

PROCEEDINGS**BONCLARKEN, FLAT ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA****Monday, June 5, 2000**

The Orientation for New Delegates was held at 2:00 P.M. in the Jean White Conference Room of Founder's Hall.

Following an informal Psalm singing at 7:00 P.M., the 196th annual meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church began at 7:30 P.M. with the opening worship service and the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude & Informal Psalm Sing	Chapel
Call to Worship	D. L. Pearson, Moderator
*Constitution of the General Synod	
The Hymnbook	#1
Memorial Service	J. T. Brice, Vice Moderator
The Listing of Deceased Elders**	
The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition	
*Bible Songs	# 313
*Scripture Reading	
Old Testament Lesson—Isaiah 42:1-9	
New Testament Lesson—Acts 10:34-38	
Special Music Selections from the Psalter (Insert)	
Sermon	“Keep The Fires Burning”
*Bible Songs	# 242
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	
The Invitation to the Table	
The Prayer of Confession and Consecration	
The Distribution of the Bread and Cup	
The Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving	
*The Apostles Creed	
*The Hymnbook	# 379
*The Benediction	
*The Postlude	
*Please Stand	
(Please remain standing silently through the Postlude—Thank you)	

In recognition of the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Carlisle (June 1), the flowers in the Chapel are provided by their children.

** (See **Appendix** for the tributes and the list of deceased Elders.)

**Tuesday, June 6, 2000
8:30 A.M.**

The opening worship service was led by Retiring Moderator D. L. Pearson.

Delegates and visitors were welcomed to Bonclarcken by the Director of Bonclarcken, J. T. Brice. Mr. Brice also reviewed the status of the indebtedness of the youth facility and future plans for construction and improvements at the conference grounds.

The roll was constituted by the Principal Clerk, C.R. Beard.(See **Appendix** for the Official Roll of Synod).

In the area of unfinished business, Mr. Beard noted a correction to the proposed changes to the *Form of Government* (1999 *Minutes of General Synod*, page 390). The reference to Chapter XIII.B.2.d.(2)(a) and Chapter XIII.B.2.d.(2)(b) should read Chapter XIII.B.2.d. (3)(a) and Chapter XIII.B.2.d. (3)(b). This correction was forwarded to the presbyteries prior to their vote on the proposed amendment.

The result of the voting in the presbyteries for the 1999 General Synod Overture was announced. The Overture was adopted by a majority of those voting in the presbyteries (244 of the 327 voting, or 75%).

The Retiring Moderator's Address was given by D. L. Pearson.

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

These are challenging days in the life of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Ferment of various descriptions is taking place on several fronts, as the Church seems to be asking over and over again, "Who are we and who do we want to be?" "What indeed are our top priorities?" **Many answers are being given and yet it is hard to discern what is being said, it is as if at times that the church is either not hearing or not heeding a dominant voice.** Of course that is what such an exercise as the meeting of the General Synod is all about.

We have been challenged to be:

God Focused
Christ Centered
Holy Spirit Driven

The clarion call has been given to be a people of Prayer, a people of the Word of God, to keep the tenants of the Reformed Faith, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with fervor and zeal, to be distinct, to be different, to be who God has in His Sovereign Grace and Will called us to be. May we be just that, as God leads and God guides.

To the Ruling and Teaching Elders, these words:

1 Peter 5:1 through 1 Peter 5:3

¹The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a

witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ²Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:6 through 1 Peter 5:11

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

¹⁰But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. ¹¹To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:1 through Ephesians 4:6

¹I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

²With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴*There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve as Moderator of the General Synod.

Our journeys have taken us from Louisville and Atlanta, Georgia, on the South to Grand Rapids, MI, on the North, from Fayetteville, TN, on the West to Statesville/New Sterling on the East. All Boards and Committees have been attended at least once with the exception of the Minister and His Work. I have been involved in activities of six of the nine Presbyteries, Northeast, First, Tennessee/Alabama, Virginia, Second and Catawba as well as attending a portion of the meeting of the WSU. Activities have included Homecomings, a Preaching Mission, Dedication of a Congregation, Organization of a new Congregation, Installation of the Dean of Erskine Theological Seminary, and speaker at Chapel on the Erskine Campus.

Thanks to James T. Brice for his faithfulness as Vice-Moderator. Jim has done everything any Moderator could ask—going in my stead, praying, guiding.

Note of thanks for their wise counsel and support to Jim Coad, Jim Dickson, Charles Carlisle and Doug Jones.

Thanks to the Staff at the ARP Center and especially to Ed Hogan and Beth Willis.

To Ron Beard, the Stated Clerk and Andy Putnam, Parliamentarian.

To the Directors and Chairs of the various institutions, Agencies and Boards of the Church for the generous welcome and all their hard work.

Thanks to the Chester A. R. P. Church Session, Staff and members for all their encouragement and support, and to Dr. Clyde McCants for all his valuable service to me and the Chester Church during this tenure. Special note of thanks to the Men's Prayer Group which has undergirded this ministry in prayer.

Thanks to people like Allen Derrick and Nancy Kimmons for their notes of encouragements and prayers.

Thanks to my family—Lou and our children for their prayerful support and every means of help, which has been given.

Most of all thanks to Almighty God for His saving grace and love in sending His Son Jesus Christ (whom I claim and know as both savior and Lord), for the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, and for calling us to be the Church. May Jesus Christ always be the king and head of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and may the Church be faithful.

The God of Peace and the Peace of God,
 The God of Grace and the Grace of God,
 The God of Love and the Love of God
 Be with you forever.

Amen

Mr. Pearson invited the Synod to stand for a Benediction as he concluded his term as Moderator.

As Synod continued to stand, Retiring Moderator Pearson presented Moderator-Elect C. H. Carlisle to the Synod. L. C. Draffin escorted Mr. Carlisle to the podium and led the Synod in prayer. Mr. Pearson placed the Moderator's Shield around Mr. Carlisle's neck. Mr. Carlisle presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Mr. Pearson.

Moderator Carlisle introduced the Vice-Moderator, Mr. W.B. Evans to the Synod. Mr. Evans introduced his wife and father-in-law to the Synod.

Mr. Carlisle introduced his wife, daughters, and sons-in-law to the Synod.

Mr. Carlisle presented his Moderator's Challenge to the Synod.

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND? EXODUS 4:2

This is a very humbling experience for me this morning. I served as Moderator of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in 1972. At that time I considered that privilege as the highest honor that could come to me.

And now after twenty-eight years you have given me the opportunity to serve in this high office again. How gracious can you be to one who is so unworthy of this position! I sincerely thank you for your confidence and earnestly solicit your prayers. All I can promise is that with God's help I will serve to the best of my ability.

My love for the A.R.P. Church runs deep. I have a goodly heritage. My great great grandfather, the Reverend John Renwick, brought his congregation from Antrim County, Ireland, to Newberry County, SC, in 1770 and founded Cannon's Creek and King's Creek churches. His son, the Reverend John Renwick, Jr., was Moderator of Synod in 1826. My entire pilgrimage has been in the A.R.P. Church. I have believed in its doctrines and standards and appreciated those who held firmly to the truth and passed it on to our generation. You may have noticed that our worship leader will bring messages based upon reformed doctrine—particularly the sovereignty of God. We have also arranged for lectures on the Erskines who led the way in the beginning of our denomination and who stood firmly on God's word as they preached their evangelistic sermons. We owe so much to those who preceded us and should feel a strong commitment to continue a fruitful ministry.

I am equally excited about the future of the A.R.P. Church. The message this morning is to recognize the marvelous way the Lord is blessing our church today and to challenge you to greater things for tomorrow. What an exciting time to be an A.R.P.! The history of our church will reveal times of great progress and times of complacency, but I do believe we are experiencing right now the greatest day that the A.R.P. Church has ever known. God is truly pouring out blessings upon us in marvelous ways.

I want us to look at some of these blessings. In 1988 the Synod adopted a goal of fifty new churches by the year 2000. There were few if any who really believed that ambitious goal was achievable. Did God give us fifty new churches? No, He gave us seventy! We rejoice not over the number of churches but over the number of changed lives. It was in the mission churches that most of the conversions took place. Praise the Lord! Two years ago a major capital campaign was launched to raise \$3 million dollars to help mission churches secure land and/or buildings. The campaign was a success with \$3,164,226 being pledged. Praise the Lord!

For many years the foreign mission work of our denomination was centered in Pakistan and Mexico. Now we have work in five areas—Pakistan, Mexico, Germany, Russia, and the Near East. In 1980 we had eleven missionaries. Now we have forty-seven and cooperative arrangements with fifteen others. Three couples are missionary candidates and Dr. Jane Jennings will go to Pakistan next year. Through Tat Stewart's ministry many Iranians in this country are accepting Christ. A wonderful alcohol rehabilitation program is underway in Moscow primarily due to the work of Pam Brunson. The youth work in Germany and the Ebenezer Seminary in Mexico are evidences of progress on the field. The Lord is blessing our foreign mission efforts in a tremendous way. Praise the Lord!

The short term mission trips planned by Covenant Discipleship are

giving our young people a hands on experience in evangelism as they witness to youth of other lands. This summer over a hundred adults and youth will be going to Wales to proclaim God's message of forgiveness and love to a country that has lost its Christian commitment. Perhaps the Lord is opening a sixth mission field for our denomination. We praise the Lord for His work in Covenant Discipleship!

Look around you and you see God's blessing on Bonclarcken. This beautiful place is being used as never before to minister to all ages both within our church and outside our church. The gifts of two new youth cottages and the excellent youth activity building are blessings from God. Sure there is a debt remaining on the youth activity building, but God is helping us meet that need as well. Praise the Lord for Bonclarcken!

For some thirty years some of us have been praying for the day to come when Erskine College would without reservation proclaim to the world that it operates on the basis of Christian commitment and academic excellence. Certainly the college has rendered valuable service to the church and community in days past, but I believe we are seeing Christian higher education at its best in these days. God has given us strong leadership in John Carson, R. J. Gore and Don Weatherman. The enrollment is on the increase. Many wonderful gifts have come to the institution, but the Daniel gift of over \$11 million and the Bell gift of \$7.5 million have made many wonderful programs possible. The Bowie Divinity Hall, the Bowie Art Center and the Daniel-Moultrie Science Center are marvelous additions to the physical plant.

The Seminary enrollment this past year was 367. Can you believe it? What a wonderful opportunity for this church to prepare men and women for full-time Christian service. Praise the Lord for Erskine College and Seminary!

Don't we worship a great and wonderful God who has showered His blessings upon us?

What does this say to us today? Is the job done? Absolutely not. We must with grateful hearts move out to proclaim the Gospel message as never before. Let's say we have reached our Ebenezer—God has helped us thus far. Where do we go from here?

A tremendous challenge is before us. If you have read your newspaper or turned on your television, you know what a confused and lost world we live in. We have moved into a post Christian era in which God's word has no meaning to the masses of the people. Violence, sex, drugs, rights of gays, same sex marriages, gambling and divorce dominate our society. Remembering God's judgment on His chosen people when they deserted His precepts, I wonder how long this nation can escape similar judgment.

Statistics are hard to follow sometimes, but let me give you a few. The total percentage of Christians in the world population today is 33%. Certainly all of those counted as Christians are not evangelical Christians. The unevangelized population is 25.7%. That means that approximately 1.5 billion people have not heard the Gospel message.

To come closer home—there are 195 million unchurched in the United States. Mr. Gallup says that North America is the only continent where Christianity is not growing. Each week seventy-two churches in the U.S. close their doors for good while only twenty-four new churches are opening. That is a loss of fifty churches per week. We need to be about the Master's business.

I hope that through much prayer our church will see clearly what God would have us to do. During the next year I would hope that we will be able to set goals that will project a course of action for more effectively carrying out the Great Commission. I am challenging each Board and committee of the Synod to develop a ten-year program of goals or objectives. Some of you are already doing this. Be visionary. Set goals that are unachievable according to our human thinking—goals that can be achieved only by God's power. With God all things are possible! As I meet with the Boards and committees during the year I will be reminding you of this challenge.

Yes, we can do great things for the Lord through the working of the Holy Spirit. God is ready, able and willing to use us in a mighty way if we are willing to call upon Him for the might of His power.

I would remind you of the experience of Moses. Moses hesitated to accept God's call to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. He asked God for some way to convince the people that he had been sent by the Lord to deliver them. The Lord said, "What is that in thine hand?" Moses replied, "A staff." You know the story. The Lord asked him to throw it on the ground. Moses did so and it became a snake. We are told that Moses ran from it. So would I. Moses was told to take it by the tail and he did so and it became a staff again. Moses must have been puzzled by the Lord's request that he throw down his shepherd's staff. The staff was somewhat of a security image for Moses. The Lord said, "Thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs." This was to become the most famous rod in history. It is obvious that it symbolizes the life that is Spirit filled. It is no longer a shepherd's staff which had no more power than the man who held it. It was now the rod of God and symbol of God's almighty power. Time after time God told Moses to "stretch out thy rod" as he dealt with the plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea. During the exodus the Israelites were confronted by opposition under the leadership of Amalek. Moses told Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out to fight with Amalek; tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand." As long as Moses held the rod of God on high, the Israelites had success and every time he put down the rod, Amalek had success. After a while, Moses' arms grew weary. He took a seat on a stone and Aaron held up one of Moses' arms and Hur held up the other until the going down of the sun and Amalek was defeated. As Aaron and Hur helped Moses, so we need each other in the battle against the evil one.

We are God's people with the power of the Holy Spirit available to each one of us. It will be by His power that we accomplish the work before us. May we pray earnestly that the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

will be undergirded by His mighty power and that the work that He has committed to us will be done. I ask, "What is that in thine hand?"

Mr. Carslile invited the members of Synod to join in prayer for the church. Following the season of prayer, Mr. Carslile closed the prayer.

R. B. Elliott noted for the Synod the prayer room location and schedule.

Vice-Moderator Evans presented the program for the 2000 meeting. The program was adopted as amended.

Members of the Chaplain Recruitment Program for the Army, Scott Huber and Angel Ramos, were recognized.

Moderator Carlisle made the following introductions:

Pages: Mr. Dan Hazen, Mr. John Michael Lashley, Catawba Presbytery; Mr. Brian Murray, Mr. Kevin Carter, Northeast Presbytery; Mr. John Wages, Second Presbytery.

Ministers Who Have Been Received or Ordained Since the Last Meeting of Synod: James Aubey, Mission Developer, Crossway Mission, Corpus Christi, TX, Catawba Presbytery; Charles T. Carlberg, Jr., Pastor, Mt. Salus Church, Clinton, MS; Greg Conover, Missionary, First Presbytery; Mark Gibson, Pastor, Ebenezer, First Presbytery; Christopher Alan Hardeman, Pastor, Faith Church, Wildwood, FL, Florida Presbytery; David W. Harper, Pastor Hopewell and Mission Developer for new work in McDonough, GA, Second Presbytery; John S. Jackson, Pastor, Christ the King Church, First Presbytery; Michael A. Jones, Mission Developer, Hope, Tampa, FL, Florida Presbytery; Kue Whan Joung, Evangelist, Pacific Presbytery; Michael A. Kelley, Chaplain, Catawba Presbytery; Minho Kim, Associate Pastor, Walking With God, Pacific Presbytery; Tai Kyung Kwon, Minister, Florida Presbytery; Raphael LaGuardia, Pastor, Muscle Shoals Church, Muscle Shoals, AL, Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery; Jeffrey D. Lang, Associate Pastor, Ballston Center Church, Northeast Presbytery; Ray B. Lanning, Pastor, The ARP Fellowship, Grand Rapids, MI, Northeast Presbytery (Mr. Lanning was a former minister in the ARP Church); Anthony Locke, Associate Pastor, Peachtree Corners Church, Norcross, GA, Second Presbytery; Paul G. Patrick, Associate Pastor, Christ Community, Greensboro, First Presbytery; Matthew Richardson, Pastor Lower Long Cane and Troy Churches, Second Presbytery; Thomas K. Sheppard, Associate Pastor, Reformation Church, Hendersonville, First Presbytery; John D. Spence, Pastor, Redeemer Church, Asheville, NC, First Presbytery; David

Trimmier, Pastor, Frostproof Church, Florida Presbytery (David is a former minister); Bengy Willford, Pastor, Heartland Church, Northeast Presbytery; Benjamin Y. Wingard, New Amity and Stony Point Churches, First Presbytery; David Zimmerman, Associate Pastor, Mt. Salus Church, Clinton, MS.

Seminary and Special Students Under Care of Presbytery.

Those present were asked to come forward. (See Directory for complete list.)

Synod’s Technicians: Mr. John Lutz, Pisgah Church, and John Gordy, Louisville, GA, Bonclarken Staff, Sound; J. Marty Cope, Organist.

W. C. Lauderdale presided over Synod’s recognition of those Ministers, Non-Ordained Employees and Missionaries who retired since the last meeting of Synod. Synod rose to give a standing round of applause to our new retirees.

Retired Minister	Retired Missionaries	Retired Lay Employees
R. Marion Canfield	None	None
Walter P. Fleming		
William D. Hall		
John E. Kennedy, II		
Ray A. King		
Richard P. Shaw		
Zeb C. Williams		

Reading Clerk C.F. Edgar asked that on this anniversary date of the invasion of Normandy, the World War Two veterans present stand for recognition. The members of Synod responded with a round of applause.

Following announcements, General Synod recessed for a Coffee Break.

On reconvening, special music was provided by Synod’s Men’s Chorus and the Korean Pastor’s Chorus.

Mr. Carlisle introduced Synod’s Worship Leader, J. R. deWitt. Mr. deWitt, who has recently become a member of our Catawba Presbytery, led the Synod in worship.

Mr. Carlisle made the following introductions.

New Missions and/or Congregations Which Have Joined the ARP Family Since the Last Meeting of Synod: Crossway Mission, Corpus Christi, TX; New Cambridge Mission, Mooresville, NC; Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC; Hope Church, Lutz, FL; The Korean Hope Church of Orlando, Casselberry, FL; Hana, Buena Park, CA; The Lord’s Prayer Presbyterian Church,

Silver Spring, MD; Valley New Church, Torrence, CA; Walking With God Church, Bellflower, CA; Mt. Salus Presbyterian Church, Clinton, MS; ARP Church, Grand Rapids, MI; Good News Mission, Frederick, MD; Dacula Mission, Dacula, GA; San Sung Mission, Duluth, GA.

R. J. Cara presided on behalf of the Inter-Church Relations Committee as greetings from Fraternal Delegates were received.

The Rev. Mr. Bruce Parnell of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America brought greetings to the Synod.

The Rev. Dr. Roy Taylor, Principal Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America brought greetings to the Synod.

The Rev. Dr. Howard Shockley, Principal Clerk of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, brought greetings to the Synod.

The Rev. Mr. Calvin Tuninga brought greetings to the Synod from the United Reformed Churches in North America, a new denomination founded in 1996, with whom we do not have a formal fraternal relationship at this time.

Mr. Carlisle appointed his Moderator's Committees and issued the call for the reports for reference.

The Memorial from Second Presbytery was read and referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

The Memorial from Mississippi Valley Presbytery was approached. Following a vote on whether to consider the memorial, which carried, the memorial was read and referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

The Memorials from Northeast Presbytery were read and referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

The presentation of the **Recommended 2001 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds** was made by Monte Campbell, Chairman of Board of Stewardship. The allocation was adopted.

Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Income for Calendar Year 2001

In accordance with the procedure adopted by the 1997 General Synod, the recommended allocations for the next calendar year are based on the pledged and/or anticipated unrestricted receipts for the current calendar year. The recommended allocations for 2001 are based on the following estimates:

Anticipated Commitments from Churches in 2000	\$	2,558,962
5% of Market Value of ARP Foundation Endow.		25,367
Estimated Interest for Allocation		<u>8,756</u>
Total Resources for Allocation	\$	2,593,085

The anticipated commitments from churches reflect a 3.69% increase over the past year.

In the event that the actual pledges and/or anticipated receipts for calendar year 2001 exceed the anticipated amounts, the program agencies of the General Synod (Bonclarken, Covenant Discipleship, Erskine, Outreach North America, Publications, and World Witness) will be invited to present requests for additional funding to the Board of Stewardship. The Board of Stewardship will review the requests at its Spring meeting and submit its recommendation to the General Synod.

The recommended allocation of funds by the Board of Stewardship are included with this report. The following is reported:

- **Columns 2–3** reflect the allocations for the current year and are shown for comparative purposes.
- **Column 4** reflects the amounts requested by Synod's Boards and Committees.
- **Column 5** reflects the recommendations of the Board of Stewardship.
- **Column 6** reflects the recommended amounts as a percentage of the total funds recommended for allocation. Any difference between **Column 3** and **Column 6** reflects a change in the allocation of resources.

The anticipated resources were not sufficient to meet the requested needs of all boards and agencies. In determining the recommended allocations, the Board of Stewardship considered the approved and existing commitments, reserves, and resources each agency will have available from other sources. The primary approach was to provide the **lesser** of the requested amount or the same percentage of expected funds as was allocated by the General Synod for the current year.

It should be noted that the obligations incurred for the **Ecclesiastical Commission, Committees, Executive Board of Synod, and Board of Stewardship** are paid and no reserves are carried forward. No reserves are carried forward from allocations made to **Annuities & Relief and ARP Foundation**.

The recommended allocation to **Bonclarken** again includes \$26,160 which was requested by Bonclarken to be set aside "in a restricted account for the specific purpose of addressing some 'depreciation' needs." These funds will be used to address needs which will impact the cost basis of a particular Bonclarken facility. The recommended allocation to Erskine includes the requested supplement for the Erskine Chaplain.

The agencies are to be commended for once again presenting realistic and comprehensive projections of their financial needs. The Board of Stewardship has reviewed their budgets and commends the budgets presented. We remind the members of the Court that budgets should be reviewed in Moderator Committees and/or when reports are considered by

the Court, as the budgets reflect the programs and ministries of the boards and committees.

We take this opportunity to express appreciation and commendation to the churches which have made financial commitments to support the mission and ministry of our denomination. Special appreciation is expressed to the churches meeting the Denominational Ministry Fund goal. Their names are listed in the Report of the Board of Stewardship. We recognize, and challenge, the sixty-five (65) church entities (congregations and missions) which **did not** participate financially through the Denominational Ministry Fund during 1999. We urge those churches to prayerfully consider their opportunities and obligations. Their names **are not** listed in the Report of the Board of Stewardship.

To God be the Glory!

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF SYNOD'S UNRESTRICTED INCOME

	2000				
AGENCY	<u>Approved</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Boards and Agencies					
Administrative Services	\$ 162,175	6.50%	\$ 155,862	\$ 155,862	6.01%
Annuities & Relief	\$ 6,192	0.25%	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,438	0.25%
ARP Center Facility	\$ 10,000	0.40%	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.58%
ARP Foundation	\$ 30,462	1.22%	\$ 34,391	\$ 31,670	1.22%
Executive Board	\$ 100,828	4.04%	\$ 100,293	\$ 100,293	3.87%
Stewardship & Contingency	\$ 33,049	1.33%	\$ 33,048	\$ 33,048	1.27%
Commission & Committees					
Ecclesiastical Com.	\$ —	0.00%	\$ —	\$ —	0.00%
Historical Concerns	\$ 10,364	0.42%	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,500	0.48%
Inter-Church Relations	\$ 15,000	0.60%	\$ 17,118	\$ 15,595	0.60%
Lay Ministry	\$ 15,800	0.63%	\$ 21,500	\$ 17,000	0.66%
Minister & His Work	\$ 8,040	0.32%	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,359	0.32%
Nominations	\$ 3,500	0.14%	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0.13%
Theological & Social Con.	\$ 1,418	0.06%	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,474	0.06%
Worship	<u>\$ 16,225</u>	<u>0.65%</u>	<u>\$ 19,225</u>	<u>\$ 16,868</u>	<u>0.65%</u>
Sub-Total for Non-Program	<u>\$ 413,053</u>	<u>16.56%</u>	<u>\$ 431,937</u>	<u>\$ 417,607</u>	<u>16.10%</u>
Bonclarken	\$ 130,800	5.24%	\$ 130,800	\$ 135,986	5.24%
Christian Education	\$ 178,871	7.17%	\$ 189,364	\$ 189,364	7.30%
Dunlap	\$ —	0.00%	\$ —	\$ —	0.00%
Erskine Operating Supplement	\$ 508,000	20.37%	\$ 556,800	\$ 528,163	20.37%
Erskine Student Union	\$ 500	0.02%	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.02%

ONA Operations	\$ 583,623	23.40%	\$ 612,804	\$ 610,733	23.55%
ONA Revitalization	\$ 6,000	0.24%	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	0.23%
Publications	\$ 83,720	3.36%	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	3.39%
World Witness	<u>\$ 589,623</u>	<u>23.64%</u>	<u>\$ 650,000</u>	<u>\$ 616,733</u>	<u>23.78%</u>
Program Sub-Total	<u>\$2,081,137</u>	<u>83.44%</u>	<u>\$ 2,234,268</u>	<u>\$ 2,175,479</u>	<u>83.90%</u>
TOTALS	<u>\$2,494,190</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$ 2,666,205</u>	<u>\$ 2,593,086</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Following announcements, Mr. Carlisle noted that Charles Mitchell was attending his 50th Synod. The court adjourned for lunch with the Benediction and Blessing by W. E. Slattery.

