napoleon, Ohio to Rev. Carl Gobelman.

Recommendation: That the Call be approved.

C. Making provision for Rev. Gobelman's installation as pastor at Peace Reformed, Napoleon, OH.

The President appointed a committee consisting of Rev. James Grossmann and the elders of Peace Reformed Church, Napoleon, Ohio to install Rev. Gobelman at a time to be chosen and circularized.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

The Minutes were read and the President declared the minutes approved as corrected.

VI. Adjournment

The closing roll call showed twelve ministers, and seven elders present for a total of nineteen, a quorum. Rev. Potter closed the meeting in prayer. The Body Adjourned at 7:47pm.

APPENDIX

2025 Membership and Financial Statistics

	Emamus Road RCUS, Edina, MN	Heritage RCUS, Waymart, PA	Salem Ebenezer RCUS, Manitowoc, WI	Peace RCUS, Garner, IA	Covenant RCUS, Gettysburg Pa (*)
Membership Stats 2025					
Elders	3	1	3	1	2
Deacons	6	0	3	1	0
Communicants Last Year	102	9	110	29	29
Baptized Members Last Year	50	2	14	3	10
Total Members Last Year	152	11	124	32	44
Received by Confirmation	4	0	0	0	0
Received by Letter	14	0	0	3	0
Received by Profession of Faith	11	0	4	1	0
Baptized Received by Baptism	5	0	2	0	0
Baptized Received by Letter	2	0	0	0	0
Total Received	36	0	6	4	0
Lost by Dismission	0	0	4	2	0
Lost by Erasure / dismissal	9	0	0	2	0
Lost by Death	1	0	3	7	0
Baptized Erased/Dismissed	4	0	0	0	0
Baptized now Confirmed	4	0	0	0	0
Baptized Death	0	0	0	0	0
Total Lost	18	0	7	11	0
Total Communicant Gained	19	0	-3	-7	0
Communicants This Year	121	9	107	22	34
Unconfirmed Members	49	2	16	3	10
Total Baptized Members	170	11	123	25	44
Families	65	6	74	16	14
Children in Sunday School	50	8	11	3	10
Adult Baptisms	0	0	1	0	0
Infants Baptized	6	0	2	0	0
Total Baptisms	6	0	3	0	0
# Received Lord's Supper	131	9	100	23	44
Lord's Supper Observed	12	12	4	2	12
Receipts from Regular Offerings	\$523,277	\$27,804	\$162,926	\$51,505	\$75,576
Receipts from Special Offerings	\$27,862	\$1,000	\$1,560	\$104	\$8,348
Receipts from Other Sources	\$0	\$0	\$6,645	\$0	\$4,350
Total Receipts	\$551,139	\$28,804	\$171,131	\$51,609	\$108,275
Giving to Synod Guideline	\$29,886	\$2,980	\$31,724	\$12,246	\$8,120
Giving to Classis Guideline	\$6,868	\$680	\$7,504	\$2,788	\$1,972
Giving to Non-Guideline Causes	\$0	\$0	\$5,560	\$0	\$5,000
Giving to Non-RCUS	\$21,663	\$0	\$6,295	\$0	\$2,108
Other Expenses	\$410,835	\$14,155	\$126,783	\$74,728	\$94,902
Total Expenses	\$469,252	\$17,815	\$177,866	\$89,762	\$112,103
Value of Church Building	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$1,750,000	\$700,000	\$0
Value of Parsonage	\$371,972	\$0	\$400,000	\$120,000	\$0
Property Improvements	\$301,289	\$0	\$11,309	\$0	\$0
Present Property Debts	\$1,562,768	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Payments Past Year	\$39,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET ASSETS	\$1,571,493	\$0	\$2,161,309	\$820,000	\$0
Giving to Synod	\$293	\$331	\$288	\$422	\$280
Giving to Classis	\$67	\$76	\$68	\$96	\$68
Giving to RCUS	\$360	\$407	\$407	\$518	\$520

Peace RCUS, Napoleon, OH	St. Paul's Evangelical RCUS, Hamburg, MN	Northland RCUS, Kansas City, MO	Grace RCUS, Rogers, AR	Total 2025	Total 2024	Difference
3	3	3	1	20	23	-3
3	3	6	0	22	27	-5
53	174	95	19	620	729	-109
30	16	35	9	169	166	3
83	190	130	28	794	895	-101
0	0	2	0	6	8	-2
2	3	1	0	23	11	12
0	0	4	3	23	33	-10
3	0	3	0	13	8	5
0	0	2	0	4	3	1
5	3	12	3	52	52	0
1	15	4	5	31	13	18
0	0	1	1	13	35	-22
0	1	0	1	13	10	3
0	2	2	2	10	17	-7
0	0	2	0	6	4	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	18	9	9	73	79	-6
1	-13	2	-4	57	58	-1
54	161	97	15	620	723	-103
33	14	36	7	170	193	-23
87	175	133	22	790	916	-126
31	108	48	10	372	410	-38
30	9	32	1	154	180	-26
0	0	0	1	2	1	1
3	0	3	0	14	14	0
3	0	3	1	16	15	1
51	130	88	21	597	560	37
6	7	12	11	78	85	-7
\$155,961	\$245,094	\$377,014	\$66,763	\$1,685,919	\$2,052,847	-\$366,928
\$9,948	\$14,531	\$16,109	\$0	\$79,462	\$470,217	-\$390,755
\$13,963	\$75,270	\$0	\$27,046	\$127,274	\$128,519	-\$1,245
\$179,872	\$334,895	\$393,123	\$93,809	\$1,912,656	\$2,651,583	-\$738,927
\$19,330	\$54,694	\$26,600	\$4,948	\$190,528	\$190,870	-\$342
\$4,012	\$12,376	\$6,460	\$1,190	\$43,850	\$44,563	-\$713
\$3,055	\$9,904	\$1,685	\$0	\$25,204	\$45,095	-\$19,891
\$3,537	\$5,373	\$12,781	\$0	\$51,757	\$43,865	\$7,892
\$136,590	\$356,472	\$313,188	\$85,453	\$1,613,106	\$2,021,171	-\$408,065
\$166,524	\$438,819	\$360,714	\$91,591	\$1,924,446	\$2,345,564	-\$421,118
\$800,000	\$3,570,900	\$2,500,000	\$91,318	\$11,912,218	\$13,012,218	-\$1,100,000
\$0	\$425,600	\$0	\$91,318	\$1,408,890	\$1,808,890	-\$400,000
\$0	\$153,055	\$6,000	\$0	\$471,653	\$336,713	\$134,940
\$0	\$0	\$97,000	\$29,668	\$1,689,436	\$1,977,682	-\$288,246
\$0	\$0	\$110,000	\$11,157	\$160,157	\$83,278	\$76,879
\$800,000	\$4,149,555	\$2,299,000	\$141,811	\$11,943,168	\$13,096,861	-\$1,153,693
\$365	\$314	\$280	\$260	\$307	\$262	\$45
\$76	\$71	\$68	\$63	\$71	\$61	\$10
\$498	\$442	\$366	\$323	\$419	\$385	\$34

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.]