Tuesday, June 6 , 2000
1:45 P.M.

The afternoon session began with a presentation on the “Life of the Erskines” by J. R. Beeke, Pastor of Heritage Netherlands Reformed Congregation of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The promotional presentation of **Covenant Discipleship** was made.

At 3:30 P.M. Synod recessed for Moderator Committee meetings.

Tuesday, June 6, 2000
7:00 P.M.

Special music was provided by Synod’s Men’s Chorus.

The worship service was led by J. R. deWitt, who was introduced by W.B. Evans.

Mrs. Sylvia Richmond, President of the Woman’s Synodical Union, was introduced to the Synod by the Moderator. Mrs. Richmond presented her report to the General Synod.

WSU PRESIDENT ADDRESS

I have always believed in “show and tell.” Permit me to put on my engineer’s hat. If you have been reading my page in the ARP magazine, then you will know what it represents. If you have not been reading my column, you will find out in just a few minutes.

This year has been a year of many firsts. Our women have gracefully risen to every occasion. This year which is ending on August 31, 2000, will be a short year for us. During this 8 month time frame, we are managing to get many projects, Bible studies, and fellowship gatherings completed which would normally have been done during a 12 month period. This is a first!

We are studying the Book of Ruth—*Hope in Hard Times* by Harris Langford. Since it is a short book, the study fits perfectly into our schedule even though this study was approved several years ago. The Book of Ruth is a powerful and thoughtful book for our women. It shows what a

commitment Ruth has toward Naomi, her mother-in-law, and to Boaz, her future husband. But most importantly, it shows how Ruth gave a commitment to God, whom she initially did not know. She learned from Naomi and God about faith through the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Many of our Women of the Church groups are having our Witness and Outreach Study: *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert C. Coleman.

Many of our women serve in various ministries around our denomination. Many teach Vacation Bible School and Sabbath School, serve Meals on Wheels in their community, many take advisory roles in youth programs at church and in the communities. There are dedicated school teachers in many school systems today. The teaching of our precious children is a rewarding and sometimes frustrating career. With the many happenings at the schools, these teachers need the prayer support of men and women.

Our women continue to support our Jubilee Birthday project, which provides for our Missionary Ladies: Melanie Seeger, Pam Brunson and Joanne Armistead, who serve the Lord in so many ways.

We started the improvements at Synodical Hall last year and we plan to finish this project this year. It has taken on a fresh new look with new furniture, wall hangings, painting, new flooring in the kitchen and restrooms and the hardwood floor refinishing. It is a building of which our women can be proud. We hope you will stop by and take a look at this recent endeavor. Each year a Presbyterial will host the Silver Tea during the Family Bible Conference. Proceeds will go to Synodical to cover maintenance. Virginia Presbyterial will host the Silver Tea and Mississippi Valley will be in charge of the Historical Exhibit.

As with any organization we have learned that 5 WOC's did not send a report to their statistician for the year 1999. We are down in membership. So we, too, are interested in your discussion which calls for a study of ways to obtain greater church court participation by ruling elders.

As women we look to you for leadership, wisdom and enthusiasm for our churches and for our faith. We live by example, using Christ as our guide. Matthew 8:19 says, *Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.* So gentlemen, the challenge is: where are we going in our churches, where are we going with our faith and beliefs and where are we headed on this track of life? We must make certain that Christ is first and foremost in our lives. With Him, we can be faithful, loving, righteous, caring, forgiving of others, rejoicing, gentle, prayerful and forgiven.

Even with this short year our women have maintained a budget that supports Outreach North America, World Witness, Covenant Discipleship, and Camp Joy just to mention a few. We take our financial commitments very seriously.

Another first for this year, our Woman's Synodical Union Annual Meeting will be July 24 at 1 P.M. here in the Chapel at Bonclarken. We are condensing our 2 day meeting that is usually held in October into one afternoon. We are responding at the request of many of our women. This is a giant step! The annual meeting comes immediately before the Family

Bible Conference. We anticipate more women will be able to attend the annual meeting when coming to the conference.

Our agenda of the annual meeting will also see change. We are deleting reports and incorporating them in the President's State of the Union address. This is a first! The address will be directed to the various ministries that our department and committee chairs have carried out during this year. With my President's theme of "Keeping on Track with Christ," we will be able to see what has been accomplished throughout our denomination.

Our theme for the annual meeting is HOME: A Place of Refuge. Roxanne Spencer will bring us inspirational and motivational messages during our meeting based on verses from Proverbs 24:3 and 4: *For their hearts plot violence and their lips talk about making trouble. By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established* (NIV).

Your Moderator, Dr. Charles Carlisle, will speak as well. So the next two months will be very busy for the Woman's Synodical Union.

As we head into the station at the end of the year, we find many firsts:

1. Shortened operational and financial year.
2. Date change for annual meeting.
3. Annual Meeting location at Bonclarken until further notice.
4. Condensed meeting time for annual meeting.
5. Changed agenda for annual meeting.

So, it is with an engineer's parting signal that I say, take care, God bless and may the train of your life keep you on track moving toward Christ and eternal life. Remember Christ is for keeps!

The Report of the **Committee on Inter-Church Relations** was presented and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

The Committee met on January 26, 2000, at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Also in attendance was Mr. John Mariner, of World Witness, who reported and advised on the ARP Synods of Mexico and Pakistan.

Ecumenical Organizations

The ARP is currently a member of two ecumenical organizations: (1) the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) and (2) the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC). The Committee continues to consider applying for membership in the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).

1. **International Conference of Reformed Churches.** The ICRC currently consists of 21 member churches. The next meeting of the ICRC is scheduled for June 20-29, 2001 at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA and is to be hosted by the OPC. Speakers already committed include J. De Jong, W. David J. McKay, Jakob van Bruggen, and G. I. Williamson.

The ICRC yearly assessment for the ARP is \$3,580, which is based on the number of members in a denomination and the per capita income of its country. The Committee requested and received a budget/expense breakdown from the ICRC. The Committee was satisfied with the budget/expenses as it noted that most of the costs are for expenses incurred at the regional and general (once every four years) meetings.

The Free Church of Scotland, one of the ICRC member churches, recently has had a split with both sides apparently calling themselves the Free Church. Correspondence (dated February 1, 2000) has been sent by the majority group to all of the ICRC members in attempt to clarify the situation.

2. **North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council.**

NAPARC consists of seven member churches: the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRC), the Korean-American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS), the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA), and the ARP. The CRC is currently under suspension.

NAPARC met on November 16-17, 1999 at Bonclarken with the ARP being the host for approximately 40 people. (As chairman of the Committee, I received many compliments about the Bonclarken staff and facilities.) The ARP voting delegation consisted of Dr. Dwight Pearson, Rev. Jack Whytock, Dr. William Evans, and Professor Bob Cara. The ARP report was presented by Professor Cara. Dr. Evans gave an address on the challenges and tensions that contemporary culture presents to the NAPARC churches. NAPARC agreed to fund a Spanish translation of G. I. Williamson's Study Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith with Dr. Evans writing an introduction. NAPARC also agreed that each church prepare a report by October 3, 2000 to "enumerate those issues of belief, practice and government that, to the best their knowledge, distinguish them from other NAPARC churches." This report is not to be an official church document. The report from the ARP will be the responsibility of the Committee.

The KAPC is scheduled to host the 2000 NAPARC meeting in Los Angeles on November 14-15.

3. **National Association of Evangelicals.** The Committee has continued for several years to study the NAE for the purpose of applying for membership and has not come to any conclusions. The Committee had hoped to have a final recommendation this year and now plans to bring a final recommendation next year.

Churches in Fraternal Fellowship

The 1999 General Synod approved a change in the ARP's fraternal relationships. There are now two levels of fraternal relationships: (1) "Fraternal Fellowship" and (2) "Fraternal Correspondence." The churches

in fraternal fellowship are the ARP Church of Pakistan, the ARP Church of Mexico, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), CRC, KAPC, OPC, PCA, and RPCNA.

Concerning the Synods/Assemblies of churches in fraternal fellowship, the ARP was represented by and the Committee received reports from the following: Dr. John Carson, EPC; Rev. Ray Lanning, OPC; and Dr. Evans, PCA. The remaining churches were sent letters of greeting.

Churches in Fraternal Correspondence

Churches in fraternal correspondence with the ARP are the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and the Reformed Church in America. These churches were sent letters of greeting.

Other Churches

The following churches are in the Reformed community and have had recent interaction with the ARP.

1. **United Reformed Churches in North America.** The URCNA is a small but growing body (70 churches, 16,000 members as of June 1999) which primarily consists of former CRC churches. The URCNA sees herself as more “conservative” than the CRC. The URCNA’s confessional documents are the “Three Forms of Unity,” her church polity is an adapted version of the Church Order of Dort.

In June 1999, the third Synod of the URCNA was held in Hudsonville, MI. The URCNA invited the ARP to send an observer. Rev. Ray Lanning attended and gave a history of the ARP to the Synod. He submitted a report to the Committee.

The URCNA also attended the 1999 NAPARC meeting as an observer.

2. **Reformed Church in the United States.** The RCUS is a continuation of the historic “German Reformed Church.” She has 41 churches and 4,257 members (as of December 1998) mostly in the northern midwestern US. The RCUS’ confessional documents are the “Three Forms of Unity.” She is known for her strict adherence to God creating in six literal days.

The ARP has fraternal fellowship with all the NAPARC member churches except for the RCUS. This is primarily due to the RCUS’ recent entry into NAPARC. At the 1999 ARP General Synod, an RCUS representative (Rev. Ron Potter) brought greetings. For the year 2000, the RCUS has invited an ARP representative to her synod. The RCUS currently has fraternal relations with the OPC, RPCNA, and the GNK-Lib (Netherlands).

3. **Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches.** The OCRC is a federation of eleven churches in Canada and the U.S. with a membership of 1400 members. These churches left the CRC in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s due to a perceived weakening of biblical authority. The OCRC’s confessional statement is the “Three Forms of Unity.”

The OCRC asked for an ARP representative to attend the October

21-22, 1999 Synod. Rev. John van Eyk attended and addressed the Synod. The most important vote of the Synod concerned whether to join the URCNA. The OCRC declined to join. The Committee received a report from Rev. van Eyk.

There is no movement at this time in either the OCRC or the ARP toward fraternal relations.

Change to the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*

The Committee approved a small change in the text of the Committee on Inter-Church Relations section of the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*. The change is in italics: Duty # 13: "To insure that persons serving as a representative or delegate submit written reports (*including a summary/text of their address*) to the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee."

Fraternal Delegates / Representatives to be Sent in 2000

The following are those scheduled to be sent:

NAPARC — Dr. R. J. Gore

CRC — Dr. Bill Evans

EPC — Reverend James T. Corbitt, D.D.

KAPC — Dr. Hae Seung Kim

PCA — Mr. Hal Morris

RCUS — Rev. John Dawson

Fraternal Delegates / Representatives to be Invited in 2000

EPC, OPC, PCA, URCNA, RPCNA.

Officers for 2000-2001

Chairman — Professor Bob Cara

Vice-Chairman — Rev. Gary Letchworth

Secretary — Rev. John Dawson

Proposed Budget for 2001

The Committee approved the following budget:

General Office Expense	\$	150
Committee Travel		4000
ARP Fraternal		
Delegate /Representatives		7500
Hosting Fraternal Delegates		1000
NAPARC Dues		300
ICRC Dues		<u>3268</u>
Total	\$	16,218

Recommendations

1. The change to the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be approved.
2. The fraternal delegates/representatives listed above be approved.
3. The proposed Committee 2001 budget be approved.
4. All other actions of the Committee, as herein reported, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Cara, Chairman

R.J. Cara addressed the Synod with regard to the matter of the work of the committee concerning our assessments for one of our

interdenominational memberships. He noted the ability of the committee to meet its obligations within its present budget for 2000.

The Report of the **Committee on Lay Ministry** was presented and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAY MINISTRY

The Lay Ministry Committee oversees several conferences for the denomination. It also seeks to involve the laymen in ministry and to provide opportunities for them to participate in meaningful ministry beyond the local congregation.

Sue Hines works to coordinate WorkTrips for our people throughout the denomination. Churches and agencies which have needs are invited to make request for a WorkTeam. Meals, lodging and supplies are provided by the church or agency needing assistance. Our volunteers furnish their own transportation and bring their own tools. We have one request before us. The Faith ARP Church in Olney, MD, is constructing its first facility. The congregation is asking for assistance in the various tasks of the construction process. If interest is sufficient, we would like to send two, three, or more teams to Olney on several occasions. It is important for us to help one another. Please make your laymen aware of this opportunity. Mrs. Hines can be contacted at 392 Gilbert Road in Statesville, NC, 28677. Her phone number is 704-873-8900. Are there others with specific needs? We await your call. Funds are available to assist presbyteries, clusters of congregations, or individual congregations in sponsoring events for laymen at the local level. Application can be made through Tom Patterson (P. O. Box 1283, Mooresville, NC 28115-1283; 704-663-2611; arphigh-road@earthlink.net).

Several years ago, a need was identified to provide a conference for young adults. The Cornerstone Conference targets those in their 20's and 30's. This year's conference was held at Bonclarken on April 14-16. Mr. Johnny Price, former Director of Youth Ministry for the ARP Synod and Consultant with the Caleb Group, was the speaker. His theme was "Conversations with the Culture." Matt Hendrix and Eli Long were the Music Leaders. Veronica Unda provided the child-care services. Rachel Turner is the able coordinator for this conference. We would like to see more young adults participate and call upon you to help us make this conference known to them.

Posters, registration forms, and bulletin inserts have been sent to the churches announcing the Laity in Action Conference which is to be held at Bonclarken on July 7 & 8. This is a family event, and a children's program and child-care are part of the conference. We are pleased to announce the addition of a youth program for teens this year. Five messages, three on Friday afternoon and evening, and two on Saturday morning, will be delivered by Dr. R. J. Gore, Dean of Erskine Theological Seminary, Due

West, SC. His theme is "Renewing Your Mind" and his messages will come from the book of Romans. The Alliance of Loyal Laity and the Lay Ministry Committee continue to co-sponsor this conference. This arrangement continues to work well, and the cooperation between the two groups is lending itself to expanded ministry. Please make the information on this conference available to your people.

Each year the committee presents two awards at the Laity in Action Conference. The Onesimus Award is given to individuals who show themselves slaves for Christ and the Gospel. The Barnabas Award is given to a congregation which has provided encouragement to others and has exhibited faithfulness in the areas of leadership and service. Frank Riley, an elder at the Arsenal Hill Church in Columbia, SC, was cited for his leadership and years of service to the church. Mr. Riley is frequently called upon to teach and has even filled pulpits on many occasions. He is a gifted speaker. Wayne Jenkins is a member of the New Sterling Church, Stony Point, NC. Mr. Jenkins has carried on a successful construction business for many years. Learning of the need for property, he provided 10 acres of land for the Statesville Korean ARP Church and has been quite helpful in preparing that land and helping with the moving of a donated building and the construction of a Sanctuary for that congregation. These two men were given the Onesimus Award in 1999. The Covenant Church in Statesville, NC, was the recipient of the Barnabas Award last year. Among its ministries Covenant Church sponsors the Upper Room, a coffee house for community youth. This ministry has been most effective in enabling the area churches to reach young people for Christ.

The Woman's Synodical Union and the Lay Ministry Committee jointly sponsor the Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken. The dates for this year's conference are July 24-28. The Rev. Dan Doriani, Professor at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO, will be the Bible Study Leader. The Rev. Eddie Spencer, pastor of the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC, will be the worship leader. It should be noted the WSU is changing the dates for its annual meeting, and will be meeting prior to the conference on July 22-24.

The Leadership Training Chairman of the WSU is involved in both the Laity in Action Conference and in the Family Bible Conference. It would be helpful for her to be added to the Lay Ministry Committee.

Officers for 2000-2001 are ...

Mr. M. W. Chappell, Chairman

Mr. John Gaston, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Kathy Folks, Secretary

Tom Patterson is Director of Lay Ministry for the Synod.

Recommendations

1. That sessions and pastors promote attendance at the Laity in Action Conference, the Family Bible Conference, and the Cornerstone Conference.
2. That the Rev. Steve Hardy be appointed as Director and the Rev.

Ben Dowling as Assistant Director of the 2001 Family Bible Conference

3. That the Leadership Training Chairman of the WSU be added as an advisory member of this committee.
4. That sessions call on their people to pray daily for the work and ministry of the local congregation, the presbyteries, and the General Synod and challenge the laymen to have a systematic study of the Scripture and also to set aside a time for daily devotions.
5. That opportunities to prepare and equip lay people for effective Christian service and opportunities to involve laymen in ministries be provided through the local congregations and also through the work teams provided through this committee.
6. That the retreat and conference ministries be given proper promotion within each congregation.
7. That sessions be encouraged to designate one Sunday in the month of October as a day to celebrate and emphasize the role of laymen in the church.
8. That the Budget for 2001 be approved as follows:

Cornerstone Conference	\$ 1,500
Family Bible Conference	\$ 4,500
Laity in Action Conference	\$ 2,000
Local Laity Workshops/Seminars	\$ 500
Director of Lay Ministry	\$ 3,500
Cooperative Work with A.L.L.	\$ 3,000
Committee Expense	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
Total	\$21,000

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Ferguson, Chairman

The Report of the **Committee on the Minister and His Work** was presented and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK

The membership of the Committee on Minister and His Work encompasses the Chairman of each presbytery's committee/commission, the Director of Outreach North America, and the Director of Field Work at Erskine Theological Seminary. The Coordinator of Synod, Moderator and Moderator-Elect of Synod, and the Director of Administrative Service serve as advisory members. The Committee meets on an annual basis to share information and, working cooperatively, to develop resources and procedures to enhance the ministry of the Church. The Committee also serves as the coordinating agency for its cooperative efforts with the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel. This report reflects the major areas of concern.

Assistance to Ministers and Churches

Chapter X.E.1 of the *Form of Government* clearly prescribes for the authority of presbytery in effecting calls for its ministers. The *Form of Government* does not, however, prescribe the manner in which this requirement will be carried out. It is, therefore, incumbent on every presbyter and denominational official to ensure that our individual efforts do not violate either the letter or the intent of this provision in the *Form of Government*. Our individual efforts must always complement this presbytery responsibility.

The General Synod, through this Committee on the Minister and His Work, has sought to develop programs to assist the minister and/or candidate, the search committee, and the presbytery. Forms for the minister/candidate and for the church have been developed and the Committee on Minister and His Work has oversight of the program to secure and maintain these forms. The Office of Administrative Services, ARP Center, maintains and administers the forms in accordance with procedures approved by the Committee:

- a. Access to data forms is restricted and forms are released in accordance with the instructions indicated thereon.
- b. Specific data forms are released only to the chairperson or secretary of a search committee or to the chairman of a Presbytery Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work.
- c. At the request of a search committee, and in those circumstances where the church has completed a “church profile,” matching data forms will be released.
- d. When a data form is released to a church the presbytery chairman is notified.
- e. In those circumstances where a minister has requested or indicated a desire to have his data form submitted in the absence of a specific request or data match, the data form is submitted to the chairman of each presbytery Committee on Minister and His Work to be submitted to churches at the discretion of the presbytery chairman.

At the time of this report, there are **57 ministers** currently serving in the pastoral ministry of the church who do not have a data form on file (as compared to 50 reported last year). All ministers are encouraged to have a data form on file, and to update the form on a periodic basis.

Churches are reminded of the opportunity to complete and utilize the “Church Profile” when they are seeking a pastor.

Administrative Services has been asked to explore ways in which the preferences of the minister and the needs of the church seeking a pastor might be more effectively matched.

The following is provided as information (generally reflecting activities from April—March):

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Data Forms Requested by Churches/Pulpit Committees	108	215
Data Forms Mailed to Pulpit Committees	101	234
Data Forms Requested (no forms available)	9	13
Data Forms Requested (not mailed at request of individuals)	7	10
Requested (not sent due to fact just relocated)	1	1
Data Forms Distributed at the Request of the Individual	7	18
Requests for Updated Forms	24	28
Requests by Non-ARP's to Secure Forms to Complete	39	39
Seminary Students' Data Forms Distributed	26	18
Church Profiles Distributed to Vacant Churches	10	8
Church Profiles Completed by Vacant Churches	2	2
Data Forms of ARP Ministers sent to Non-APR Churches*		9

*At request of Minister

Annual Reviews

Calls to Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ministers must provide for an annual review of the terms of the call. In the opinion of the Committee, this review of the terms of the call should be done in the context of a ministry evaluation. Some presbyteries have begun to develop procedures and guidelines for conducting ministry evaluations. Presbytery representatives to the Committee have been asked to share their work with each other.

The annual review should also address the monetary needs of the Pastor. We ask that the presbyteries encourage the churches to consider, as a minimum, an annual cost of living increase in compensation. Information on the Consumer Price Index is available on the WEB at <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.toc.htm> or by calling Administrative Services at the ARP Center.

Orientation Program for New Ministers

The orientation program introduced four years ago is designed to build inter-personal relationships among new ministers and to build relationships between ministers and those who are engaged in the ministries of the denomination. We continue to urge ministers to make every effort to attend an orientation program in the first two years of ministry. We encourage presbyteries to insist on this.

Uniform Written Exams

Uniform Written Exams are prepared and updated under the auspices of the Committee. Copies of the exam may be secured from the Office of Administrative Services. Presbyteries are encouraged to use these or similar exams as a tool in determining the qualifications for ordination.

Consideration of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ministers and Students

For many years this Committee has recommended, and the General Synod has approved, a recommendation to the churches that preference be given to Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers when considering a call. At least one presbytery requires its churches to exhaust consideration of ARP ministers prior to considering non-ARPs.

Today, there are 253 churches and 346 ministers. There are many ministers without a call who have demonstrated their qualifications for ministry by virtue of their ordination and continuing membership in the presbytery (it is recognized and understood that not every minister is suited for every pastoral position). The Committee feels that their commitment to this, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, is deserving of consideration when a church is seeking a pastor.

In like manner, the General Synod has encouraged those churches with the financial resources to do so to consider employing ARP Seminary students in the summer. The opportunity for meaningful, practical experience is an investment in the future.

Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel

Your Committee has the responsibility to keep the General Synod informed of the work of our military and institutional chaplains. The Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel is our endorsing agency for military chaplains and staff members and it provides pastoral care and guidance for those chaplains. A report on the work of the Council during the past year is on file at the ARP Center. Representatives on the Council are Ronald Beard (as Stated Clerk), Randall T. Ruble, R. J. Gore, and Troy L. Pritt. R. J. Gore's term is expiring but in the interest of continuity he has been asked to serve another three-year term.

The following are serving as chaplains at the time of this report:

Military:

LT Thomas Braithwaite, CHC, USN
 CAPT Paul Burns, CH, USA
 CAPT Lawrence E. Hamrick, CH, USA
 CDR C. Stephen Rimmer, CHC, USN
 LCDR David M. Schwabauer, CHC, USN
 MAJ Michael E. Yarman, USA

Institutional:

Chaplain Jay West (College/Seminary)
 Reverend James A. Ryan, Jr., Chaplain,
 VA Medical Center

Miscellaneous Items

a. **Prior Ordination:** The 1997 General Synod referred back to the Committee the matter of "prior ordination." The Committee has studied the guidelines adopted by Second Presbytery, as attached to this report. We encourage each presbytery to study these guidelines for possible implementation. These were prepared by R. J. Gore (Dean of Erskine Theological Seminary).

b. **Guidelines for New Churches Being Received Into Presbytery:**

The Committee was asked by Outreach North America to review guidelines developed by ONA. The Committee concurs with the proposed guidelines and joins with ONA in recommending their adoption as guidelines to assist the presbyteries in the process of receiving new churches and ministers.

The Committee calls particular attention to guideline #3 in the “Recommended Guidelines for New Churches Being Received Into Presbytery” (“The session and congregation must confirm in writing their acceptance of the doctrines and theology set forth in the ARP Standards without reservations. If there are a few minor reservations, they are to be clearly stated to the presbytery.”) The General Synod and its affiliated churches are recognized as tax exempt and individual churches do not have to file for a separate exemption. However, to be added to the group exemption letter, presbyteries must stipulate in writing that the church to be added has satisfied all requirements for being a part of the denomination. It would seem prudent for the presbytery to have the written affirmation that the church accepts the doctrines and theology set forth in the ARP Standards.

c. **References:** The following statement was endorsed by the Committee. We urge all who receive or give references to be guided by the intent expressed:

“All references concerning candidates or ministers are to be in writing. All evaluations are to be signed by the one who makes them before such information is distributed to a committee/commission of the presbytery or the presbytery. If the referrer is unwilling to do this then such material should be considered gossip and not be distributed.”

d. **Officers for 2000 - 2001** are as follows:

Chairman: Reverend Neely Gaston

Vice-Chairman: Reverend Ray A. King

e. **Meeting dates for 2001:** The Committee will meet in conjunction with the White-sides/Robinson Lectures, Erskine Theological Seminary. The tentative date is April 19, 2001.

Recommendations

1. That presbyteries encourage its ministers and seminary students to keep updated data forms on file at the ARP Center.
2. That presbyteries encourage its congregations to complete a “church profile” before seeking a pastor.
3. That presbyteries which have not yet done so seek to develop a program to encourage its congregations
 - a. to incorporate the annual review of the minister’s call into an annual ministry review and
 - b. with respect to compensation, to consider as a minimum a cost of living increase.
4. That presbyteries continue to encourage and/or require ministers to attend the General Synod orientation program within the first two years of ministry.

5. That congregations be encouraged to continue to employ ARP seminary students for the summer months.
6. That presbyteries continue to encourage Pulpit Committees to give preference to ARP ministers and students.
7. That appreciation be expressed to the Presbyterian Council for the work it does on behalf of chaplains and military personnel and that all our chaplains be remembered in prayer.
8. That The Reverend R. J. Gore be re-elected to the Presbyterian Council for a term which expires in 2003.
9. That the paper "Concerning Reception of Transferring Ministers" be received as information and forwarded to the presbyteries for study and possible implementation.
10. That presbyteries be encouraged to require (from congregations seeking affiliation with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church) a written affirmation that the church accepts the doctrines and theology set forth in the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.
11. That all who receive and/or provide references for individuals and/or congregations be guided by the statement on references included in the report.
12. That the 2001 budget be adopted as follows:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Committee Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$1,292	\$1,611
General Office	500	500
Presbyterian Council	<u>6,248</u>	<u>6,248</u>
	<u>\$8,040</u>	<u>\$8,359</u>

13. That all other actions of the Committee as reported herein be affirmed.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. Neely Gaston, Chairman

CONCERNING RECEPTION OF TRANSFERRING MINISTERS

1. The process by which a candidate for the ministry becomes a student of theology and proceeds forward through the process of licensure and ordination is fairly straight-forward. However, with regards to the reception of ministers from other denominations or independency, the process is less clear. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the principles underlying the reception of members from other denominations and the means by which this may be done according to the *Form of Government* of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The constitutional documents from other Presbyterian bodies will be consulted for additional insights.

2. There are two foundational principles that govern the way Presbyterians, in general, and Associate Reformed Presbyterians, in specific, address this issue. First, there is the principle that recognizes the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to be but one denomination among many; that is, the validity of other denominations- including those that are not Presbyterian and/or Reformed- is affirmed. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian *Form of Government (FOG)* I,B,2 says “the visible unity of the Church, though obscured, is not destroyed by its division into different denominations of professing Christians; and all of those maintaining the Word and sacraments of the Lord Jesus Christ in their fundamental integrity are to be recognized as branches of this one visible Church.”¹
3. Second, there is the principle that every communion establishes its own terms of membership, and, more to the point, the requirements for ordination to the office of minister. This is implicit in *FOG* II,A,1, which states that “leadership and authority...are defined for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church by this *Form of Government*.” Other constitutional documents are more explicit. The Presbyterian Church, USA states in its *Book of Order* that “every Christian Church...is entitled to declare the terms of admission into its communion, and the qualifications of its ministers ... (*BO*, G-1.0302).” The Presbyterian Church in America echoes exactly the same language in its *Book of Church Order (BCO)*, “Preface,” II,2. Thus, there are at least these two principles that undergird the procedures by which a minister from another denomination is received into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. These principles are important in establishing the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church’s willingness to recognize the offices and ordinations of other evangelical bodies while maintaining its own standards for the ordained office.
4. The issue of the reception of transferring ministers may be divided into two additional concerns: 1) those who transfer in with “regular” credentials, and (2) those who transfer in with “irregular” credentials.² These matters are addressed in *FOG* X,G,2, where the following procedures are enumerated:
 2. Transfer from another denomination.
 - a. The Procedure for transferring ministers from another denomination shall follow in substance the procedure for transfer from one Presbytery to another within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
 - b. The minister must present an acceptable certificate of transfer from the Presbytery or other Church body of which he was a member.

- c. The minister applying for membership in one of the Presbyteries shall be examined as to his beliefs, his Christian character, his qualifications, and his knowledge of and adherence to the doctrines and principles of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- d. The minister requesting transfer from another denomination shall furnish evidence of an education equal to that required of ministers trained under the care of the Presbyteries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. (*FOG*, X,A,3,g)

This section gives information that makes it easy to distinguish between “regular” and “irregular” credentials. Those who transfer in with “regular” credentials will be able to present a “certificate of transfer” (*FOG*, X,G,2,b) and “evidence of an education equal to that required of ministers” who have come through the presbyteries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (*FOG*, X,G,2,d). Individuals with such “regular” credentials may be examined as though they were transferring from one presbytery to another within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (*FOG*, X,G,2,a,c and X,G,1,c).

5. Those who transfer in with “irregular” credentials would include those who cannot obtain a “certificate of transfer” and/or those whose educational attainments fall short of the requirements for ministers who have been under the care of a presbytery in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (*FOG*, X,A,3,g). The first problem will likely arise with those who transfer in from a free church background. Connectional churches, as a rule, have procedures whereby certificates of transfer or letters of dismissal can be obtained.³ It is not difficult to establish their *bona fides*. However, those who were ordained in a free church or ad hoc presbytery and hold an independent ministerial status, have no authority to whom to make such a request. Nevertheless, such individuals will normally possess a certificate of ordination and should be able to obtain a letter attesting to their good standing—either from the church where they previously held membership, or from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church which they subsequently have joined. These two documents can establish the minister’s *bona fides* and should satisfy the requirement for certificate of transfer.
6. It is at this point that the second issue becomes critical. For those who have already met the minimum educational requirements, it should be possible to transfer into a presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church by presenting (1) an ordination certificate, (2) a letter from the candidate’s home church indicating good standing,⁴ and (3) official transcripts from educational

institutions attended. Transfer would then proceed according to *FOG X,G,2,a*. Upon approval of presbytery, the minister would retain his certificate of ordination but would receive credentials from the stated clerk of presbytery. Thenceforth, he would be viewed as a minister of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church; his previous ordination would be recognized⁵ and his ordination certificate would not be affected in any way. However, his future status as a minister with credentials lies within the scope of the authority of presbytery.⁶

7. For those who have not met the educational requirements of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, it will be necessary for them to become students of theology and complete the requirements of the *FOG*.⁷ Their ordination is still recognized, but until they have completed the educational requirements and been enrolled as presbyters, they should willingly refrain from using the titles and prerogatives of ordained office.
8. To summarize, there are at least five points that need to be made. **First**, it is necessary to establish the *bona fides* of any minister desiring to transfer into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. This may be done by a certificate of transfer, or by a certificate of ordination and a letter of good standing. **Second**, it is necessary for the minister to indicate he has severed his relationship with his previous denomination, association, congregation, etc. Where a certificate of transfer or letter of dismissal is not possible, a copy of a letter to the previous denomination (congregation, etc.) declaring the minister's intentions may serve the purpose. **Third**, the minister should submit to the examination process in the event his educational qualifications are appropriate; if deficient, he should seek to become a student of theology in order to complete the educational requirements. At some point, the minister may also seek licensure from the presbytery. **Fourth**, upon satisfying all the requirements of the *FOG*, the transferring minister may accept a duly authorized call and then should affirm the vows in *FOG X,D,3,e*. **Fifth**, re-ordination is not warranted and is not allowed. The surrender of any certificate of ordination is not warranted and should not be requested by the presbytery.
9. The issue before us, then, can be resolved based on the two principles stipulated at the beginning. Since we are but one church among many, we do well to recognize the gifts and callings that God has given to other denominations. But, since we are a church that seeks to be faithful to our distinctives, we must maintain the standards we have set for ourselves. Everything involved in transferring a previously ordained minister from

another denomination or from independency should be done in the light of these two commitments.

¹ A similar sentiment is expressed in the PCUSA *Book of Order*, (BO) G-4.0203 and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church *Form of Government* (FOG) IV,4. Of course, Presbyterians have traditionally been quite charitable in their understanding of “fundamental integrity,” extending the scope of the language to include denominations that entertain Arminian theology and low views of the sacraments.

² A non-technical, but helpful distinction.

³ This is the expectation for those coming from other Presbyterian or Reformed churches per the Presbyterian Church, USA BO, G-11.0404. Ministers from other denominations must also present evidence they are not longer enrolled in previous denominations, G-11.0406. Of course, this could be difficult for free church ministers to do.

⁴ For those who have united with a congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, this should be no problem.

⁵ Presbyterian Church, USA BO, G-11.0404.

⁶ For example, presbytery may censure and even depose a minister should circumstances warrant such action. The minister who holds an independent certificate of ordination is viewed by the presbytery to be in exactly the same relationship to presbytery as the minister who holds an ARP certificate of ordination. If presbytery has withdrawn the minister’s credentials, the certificate is but a meaningless piece of paper. Of course, both the independently ordained minister and the minister ordained by presbytery may renounce the jurisdiction of presbytery. In terms of credentials, they would both be “without portfolio” while nonetheless possessing a “certificate” of ordination- one independent, and the other ARP.

⁷ Of course, the exception clause (FOG X,A,3,g) may also be invoked in the reception of a transferring minister. Here, as always, its use should be rare and then only in compelling circumstances.

The Report of the **Committee on Theological and Social Concerns** was presented and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Committee met by conference call December 9, 1999, and February 17, 2000, to give further consideration to the report that was referred back to the committee at last year’s meeting of the General Synod. This original report was in response to a referral made by the 1998 meeting of the General Synod concerning a memorial from Florida Presbytery:

WHEREAS The Westminster Confession of Faith is a summary of our faith as revealed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; and

WHEREAS that summary has authoritative application to our faithful and obedient walk with Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS the Confession itself recognizes that although the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are infallible (I.v), synods and councils since the apostles' times may err (XXXI.iv); and

WHEREAS The Westminster Confession of Faith is a product of a synod or council that can potentially err; and

WHEREAS certain pastoral occurrences cause us to sincerely evaluate our respected, yet fallible, documents in light of the Word of God; and

WHEREAS an actual pastoral experience concerning an article of The Westminster Confession of Faith did arise during the teaching of the Confession in a local congregation; and

WHEREAS the Florida Presbytery appointed a committee to study the legitimacy of the parameters of consanguinity and affinity set by the Confession in XXIV.iv; which reads

“Marriage ought not to be with the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden in the word; nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man, or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife. The man may not marry any of his wife’s kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own, nor the woman of her husband’s kindred nearer in blood than of her own”;

and

WHEREAS that committee, after careful consideration of historical, theological, and exegetical references found nothing that compels us to hold to the current reading; and instead finds compelling reasons for its amendment; and

WHEREAS every other orthodox Reformed, and Presbyterian body which upholds The Westminster Confession of Faith as their standard, and with which we have a fraternal relationship, has already studied, debated, and adapted a revised reading of XXIV.iv,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Presbytery of Associate Reformed Presbytery Church, respectfully Memorialize the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to amend The Westminster Confession of Faith XXIV.iv as follows:

“Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden in the word; nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man, or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife.”

Adopted by Florida Presbytery at its
Stated meeting, February 24, 1998

In response to the recommendation of the Moderator's Committee on Memorials, the 1998 meeting of Synod referred "the matters in this memorial to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns for report to General Synod 1999." After review of the background material submitted by Florida Presbytery from its special "Committee to Study *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, XXIV.iv.," this Committee recommended to the 1999 meeting of the General Synod "that it approve the memorial from Florida Presbytery as presented to the 1998 meeting of General Synod."

The Committee understood that in referring this first report back to committee the court had expressed a desire for a more detailed study of this matter. Different members of the Committee were asked to investigate particular issues such as the historical background for the wording as originally adopted by the Westminster divines; the basis on which the other Presbyterian bodies in America have made similar revisions in the text of W. C. F., XXIV. iv.; the possible relevance of the biblical practice of levirate marriage (see Deut. 25), and the exegesis of the key biblical texts such as Leviticus 18 & 20; Deuteronomy 27; & I Corinthians 5. Much of the requested research, including extensive citations from scholarly sources, was circulated among members of the Committee prior to our second meeting to allow for careful consideration, and in our deliberations the different points of view on these issues were heard in full. The Committee strongly affirmed that the instructions found in Leviticus 18 are still part of the moral law. The following motion was ultimately adopted: that "in light of the clear teaching of Scripture (Leviticus 18:18: 'in her lifetime'), we find the sentence, 'The man may not marry any of his own wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own, nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own,' as contained in *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, XXIV. iv., to go beyond the teaching of Scripture."

The Committee readily acknowledges the gravity of making alterations to our beloved *Westminster Confession of Faith*, yet we are accountable for our lives and doctrine under an even higher standard, the very Word of God. Here is where we must draw the line, thus the first recommendation of the Committee.

There having been discussion in one of the meetings as to the parameters of the authority of the Committee and its freedom to bring issues to the attention of Synod or propose matters for further study, a motion was adopted to "request Synod's Executive Board to clarify the issue as to whether the list of duties in the *Manual of Authorities & Duties* limits the authority of the Committee." This request was forwarded to the Executive Board for its April meeting.

Officers for 2000-2001 have not yet been elected. The current chairman will act as convenor if a meeting is needed.

Recommendations:

1. That the last sentence: "The man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own, nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own," be deleted from XXIV.iv. of *The Westminster Confession of Faith* in our Standards.
2. That \$1,500 be allocated for Committee expenses for 2001.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory C. Slater, Chairman

The Report of the **Committee on Worship** was presented and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

One of the responsibilities of the Committee on Worship is selecting projects for the proper use of the Jean McFall White Fund for the "preservation, recording, distribution, education in and establishment of Psalm-singing." The 1999 delegates to the General Synod approved a feasibility study for the production of our denomination's own Psalter/Hymnal. The Committee on Worship has focused on cost, time needed, and interest of local churches, and other concerns. The study's completion occurs in April and an addendum to this report will be presented to the 2000 Synod delegates. (Please see recommendation #10.)

Another project using the Jean McFall White Fund was the production of a video resource concerned with Psalm-singing in Christian worship. The video resource presents the heritage and forms of Psalm-singing and is available for purchase through the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center for a nominal fee.

The 1999 Music Conference under the leadership of Linda Miller and Trip McGill continued its excellent programs providing a beneficial week of worship and learning for participants and staff. The Committee on Worship thanks Linda Miller, Trip McGill, and the planning staff for a meaningful conference experience. The 2000 Bonclarken Music Conference is planned for July 9-14 with the theme: *Through the Ages*. The 2000 Music Conference is expanding its format thanks to a gift from John and Kathy Barron. Their gift has allowed the planning team to include a college age group. The Worship Committee plans to try and continue this age group for at least three years to see if it indeed proves to be a viable part of the Music Conference's ministry. The 2001 Music Conference Planning Committee has included in its budget this expanded program, plus other additional staff needs for our children's program as it continues to grow.

The total additional staff for 2001 will be six to eight people. Along with an increase in music prices and equipment needs, there may be a small increase in the registration fee for the 2001 Conference. Equipment needs for the Music Conference are a growing concern for our planning team. The needs range from replacement, repair, and new purchases to continue the high quality conference we now enjoy. Immediate consideration needs to be given to music folders, a music shell, sound system upgrades, risers, and a piano. Recommendations numbers five and six address these needs. The Committee on Worship encourages local churches with missionary families home on furlough to fund their participation in the Music Conference when and where appropriate.

During 1997, the Committee compiled a brief annotated bibliography on worship designed to be helpful to pastors and local church worship committees, choir directors, and other church musicians. Please see pages 665-667 of the 1997 *Minutes of Synod* for this information. In 1999, the Committee provided a list and description of approved music and worship resources which is included at the end of this report. It is hoped that this list and the checklist will help local congregations in resource selection. The Committee will continue its responsibility to review any books of music and praise submitted by local church Sessions.

Recommendations

1. That the 2001 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved.
2. That congregations be encouraged to use books of praise from the list of those approved by the General Synod, and be aware that the Committee on Worship will be pleased to evaluate other books of praise or welcome any ideas of input regarding worship within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
3. That pastors and sessions encourage families to have family worship and include the music ministry of their church in prayer, as well as utilize the prayer guide which appears in each issue of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.
4. That pastors and sessions encourage participation in the Bonclarken Music Conference, and that churches consider paying the expenses of their ministry staff to attend the conference.
5. That monies in line item labeled Contingency/equipment fund, and other monies not given as designated gifts, which have not been expended from the Worship Committee budget be approved to update, replace, repair, and purchase equipment for the Music Conference and furthermore that these funds be expended following the September meeting of the Worship Committee where the Committee will consult with the Treasurer of Synod to verify available funds as well as the overall needs for these resources.

6. That the Committee on Worship in conjunction with the Bonclarken Music Conference Planning Committee be allowed to explore plans for the purchase of a piano and sound system improvement equipment and to return a proposal to the 2001 General Synod for its consideration.
7. That local churches consider planning area workshops on music and worship, utilizing the Committee on Worship as a resource, if needed.
8. That congregations continue to be made aware of our rich heritage of Psalm-singing in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
9. That every church continue to be aware of the provisions in the United States Copyright Law regarding the reproduction of copyrighted music and materials.
10. That the addendum to the report concerning the Psalter/Hymnal production be reviewed for information and any recommendations it may contain and that the delegates of the 2000 Synod give direction to the Committee on Worship as whether to proceed or not with this project.

Respectfully submitted,
James D. Graves, Jr., Chairman

Worship Committee Budget

	2000 Expenditures	2001 Budget Proposed
Worship Committee		
Psalter/Hymnal Study or Worship		
Resources Study—White Fund	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Committee Travel/Room & Board	2,100	2,100
Telephone/Postage	250	250
Committee Meeting Expenses	100	100
Lord's Day Alliance	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>
Total	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
Bonclarken Music Conference		
Clinicians, Accompanists, &		
All other staff	\$ 12,525	\$ 13,500
Recreation/Craft supplies/		
Night activities/Directors	2,200	2,200
Staff Travel	4,100	4,100
Staff food/lodging	9,800	9,800
Music for Conference	4,500	4,500
Cassettes/CD's (taping of concert)	500	500
Printing and Mailing, Telephone	2,300	2,300

Tuning/T-shirts/additional conference expenses	5,300	5,300
Bonclarken Service Fee	24,750	24,750
Contingency/Equipment Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total	\$ 65,975	\$ 69,450
Total Expenses		
Worship Committee	5,800	5,800
Bonclarken Music Conf.	<u>65,975</u>	<u>69,450</u>
Total	\$ 71,775	\$ 75,250
Income		
Gifts, Conference Registrations	\$ 52,550	\$ 55,382
Jean McFall White Fund	3,000	3,000
Synod Supplement	<u>16,225</u>	<u>16,868</u>
Total Income	\$ 71,775	\$ 75,250

Check List for Evaluating Hymnals and Psalters Approved Books

The following checklist may be helpful to local sessions and worship committees that find themselves with the task of evaluating a new hymnal:

1. Do the main themes represented in the collection reinforce the theological distinctives of the denomination or oppose them? Does the theology inherent in most hymns ring true the Biblical perspective of the ARPC?
2. Is there appropriate balance:
 - a. between the focus on God and the focus on human experience
 - b. between focus on personal piety and communal responsibility
 - c. between old and new
 - d. between traditional and contemporary
3. Does the collection include those hymns and other entries which are important to the history and heritage of the denomination?
4. Does the hymnal provide abundant resources for appropriate celebration of the sacraments, all holidays and seasons, and weddings and funerals?
5. Does the hymnal include at least the following indexes:
 - a. First line titles
 - b. Tune titles
 - c. Topic/subject
 - d. Scriptural allusions
 - e. Metrical
 - f. Composers/sources
 - g. Authors/sources

6. Is the collection well-ordered and easy to read?
7. Does the hymnal include a varied and engaging collection of service music, with various responses, communion music, etc.?
8. Which translation of the Bible is used in readings and responses?
9. Are the aids to worship adequate and appropriate to perceived needs?

Descriptions of Hymnals and Psalters **Approved Books**

Bible Songs — Published in 1930 by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Originally designed to be a supplement to the church's *Psalter*, it contains a selection of metrical Psalms set largely to music in a gospel-hymn style. It is the only Psalter still in print by the ARP church. *Bible Songs* contains settings of all 150 Psalms, either in part or in entirety.

Trinity Hymnal — Published in 1961 by Great Commission Publications in association with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. This hymnal contains 662 traditional hymn and Psalm settings, a collection of 67 additional gospel-styled songs for "informal occasions," a selection of musical responses, and the complete *Westminster Shorter Catechism* and *Confession of Faith*. It is strong in its inclusion of hymns from throughout the ages of the church, especially the Reformation.

Trinity Hymnal, Revised Edition — Published in 1990 by Great Commission Publications in association with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of America. This is a reworking of the original *Trinity Hymnal* including the addition of a number of newer hymns and less formal songs. The structure, emphases and elements remain basically the same.

The Hymnbook — Published in 1955 by five Presbyterian-Reformed denominations, including the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. This is a standard collection of traditional hymns with a strong emphasis on Psalter selections and Psalm paraphrases. While this hymnal has a good selection of varied hymns, an adequate section on service music, and a fine series of indexes, it naturally will not include any of the vast amount of hymnody made available since 1955.

Rejoice in the Lord — Published in 1985 by Eerdmans Publishing Company in association with the Reformed Church in America. Edited by Erik Routley and containing many of his tunes and arrangements, this collection focuses primarily on material from the reformation and the modern day. It includes many new texts and tunes. The hymnal is sub-titled *A Hymn Companion to the Scriptures* and contains a Psalter with 63 entries and 561 other hymns organized thematically around the persons of the Trinity. The hymnal has no service music section.

Psalter Hymnal — Published in 1987 by CRC Publications in association with the Christian Reformed Church. This is one of the finest Psalters currently available in the English language. The collection begins

with a single setting for each Psalm, the texts of which are largely new efforts. Next follow 86 Bible Songs taken from the whole scope of scripture, using both traditional and contemporary musical settings. The hymn portion contains 384 traditional hymns, spirituals, and contemporary choruses. This collection is especially rich in traditional Psalter tunes. A Doctrinal Standards section contains the *Belgic Confession*, *Heidelberg Catechism*, and the *Canons of Dort*.

Non-Approved Books

The Celebration Hymnal: Songs and Hymns for Worship — Published in 1997 by Word Music/Integrity Music. The non-denominational hymnal is basically a compilation of praise and worship choruses, which have achieved “classic” status and old Pietistic revival hymns from the 1920’s through the 1950’s. A minimal collection of traditional hymnody is also included. Its primary strengths include a considerable emphasis on the holiness of God and numerous “Worship Sequences” which provide brief spoken liturgies couples with a pre-arranged medley of related hymns and choruses. Among its weaknesses are minimal emphasis on the sacraments and other rites of the church, the exclusion of most of the newer hymns which are elsewhere becoming standards, scant use of sung Psalmody, and only minor emphasis on such major attributes of God as His Sovereignty and Grace. In general, the collection focuses on hymns of personal feeling and human experience to the exclusion of hymns focusing on our inter-relatedness in Christ and our resulting responsibilities.

Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs — Published in 1990 by Westminster/John Knox Press in association with the Presbyterian Church, USA. This work contains 605 settings of Psalms and hymns representing a mix of traditional hymns, gospel songs, a sizable collection of newly written texts set to both new and familiar music, and a separate Psalter section of 98 highly varied Psalm settings. Included are many new hymns dealing with theological issues not usually addressed in a hymnal. Notable also is the variety of musical and textual styles available in one book.

The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration — Published in 1986 by Word Music independently of any denomination. This hymnal contains 600 hymns and gospel songs with a strong emphasis on revival hymns and modern praise choruses. Frequently a number of hymns are connected by accompanimental interludes so that they may be sung together as a medley, if desired. The hymnal is interspersed with 23 “Brief Services” providing short liturgies and scripture passages on varied themes. Missing from this collection is any specifically Reformed theological focus, the majority of our traditional Psalter tunes and texts, and Psalm paraphrases in general. Twenty-six Psalms are included in an index for unison (not responsive) readings.

The Worshipping Church: a Hymnal — Published by Hope Publishing Company in 1990 independently of any denomination. For congregations seeking a hymnal containing the best of the more recent scripture songs and praise choruses from the “Worship and Praise” movement, this is the

best resource for Reformed churches. The 903 selections include over forty such choruses, a sizable representation of traditional hymnody, and a fine sampling of recently composed hymns rapidly gaining inter-denominational favor. Of special interest is the "Psalms and Canticles" section included in the main body of the hymnal, containing 36 entries and offering various styles of Psalm singing. Still other Psalm-based hymns are included elsewhere in the hymnal.

The Book of Psalms for Singing — Published in 1973 by Crown and Covenant Publishers and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, this has been a popular option for those seeking a traditional psalms-only collection. Four-part musical settings are provided for each psalm, with a second musical option provided for many entries. From Calvin's time on, the challenge in producing a metrical Psalter has always been to paraphrase the psalm in such a way that the poetry is of high quality poetry that is easily understood. The collection suffers from awkward word orders and antiquated language which may tend to confuse or alienate modern worshippers.

Trinity Psalter: Words Only Edition — The Words-Only Psalter (no musical settings are included) is taken from the popular *Book of Psalms for Singing*. (See above.) Its purpose is to provide a complete Psalter that is smaller in size and less expensive than the full-sized Psalter from which it is taken. Accordingly, each psalm is included with only one setting, with the appropriate meter inscribed below. One appropriate tune is suggested, but the music is not included. The chief value of this collection is in its reduced size, designed to fit in pew racks along with a traditional hymnal. Further, as a paperback book, it is considerably less expensive. Another nice feature is the introductory information about how to sing metrical psalms. See above for an evaluation of the psalm settings themselves.

Great Hymns of the Faith, Compiled and Edited by John W. Peterson, Singspiration Music Publishers, 1968 — This hymnal, published in 1968, is at an age when most denominational hymnbooks would be scheduled for replacement. Considering all the new music which has been made available for congregational singing during the last thirty years, churches would be ill advised to purchase a hymnal which includes none of these resources. Coming from an independent publisher which largely services churches which are outside the Reformed family, this hymnal is not particularly strong in reinforcing Reformed doctrines, the attributes of God, divine initiation and grace, or use of the Psalms. It focuses, rather, on the subjects of personal testimony, making it, perhaps, better suited for special times of revival. However, most up to date hymnals will also provide a fine selection of such hymns.

ADDENDUM

The Committee on Worship has concluded its feasibility study for a new denominational Psalter/Hymnal worship resource. The members express their appreciation to Beth Willis, Donna Wentz, Rev. Earl Linderman, and local churches for their support and patience during this project. This

addendum report is a summary statement of the Committee's deliberations. The type of analysis we wanted to present concerning current trends in worship is not possible due to the small response (89 responses to 254 surveys = 35%) to our information request. It is the opinion of the Worship Committee that a denominational worship resource is needed and would help to provide stronger connectional ties, but we also believe this is not feasible at this time due to a lack of interest.

SUMMARY

- *Surveys on interest were divided almost equally...low—32; high—28; moderate—26; 3 surveys were not marked.
- *Committee believes the 65% non-response rate shows no interest in the project.
- *Cost for the project estimated above \$300,000.00 without a reasonable return time on the investment, if any.
- *Resources used and number of churches using each resource is contained in report.
- *Project time would be a minimum of 4 to 5 years to produce a Psalter/Hymnal.

NOTE: Funds from Jean McFall White Fund for year 2000 which have not been used will be returned to Fund and funds for 2001 listed for Psalter/Hymnal Resource work will not be allocated for use if Synod does not wish for the project to proceed.

Respectfully submitted,
Committee on Worship

SONG BOOKS CURRENTLY IN USE IN 2000*

Bible Songs	43
Celebration Hymnal	3
CCLF For Praise Choruses & Hymns	1
Favorite Hymns Of Praise	4
Great Hymns Of Faith	1
Hymns For The Family Of God	4
Hymns For The Living Church	2
Hymnal For Worship	1
Hymnal For Worship & Celebration	11
Hymns of Faith	1
Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs	1
Korean Hymn Book	1
Maranatha	1
Maranatha Chorus Book	2
Master Chorus Book	1
None Listed	4
Praise!	1
Praise! Our Songs & Hymns	1

The Hymnbook	28
The Psalms	1
The Psalter	4
The Psalter, Reformed Heritage	1
The Worshipping Church	2
Trinity Hymnal	18
Trinity Hymnal (new)	6
Sing Joyfully	2
Songs For Christian Worship	5
Songs For The Family Of God	1
Songs For Praise & Worship	2
Songs For The Heart	1
Worship & Service	1
Booklet---In House	1
Overhead Projector	7
Song Sheets	1
Good Shepherd Praise Book	1
Hymns For Praise & Service	1
Tabernacle Hymn Book	1
Trinity Psalter	1
Spiritual Life Songs	1

*Resources used and number of churches using each resource

The Report of the **Committee on Historical Concerns** was presented and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL CONCERNS

Preservation of Church Records

The Department of Church History (PCUSA, Montreat, NC) serves as the official repository for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The General Synod makes an annual contribution to support this work. Congregations and individuals have the opportunity of membership in the Presbyterian Historical Society. Sustaining membership is \$10.00 per year (members receive a quarterly newsletter). An active sustaining membership is \$15.00 and in addition to the quarterly newsletter, there is a quarterly *Journal of Presbyterian History*. Interested persons may write to: Department of History, P. O. Box 849, Montreat, NC 28757.

Records deposited at Montreat may be placed there physically or may be microfilmed and the microfilmed records placed there. Both the Committee on Historical Concerns and the Department of History encourage the use of microfilming.

The following suggestions are offered to better facilitate the receiving, inventorying, and storing of ARP materials sent to Montreat:

- That material be sent one time per year.
- That the materials sent be on acid free paper and in acid free file

folders.

- That all materials sent be accompanied with a complete inventory, and a copy of the inventory be kept by the agency sending the materials.

The Erskine College Library also maintains selected ARP historical materials, principally General Synod and Presbytery minutes; church and family histories, anniversary materials and other memorabilia; ARP Publications, with a complete record since 1884. If you know of or have copies of publications prior to that date please contact the Committee on Historical Concerns.

Church History

Associate Reformed Presbyterians have a rich heritage that is often overlooked by new congregations and missions. In an effort to more fully incorporate these new congregations and missions to better utilize the resources available the Committee has requested and the Executive Board has agreed to provide a *Set of Six* to each new congregation, to be presented by the Presbytery. Presbytery

Presbytery Clerks should send written requests to the ARP Center, indicating the name of the church or mission and date of presentation.

Reverend William Roberts serves as Historian and is active in encouraging churches and individuals to preserve their histories.

The Historian continues his efforts to build the Historical Concerns Endowment Fund. This fund was established to help the Committee develop and maintain a constant program of historical preservation. Contributions or inquiries may be sent to:

Historical Concerns Endowment
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center
One Cleveland Street, Suite 110
Greenville, SC 29601-3696

Bicentennial Celebration—2003

In our role as the catalyst for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's Bicentennial, the following goals have been set: The celebration shall be to glorify God, promote the denomination, spark enthusiasm within our members, include each congregation and agency of the denomination in the celebration, and promote unity and interest throughout the denomination.

Programs which are in the process of development for the celebration include:

1. **Inspirational Prayer Calendar.** A publication covering one year-January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. Each day will have a Scripture citation from which a daily inspirational message would be written, a daily prayer focus and a daily prayer. Also, This Day in ARP History—a "short" list of important dates in ARP History. It is the goal of the Committee that an author

from each congregation—as well as others from agencies, boards, commissions, ministers, and missionaries (active and retired) be secured as authors. Copies of the calendar will be made available to individuals.

2. **Denominational-Wide Communion.** Encouraging all congregations to participate in a denominational-wide communion service on the first Sunday of May 2003, or the closest Sunday to May 9, 2003. (Synod will be requested to set the specific date.)
3. **Bicentennial Memorial.** A permanent memorial celebrating the Bicentennial of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to be erected at Bonclarken.
4. **ARP History Update.** An updating of the History for the ARP Church from 1953 through 2003. This is to be a separate volume complementary to the ARP Histories through 1953.

There will be other programs developed for this celebration.

Administrative

Officers elected for the period July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001:

Chairman: Louis Evans

Secretary: Ed Hogan

Recommendations

1. That the Proposed Budget for 2001 be approved:

	2000	2001
Receipts		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 10,398	\$ 15,000
Historical Concerns Endowment	\$ 404	\$ 404
Historical Concerns End. Addi.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Receipts	\$ 10,802	\$ 15,404
Disbursements		
Curator of ARP Material, Erskine	\$ 300	\$ 500
Historian Honorarium	\$ 500	\$ 500
Committee Expenses & Travel	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,800 *
General Office Expenses	\$ 300	\$ 1,902
**		
Dept of Church History, Montreat	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Historical Concerns End. Transfer	\$ 202	\$ 202
Millenn. & Bicenten. Celebrations	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500

Total Disbursements	\$ 10,802	\$ 15,404

* Increased committee expenses for the Bicentennial Celebration.

** Increased committee expenses for the Bicentennial Celebration anticipated for postage, printing, and supplies.

*** \$5,000 of this item is for the years 1999 through 2003 for financial support of the Bicentennial Celebration. Synod has

approved that any funds not expended during the specific year will be “rolled over” and allowed to accumulate. (Note: The Committee is requesting \$5,000 each year, 1999 through 2003, a total of \$25,000.) The additional \$2,500 is to supplement the writing and publishing of the Bicentennial volume of ARP History.

2. That the Committee continue to develop and implement plans for the Bicentennial Celebration—2003 and that the agencies, boards, committees, churches, missions, ministers and missionaries be encouraged to give assistance in the planning, production, and implementation of the programs.
3. That the Committee on Historical Concerns be granted permission to contact the churches, missions and individuals to solicit their support and participation in the celebration and that the solicitation also include the permission to request monetary donations in both a general and specific manner, and further, that the Committee receive permission to sell specific items in order to raise the funds necessary for the celebration.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Louis Evans, Chairman

The Report of the **Moderator’s Committee on Publications** was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator’s Committee on Publications

Chairman Alan Avera called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The roll was taken. Guests included ARP Editor, Ben Johnston, and Board of Publications Chairman, Andrew K. Putnam. John van Eyk was appointed as Secretary.

The Report of the Board of Publications was reviewed and members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments concerning the material referred by the Court.

The Committee recommends:

That Recommendations 1-5 be approved.

The Committee further recommends that the Editor of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, Mr. Ben Johnston, be recognized by General Synod for his 20 years of service to the denomination by a rising vote of thanks.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Alan Avera.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS

During the past year the Board of Publications continued to publish *The ARP*, the denomination’s monthly magazine. It distributed news weekly through the ARP News Update recordings accessed through the ARP

Center's 800 telephone line, and also through the General Synod's web page on the Internet. It assisted other agencies of the General Synod in various aspects of communication, including doing the formatting and layout for *The Adult Quarterly*, *Teacher's Guide* and *Large Print Edition*. It operated a book store at Family Bible Conference and served as the distribution agency for the Woman's Synodical Union's study books.

The Board met at Bonclarken Sept. 16 and 17, 1999, and at the ARP Center March 19, 2000, to consider and act upon the work committed to it by the Synod.

Martin Printing Co. of Easley, S.C., continues to print *The ARP* under contract, having submitted the lowest of four printing bids last fall. Current circulation for the magazine is down from a year ago. The April 2000 issue was mailed to 5,810 subscribers, compared to 6,012 a year earlier.

Hoping to attract new subscribers via the Internet, the Board now makes a subscription offer on the ARP Synod web page. One subscription order was received on the first day the offer was made, and more Internet orders have followed.

While the Board is continuing efforts to increase circulation, it also has recognized the necessity of increasing subscription rates. The basic rate had been unchanged since 1990. Beginning June 1 this year, all subscription rates are raised \$1 per year. An individual subscription will cost \$16 for a year, \$30 for two years, \$42 for three years.

Churches can give their new members an introductory one-year subscription for \$13. The Board again expresses its appreciation to the Board of Stewardship for continuing to offer to purchase first-year subscriptions for new members of ARP mission congregations.

For 2001, Church Club Plan subscriptions will be \$13 a year, if 90 per cent of a church's family units (as reported in the statistical tables in the appendix of the current *Minutes of Synod*) subscribe; or \$14 a year, if 75 per cent of the families subscribe. This plan is designed to encourage all members of a church to become well acquainted with the concerns of the ARP Church and its presbyteries, agencies and institutions.

As is customary, a major subscription campaign in the churches will be undertaken in October and November. Most subscriptions run on a calendar-year basis.

A budget of \$202,063 for 2001 was adopted and is included with this report. The Board also updated its five-year financial projection.

The Board, upon the recommendation of a committee appointed to review the Board's Policy Manual and its section of the Synod's *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, is asking Synod to remove references to *Faith and Practice*, the theological journal it formerly published. This involves deleting "Faith and Practice Editorial Committee" under the heading "Organization;" deleting the last half of the first sentence under the heading "Authority," and deleting Item 7 under the heading "Duties" and renumbering Items 8 and 9 to become Items 7 and 8.

The Board last fall decided to look into the possibility that at some point in the future it might want to establish its own printing operation, such as has been done by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (Covenanters). Drew Gordon, co-editor of *Covenanter Witness*, the RPCNA magazine, led a workshop for Board members at the fall meeting. While great changes are occurring in the printing industry, investigation showed that the Board's best course of action at this time would be to stay with the present publishing system.

During the 1999 Family Bible Conference a plaque was presented to Mrs. Perla Belle Stowe in appreciation of her work on the All In Our Family column in *The ARP* for almost a quarter of a century.

A new regular feature in *The ARP*, Hot Topics in Christian Education, is being compiled by Mrs. Rebecca Maney, director of Christian education at Pisgah ARP Church. Favorable comments from Sunday School teachers and other DCEs indicate this feature is being well received.

Hoping to broaden the magazine's appeal, the Board authorized publishing a feature article in both the Korean and English languages in the June issue, and also feature articles about Korean, Hispanic and Canadian congregations to follow.

Officers elected to serve July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 are: Dr. John E. Hill, Chairman; Mrs. Alice Skelton, Vice Chairman, and Mrs. Lori Lawing, Secretary.

Appreciation was expressed to Rev. Andrew K. Putnam, retiring Board member, for his services. Also the Board accepted with regret the resignations of Mrs. Debbie Schwencer, who will be going to Russia this summer as a missionary with World Witness, and Dr. Mark E. Ross, who resigned because of the press of duties at his church.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled Sept. 15 at the ARP Center.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod continue to designate the second Sunday of October as ARP Magazine Sunday, and that in the weeks to follow special emphasis be given in churches to obtaining subscriptions to *The ARP* for the year 2001.
2. That all churches consider the advantages and benefits of participating in the Church Club Plan for subscriptions to the denominational magazine.
3. That each Session appoint an agent to promote and handle subscriptions to *The ARP*, if it has not already done so.
4. That the necessary changes be made in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* to delete references to *Faith and Practice*.
5. That all other Board actions reported herein be sustained.

Rev. Andrew K. Putnam, Chairman

BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS BUDGET

	2000 Budget	2001 Proposed
Income:		
Denominational Min. Fund	\$ 83,720	\$ 88,000
WSU Unrestricted	3,000	3,000
Agency support	1,300	1,500
Miscellaneous receipts	1,385	1,385
WSU study books	24,000	15,450
<i>The ARP</i>		
Interest on deferred subs	3,300	3,300
Subscriptions	73,000	79,000
Advertising	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
	\$ 198,705	\$ 200,635
Expenditures:		
Editor		
Salary	\$ 55,844	\$ 57,519
Retirement	4,747	4,889
Insurance	7,648	7,878
Employer tax (Social Security)	4,272	4,400
Editorial Assistant		
Salary	24,674	26,375
Tax-deferred annuity	2,060	2,242
Insurance	3,275	3,373
Employer tax (Social Security)	2,045	2,189
Clerical help	2,153	941
Workman's Compensation	553	568
Staff travel and expenses	4,375	4,506
Board travel and expenses	3,600	3,708
General office expenses	4,388	4,520
Equipment	1,009	381
Rent	2,918	4,739
Contingency	1,061	1,000
Publications, promotion, dues	1,216	1,223
WSU study books	22,000	14,420
ARP News Update	700	721
<i>The ARP</i>		
Preparation and printing	41,355	42,441
Labels and postage	11,000	11,330
Materials and supplies	1,748	1,800
Photography expenses	<u>874</u>	<u>900</u>
	\$ 203,515	\$ 202,063
Excess income over <under> expenses	<4,810>	<1,428>
Operating Reserve beginning of year	7,949	3,139
Operating Reserve end of year	3,139	1,711

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Stewardship** was presented. An amendment was adopted to change the time line in recommendation number one from one to two years to comply with previously adopted recommendations. The report as amended was adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Stewardship

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Robert Robinson. Neal R. Mathias was appointed Secretary. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

The Chairman of the Board of Stewardship, Monte Campbell, was introduced. He was given the opportunity to speak to any of the Board's recommendations.

1. That recommendation #1 be approved. **[Amended]**
2. That recommendation #2 be approved.
3. That recommendation #3 be approved
4. That recommendation #4 be approved.
5. That recommendation #5 be approved.
6. That recommendation #6 be approved.
7. That recommendation #7 be approved.
8. That recommendation #8 be approved.
9. That recommendation #9 be approved.
10. That recommendation #10 be approved.
11. That recommendation #11 be approved.

In addition, we recommend:

12. That the Board of Stewardship be commended on their efforts to educate the Synod on stewardship and particularly on tithing.
13. That we commend the Board of Stewardship for their faithful work and all churches who have contributed to the financial support of our Denominational Ministry Fund.
14. We commend and give thanks to Synod's Treasurer, Guy H. Smith, III, for his service to the denomination.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Dr. Randy Ruble.

REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything come from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand... O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you..." (1 Chron. 29:14,16)

Lord, keep us ever mindful that we are stewards—and that we are to honor you with all that you have entrusted to us.

The Board of Stewardship expresses its most sincere appreciation to churches, individuals, the Woman's Synodical Union, and General Synod agencies for their financial stewardship. We rejoice in our partnership as we seek to witness and minister "in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The Board met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod. Activities of the Board are reported for your review and action.

Audit

An audit by an independent auditing firm is conducted on an annual basis. The scope of the audit includes the books of the Treasurer of the Synod, the ARP Foundation's custodial funds, the ARP Foundation's gift annuity funds, and Outreach North America's revolving loan funds. A copy of the audit is presented to each member of the Board of Stewardship, distributed to each agency of the General Synod, placed on file at the ARP Center, and submitted with the official report to Synod. Separate audits are conducted for Bonclarken, Erskine, and World Witness.

The official audit has not been completed as this report is prepared. Except for audit adjustments for depreciation, the audit will show that General Synod's operating fund balance decreased by \$4,487, as compared to an increase of \$48,453 in 1998. The fund balance at 12/31/99 was \$218,911. This equals approximately 8.34% (as compared to 9.15% last year) of the anticipated funds to be allocated in 2000. Synod, by its previous action, has directed an operating reserve of not less than 6 1/2% of the anticipated funds for allocation.

The Synod is reminded that commitments which would reduce the operating reserve below the prescribed level must be referred to the Board of Stewardship for study and recommendation. (See *Rules of Order*, Section VIII (F)). The Board is recommending an addition to the *Rules of Order* to provide a framework for considering allocations from the reserve which might be proposed during the meeting of the General Synod.

Denominational Ministry Fund

The primary means for Associate Reformed Presbyterians to channel financial resources for denominational witness and ministry is through the Denominational Ministry Fund. Each church is encouraged to reach toward the goal of giving an amount equal to 20% of its General Fund receipts (i.e., congregational receipts not designated by the donor) **OR** if unable to give 20%, to increase their percentage level of giving by one (1) percentage point above the previous year until the 20% level is achieved. How did we do?

Category	1999	2000
Churches Meeting Goal		
Gave 20% or More	27	27
Increased by 1 Percentage Point	34	48
Churches Giving but Not Meeting Goal		
Increased Percentage Level	39	44
Remained at Same Percentage Level ¹	0	1
Percentage Level Decreased	79	71
Churches Not Giving	67	
Reported Zero Pledge	7	
No Report or Gifts to Date		<u>55</u>
Total Churches ¹	246	253

¹Canadian Churches (7 in 1999 and 6 in 2000) are reported as one church.

Churches Meeting or Exceeding the 20% Goal for 1999:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Ambassador	First	Bartow	Florida
Camden	Tenn-Ala	Craig Ave./Tab.	First
Doraville	Second	Due West	Second
Elk Shoals	First	Johnston*	Second
Lake Placid	Florida	Lancaster First	Catawba
Lauderdale	Virginia	Lifeline	Northeast
Louisville	Second	New Sterling	First
Old Cherokee	Catawba	Ora	Second
Pinecrest	First	Prosperity, TN	Tenn-Ala
Providence	Second	Redeemer	Catawba
Salem	Miss.Valley	Sherwood Forest	Catawba
Smyrna	Catawba	Unity	Catawba
Wildhurst	Virginia	White Oak	Catawba
White Oak*	Second		

Churches which have not yet reached 20% Goal but percentage level of giving increased by at least one (1) percentage point in 1999:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Bethany	Catawba	Bethany	Mississippi Valley
Bethel	Catawba	Cedar Springs	Second
Chalmers Mem.	First	Cleveland St.	Tenn-Ala
CornerStone	First	Columbia First	Catawba
Covenant**	Mississippi Val.	Crowder's Creek	First
Ebenezer	Catawba	Ebenezer	Virginia
Fairlea	Virginia	Fayetteville	Tenn-Ala
Greenville	Second	Gum Tree**	Mississippi Valley
Hickory Grove	Catawba	Kingsborough	Northeast

Lincoln Mem.	Tenn-Ala	Long Creek	Catawba
Newberry	Second	Old Providence	Virginia
Pleasant Hill	Florida	Pottsville	Mississippi Valley
Providence Ref.	Mississippi Val.	Reformation**	First
Scots Kirk	Catawba	Sharon	Catawba
Statesville Korean	First	Stony Point	First
Thomson**	Second	Trinity	Florida
Trinity	Second	Union	Catawba

* As a percentage of last reported General Fund Receipts

**New Church. Giving is at least 1% of receipts

It is difficult to make an accurate analysis of trends due to the failure of many churches to submit annual statistical reports. As of May 29, 2000:

Statistical Report for Year of	1998	1999
Churches Submitting Statistical Reports		
Complete Reports	208	212
Membership Only	5	8
Churches not Submitting Reports	<u>30</u>	<u>29</u>
Total Churches	243	249
Historical Site	1	1
New Churches Not Included	3	9

We would again encourage each presbytery to take definitive steps to secure information from its churches. We believe that such action is consistent with the authority and responsibility of the presbytery as set forth in Chapter XII, Section B, of the *Form of Government*. We believe, also, that there is a definite correlation between churches which provide statistical data to presbytery and their willingness to support financially through the Denominational Ministry Fund. Of the fifty-four (54) churches not giving or reporting a pledge for 2000, thirty-eight (38) have not submitted their statistical report.

The Board will continue in its efforts to more directly involve the presbyteries in developing financial resources for denominational ministry. The Administrative Officer will provide each presbytery, prior to its Fall meeting date, a report on the giving of each church. The report will include for each church in the presbytery, data on

- the previous year's goal, commitments paid, and percentage giving level
- the current year goal, pledge, and percentage giving level
- the goal for the ensuing year, based on the last reported General Fund receipts.

Presbyteries are encouraged to continue to counsel churches that are unwilling to meet the goal for giving through the Denominational Ministry Fund

There continues to be a need to develop a consciousness of the connectional nature of Associate Reformed Presbyterian churches. The Board of Stewardship has suggested to Outreach North America that the financial expectations/requirements in a connectional church be specifically and clearly stated to churches requesting to be received into the denomination. The guidelines being proposed by Outreach North America represent a clear effort in that direction.

Budget of Allocated Funds

For 2000: The procedure adopted by the 1997 General Synod (page 622, *1997 Minutes of Synod*) allows the Board of Stewardship to consider additional funding requests if the expected resources exceed the allocated amount. Requests were received from Bonclarken, a joint request from Covenant Discipleship and World Witness, Erskine, Outreach North America, and Executive Board of Synod. The request from the Executive Board was for funds to make the ARP Center Facility handicapped accessible *provided there were funds to meet other needs*. The request from Outreach North America was to provide additional funding for a church plant in Dallas, TX. That work is not scheduled to begin until 2001 and the Board of Stewardship will give priority if such a request is made for 2001. The recommended additional allocations are reflected in the Board's recommendations.

For 2001: The Board's recommended allocations are presented separately. The recommended allocations to Covenant Discipleship, Outreach North America, Publications, and World Witness reflect an increased funding level.

In presenting requests for funding for the year 2002, agencies are requested (and expected) to present a line-item budget and to identify those expenditures which are

- Essential for day-to-day operations (salaries, services, ministries)
- Required by the General Synod (programs, ministries, projects)
- "Must have" items
- Dreams. Good ideas, but not absolutely essential

Committees are expected to provide the Board of Stewardship with a statement indicating anticipated expenditures and justification for any unusual expenditures.

Communications and Educational Resources

Stewardship materials are distributed to each church on or before September 1. Pastors/Clerks are encouraged to make sure that these materials are distributed to those involved in the budget making process.

The Board distributed the brochure *The Grace of Giving* prepared by the Christian Stewardship Association and has secured permission to distribute two other publications: *Maximum Generosity Church Resource Guide* by Brian Kluth and *The Word for the Wealthy* by Brian Kluth. These publications are being provided as resource material and do not carry the endorsement of the Board of Stewardship.

In Touch With Paul, A Study In Biblical Stewardship by Jay Younts, elder in the Harrison Bridge Road Church, has been completed. This is a multi-lesson course in Biblical stewardship, adaptable for local use. One copy of the study will be provided to each congregation.

The orientation program for ministers and professional employees beginning service in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church offers one of the best opportunities for education and inclusion. Presbyteries are again urged to make participation mandatory and to schedule attendance at the time the minister is received or ordained by presbytery. Should there be sufficient interest, a separate orientation program may be conducted for lay church leaders, **with the local church paying transportation costs.**

The Board has appointed an ad-hoc committee to study and make recommendations for a full-time position of 'Stewardship Ministries Coordinator.' This initiative will take into consideration the concerns of the ARP Foundation. It is the goal of the Board of Stewardship to make recommendations to the General Synod in 2001.

Special Offerings

The results of the Special Offerings for the past four years are reported as information. These figures reflect only those moneys received through the Treasurer of Synod. Funds sent directly to Bonclarcken, Erskine, or World Witness are not reflected.

	1996	1997	1998	1999
Easter Offering				
ARP Foundation	\$ 9,759	\$ 10,473	\$ 11,163	\$ 11,788
Bonclarcken	14,652	17,264	18,229	18,265
Covenant Discipleship	10,639	11,810	12,154	12,535
Erskine College	14,626	16,115	16,603	15,785
World Witness	29,394	32,357	31,195	30,569
Sub-Total	\$ 79,070	\$ 88,019	\$ 89,344	\$ 88,942
Thanksgiving Offering				
Erskine Seminary	\$ 11,484	\$ 11,044	\$ 11,983	\$ 11,995
American Bible Society	8,893	8,559	10,070	8,903
Outreach North America	21,147	20,093	24,180	22,113
Christmas Benevolent Fund	48,805	43,956	56,559	52,824
Sub-Total	\$ 90,329	\$ 83,652	\$ 102,792	\$ 95,835
Total Offering	\$ 169,399	\$ 171,671	\$ 192,136	\$ 184,777

The special offerings are critically important to these agencies and opportunity should be given in each church for members to participate. Agencies should continue to be sensitive to the timing of appeals which might adversely impact these two offerings.

Request for Capital Fund Campaign

Covenant Discipleship submitted a request to the Board of Stewardship that they be given the opportunity to develop and carry out a Synod-wide Endowment Campaign beginning in the year 2001.

In 1994 the General Synod approved a capital campaign for Church

Extension (now Outreach North America) and approved the recommendation of the Board of Stewardship “that preference for the next following campaign be a comprehensive campaign to meet the needs, if any, of the agencies which have not participated in a campaign since the last comprehensive campaign.” In 1995 Synod approved a recommendation of the ARP Foundation “that the Foundation be considered for participation in the next available capital campaign.”

The requests of Covenant Discipleship and the ARP Foundation will be further considered at the Fall 2000 meeting of the Board of Stewardship and a recommendation will be submitted to the General Synod in 2001.

Funding for Bicentennial Memorial Garden

The Committee on Historical Concerns requested permission to seek funding for the Bicentennial Memorial Garden at Bonclarken by requesting contributions and donations for inscribed pavers. This is consistent with the previous actions of the General Synod concerning the 2003 bicentennial celebration of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Administrative Information

Meeting Dates for 2000—2001: The following meeting dates have been set:

- September 11 - 12, 2000, 1:00 P.M., Bonclarken
- March 26 - 27, 2001, 1:00 P.M., ARP Center
- September 10 - 11, 2001, 1:00 P.M., Erskine

Officers: The following have been re-elected to serve for the period July 1, 2000—June 30, 2001:

- Chairman: Monterey Campbell
- Vice Chairman: W. Herman Lesslie
- Secretary: James Ryan, Jr.

Mr. Guy H. (Chip) Smith, III, serves as Treasurer and Mr. Ed Hogan serves as the Board’s Administrative Officer.

Retiring Members: The Board expresses its appreciation to retiring members Reverend James Barker and Mrs. Norma Meeks.

Recommendations

1. That presbyteries which have not already done so establish procedures to ensure that all ministers beginning ministry in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church attend the General Synod orientation within the first year of ministry in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. [Amended]
2. That the following be added to the *Rules of Order*, Section VI. D.:

All requests for funding from the unrestricted funds of Synod are expected to be presented to the Board of Stewardship in time for the Board to give careful consideration to the request and to make recommendation in its report to the General Synod. Requests brought before the General Synod that have not been considered by the Board of Stewardship will be referred to the Board of Stewardship

for consideration and for reporting its recommendation at the next meeting of the General Synod. Emergency requests may be made a matter of business at that meeting of the General Synod by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting and shall be referred to the Chairman of the Board of Stewardship or in his absence the Treasurer of Synod or the administrative officer of the Board of Stewardship for review and comment prior to a decision of the court.

3. That presbyteries consider procedures to ensure the reporting of statistical data from the churches in its presbytery.
4. That the following additional allocations from expected 2000 Denominational Ministry Funds be approved:
 - a. To Bonclarken, \$65,545 to be applied to reduce the debt on the multi-purpose building, to be allocated to Bonclarken in monthly payments July - December 2000. (Note: It is expected by the Board of Stewardship that the savings in interest realized by this grant will be used to further reduce the principal amount of the loan.)
 - b. To Erskine College, \$50,000 as a salary supplement for faculty and staff, to be allocated in December 2000.
 - c. To Covenant Discipleship \$13,750 as start-up money for a curriculum that "Tells the Story" of our missions program, subject to General Synod approval for the development of such a curriculum.
5. That the Board of Stewardship be granted authority to revise allocations for 2001, if necessary, following the receipt of pledges for 2001 and the 2000 year-end report.
6. That boards and committees requesting allocations from the General Synod for budget year 2002 submit their requests by March 31, 2001, following procedures outlined by the Board of Stewardship.
7. That each church, in determining its level of giving through the Denominational Ministry Fund:
 - a. have a Session meeting (joint meeting with Diaconate if appropriate) at the beginning of the budgeting process to review the Report of the Board of Stewardship and other material presented from the Board of Stewardship and
 - b. commit to continuing to increase their level of giving in order to attain Synod's established Denominational Ministry Fund goal.
8. That the Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings be continued for 2001.
9. That the General Synod Audit be accepted and filed at the ARP Center to be available for review.
10. That the Budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved.

11. That all other actions, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully,
Monterey Campbell, Chairman

Budget
Board of Stewardship

	2000	2001
RECEIPTS	Budget	Proposed
Synod Supplement	\$ 33,048	\$ 33,048
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board and Travel Expenses	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,875
General Office Expenses	750	750
Promotion and Publicity	3,500	3,500
Insurance	6,787	5,000
General Synod Audit	5,250	5,500
Reserve for ARP Subscriptions*	1,000	1,000
General Synod Contingency	<u>8,261</u>	<u>9,423</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 33,048	\$ 33,048

*Included to provide a one-year free subscription to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* for new families in a mission church.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on World Witness** was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on World Witness

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman J. Allen Derrick. Greg Slater was appointed Secretary and roll was taken.

Executive Director John Mariner spoke briefly to the Committee and members were given the opportunity to ask questions concerning the Board's report.

The Committee unanimously recommends to the meeting of the General Synod that all eight recommendations of the Board of World Witness be approved.

The Committee also recommends "that the deep appreciation of Synod be expressed to the Board of World Witness, the Executive Director and his staff, and to all of our missionaries for their unflinching efforts to keep the Great Commission before us and lead us toward its fulfillment.

The meeting was closed with the Committee divided into small groups for a season of prayer.

I WORLD WITNESS BUDGET (continued)

ITEM	2000	BASIC	DIRECT	ANTICI-	COMPRE-
	BASIC	BUDGET	SUPPORT	PATED	HENSIVE
				SPECIALS	TOTAL 9.
Accounting Expenses	1,500	1,500		—	1,500
10. Annual Audit	9,800	10,500		—	10,500
11. Contingency	10,000	10,000		—	10,000
BOARD & ADMINI- STRATION TOTAL	61,835	553,640	—	—	553,640

The Moderator led in prayer remembering retired missionaries.

A motion from the floor with regard to the requests from the Worship Committee carried as follows:

I move the following guidance be given to the Committee on Worship:

1. Request the Worship Committee continue to secure information from all ARP congregations regarding current Psalter/Hymnal usage and desires/intentions to secure new Psalter/Hymnals; and
2. Request the Worship Committee continue to study the practicality of a sole or joint publication of a new Psalter/Hymnal; and
3. Request the Worship Committee determine if there are additional Psalter/Hymnals of recent date and in print which can be recommended to the General Synod as approved books for use by ARP congregations.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Annuities and Relief** was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Annuities and Relief

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Boyce Wilson. Jac Coad was appointed Secretary.

The roll was taken and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee were reviewed. Mr. Ed Hogan was recognized and given the privilege of the floor. The recommendations were read and discussed.

The Report of the Board of Annuities and Relief was reviewed and members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments concerning the material referred by the Court.

The recommendations of the Board of Annuities and Relief were considered and we make the following recommendations:

A motion was made to recommend adoption of all 7 recommendations. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Warren Harvey.

REPORT OF BOARD OF ANNUITIES AND RELIEF

“I want to express my thanks to the Board of Annuities and Relief for the check....I plan to deposit it in an account to meet my nursing home bills if God sees fit for me to live long enough to become a patient there.” *Widow of Minister.*

“Thank you so much for both generous checks from the Christmas Benevolent Fund....We have had some extra expenses and this came as a gift from “God’s good hand” to take care of that. It is also very encouraging to us—and we appreciate this kindness very much.” *Wife of Retired Minister.*

“This is a yearly blessing to many and to us personally it has always met a special need, done a pending job, made someone very happy. I am grateful for this, and I wish that there were some way to trace the gift back to every giver and thank them one by one. I always felt (on the field) that we were indebted to a host of wonderful people who would never really know how much we appreciated them. I guess this is true in every area of life.” *Widow of Retired Missionary.*

The Board of Annuities and Relief (“Board”) is the conduit for the ministry of the churches in the areas of benevolence, insurance, and retirement. The Board expresses its profound gratitude for the privilege of service and thank you that we can receive on your behalf, the gratitude of those we serve. We covet your continued prayers and earnestly invite and encourage both churches and individuals to supplement the Board’s efforts in this ministry of caring.

The Board met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod and we share with you our activities and plans.

Audit and Financial Statements

The independent certified public accounting firm of Millen and Millard audit the financial activities of the Board. The auditor’s report for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is issued to each member of the Board and is submitted with the official report of the Board to the General Synod. It is also available for review at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC. The other financial activities of the Board are included in the General Synod Audit.

Benevolence and Communications

Christmas Benevolent Ministry

This ministry is extended, generally, to those individuals who

- have qualified to receive a retirement benefit from the ARP Retirement Plan or are receiving a disability benefit payment under the General Synod's disability program; **and**
- were actively employed in the denomination immediately prior to retirement or disability; **and**
- have served a minimum of five years' active service in the denomination; **or**
- are surviving spouses of those whom had become eligible.

The Board is guided in its distributions by Guidelines and two changes have been made:

- All eligible participants are now included in the distribution, rather than just those who choose to participate.
- If a retiree or spouse is in an extended care facility and is being covered by Medicaid, "need" will be based on 200% of the Government Subsistence Level for single adults, rather than 200% of the Government Subsistence Level for families.

This ministry is funded with gifts received through the Thanksgiving Offering, the J. C. Lott Endowment, the Christmas Benevolent Fund Endowment, and interest earned on funds held for distribution. A total of \$60,153 was available for distribution during the December 99—November 2000 period, as compared to \$70,137 approved in the preceding period.

Each Fall the Board contacts all eligible participants to see if they wish to apply on the basis of financial need. Those who feel that they qualify on a need basis are asked to submit financial information.

The first priority for distribution will be to continue the distributions from the Widow Benefit Fund and then to meet the needs of those who demonstrate financial need and whose family assets are less than \$50,000 (\$70,000 if the individual or family does not own a residence). "Need" is defined as the difference between total family income and 200% of the Government Subsistence Level. The income of all family members residing in the household is included in total family income. There is a maximum monthly benefit of \$500.

The balance of available resources is distributed to the remaining eligible participants. At the time the 1999—2000 distribution was approved, there were ninety-two (92) eligible family units (compared to eighty-eight (88) eligible and seventy-eight (78) participating in the prior period). Fourteen (14) applied on a need basis and ten (10) met the criteria (compared to eight (8) in the prior period).

Pastors and clerks of those churches where eligible participants attend or have membership are encouraged to help the Board in this ministry by encouraging those who might have financial need to make application for assistance. A copy of the correspondence sent to eligible participants and a directory of eligible participants are mailed annually to each church.

Since the last meeting of the General Synod, the following have received their inheritance: Reverend Cecil D. Brearly (2/8/2000), Mrs. Shirley Estes (7/22/99), Reverend Ervin Sistar (11/26/1999), Mrs. Ervin (Elsie) Sistar (12/23/1999), Reverend Warren Wardlaw (10/23/99). We note also the death of Reverend Stewart J. Rankin (2/9/2000) and Hyo Sung Cho (2/10/2000).

Widow's Benefit Fund

This wasting trust (principal and interest used) is now providing six (6) widows with an average monthly benefit of \$ 250. Funded in 1978 by an anonymous donor, the funds are invested by the ARP Foundation, Inc. and are audited as a part of the annual audit of the General Synod. The Market Value of the fund at December 31, 1999, was \$9,202, while the present value of future benefits is approximately \$ 76,204. The average age of the participants at 12/31/99 was 90.17, with the youngest being 79 and the oldest being 103. The Widow's Benefit Fund will be exhausted in 2000. The benefit payments will continue and will be funded from the Christmas Benevolent Fund and, as funds are available, from the Helen W. Carson Widow Assistance Fund.

Helen W. Carson Widow Assistance Fund

The income from the Helen W. Carson Fund is to be used to provide financial support for the widows of deceased ministers of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church who have dependent, unmarried children who are full-time elementary, secondary, college or graduate students and who are between the ages of 16 and 25. Widows with dependent children between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-five (25) will be informed of this policy immediately following the death of a minister. A portion of any unused income, equal to the Consumer Price Index, is added to the corpus of the fund, with the balance of the unused income allocated for the widows in the Widow Benefit Fund so long as funds are needed for that purpose.

Communications

There are numerous resources available to assist ministers with taxes and planning. On an annual basis the Board provides each minister with a "minister's guide" for income tax. The Social Security Administration has begun to mail to persons over age 40 a statement that details their contributions into the social security system and estimates the benefits they might expect to receive at retirement or disability. Persons are encourage to check these statements as errors that go uncorrected for more than three years are very difficult to correct.

The Board's offer to conduct a financial seminars for ARP ministers received only one response. The Board has dropped consideration for conducting such seminars.

Insurance

The goal of the Board in the area of insurance is to provide meaningful security at a cost that the churches and agencies of Synod can afford.

All full-time (employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week) employees of churches and agencies of the General Synod (including presbytery

agencies) are eligible (**Note:** World Witness has a separate group insurance program for missionaries and staff employees and Erskine College has a separate Long Term Disability program). Except for previously approved exceptions, all employees become eligible on the date of employment and must enroll within the first 30 days of employment to avoid late-applicant penalties. Coverage includes medical, dental, life (employee and dependent), accidental death, and long term disability.

Dental, life, accidental death, and long term disability are fully insured programs and premiums are determined by the insurance carrier. Medical, which includes the drug prescription program, is **self-insured**, except that reinsurance is purchased to cover the following contingencies:

- individual claims which exceed \$75,000 during the policy year
- claims which exceed 125% of the expected aggregate claims during the policy year

Medical insurance premiums were increased by 11.77% for 2000 and dental premiums were increased by 4%. There were no changes in the premiums for life, accidental death, or long term disability. The medical insurance premium increase would have been significantly higher had it not been for the claim reserve.

It is the normal practice for the Board to set the premium level to fund the expected claims and to use the reserve to fund the liability between the expected and the maximum liability. Except for the claim reserve, it would have been necessary to increase medical premiums by 59% to fund the maximum liability. To fund the expected liability, an increase of 30% would have been required. With input from our benefit consultants and based on our past claim's experience, the Board limited the premium increase to 11.77%. If claims reach the maximum liability, the claim reserve will be reduced to such a degree that either or both significant changes in coverage and/or significant rate increases will be necessary. Hopefully the current trend will carry through the policy year. Through March, claims are running below the expected level.

The benefit consultants are preparing for the August 1, 2001, renewal date. The projected costs for the year 2001 will be submitted to the churches as soon as possible after the August 1, 2001, renewal date. The following changes are anticipated at renewal:

- Addition of a wellness benefit of \$300 per insured. This benefit would be available only for wellness benefits (annual physicals, routine care of newborns during the first year, immunizations (including flu shots). It would replace the current coverage for annual physicals.
- Change from a two-tier to a three-tier drug program. The year-to-date cost for prescription drugs is @ 17% of all claims. The current coverage (\$7.50 for generic and \$12.50 for brand name drugs) would be changed to \$7.50 for generic, \$15.00 for preferred drugs (those on an approved list), and \$30.00 for non-preferred drugs. Mail order drug cost would be changed from \$15/\$20 to \$15/\$30.

Premiums for medical are determined by our usage. When a claim is paid, payment comes from the premiums paid. High claims will result in higher premiums. Individual participants, therefore, are encouraged to monitor their claims closely to assure that the charges submitted are justified and accurate, and to be active participants in determining their health care and drug prescriptions (if the physician does not prescribe generic drugs, ask about their availability and advisability).

Churches are reminded that unless they are withholding the premiums for the Long Term Disability (LTD) program, the premium cost for the LTD insurance should be added to the W-2 as taxable income. The LTD charge is shown as a separate charge on the billed premiums. This will allow the disability benefit payment to be a non-taxable benefit to the disabled employee.

Retirement

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is a qualified, non-contributory, defined benefit plan. The Plan covers full-time employees (i.e., those whose customary employment is for more than an aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year) who are

- salaried, ordained ARP ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the Church under the provisions of a Call approved by a Presbytery of the Church, or
- career missionaries appointed by World Witness, or
- salaried employees of the Synod or Synod Agency serving in a supervisory capacity.

Employees of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are not included in the Plan as they have a separate retirement plan.

Participants may retire as early as age 60, with the Normal Retirement Age being 65. Participants who are at least age 64 and who have at least 25 years of Credited Service may retire at age 64 without an actuarially reduced benefit. The Normal Form of Retirement is an annual benefit equal to 2.8% of total career Earnings paid on a monthly basis for the lifetime of the Participant. If there is a Spouse at the time of retirement, and unless the Spouse will consent in writing to another form of benefit, the benefit paid to the retiring Participant will be actuarially reduced to insure that the surviving Spouse will have a guaranteed lifetime benefit equal to one-half the benefit received by the retired Participant following the death of the retired Participant. With the written consent of the Spouse, the joint and survivor benefit can be changed from the one-half continuation to 2/3, 3/4 or full continuation. It is also possible for the Spouse to reject the joint and survivor annuity for a life annuity to the retired Participant. The Board encourages great caution in the election of this type of benefit. All benefits are taxable, but for ordained Participants, the benefit is designated as a housing allowance and is non-taxable to the extent that it is used for that purpose.

The Retirement Committee of the Board of Annuities and Relief serves as Administrator of the Plan.

Retirement Plan Trust

SunTrust Bank, Atlanta, serves as Trustee of the Plan and its affiliate, TRUSCO Capital Management, handles investments. Deutsche Banc Alex. Brown serves as an investment consultant to provide performance measurement and monitoring and to assist the Retirement Committee in developing and maintaining investment guidelines. Compensation for the investment consultant is through directed trades. The Board meets with representatives of SunTrust Bank, TRUSCO Capital Management, and Deutsche Banc Alex. Brown twice each year. The relationship between the investment consultant and the investment manager is increasingly supportive and has been very beneficial to the Retirement Committee and Board.

During the past year a large/median cap value asset class was added to the portfolio. This change is expected to reduce volatility, providing relatively more stable returns over the longer term. Ranges for asset allocation classes, with the actual allocations at 3/31/2000, are:

Asset Class	Minimum	Target	Maximum	3/31/2000
Large/Median Cap Growth Stocks	31%	36%	41%	36.6%
Large/Median Cap Value Stocks	8%	12%	17%	10.2%
Small Cap Stocks	2%	6%	10%	7.3%
International Stocks ⁴	2%	6%	10%	6.6%
Total Equity	50%	60%	70%	60.7%
Fixed Income	30%	40%	50%	37.3%
Cash Equivalents	0%	0%	5%	2.0%

At December 31, 1999, assets of the Plan, on a market basis, totaled \$29,337,785 as compared to \$26,092,777 at December 31, 1998. At March 31, 2000, the market value of the fund was approximately \$30,504,559.

The Retirement Plan Fund is expected to exceed benchmark returns over a five-year time period or a full market cycle. The benchmarks are: 48% of the S&P 500 Stock Index, 6% of the S&P 600 Small Cap Index, 6% of the MSCI EAFE Index (international stocks), and 40% of the Lehman Brothers Government/Corporate Bond Index. These benchmarks are applicable for the first quarter 2000. Benchmarks for the prior 1 year, 3 year, and 5 year periods are based on 60% S&P 500 and 40% Lehman Brothers, although the equity target was moved from 50% to 60% in 1995.

	1st Qtr	1 Yr	3 Yrs*	5 yrs*	10 Yrs*
Total Portfolio	3.9%	14.8%	18.6%	16.6%	14.3%
Benchmark	2.6%	11.4%	19.2%	18.9%	14.5%

*Annualized returns

The General Synod funds the Plan, primarily from contributions made from churches and agencies of the General Synod. The General Synod, on recommendation of the Board, establishes contribution guidelines to ensure adequate funds. The current guidelines ask that churches and agencies that have an employee participating in the Plan contribute 8.5% of the Participant's Earnings. All funds received for this purpose, except for direct expenses for Plan maintenance, are transferred to the Trustee for investment.

Congregations and presbyteries are reminded of the provision in the *Form of Government* (Chapter X,E,11) which requires a call to have provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan.

Actuarial Valuation and Plan Changes

The actuarial firm of Hunt, DuPree, Rhine & Associates, Inc., a Wachovia Company, has completed the tri-annual valuation of the ARP Retirement Plan. This actuarial review was for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2000. The purpose of the valuation was to:

- determine the minimum annual contribution necessary to fund present and future benefits
- compare actual plan experience with that expected on the basis of the actuarial assumptions used for valuation purposes so that adjustments can be made in a timely and orderly fashion
- monitor the plan's emerging liabilities in relation to its assets and provide information required pursuant to standards set forth by the Financial Accounting Standards Board

The actuary also conducted, for the first time, the required nondiscrimination testing and conducted a study to determine what benefit increases, if any, could be provided.

The reports were given to each member of the Board and will be on file at the ARP Center in Greenville. A copy of the studies will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Moderator's Committee.

The nondiscrimination testing revealed that the Plan must be changed to limit the Earnings recognized for retirement to an amount not to exceed the threshold established for Highly Compensated Employees (HCEs). The maximum Earnings for 1999 must be \$ 80,000 and for 2000 the maximum is \$ 85,000. This amount is adjusted annually.

The Plan is actuarially sound and will support several benefit enhancements. Plan amendments will be offered to:

- Increase the defined benefit from 2.8% of Career Earnings to 3.1% of Career Earnings, effective July 1, 2000. This benefit increase (10.7%) will be applicable for those who retire from active service on or after July 1, 2000, and to those who retired from active service. It will not apply to those who terminated employment prior to retirement.
- Add a death benefit for a surviving Spouse or other designated beneficiary equal to 1 times the annual Earnings at time of death. This benefit will be applicable only if the Participant is accruing credit for Earnings at the time of death. This will be a taxable benefit.
- For disabled Participants, redefine Earnings to include credit for annual Earnings equal to 100% of the Earnings at the time of disability, to be credited to age 65 or actual retirement if earlier.

Plan Changes and Qualification

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan has a favorable determination from the Internal Revenue Service. The Plan will have to be amended to comply with certain federal laws that become effective after 1998. These changes deal primarily with nondiscrimination requirements. With the completion of the actuarial review, the Board will consult with the Plan attorney to draft the necessary amendments. The General Synod has granted the Board permission to make changes required to meet the requirements of the law. The Plan will again have to be submitted for qualification. It is anticipated that the language for the amendments will be available for the meeting of the General Synod and will include changes previously authorized by the General Synod.

Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO)

A QDRO is a judgment that sets aside a benefit to an Alternate Payee under a qualified employee pension plan. Article VIII (11) of the Plan Text authorizes payments if required under a QDRO. The Board has adopted procedures for handling of domestic relations orders that purport to be a QDRO and all QDRO's will be reviewed by the Plan Attorney before any payments are made. The Board Secretary (Director of Administrative Services) has been directed to suggest to the parties involved in such litigation that they submit a draft of their proposed domestic relations order prior to submitting it to the court for judgment.

Memorial

The Board of Annuities and Relief was directed by the General Synod 1999 to examine the Retirement Plan to identify and correct any present and future inequities. The Board asks the indulgence of the Court to allow this study to continue with a complete response expected for the next meeting of the General Synod.

Changes in Retirement Plan Participation

The following changes for the period January 1, 1999-December 31, 1999, are reported for historical purposes:

- a. Active Participant and/or widow of deceased Participant retired: J. C. Barker (1/1/99); R. M. Canfield (6/1/99); D. R. Ellis (6/1/99); W. P. Fleming (7/1/99); J. E. Kennedy, II (8/1/99); R. P. Shaw (9/1/99).
- b. Terminated Participant retired: R. W. Ackerman (6/1/99); J. W. Stodghill (9/1/99).
- c. Retired Participant and/or widow of deceased Participant drawing benefits from the Retirement Plan lost by death: E. L. Bland (5/2/99); Mrs. J. H. (Helen) McFerrin (3/31/99); W. M. Wardlaw (10/23/99).
- d. Active Participant lost by death: None.
- e. Inactive Participant lost by death: None.
- f. New Participants: J. D. Allers (10/16/99); S. T. Armistead (10/1/99); M. O. Bolhofner (1/1/99); S. K. Chung (7/1/99); C. D. Clendinen (10/1/98); G. B. Conover (6/1/99); P. M. Doriani (2/23/99); B. W. Dowling (8/16/98); W. H. Folds (1/1/99); M. A. Gibson (7/11/99); J. G. Goforth (7/19/99); C. A. Hardeman (10/14/99); D. W. Harper (9/15/99); W. C.

Harvey (9/7/97); R. L. Hunter (9/8/98); M. A. Jones (9/1/99); M. R. Kiefman (6/3/99); J. D. Lang (7/18/99); M. I. Leach (2/1/99); D. E. C. Lim (6/1/99); K. J. Locke (11/22/98); N. C. Lowery (1/1/99); H. P. Matthews, III (3/4/99); P. R. McCoy (12/6/98); P. G. Patrick (9/12/99); M. D. Seeger (7/1/99); J. A. Severance (8/22/99); K. E. Sims (6/27/99); Emily J. vanDalen (7/1/99); A. C. Williams (1/1/98); S. R. Woods (3/28/99).

- g. Active Participants accumulating Credited Service as an employee of Erskine or as a Military Chaplain: R. W. Bell; T. E. Braithwaite; L. P. Burns; J. L. Carson; L. Hamrick, Jr.; R. A. King; C. S. Rimmer; D. M. Schwabauer; J. T. West; R. D. White; M. E. Yarman
- h. Participant reinstated to active participation or had prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings restored as continuous: None.
- i. Participants not accumulating Credited Service and employment shall be deemed to terminate if the Participant retires, is removed or transferred from Roll of Presbytery, or fails to accumulate an additional Year of Service by the end of the calendar year indicated: d. F. Bowers, Jr. (2001); D. L. Bowker (2009); D. E. Brisben (2000); C. E. Cheatham*; C. L. Concha*; Karen M. DeHaven (2006); R. I. Dornbush (2004); J. C. Door (2010); M. F. Doss (2000); D. E. Ewell (2002); M. A. Hunnemann (2013); L. P. Kennerly (2001); J. A. Loughner (2007); S. D. Manley (2001); W. G. McClain (2006); R. A. Mill (2007); K. F. Muldoon (2000); D. M. Satterfield (2001); R. H. Sheetz (2002); D. P. Smith (2002); R. Washington (2001); B. K. Wells (2000).
 - * Termination for failure to accumulate an additional Year of Service not applicable.
- j. Participants who terminated employment or have previously terminated employment and have qualified for a vested benefit: R. P. Agnew; C. S. Alexander; R. E. Ashmore; B. J. Bauman; W. F. Blakely; J. R. Blevins; D. M. Boggs; T. M. Campbell; M. D. Chesser; W. A. Church; D. L. Clubb; M. D. Connor; G. W. Curry; T. N. DeHart; B. E. DeWitt; R. W. Dickson; C. W. Echols; L. A. Erwin; J. H. Farrar; G. J. Gerard; T. D. Gorden; R. J. Hamilton; D. B. Harding; R. F. Ingram; E. S. Irby; K. E. Jacobs; T. L. Jones; K. F. Koehler; J. B. Lewis; D. W. Matthews; R. F. McAndrew; O. N. McCarter; B. McLendon; K. J. McMullen; R. S. Miles, Jr.; T. M. Oates; T. L. Owens; J. S. Price; D. R. Robinson; B. F. Sanders; W. T. Sherer, III; R. D. Sherrill; H. L. Smith; C. A. Stuck; G. J. Syms; J. E. Taylor; A. L. Toth; C. D. Trimmier; J. A. Turner; W. H. Tyson; J. R. Wade; D. L. Wakeland; W. T. Warren, Jr.; J. R. White; R. A. White; J. M. Williams; J. R. Wolff; J. R. Wright; R. J. Yelverton.
- k. Widow who has qualified for a vested benefit deferred to the retirement date of the deceased Participant: None.
- l. Participant who has prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings which will be recognized as continuous on completing five (5) years of continuous service: None.

- m. Former Participant removed from participation in the Plan without qualifying to retain a vested benefit: D. J. Peterson (7/12/99).
- n. Participants receiving a retirement or survivor income benefit under the Plan at year's end: R. W. Ackerman**; J. E. Adams; Mrs. Bertha I. Allan-Smith*; L. M. Allison; J. S. Banks; J. C. Barker; J. F. Beard; R. E. Beckham; J. M. Bell, Sr.; Mrs. W. H. (Floy) Blair*; Mrs. E. L. (Betty) Bland*; R. A. Bodey**; J. H. Boyce; W. J. Boyd**; R. D. Bradham**; C. D. Brearley; A. C. Bridges; P. A. Campbell**; R. M. Canfield; Mrs. J. A. (Grace) Cannon***; J. Coad, Jr.; Mrs. P. G. (Imogene) Covone*; Florence Craig; F. H. Crisco; D. E. Dagenhart; Mrs. L. L. (Betty) Dattler***; Mrs. W. R. (Emma R.) Echols*; C. E. Edwards; Mrs. R. B. (Suzanne) Elliott*; D. R. Ellis; W. N. Falls; J. R. Fee; Mrs. A. A. (Frieda) Fischer*; W. P. Fleming; W. H. Forsyth; Mrs. W. P. (Mary) Grier*; Mrs. M. W. (Wilma M.) Griffith*; J. F. Heinsohn; Mrs. J. B. (Mary) Hendrick*; Mrs. R. E. (Judith) Herrmann*; Mrs. G. F. (Bertha) Johnson*; D. O. Jones; J. E. Kennedy, II; G. C. Knecht****; W. Y. Koh****; Mrs. V. F. (Jean B.) Latham*; W. C. Lauderdale; R. B. Leaptrott, Jr.**; W. A. Macaulay**; H. S. Mace; Mrs. R. B. (Gladys) Marshburn*; K. D. McArthur; C. T. McCants; C. D. Medlin**; Mrs. R. S. (Harriet) Miles***; C. L. Mitchell; W. F. Mitchell****; K. F. Morris; T. G. Morris; B. E. Murdock; F. J. Musselman**; J. A. Nguyen; Mrs. B. R. (Lenore) Nowak***; Mrs. G. R. (Mabel) Oates*; Mrs. H. E. (Sara) Pressly*; J. E. Pressly; Sarah H. Pressly; Mrs. W. L. (Elizabeth C.) Pressly*; Mrs. P. E. (Donna) Price*; J. H. Ragsdale; W. O. Ragsdale; C. A. Reed; L. L. Richardson**; Mrs. A. L. (Margie) Roberts*; David Rodriguez-Enriquez**; Mrs. A. A. (Katherine) Rogers*; O. J. Rundus**; H. T. Schutte; R. P. Shaw; R. E. Sherer; Mrs. P. L. (Margaret E.) Sherrill*; J. C. Smith; Mrs. J. P. (Mary) Steele*; J. T. Stephenson**; J. W. Stodghill**; W. B. Sutherland; J. R. Thompson**; Mrs. W. M. (Mary) Wardlaw*; Mrs. H. C. (Addie Jane) White*; R. A. Whitesides; Mrs. R. M. (Elizabeth) Wilson*; T. L. Wilson; E. R. Young.
- *As widow of deceased Participant, the J&S Option having been selected or automatic as to those who died after 9/3/91.
- **As Participant who had transferred to another denomination or terminated employment with a vested benefit.
- ***As widow of Participant who had transferred to another denomination or terminated employment with a vested benefit..
- ****As Participant who retired and has transferred to another denomination.
- o. The following persons may be eligible for Retirement Plan participation at year's end, but enrollment procedures had not been completed: **Catawba:** None. **First:** Song Choi (Statesville Korean), L. Eugene Frady (Calvary); J. Donald Jordan (Christ Church), J. E. Lewellen (Trinity Chapel), J. C. Unda (Hendersonville Hispanic). **Florida:** John J. Kim (Hope Korean). **Mississippi Valley:** None. **Northeast:** David Els (Trinity), Joseph J. Kim (Kwang-Myung), J.

vanEyck (Riverside). **Pacific:** Young Hwa Chung (Antioch World Mission), In Duk Park (Denver Antioch), Ryung Chun (Holy Grace, Long Island), L. Joseph Paek (Il Sim), Hui Chun Chang (Korean, Los Angeles), Chong Hun Byun (Korean Bethel), Kwan Woo Lim (Korean Gospel of Houston), Soo Bong Kim (Seattle First), Chang Young Kim (Valley Peace), Hoo Y. Cho (Western). **Second:** Samuel. W. Kim (Myung Sung), Hyon K. “Paul” Shin (Young Nak). **Tennessee-Alabama:** S. Michael Howell (Christ Church), R. C. Sproll, Jr. (St. Peter). **Virginia:** None. **General Synod Agency:** None.

- p. Lump-Sum Settlements were made with the following former Participants who had qualified for a vested benefit with a present value of less than \$3,500: None.

Miscellaneous

Policy Book

The 1996 General Synod asked boards to address the matter of non-ARPs being appointed to the Board. The Board voted not to change the Policy Book to require membership in the ARP Church, leaving that matter to the discretion of the Committee on Nominations. At the same time, the Board approved, for consideration at the next meeting, a change to Section I,A to add the following: “Members who change their denominational affiliation shall be considered to have resigned, but may be asked by the Board to fulfill their term of service.” This was not acted on by the Board until its 1999 Fall meeting.

Ministers Opting Out of Social Security

The insurance and retirement programs of the General Synod assume the presence of benefits provided by Social Security (retirement, disability, survivor benefits) and Medicare (Parts A and B). The absence of these benefits will create extreme hardship for individuals and families unless individuals who opt out of Social Security provide for such benefits with private programs. The Board will include in its annual report information which, hopefully, will assist newly ordained ministers in making an informed decision.

Internal Revenue Code section 1402(e) makes it possible for a minister to be exempted from coverage under the Social Security system if the minister files an exemption application (Form 4361). The form certifies that the applicant is “conscientiously opposed to, or because of my religious principles I am opposed to, the acceptance (for services I performed as a minister...) of any public insurance that makes payments in the event of death, disability, old age, or retirement, or that makes payments toward the cost of, or provides services for, medical care.” The exemption filing deadline is the due date of the federal tax return for the second year in which a minister has net earnings as a minister of \$400 or more. The application for exemption must inform “the ordaining...body of the church...that he is opposed” prior to the time the exemption application is filed. The apparent purpose for this required notification is to offer the

ordaining body (presbytery) and the denomination an opportunity to appropriately counsel applicants regarding the impact of such a decision.

The Tax Court recently refused to give a break to a minister claiming an exemption in a timely manner. This person had been “duly licensed” as a local pastor for the United Methodist Church, but did not file until two years after his ordination. The Tax Court followed a strict interpretation of the phrase “duly ordained, commissioned, and licensed” minister. The Board offers no opinion on how this might impact those who are “licensed” under the *Form of Government*.

The General Synod has previously taken the position that there is nothing in the Standards of the Church which would support the “religious principles test.” Accordingly, denominational benefit programs have been structured to anticipate the benefits provided by the Social Security system as follows:

- Long Term Disability benefits;
- Survivor Income benefit for surviving children;
- Medicare and Medicaid benefits;
- Post retirement medical benefits (those not covered by Medicare may not continue the General Synod medical insurance beyond retirement); and
- Retirement benefits to supplement benefits from the ARP Retirement Plan (benevolent programs will not be used to replace foregone benefits.)

Presbyteries are encouraged to counsel with students and newly ordained ministers concerning the criteria for decision making.

Budget for 2001

The Board’s Operating Budget for 2001 was submitted to the Board of Stewardship and is attached to this report. The Board does not carry forward unused funds which were allocated from the Denominational Ministry Fund.

Officers for 2000 -- 2001

Chairman: Guy H. Smith, Jr.

Vice-Chairman: T. Lamar Robinson

Secretary: Ed Hogan

Treasurer: Synod Treasurer, Guy H. (Chip) Smith, III

Meeting Dates

November 2-3, 2000, 3:30 PM, Bonclarken

April 9-10, 2001, 7:30 PM, Bonclarken

November 1-2, 2001, 3:30 PM, Bonclarken

The Board has expressed its appreciation to retiring member James W. Todd.

Recommendations

1. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering be continued and that it be taken in the Thanksgiving Season.

2. That through the adoption of this recommendation, pastors (or clerk where there is no pastor) be encouraged to be attentive to the special needs of and seek to assist the Board of Annuities and Relief in its ministry to retired employees and widows of former employees.
3. That churches which have not yet done so, consider adding provisions to the call of its minister(s) and professional employees which were suggested in the Report of the Committee on Minister and His Work in 1995 (See Page 16, 1995 *Minutes of Synod.*)
4. That the proposed amendments to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Adopted September 1, 1961 As Amended and Restated Effective July 1, 1992 be approved.
5. That churches and presbyteries be diligent and consistent in differentiating between insurance benefits provided for ministers, compensation and allowances paid to the minister, and contributions made to the General Synod for funding of a retirement plan.
6. That the proposed budget for 2001 be approved.
7. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted
Board of Annuities and Relief

**BOARD OF ANNUITIES AND RELIEF
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	2000	2001
RECEIPTS		
Current Fund Unrestricted		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 6,192	\$ 6,500
Undesignated Receipts	\$ 800	\$ 800
Current Fund Unrest.	<u>\$ 6,992</u>	<u>\$ 7,300</u>
Benevolence		
Special Offering	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Widow Benefit Fund	\$ 9,202	\$ —
Other	<u>\$ 5,100</u>	<u>\$ 5,100</u>
Total Benevolence	<u>\$ 64,302</u>	<u>\$ 55,100</u>
Group Insurance for Premiums/Reserve		
Current Premiums	\$ 1,758,692	\$ 1,846,627
Interest	\$ —	
Claim Res. Inc. Transfer	<u>\$ 57,785</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
GI for Premiums/Reserve	<u>\$ 1,816,477</u>	<u>\$ 1,896,627</u>
ARP Retirement Plan		
Contributions	\$ 770,610	\$ 793,728
Ola B. Hunter Trust	<u>\$ 2,999</u>	<u>\$ 2,999</u>
ARP Retirement Plan	<u>\$ 773,609</u>	<u>\$ 796,727</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 2,661,380</u>	<u>\$ 2,755,754</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		

Staff & General Office

General Office & Program	\$	3,280	\$	3,567
Board Travel & Meeting	\$	3,000	\$	3,000
Minister Tax Guides	\$	712	\$	733
Administrative Support	\$	<u>57,785</u>	\$	<u>50,000</u>
General Office	\$	<u>64,777</u>	\$	<u>57,300</u>

Benevolence

Christmas Benev. Fund	\$	41,374	\$	32,172
Widow Benefit Fund	\$	17,828	\$	17,828
Carson Gift for Widows	\$	5,100	\$	5,100
Benevolence	\$	<u>64,302</u>	\$	<u>55,100</u>

Group Insurance Premiums

Paid Claims/Reserve	\$	<u>1,758,692</u>	\$	<u>1,846,627</u>
Group Insurance Misc.	\$	<u>1,758,692</u>	\$	<u>1,846,627</u>

ARP Retirement Plan

Audit	\$	1,300	\$	1,300
Actuarial Fees	\$	5,000	\$	500
Transfer to Trustee	\$	766,309	\$	794,677
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	<u>1,000</u>	\$	<u>250</u>
ARP Retirement Plan	\$	<u>773,609</u>	\$	<u>796,727</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 2,661,380 \$ 2,755,754

**AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
RETIREMENT PLAN**

**ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 1, 1961 AS AMENDED AND
RESTATED EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1992**

WHEREAS, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church ("Church") established an Agreement providing for and creating the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan;

WHEREAS, the Church desires to amend said Plan and Trust Agreement and did, at its annual meeting, June 7-10, 1999, commission the Retirement Committee of the Board of Annuities and Relief to approve the language for amendments to the ARP Retirement Plan,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Church hereby amends the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Plan as follows:

- (1) Amend Article I by renumbering Section (4) through Section (18) as Section (5) through Section (19) and add Article I (4) CALL
- (2) CALL: The process for establishing an Employee relationship with a salaried ordained minister of the Church serving in a pastoral ministry of the Church.
- (2) Amend renumbered Article I (7) EMPLOYEE to read as follows:
 - (7) EMPLOYEE: A salaried, ordained minister of the Church serving in a pastoral ministry of the Church under the provisions of a Call approved by a Presbytery of the Church, or a career missionary appointed by World Witness, or a

salaried employee of the Synod or Synod Agency serving in a supervisory capacity, but excluding employees of Erskine College or Erskine Theological Seminary; provided, however, that the term "Employee" shall include only those Employees whose customary employment is for more than an aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year or who become disabled while engaged in such employment.

- (3) Amend Article III (3) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT to read as follows:
- (3) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT: Employment shall be deemed to terminate if the consecutive one year periods in which no Credited Service is accumulated exceeds the number of years of Credited Service, or, if earlier, in the event of:
- (a) Resignation of a lay Employee who has not attained eligibility for a retirement benefit as defined in Article IV (1); or
 - (b) transfer to another denomination of an ordained minister; or
 - (c) a voluntary withdrawal from the office of minister of an ordained minister; or
 - (d) the involuntary permanent severance of the employment relationship of a Participant who has not attained eligibility for a retirement benefit as defined in Article IV (1) and who, in the absence of an involuntary severance of the employment relationship would not attain eligibility for a retirement benefit as defined in Article IV (1) prior to Termination of Employment because of the failure to accumulate an additional Year of Service, provided, however, that employment shall not be terminated during any period (not to exceed one year) that an Employee is absent from work:
 - (i) By reason of pregnancy of the Employee;
 - (ii) by reason of birth of a child of the Employee;
 - (iii) by reason of placement of a child with the Employee in connection with the adoption of such child by the individual; or
 - (iv) by reason of caring for such child over a period beginning immediately following such birth or placement.
- (4) Amend Article VII (3) by adding Section (c):
- (c) An annuity payable monthly to the retired Participant during his lifetime.

**AMENDMENT NUMBER SIX
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
RETIREMENT PLAN**

**ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 1, 1961 AS AMENDED AND RESTATED
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1992**

WHEREAS, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church ("Church") established an Agreement providing for and creating the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan;

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has requested that certain amendments be made to the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Church desires to amend said Plan and Trust Agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Church hereby amends the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Plan as follows:

- (1) Article I (3)(b) is amended to read as follows:
 - (b) For periods of service on or after June 12, 1991, and prior to July 1, 2000, disability payments received by Employees under a Synod or Synod Agency Long Term Disability Plan.
- (2) The following is added to Section (3) BASE SALARY of Article I:
 - (c) For periods of service on or after July 1, 2000, for Employees who receive disability payments under a Synod or Synod Agency Long Term Disability Plan, the annualized Earnings at the onset of disability.
- (3) The following is added to Section (6) EARNINGS of Article I.
For Plan Years beginning on or after January 1, 1999, the Earnings of each Employee taken into account shall not exceed the pay threshold under Section 414(q)(1)(B)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code as adjusted for cost of living increases. The pay threshold was \$80,000 for 1999.
- (4) Article V (1)(a) is amended to read as follows:
 - (a) Normal Retirement Income: For Participants retiring on or after July 1, 2000, from active employment in the Synod and for retirees who retired from active service in the Synod, 3.1% of the total career Earnings of the Participant. Any increase in benefits payable to a retired Participant (including the beneficiary of a deceased retired Participant) on July 1, 2000, will be computed on the basis of the form of retirement income selected by the Participant at the time of termination of employment.
- (5) Renumber Article VI (3), (TERMINATION BENEFITS), as Article VI (4) and add Article VI (3):
 - (3) DEATH BENEFIT: In addition to the benefit payable in accordance with Section (1) of this Article, if any, and/or Section (2) of this Article, if any, a death benefit will be payable to the designated beneficiary of Employees who die during a period in which Earnings are payable or during a period of total disability in which the Employee is eligible to receive disability benefit payments, including the waiting period thereof, under a Synod

or Synod Agency Group Long Term Disability Plan. The benefit will be the greater of the Employees Earnings for the previous twelve (12) months or twelve (12) times the Employees Earnings for the previous one (1) month period.

(6) Section (4) is added to Article VI to read as follows:

(4) **TERMINATION BENEFITS:** In the event that a Participant's employment terminates in accordance with Article III (3), the terminated Participant shall be entitled to a retirement benefit deferred to his Normal Retirement Date calculated in accordance with Article V(1) or earlier actual retirement calculated in accordance with Article V (2) based on his Earnings at time of termination, the amount so determined, then multiplied by the Participant's vested percentage pursuant to the following schedule:

<u>Years of Continuous Employment</u>	Vested Percentage
Less than 3	0
3	20
4	40
5	60
6	80
7	100

The benefits described under this Section are payable in accordance with the provisions of Article IV (Retirement). In lieu of any benefit payable in the form of a monthly annuity commencing at age 65 (age 64 if the eligible Participant has accrued a minimum of 25 years of Credited Service as defined in Article III (2)), the Participant will be paid the actuarial equivalent value of his benefit as a lump-sum amount provided such amount is less than \$5,000. The lump-sum amount will be equal to the present value of the accrued benefit (the amount of retirement income at normal or postponed retirement, based on his Earnings and Credited Service at the time of termination) calculated in accordance with Section (1) of Article V and based on the Participant's Vested Percentage as provided for in this Section (4).

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on ARP Foundation** was presented. An amendment carried, "That a minimum of five presbyteries be represented on the Board of Directors." The report as amended was adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on ARP Foundation

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Guy H. Smith. Charles Hammond was appointed secretary.

The Report of the ARP Foundation was reviewed and members

of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments concerning the material referred by the Court.

The recommendations of the Board were considered and we make the following recommendations:

1. That recommendation #1 be approved.
2. That recommendation #2 be approved.
3. That recommendation #3 be approved.
4. That recommendation #4 be approved. **[Amended]**
5. That recommendation #5 be approved.
6. That recommendation #6 be approved.

Further, the Committee recommends that Synod thank Mr. Bill Deaton and Mr. Ed Hogan for their work with the Foundation.

With no further business, Rabun Williams closed with prayer.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, INC.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation Directors met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod. These meetings were used as a time to review and evaluate the work of its administrators, consultants, and investment managers; to evaluate the effectiveness of established programs; and to provide leadership and vision to the work ahead. The Directors express thanksgiving for these opportunities of service.

Board Leadership

Officers serving for the period July 1, 1999–June 30, 2000 were, Chair: Mr. Chandler McNair, Vice-Chair: Mr. James B. Pierce; and Secretary: Mr. Harold Snider. Mr. Guy H Smith, III, Synod Treasurer, serves as Treasurer; Mr. W. A. Deaton serves as Executive Director; and Mr. Ed Hogan serves as the Administrative Officer. Officers for the July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001 term are Mr. James B. Pierce, Chair, Mr. Rodney Shands, Vice-Chair and Chair-Elect, and Mr. Harold Snider, Secretary. The Board acknowledges with gratitude the faithful service of retiring member Plato Pearson. The Reverend Tim Erskine filled an unexpired term and will be nominated to a full term.

Development and Ministry

We express our thanksgiving and gratitude to God for the continued generosity and stewardship of His people. Since the last meeting of the General Synod one additional Gift Annuity was added. One of the gift annuitants died during the year and \$ 8,992.50 was transferred to the ARP Foundation Endowment. Investments for the deferred gift programs totaled \$1,661,278 at 12/31/1999.

Deferred gift programs provide income to designated recipients during their lifetime with the remainder interests of the gifts distributed to

designated charities. The Foundation has a gift annuity fund and will receive and manage annuities for any agency or church of the denomination. If the Foundation is a named beneficiary there is no administrative charge. If not, there is an annual fee of 1.5% of the market value of that portion of the annuity which is not designated for the Foundation.

The Foundation serves as trustee for seven (7) charitable remainder trusts. Including the ARP Foundation, there are twelve (12) ARP entities as designated beneficiaries. The Foundation welcomes the opportunity to serve as the planned-giving resource for boards, presbyteries, churches and other entities of the denomination.

Cornerstone Management Inc., Atlanta, GA, serves as consultant and investment manager for these deferred gift programs.

Mr. William A. Deaton, Executive Director, continues to provide leadership for development and ministry. He is available to assist individuals in the establishment of deferred gift programs and will conduct seminars for interested groups in churches. He can be contacted at 1-704-376-7051. The Board is in the process of providing an 800 number for contacting Mr. Deaton.

The Foundation continues to pledge 5% of the value of its endowment, on an annual basis, for distribution to the agencies of the General Synod through the Denominational Ministry Fund. The contribution for 2000 will be \$26,367.

The Foundation has a goal of increasing the endowment by 5% a year. In 1999 the fund balance increased by 8.14%. Donations by Directors and former Directors accounted for 100% of the growth during the year.

Investment Management

The Foundation welcomes the opportunity to serve as the investment advisor for boards, presbyteries, churches, and other entities of the denomination. The General Synod strives, in its appointments to the Foundation, to choose some individuals who have special training, interests, expertise, and abilities in financial management.

The Investment Committee of the Foundation meets with the investment managers and the investment consultant at the annual meeting of the Foundation in October, and quarterly otherwise. Members of the Investment Committee receive quarterly reports from the investment manager and the investment consultant.

At 12-31-1999, there are five (5) actively managed accounts under the Foundation umbrella, with over \$8.9 million invested. PaineWebber P.R.I.M.E. Asset Consulting serves the Foundation as an independent consultant. PaineWebber monitors the investment performances of the investment managers; assists in the selection of investment managers, if changes are warranted; assists in the important asset allocation decisions; and assists the Foundation in its efforts to provide sound investment vehicles to suit the varied needs of churches and agencies.

Wedge Capital Management of Charlotte, NC, has served as the investment manager for four of the funds (Foundation, Dunlap, Balanced

Fund, and World Witness), managing both the equity and the fixed income. TRUSCO Capital Management, a subsidiary of SunTrust Bank, Atlanta, serves as the investment manager for the Outreach North America Endowment, for both equity and fixed income. The performance of those funds is reported below. The Comparative Indexes used for measurement are the S&P 500 and the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond. The "objective" is an expected average return over a five-year period.

Fund	Objective	Inception	Asset Mix	1 Yr	Index	Return	
						Inception	Index
Foundation ¹	10.00%	6/30/97	60/40	-95%	12.00%	6.94%	16.88%
Dunlap ¹	9.00%	6/30/97	50/50	-96%	9.80%	6.71%	15.02%
Balanced Fund	9.00%	6/30/97	50/50	-2.43%	9.80%	5.66%	15.02%
World Witness	10.00%	6/30/97	75/25	-65%	15.34%	6.85%	19.67%
ONA ²	7.30%	3/11/99	60/40			9.39%	8.68%

¹Asset allocation has been changed to 75% equity and 25% fixed income.

²Returns are for the period 3/11/99 through 12/31/99. The annualized objective is 9%.

The continued under-performance of value oriented equities, and the desire to reduce volatility over time, led to changes in the investment models. With the assistance and counsel of PaineWebber, investment consultants, a growth oriented manager (1838 Investment Advisors, Inc., Randor, PA) and an international equity manager (Nicholas-Applegate, NY, NY) were added. TRUSCO Capital Management broadened its investment options with the purchase of a value oriented equity investment group.

Representatives of the Foundation and PaineWebber met with Dunlap, World Witness, and ONA to assist in their asset allocation decisions. Funds have been allocated in accordance with the decisions of the respective boards.

It remains the intent of the Foundation to establish an all equity fund and a fixed income fund for those entities investing in the Custodian Balanced Fund. Each entity has been given the opportunity to allocate their funds between equity and fixed income. The equity fund will be 40% value, 40% growth, and 20% international. To date, most respondents have preferred to remain in a 50/50 balanced fund.

Churches, presbyteries, and General Synod agencies may invest funds in the Custodian Balanced Fund (see attached description). There are no fees paid to the Foundation and the investment/consultant fees are @1.3%. Churches or agencies which have endowment-type funds for investment should contact the Administrative Officer at the ARP Center. The actual return (after fees) for the Custodian Balanced Fund during 1999, on a market to market basis, for funds which had no additions or withdrawals during the calendar year, was a negative 2.43% as compared to a +10.12% in 1998 and +15.22% in 1997. As has been expressed in prior year reports, **Past performance does not necessarily predict future results.**

Special Endowment Fund. This fund was established by Logan V. Pratt, Sr., a founding director of the ARP Foundation and past member of the Foundation. All gifts and realized gains and losses on investments are treated as the corpus of the fund and only the net income from investments is distributed. In the event that the Foundation should cease to exist, the assets will be distributed to the following six agencies on an equal basis: Bonclarken, Christian Education (Covenant Discipleship), Due West Retirement Center, Erskine College, Outreach North America, and World Witness. Additional gifts of \$27,613.31 were added to the Fund in 1999, with an additional \$ 253.42 in realized gains added. The principal balance of the Fund at 12/31/1999 was \$ 50,124.88 The net accumulated income at 12/31/199 (\$938.67) has been distributed in accordance with the terms of the fund. The fund is open for additional contributions. We again express our appreciation to Mr. Pratt.

Audit

The funds under the investment umbrella of the ARP Foundation are audited as a part of the General Synod audit. A copy of the audit is given to the Chairman of the Board and is available for review at the ARP Center.

Administration

Bylaw changes were approved to reflect the following

1. The requirement that there be one member from each class on the two major committees was eliminated.
2. The Chairman was changed from an advisory to an ex-officio member of each standing committee.

Three changes have been approved for vote at the next meeting. The Board requests that these changes become effective upon approval by the Directors and that the new directors be elected accordingly:

1. That the directors be elected for a four year term, with the provision that at the request of the Board of Directors a director may be re-elected for a second full term.
2. That the requirement that there be one member from each presbytery be deleted.
3. That the Chairman be allowed to serve consecutive terms.

The Directors have begun an evaluation of the structure of the Board. Consideration will be given to recommending a transfer of the development and educational responsibilities to the Board of Stewardship. The Foundation would continue as the agency to oversee the investment of endowment-type funds for the General Synod and its agencies, as requested. These considerations have been conveyed to the Board of Stewardship for study and dialogue.

Recommendations

1. That presbyteries, churches, agencies, boards, and other entities of the denomination consider making use of the resources and services offered by the Foundation.

2. That the Foundation's participation in the annual Special Offering be continued.
3. That the proposed budget for 2001 be approved.
4. That the proposed changes in the bylaws, as referenced herein, be endorsed. [**Amended**]
5. That each session consider the possibility of a stewardship seminar, either at their church or jointly with other churches in their geographical area.
6. That the activities of the Board, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully,
 Board of Directors, ARP Foundation, Inc.
 E. Chandler McNair, Chair
 Ed Hogan, Administrative Officer

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc. Description of Funds

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation: Assets of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation with income and principal to be used as determined by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Up to 75% of the Fund may be invested in equities for long-term growth, with the equities invested 40% value, 40% growth, and 20% international. The market value of invested funds at 31 December 1999 was \$519,808.

Widow's Benefit Fund: A wasting trust (income and principal to be spent) to provide lifetime benefits to certain widows. Investment will be at the direction of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Fund balance at 31 December 1999 reported on a market basis was \$9,202 as compared to \$17,241 at the end of 1998. Six (6) widows receive an average benefit of \$250 per month.

William H. Dunlap Orphanage Fund: Assets of the Board of Trustees of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage with disposition as directed by the Dunlap Board of Trustees. Up to 75% of the Fund may be invested in equities with the equities invested 40% value, 40% growth, and 20% international. Fund balance at 31 December 1999 reported on a market basis was \$1,345,901.

Custodian Balanced Fund: Assets of the General Synod, its agencies and churches to be used, both principal and income, as determined by the owner of the assets. Up to 50% of the Fund may be invested in equities with the equities invested 40% value, 40% growth, and 20% international. Fund balance at 31 December 1999 reported on a market basis was \$4,953,743 as compared to \$5,139,630 at 12/31/98. Additional contributions were \$530,075. \$591,201 was distributed Thirty-eight (38) separate funds participate in this fund on a market unit basis. The unit value at the beginning of the month is used for additions or withdrawals during the month. Funds added during the month begin to participate in the fund at the beginning of the following month.

World Witness: Disposition of the funds and investment guidelines

are established by World Witness, the Board of Foreign Missions. Accounting is provided by Synod's Administrative Services. Up to 75% of the Fund may be invested in equities with the equities invested 40% value, 40% growth, and 20% international. Fund balance at 31 December 1999 reported on a market basis was \$893,920 as compared to \$762,671 at the end of 1998. \$169,907.33 was contributed to the fund and \$22,571.29 was distributed.

Outreach North America Endowment: Disposition of the funds and investment guidelines are established by Outreach North America. Accounting is provided by Synod's Administrative Services. Up to 60% of the Fund may be invested in equities with the equities invested 58% growth, 25% value, and 17% international. Fund balance at 31 December 1999 reported on a market basis was \$1,294,830 as compared to \$916,240 at the end of 1998. \$553,662 was contributed to the fund, \$45,736 was distributed, and \$250,000 was transferred by ONA to Cornerstone Ministries for investment.

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, INC.
BUDGET**

	2000	2001
RECEIPTS		
Synod Allocation	\$ 30,465	\$ 31,670
Special Offering	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,000
Donations and Gifts	\$ 5,131	\$ 5,199
Endowment Fund Transfers	<u>\$ 8,236</u>	<u>\$ 8,890</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 56,832</u>	<u>\$ 59,759</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board and Ministry		
General Office	\$ 500	\$ 500
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 3,660	\$ 3,843
Den. Ministry Contribution*	<u>\$ 26,367</u>	<u>\$ 25,367</u>
Board Sub-Total	<u>\$ 30,527</u>	<u>\$ 29,710</u>
Program		
Executive Director		
Salary	\$ 8,806	\$ 9,071
Employer Tax	\$ 674	\$ 694
Travel & Expenses	\$ 2,575	\$ 5,665
Promotion & Publicity		
Advertisement	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,465
Materials	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,465
Preparation & Mailing	\$ 780	\$ 819
Reserve for Stew. Seminars	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Administrative Support	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,550
Contract Services	<u>\$ 720</u>	<u>\$ 720</u>
Program Sub-Total	<u>\$ 26,305</u>	<u>\$ 30,049</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 56,832</u>	<u>\$ 59,759</u>
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

*Contributions will be 5% of the Beginning Market Value of the Foundation Endowment.

NOTE: This reflects Current Operations only and does not reflect investment expenses or net additions to fund.

The promotional program of **Erskine College and Seminary** was presented by J. L. Carson, President.

Synod adjourned with the Benediction by J. H. Hopkins.

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

8:30 A.M.

Special music was provided by Synod's Men's Chorus.

The worship service was led by J. R. deWitt, who was introduced by Calvin Draffin.

Special prayer was offered for Elder Hugh Dale by B.W. Dowling.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** was presented and adopted recommendation by recommendation.

Recommendation number one of the Moderator's Committee was adopted.

Recommendation number two of the Moderator's Committee was adopted.

Recommendation number three of the Moderator's Committee was adopted.

Recommendation number four of the Moderator's Committee was adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Memorials

The Moderator's Committee on Memorials was opened with prayer by James M. Bell, Chairman. Joel Gillespie was appointed secretary.

The roll was taken and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee were reviewed.

The Memorials were reviewed.

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Memorial from Mississippi Valley Presbytery **not** be adopted.
2. That the Memorial from Northeast Presbytery requesting that the State of Michigan, USA, be included in the boundaries of Northeast Presbytery be adopted.
3. That the Memorial from Northeast Presbytery regarding the participation, authority, and eligibility of ruling elders to govern in the higher courts of the Church be adopted.
4. That the Memorial from Second Presbytery **not** be adopted.

The meeting was concluded with prayer by Wilfred Bellamy.

Memorial
From Mississippi Valley Presbytery
[Not Adopted]

Whereas the Bible teaches the principle of male headship as stated in (Gen. 1:27 NIV) “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them,” and (I Tim. 3:1-2 NIV) “Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. [2] Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.” Which teach that *man* (in the masculine case) was originally given the role and responsibility for leadership both in the family and in the Church.

Whereas the Bible does not elevate males to a theological or practical position of superiority over females but establishes their equality in creation as both being created in the image of God, but distinguishes their God ordained roles as different, with Adam coming first in creation and the curse of sin accounted by his act of disobedience and then Eve being taken from his rib as his helpmeet and Adam being placed over the woman as her head. The New Testament follows this pattern of distinguishing the roles of males and females and assigns leadership in the home and Church to males.

Whereas The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has not followed the Biblical principle of male leadership in ordaining women deacons in violation of the Biblical statement (I Tim. 3:8 NIV) “Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.” (diakonous, accusative masculine, plural) Let the Synod of our Church now take the step of reformation and adopt God’s pattern for Church government, limiting the office of deacons to males, as the office of elder is limited.

Whereas the church is to apply the pattern of self reformation to its own beliefs and practices and *always be reforming*, the Mississippi Valley Presbytery memorializes the General Synod to amend the statement in the *Form of Government*, Chapter VII A 2 which reads “To this office should be chosen **persons** of good character....” To read “To this office should be chosen **men** of good character....”

Adopted on Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Carl Geisik, Stated Clerk

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Memorial
From Northeast Presbytery

The Northeast Presbytery, ARPC, meeting on April 7, 2000, at the Ballston Center ARP Church, Ballston Spa, NY, unanimously adopted the following Memorial to be considered by the 196th Meeting (June, 2000) of

the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has the authority to establish Presbyteries of the General Synod, and to set the boundaries thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Presbytery of the Northeast, ARPC, has approved reception of the ARP Fellowship of Grand Rapids, Michigan, to be a member congregation of the Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has not been included within the boundaries of any Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Presbytery of the Northeast, ARPC, does hereby **memorialize** the General Synod to extend the boundaries of the Presbytery of the Northeast to include the State of Michigan, United States of America.

Adopted on April 7, 2000
G. J. Gerard, Stated Clerk
Northeast Presbytery

Memorial From Northeast Presbytery

The Northeast Presbytery, ARPC, meeting on April 7, 2000 at the Ballston Center ARP Church, Ballston Spa, NY, unanimously adopted the following Memorial to be considered by the 196th Meeting (June, 2000) of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

WHEREAS, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is governed by presbyters (elders) assembled in church courts (cf, *Form of Government* Chap. II A.2); and

WHEREAS, the elders of the people for the government of the Church are minister (teaching elders) and ruling elders (cf. *FOG* Chap VIII A.1 and Chap X A.5); and

WHEREAS, in all courts of the Church ruling elders possess the same authority and same eligibility to office as ministers (cf *FOG* Chap VIII B.1); and

WHEREAS, the numerical balance of eligible ministers and ruling elders to govern the higher courts of the Church was last established in 1971 with the adoption of the current *Form of Government*; and

WHEREAS, significant increases in the number of eligible ministers without a corresponding increase in the number of eligible ruling elders have occurred within the Church in recent years, thereby altering the numerical balance established in 1971; and

WHEREAS, attendance and participation by ruling elders for meeting of the higher courts of the Church is frequently less than those eligible, thereby further altering the established balance of ministers and ruling elders; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to maintain the full authority, eligibility and participation of ruling elders to serve in all courts of the Church; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: Northeast Presbytery hereby **memorializes** the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to establish a Special Committee to inquire, study, report and provide recommendations to the higher courts of the Church, including any proposed changes to the *Form of Government*, to effectively maintain the full authority, eligibility and participation of ruling elders to govern in the higher courts of the Church.

Adopted on April 7, 2000
G. J. Gerard, Stated Clerk
Northeast Presbytery

Memorial
From Second Presbytery
[Not Adopted]

WHEREAS, Church government is not intended to serve an arbitrary or dictatorial function. (*Form of Government*, Chapter 2; Section C; Sub-paragraph 1)

WHEREAS, The purpose of Church government is to promote order within the Church that the Church may best fulfill its divinely appointed task. (*Form of Government* Chapter 2; Section C; Sub-paragraph 1)

WHEREAS, Historic Presbyterianism is government residing in the hands of both the clergy and the laity (taught, ministered to, and advised by the clergy.)

WHEREAS, Presbytery and General Synod are comprised of both Teaching and Ruling Elders representing various congregations within the denomination. (*Form of Government*, Chapter 12, Section C; Sub-paragraph 1)

WHEREAS, Historic Presbyterianism did not experience nor conceive the degree of disparity in the higher courts of the Church between Teaching and Ruling Elders in the Church today.

WHEREAS, Teaching Elders without a congregation (as defined in the *Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* Chapter 3; Sections (A) "Definition and Purpose of a Congregation" and (B) "The Structure Of A Congregation." I.e., ordained ministers holding denominational level positions, seminary teaching and/or leadership positions, mission developers, those working outside the bounds of Presbytery, retired, and others not actively in or seeking to be active in the preaching ministry to a congregation) are currently members of Presbytery and possessing all the rights and privileges thereof.

WHEREAS, Teaching Elders without a congregational charge are not accompanied by a Ruling Elder delegate to Presbytery and/or General Synod, thus creating disparity between Teaching and Ruling Elders in the decision making process crucial to the direction of their Church in fulfilling its divinely appointed task.

WHEREAS, Decisions concerning congregations can therefore be made without opportunity for equal congregational representation which can

result in resentment, distrust, and apathy on the part of those governed.

THEREFORE, Second Presbytery respectfully memorializes the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to:

1. Have the Moderator of Synod 2000 appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to study the issue of parity between Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders and report to the 2001 meeting of Synod (a) its findings and (b) its recommendations on how to improve and maintain parity between Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders at meetings of the higher courts of the Church.
 - a. That the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee be made available to the Presbyteries in time for their fall 2001 meeting.
 - b. That Presbyteries furnish copies of the recommendations to the local sessions for consideration.
2. Have the Moderator of Synod direct the Session of local congregations to cooperate with the Ad Hoc Committee in any way consistent with the *Form of Government* of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Adopted on March 14, 2000
Louis Evans, Stated Clerk
Second Presbytery

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod 2001.

J.W. Carson nominated H. N. Gaston. R.J. Robinson seconded the nomination.

Following a call for other nominations, a motion carried that nominations be closed and Mr. Gaston be elected by acclamation.

Mr. Gaston was escorted to the podium by Mr. Robinson who led in prayer. Mr. Gaston addressed the Synod.

Following announcements, General Synod recessed for a Coffee Break.

On reconvening, the promotional program of **Outreach North America** was presented by J. T. Corbitt, Director.

R.T. Ruble was introduced and addressed the Synod with regard to his work on the new history.

Prayer was offered in loving memory of W.W. Orr and his vision for growth in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

C.W. Wilson was given the personal privilege of the floor to explain prior comments he had made on the floor.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Bonclarken** was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Bonclarken

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Wayne

Frazier. Rev. Edward Fleagle was appointed Secretary.

The roll was taken and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee were reviewed.

The Report of the Board of Bonclarken was reviewed and members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments concerning the material referred by the Court.

The recommendations of the Board of Bonclarken were considered and we make the following recommendations:

1. That recommendations 1-4 be adopted.

We also make the following additional recommendations:

5. That Synod request the Executive Board to consider holding the Monday Evening Worship and Business Meetings in the Youth Activities Building for the year 2001.
6. That we commend the Board and the Director of Bonclarken for an excellent job that is being done for the ARP Denomination.

The meeting was closed with prayer by John Dawson.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

In preparation for making the report to Synod for the Board of Bonclarken, I reviewed some of the old minutes of Synod. Approximately 10 years ago, the director's report indicated that the gymnasium was woefully inadequate and that youth facilities were lacking. There were references to the fact that the sewer system was antiquated and that something had to be done. The hope was that Bonclarken could be picked up by a public sewer system to avoid having to make a huge outlay for a private sewer system.

God has provided! We are now using the magnificent new youth facility. It has proved itself as an athletic facility and as a place for concerts, and virtually every kind of activity that we could have foreseen. We have a new cabin in use for youth groups and another cabin in progress that we hope will be finished by the fall of the year. Our sewer system has been taken over by the County and we are working through the problems of putting the facility on the county system and upgrading our water lines and sewer lines on the grounds. We have a new telephone system installed. The Gift Shoppe has been enlarged. We are working on several projects around the lake. The security system has been updated and the fire escape on Memorial Hall has been improved.

In reporting about the events that take place at Bonclarken you realize quickly that a tremendous amount of what happens, happens because of volunteer labor. The "work week" which is an annual event happens because of the contributions of over 200 people. During the year any number of people can be found doing the weekly tasks that need to be done and it is all accomplished by volunteer labor. We've had a number of special projects on buildings that could not have been accomplished without the help of groups that come from various churches to do the actual construc-

tion work. During this past year we saw the formation of a Board of Advisors comprised of approximately 30 people who give advice and counsel to Bonclarken.

On a sadder note, Jim Brice, our Director, was stricken with physical problems during the past year and had to be sidelined from his duties for a number of weeks. Two of our Board members stayed on the grounds and attempted to take his place during the busy season. Mike Evans was there for a little over a week and Ken Hoffman for a little over a month. It became clear to all the board members that Mr. Brice makes a unique contribution to the operation of Bonclarken and we all had a renewed sense of urgency in our prayer life and a deeper appreciation for what he does. We are happy to report that he is back in full swing and things are running much smoother.

We are excited about the Youth Facility that is being utilized in so many ways, but we are still concerned about the debt that exists on the building. This is a concern for all of the Board members and it's an item of prayer concern for each of individually. The report of Bonclarken last year indicated that this debt could be retired with a donation of \$34.00 per individual in our Synod. Unfortunately not everyone has come up with their \$34.00! We are receiving generous gift giving from the denomination and friends of Bonclarken. That is good, but the bad is that much of this has to be used for interest on the loan and if we could raise adequate capital to retire this loan these generous gifts could be put to use in so many other ways. Another are of concern last year was the fact the collateral for the loan had encompassed a great portion of the assembly ground. The bank has agreed to change the collateral to the building and the portion of the property it sits on.

We continue to appreciate the efforts of Ms. Eleanor Richardson, our Director of Development. She is theoretically a part-time helper but admittedly falls into the category of volunteer as her time at work is way above that which was originally planned. Many of you have received her report in the Bonclarken Newsletter concerning the generous giving which has taken place as a result of systematized gift giving.

As we look to the future as a board, we are aware that we are faced with a number of challenges. our old reports indicated that it was necessary to more adequately use the facilities on a year round basis. We are making attempts in that direction including offering special rates for off-season groups and reaching out to other groups. This is working, but also presents us with a different set of problems. As our culture gets used to better living, we are faced with more demands for better facilities. Many people do not like to use Memorial Hall and share a bathe. We perceive that another facility will be necessary to replace Memorial Hall. We are also faced with a changing set of tastes in any number of areas and we are attempting to meet these needs.

Bonclarken continues to be a jewel in the crown of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and we hope that it will continue to be utilized not only as a recreation area, but to continue to minister to so many

people. One of the blessings of being associate with Bonclarken is to hear the reports of the number of people whose lives were touched by the Lord Jesus Christ during their time at Bonclarken and we hope that this is the great and overriding use of this wonderful facility for its future.

Recommendations

1. That the General Synod continue to support Bonclarken to the allocation of Synod's funds and to the annual special offering.
2. That the General Synod accept and approve the summary and financial budget and statistical reports attached hereto. A complete and detailed Audit Report is available upon request.
3. That the General Synod encourage all presbyteries and churches to more fully utilize the Bonclarken facilities for church retreats, officer and teacher training and any other group needs.
4. That our entire Synod be in prayer for the retirement of the debt that exists for the new facilities and pray for obtaining the necessary facilities to continue our ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles F. Edgar, Chairman,
Board of Trustees

Proposed Budget — Board of Bonclarken

	2000 Budget	2001 Proposed
Operating Revenue		
Rentals	\$ 1,157,000	\$ 1,192,000
Canteen/Gift Shop	52,000	54,000
Homeowners	70,000	70,000
Programs & Camps	<u>75,000</u>	<u>78,000</u>
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,354,000	\$1,394,000
Non-Operating Revenue		
Contributions	\$ 200,000	\$ 212,000
Total Revenue	\$1,554,000	\$1,606,000
Operating Expenses		
P/R & Benefits	\$ 789,000	\$ 821,000
Cost of Sales	155,000	161,000
Administration	95,000	99,000
Maintenance	55,000	57,000
Food Service	28,000	29,000
Camps	47,000	49,000
Utilities	145,000	151,000
Insurance	45,000	47,000
Other	45,000	47,000
Depreciation	<u>150,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,554,000	\$1,606,000
Profit/(Loss)	\$-0-	\$-0-
Executive Director's Salary	\$58.626 plus Retirement and Insurance package.	

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Covenant Discipleship** was taken recommendation by recommendation. Recommendation number one was presented and adopted. Recommendation number two was presented and adopted. Recommendation number three was not adopted. Recommendation number four was presented and adopted. Recommendation number five was presented and adopted. Recommendation number six was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Covenant Discipleship

The meeting was opened with prayer by Reverend Conrad Cheatham. J. Barry Dagenhart was elected Secretary.

The roll was taken and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee were reviewed.

The Report of the Board of Covenant Discipleship was reviewed and members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments concerning the material referred by the Court.

The recommendations of the Board of Covenant Discipleship were considered and we make the following recommendations:

1. That recommendations #1-5 be approved. [**Amended**]
Additional recommendation:
6. That Dr. Vickery and the staff and the Board of Covenant Discipleship be commended for their good work.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Bob Cara.

REPORT OF COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP THE EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY OF THE ASSOCIATE RE- FORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD

Introduction

The Board of Covenant Discipleship is the agency of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church which serves by presenting the Gospel and nurturing Christian Discipleship based upon a reformed understanding of the scripture with a continuing challenge to develop a biblical world and life view.

Covenant Discipleship under the authority of the General Synod seeks to:

1. Teach and train leaders.
2. Reach students with the Gospel and disciple them based upon a reformed understanding.
3. Minister to the specific spiritual needs of the mentally and physically handicapped.

- 4 Minister to families and senior adults through conferences and retreats.
5. Provide resources that emphasize a consistent biblical worldview.

“These words which I command you shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

The Board ministers in relation to the Presbyteries and congregations and in cooperation with the other boards and committees of the Synod. This annual report is a summary of the major ministry activities of the Board of Covenant Discipleship for the year 1999 and includes a budget and other recommendations for Synod’s approval.

Board Ministries

The Board of Covenant Discipleship held two meetings this past year February 22-24, 1999; September 21-22, 1999.

The Board has spent a great deal of time in prayer and planning in order to enhance the teaching ministry of the denomination.

The following officers served during the 1999 year: Charles Steele, Chairman; Carole Ellis, Vice-chairman; Gary Jones, Secretary. New officers for the 2000 year were elected: Charles Steele, Chairman; Brian Phipps, Vice Chairman; and Dottie Bigham, Secretary.

The meeting dates for the Board established next year: September 19-20, 2000 and February 20-21, 2001.

Horizon Conference attendance 254; Quest Conference attendance 250; Camp Joy 3 full sessions 111 campers and 113 counselors and staff; Appalachian Mission—227 ARP young people and adults from 25 churches conducted Vacation Bible Schools in 13 locations in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia ministering to more than 500 children. There were 52 who participated in the summer missions trip to Wales (co-sponsored by Covenant Discipleship and World Witness).

Other C.D. Sponsored Programs

Bible Mastery Month was observed in 29 of our congregations. Catechism Recitations: The Children’s Catechism—47 recitations; Westminster Shorter Catechism—3 recitations. Church School Enrollment 15,336.

Use of Curriculum Materials

a. Vacation Bible Schools: One hundred and four churches reported holding Bible Schools in 1999 with a total enrollment of 8023. Forty-five had schools for youth and children only; sixteen had schools for the entire family. Forty-one provided nurseries. Some schools reported using more than one type of material. **Materials used:** Augsburg—3; Bible—10; Cook—10; Concordia—1; Gospel Light—14; Great Commissions—13; Scripture Press—2; Standard—17; Ventures—1; Other—30; Own—9.

b. Church School: In the Children’s and Youth Divisions, the most popular material is David C. Cook, while in the Adult Division, *The*

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Adult Quarterly is the most widely used. Listed below are the breakdown of materials used. Consider these figures in light of the fact that 179 churches reported and that some churches used more than one curriculum in a given department.

Literature	Preschool	Elementary	Youth	Adult
ARP	—	—	8	104
CRC	23	28	15	4
Cook	45	46	34	27
Bible	11	16	20	38
Great Commission	25	30	31	3
Scripture Press	9	8	3	2
Standard	4	5	4	13
Gospel Light	9	8	6	2
PCUSA	—	3	1	2
Other	13	11	27	43
Own	6	10	17	18

Recommendations

1. That the “Triple Play Program,” a scripture memorization program developed at the Lake Wales Church be published and made available to the denomination.
2. That the price of the Adult Quarterly and Teacher’s guide be increased to \$1.50 per quarter and the price of the Large Print Quarterly be increased to \$2.50 per quarter.
3. That a request be made to the Synod’s Board of Stewardship for a denominational campaign to endow ministries of Covenant Discipleship. **[Not Adopted]**
4. That the Report and actions of the Board of Covenant Discipleship be adopted.
5. That the budget for 2001 be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Steele, Chairman

BUDGET – BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

	2000	2001
	Budget	Requested Budget
Operational—Income Sources		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 178,871	\$ 189,364
Honorariums, Travel and Gifts	17,976	20,519
WSU	15,000	13,230
Special Offering	<u>12,600</u>	<u>13,230</u>
Total Operational Income	\$ 224,447	\$ 236,343
Ministries—Income Sources		
Adult Quarterly/Publications	41,895	43,990

Conferences:

Summer Missions	40,000	40,000
Bonsenior	12,128	12,734
Reg. Servant Leader.Conf.	0	
Horizon	48,510	50,936
Student Missions	0	
Quest	61,740	64,827
Camp Joy	<u>70,560</u>	<u>74,088</u>

TOTAL MINISTRIES

INCOME	\$ 274,833	\$ 286,575
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 499,280	\$ 522,918

Operational Expenses

Administration— Compensation

Executive Director	\$ 67,767	\$ 69,800
Director for Student Min.	52,409	55,878
Director Children's Ministries	35,653	36,723
Administrative Assistant	31,741	33,055
Clerical (Part-Time)	1,310	1,311
Summer Intern (12 wks)	5,670	5,954
Sub-Total Compensation	\$ 194,550	\$ 202,721

Administration—Office Operation

Staff Expenses

Workman's Compensation	1,088	1,143
Expenses: Travel/ Continuing Education		
Executive Director	5,513	5,788
Director Youth Ministry	3,308	3,473
Director Children's Ministry	3,308	3,473
Office expenses & supplies	19,735	20,722
Board Expenses	<u>11,025</u>	<u>11,576</u>
Sub-Total Operation	\$ 43,977	46,175

Admin.—Promotional

	6,064	6,367
Total Office & Salaries	\$ 244,591	\$ 255,263

Ministries and Publications—Expenses

Publications:

Adult Quarterly-Regular Print	14,000	15,049
Adult Quarterly-Teachers Guide	1,500	1,910
Adult Quarterly-Large Print	2,800	3,542
AQ Office Expense	1,400	1,500
AQ Editor	12,223	12,835
Other Publications	<u>2,400</u>	<u>3,794</u>

Sub-Total for Publications	\$ 34,323	\$ 38,630
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Conferences:

Summer Missions	34,067	35,771
Bonsenior	11,576	12,154
Regional Servant Leaders. Con.	8,400	8,820
Christian Educator's Conf.	276	289
Horizon	46,570	48,898
Student Missions	3,000	3,000
Quest	54,381	57,099
Camp Joy	70,560	74,088
Sub-Total Conferences	\$ 228,830	\$ 240,119
TOTAL EXPENSES—		
MIN. & PUB.	\$ 263,153	\$ 278,749
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 507,744	\$ 534,012

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Outreach North America** was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Outreach North America

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Calvin Draffin. John C. Dorr, Jr., was appointed Secretary.

The roll was taken and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee were reviewed.

The Report of the Board of Outreach North America was reviewed and members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments concerning the material referred by the Court.

The recommendations of the Board of Outreach North America were considered and we make the following recommendations:

1. That recommendation #1 be approved.
2. That recommendation #2 be approved.
3. That recommendation #3 be approved.
4. That recommendation #4 be approved.
5. That recommendation #5 be approved.
6. That recommendation #6 be approved.
7. That recommendation #7 be approved.

We make the following additional recommendations:

8. That members of the General Synod express thanks to the Board of Outreach North America and its Director for their hard work, enthusiasm, and vision, which has facilitated unparalleled growth within our denomination.
9. That members of the General Synod give glory and praise to our Lord and thanks to all who have participated in exceeding the Synod's goal of 50 new churches by the year 2000.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Lance Hudgens.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA CHANGED LIVES, CHANGING LIVES

The year 1999 has been a busy and productive year for the Board of Outreach North America. Several innovative approaches to church planting have been undertaken as we seek to be effective stewards of the Lord's resources. The Capital Fund campaign has continued and a new revitalization program has been started. This report will summarize the activities of the Board during 1999.

I. The Fifty by 2000 Goal

At the last meeting of Synod, we announced that our goal of fifty new churches by the year 2000 had been met. This goal had been adopted by the 1988 Synod and it was exciting to see that we had already met the goal by June of 1999.

We will praise the Lord for His goodness to the ARP Church in reaching this goal as part of the Outreach North America presentation to Synod. What is exciting was to see the final result as of December 31, 1999. **We praise God that by January 1, 2000 we had 70 new churches since 1988.**

Truly the Lord is presenting the ARP Church with increasing opportunities to expand. Thirty four of those 70 churches were missions that were organized as churches. Thirty six of those 70 churches were organized churches received from outside the denomination. In 1988, we had 177 churches and missions and by 1999 we reported 244 churches and missions.

II. The Capital Fund Campaign

Dr. Charles Carlisle was the chairman of our capital fund campaign and he reported to Synod last year that we had met the \$3,000,000 goal. The final results were as follows:

Churches Participating —	75.74%
Total Pledged —	\$3,186,958.76 — 106% of Goal
Undesignated Pledges —	\$2,584,981.50
Designated Pledges —	\$601,977.26

The undesignated pledges were moneys to be given to form the endowment whose income will be used to give matching grants to new churches for land and/or first buildings. The designated pledges were gifts that were given for specific works and were not part of the endowment.

To date we have received \$1,433,852.65 toward our pledges of \$2,584,981.50. This means that there is a little over a million dollars yet to be received. The campaign is now into its third year. The Board encourages churches and individuals to meet their goals within the three year campaign.

III. National Strategy

The Board believes that the Lord would have the ARP Church continue to create new Presbyteries. Several of our Presbyteries have discussed

splitting into smaller geographical areas. In addition, there are opportunities to start ARP Churches in new areas.

One of those areas is the southwest. As a result of the request of interested people, we now have a new mission church in Texas. The new work is in Corpus Christi TX and is under the supervision of Catawba Presbytery. Jim Aubey and his family moved to Corpus Christi in January. There are possibilities for other works in Texas as we have been approached by others and it might be possible to see a Texas Presbytery in a few years.

This is historically significant. There was an ARP Texas Presbytery in the last century. It would be exciting to reclaim Texas.

IV. Revitalization Program

The sixth revitalization program is now underway in our Florida Presbytery. Five churches, Bartow, Chapel by the Sea, Lake Placid, Lake Wales, and Trinity are participating in the latest program. The program is attached (Attachment A). The response has been very positive on the part of all the churches.

The Board plans to start a seventh program in the fall of 2000 in the Carolinas and Georgia. We invite all the churches in that area to consider becoming part of the next program.

V. Guidelines for New Churches

The reception of a large number of new churches and the organization of missions into the ARP has been an encouraging development. We are thankful that there are a number of churches who share our values and vision.

Last year, the Board began to discuss the kinds of churches and groups that would be comfortable in the ARP Church. The goal was to provide guidelines that might aid our Presbyteries when they talk to churches that might have an interest in joining the Presbytery.

The Board's desire is to assimilate these groups smoothly into the denomination. We want to see our new churches become active participants in the life of the Presbyteries and the Denomination. We seek churches and groups that would be supportive of the work of our denomination as we seek to be faithful to the Great Commission.

Three sets of guidelines have been prepared by the Board. The Board's goal was to "Formulate guidelines that will ensure compatibility in philosophy of ministry with the ONA Vision Statement in mission developers planting new churches and in prospective churches and their pastors being received into the presbyteries".

These guidelines were then sent to the Minister and His Work Committee for their review and endorsement. After their review and modification, these guidelines are being presented to Synod with the joint endorsement of both the Board of Outreach North America and Synod's Committee on the Minister and His Work.(Attachment B).

The Board seeks Synod's approval of these recommended guidelines. It is hoped that these guidelines would help in assuring that new churches

and pastors would be in accord with the policies and goals of the ARP Church.

VI. Finding and Equipping Church Planters

The future of the ARP Church will be dependent upon our success in planting new churches. The key to successful church planting is finding men who have been gifted by the Lord for church planting. Such men are rare and it is one of the prime tasks of Outreach North America to find and recruit potential church planters. We will continue to recruit men while still in seminary to send to our assessment center to evaluate them as potential church planters.

We also seek to equip those who have the gifts for church planting. We send church planters to a week long course on church planting taught by Reformed Seminary. We also send couples to a church planting boot camp for applied training and help in starting a new church.

In addition, we conduct a church planters and wives' retreat each year at Bonclarcken. This years retreat was led by John Yenchko from the New Life Church in Philadelphia, Tom Hawkes from the Uptown Christ Covenant Church in Charlotte and Boyce Wilson from our Ebenezer Church in Rock Hill. These retreats offer our church planting couples a time of training and fellowship with their peers. They have proven to be very helpful.

One help to church planters and their families is adequate financial support. We are proposing a change to our Policy Book to help assure there is an annual review of the mission developer's compensation.

VII. Status Report on the Work

In 1999, three new works were started; the Hope Church in Lutz, FL with Mike Jones as the Developer, the Calvary Community Church in Stone Mountain, GA with Michael Leach as the Developer and the yoked field of McDonough and the Hopewell Church in Covington, GA with David Harper as the Pastor/Developer. Eight mission churches were organized in 1999. There are now a total of 33 mission churches in the denomination.

The following 16 missions received financial support from Synod during all or part of 1999.

Catawba Presbytery

Old Cherokee Road, Lexington, SC —Soku Yi Supply

Iglesia Biblica, Columbia, SC —Rev. J. J. Diaz

Redeemer, Surfside Beach, SC—Rev. Charles Clendinen

First Presbytery

Ambassador, Apex, NC—Rev. Warren Harvey

Christ, Pinehurst, NC—Rev. Don Jordon

CornerStone, Pineville, NC—Rev. Morrie Lawing

Hendersonville Hispanic

Hendersonville, NC—Rev. Juan Unda

Trinity Chapel, Raleigh, NC—Rev. John Lewellen

Florida Presbytery

Faith, Wildwood, FL—Rev. Christ Hardeman
 Hope, Lutz, FL—Rev. Mike Jones

Second Presbytery

Lawrenceville Korean
 Lawrenceville, GA—Rev. Chan Jeon
 Calvary Community, Stone Mt., GA—Rev. Michael Leach
 Hopewell/McDonough, GA—Rev. David Harper
 Korean Church, Atlanta, GA—Rev. Paul Kim

Pacific Presbytery

New work, Pomona, CA—Rev. Paul Oh

The proposed budget for 2000-2001 is attached.

The officers for 2000-2001 are

Chairman—Rev. Wayne Frazier
 Vice Chairman—Dr. Jay Adams
 Secretary—Mr. Lee Hess

Recommendations

1. That Synod encourage churches and individuals to complete their financial commitments to the Changed Lives, Changing Lives campaign .
2. That Synod approve the Recommended Guidelines for new churches and church plants. (Attachment B)
3. That Synod approve the change in V.A.8.h. of the Policy Book of the Board of Outreach North America to add the words, “by the Church Extension Committee” after the word “annually” so that it reads; The pastor’s salary will be paid at least once a month and will be reviewed annually by the Church Extension Committee to be certain that his financial needs are adequately met.
4. That Synod encourage the Presbyteries to encourage their students of theology to prayerfully consider a possible call to church planting.
5. That churches be encouraged to invite Presbytery and Synod Church Extension Directors to make presentations concerning the challenges and opportunities of new church planting in the ARP Church.
6. That the proposed budget be approved.
7. That the report of the Board of Outreach North America be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jay Adams, Chairman

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

Budget

	2000	2001
RECEIPTS		
Denominational Ministry Allocation		
Allocated for Admin.& Dev.	\$ 189,173	\$ 226,393
Allocated for Church & Mis.	\$ 394,450	\$ 384,340
Operating Fund Interest	\$ 10,402	\$ 16,171

Manse Loan Fund			
Investment Interest	\$	7,367	\$ 7,662
Mattie B. Ellis Fund Interest	\$	683	\$ 710
Permanent Funds of Synod	\$	6,888	\$ 7,163
Special Offering	\$	25,055	\$ 25,055
WSU Unrestricted	\$	31,500	\$ 31,500
Direct Support and Specials	\$	9,939	\$ 9,939
Mission & Training			
Hillcrest Fund	\$	6,986	\$ 7,265
Ralph Grigsby Fund	\$	1,610	\$ 1,675
St. Andrew Church Fund	\$	8,519	\$ 8,860
Unrestricted Sub-Total	\$	<u>692,572</u>	\$ <u>726,733</u>
Miscellaneous Restricted			
Corpus Christi Work	\$	27,500	\$ 12,500
ONA Endowment Fund			
Income for Distribution	\$	<u>68,608</u>	\$ —
Restricted Sub-Total	\$	<u>96,108</u>	\$ <u>12,500</u>
Revitalization			
GS Allocation	\$	6,000	\$ 6,000
Church Contributions			
& Payments	\$	<u>12,000</u>	\$ <u>12,000</u>
Revitalization Sub-Total	\$	<u>18,000</u>	\$ <u>18,000</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	<u>806,680</u>	\$ <u>757,233</u>
DISBURSEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE			
Director of Outreach North America			
Salary & TDA	\$	38,104	\$ 39,247
Housing	\$	19,298	\$ 19,877
Retirement	\$	4,879	\$ 5,026
Insurance	\$	7,700	\$ 7,942
Soc. Sec. Equity Allow.	\$	<u>2,097</u>	\$ <u>1,541</u>
Director Sub-Total	\$	<u>72,078</u>	\$ <u>73,633</u>
Assistant to Director ¹			
Salary & TDA	\$	19,626	\$ 40,430
Housing	\$	7,725	\$ 15,914
Retirement	\$	2,325	\$ 4,789
Insurance	\$	3,466	\$ 7,942
Employer Tax	\$	<u>934</u>	\$ <u>1,923</u>
Assistant to Director			
Sub-Total	\$	<u>34,076</u>	\$ <u>70,998</u>
Administrative Support	\$	<u>56,834</u>	\$ <u>53,825</u>
Staff Expenses	\$	<u>15,655</u>	\$ <u>15,675</u>
General Office and Board			
General Office	\$	15,000	\$ 15,450
Rent	\$	7,577	\$ 7,577
Board Travel & Meeting	\$	12,639	\$ 13,018
Promotion and Publicity			
Outreach	\$	5,805	\$ 5,805

Other	\$	<u>15,000</u>	\$	<u>15,000</u>
General Office and Board				
Sub-Total	\$	<u>56,021</u>	\$	<u>56,850</u>
Administrative Sub-Total	\$	<u>234,664</u>	\$	<u>270,981</u>
PROGRAM & MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT				
Mission Development				
Assessment Center	\$	12,360	\$	12,731
Mission Deve. Consultant	\$	4,000	\$	4,120
Mission Developers Retreat	\$	12,875	\$	13,261
Mission Developers Training	\$	23,175	\$	23,870
Coordinator Supplements				
Catawba Presbytery	\$	18,000	\$	15,000
Florida Presbytery	\$	18,000	\$	15,000
Second Presbytery	\$	20,000	\$	10,000
Providential Contingency	\$	<u>20,000</u>	\$	<u>20,000</u>
Mission Development				
Sub-Total	\$	<u>128,410</u>	\$	<u>113,982</u>
Intern Program	\$	<u>80,000</u>	\$	<u>80,000</u>
Development Sub-Total	\$	<u>208,410</u>	\$	<u>193,982</u>
Church & Mission				
Evangelism	\$	<u>10,000</u>	\$	<u>10,000</u>
Multi-Cultural				
Multi-Cultural Consultant	\$	3,000	\$	3,090
Multi-Cultural Plants (Maximum 12/8/4)				
Iglesia Biblica (Columbia, SC)	\$	10,000	\$	8,000
Hendersonville Hispanic	\$	4,333	\$	333
Pacific Presbytery	\$	5,000		
New Work (Years 1 - 2)	\$	12,000	\$	8,000
New Work	\$	—	\$	<u>12,000</u>
Multi-Cultural Ministries				
Sub-Total	\$	<u>34,333</u>	\$	<u>31,423</u>
New Church Development (30/20/10)				
Christ Church, Pinehurst	\$	7,200	\$	—
Frederick, MD	\$	30,000	\$	20,000
New Work	\$	—	\$	<u>30,000</u>
New Church Development				
Sub-Total	\$	<u>37,200</u>	\$	<u>50,000</u>
Yoked Plants (20,000 1yr Maximum)				
Second Presbytery	\$	10,000		—
New Work	\$	<u>20,000</u>	\$	<u>20,000</u>
Yoked Plant Sub-Total	\$	<u>30,000</u>	\$	<u>20,000</u>
New Church Plants²				
Catawba Presbytery				
Crossway (Corpus Christi)				
General Synod				
Supplement	\$	30,000	\$	20,000

Special Funding	\$ 27,500	\$ 12,500
Redeemer	\$ 36,250	\$ 7,500
First Presbytery		
Ambassador	\$ 5,000	\$ —
Cross Com. (1/1/98)***	\$ 15,000	\$ —
Cleveland County or Winston-Salem	\$ 34,583	\$ 52,917
Florida Presbytery		
The Hope (Tampa)	\$ 55,417	\$ 32,083
Second Presbytery		
Calvary (Stone Mountain)	\$ 44,583	\$ 17,500
Dacula	\$ 34,583	\$ 52,917
New Work		\$ 57,500
Mission Supplement		
Sub-Total	\$ 282,916	\$ 252,917
Church & Mission Sub-Total	\$ 394,449	\$ 364,340
Program and Ministry		
Sub-Total	\$ 602,859	\$ 558,322
Miscellaneous Restricted		
ONA Endowment to Presbyteies	\$ 27,443	—
ONA Endowment Grants	\$ 41,165	
Miscellaneous Restricted		
Sub-Total	\$ 68,608	\$ —
Revitalization	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 924,131	\$ 847,303
Change in Unrestr. Balance	\$ (117,451)	\$ (90,070)
Unrest. Reserve		
Beginning of Year	\$ 359,353	\$ 241,902
Unrestr. Reserve		
End of Year	\$ 241,902	\$ 151,832

¹Funding is for 6 mos in 2000

²6 mos at\$5,000; 12 mos at\$4,583.33; 12 mos at\$2,500

³Not Budgeted for 2001

SIXTH REVITALIZATION PROGRAM FLORIDA PRESBYTERY — 1999-2000

- I. Initial Cluster Meeting with Pastors — October 5, 1999
 - Introduction to the problem
 - Jim Corbitt
 - Hal Morris
- II. Workshop #I — October 21-23, 1999
 - Spiritual Renewal
 - Introduction to Church Renewal

- Worship
 Jim Corbitt
 Mike Jones
 John Yenchko
- III. Cluster Meeting # 2—November 16, 1999
 Improving Your Preaching
 Jay Adams
- IV. Workshop # II—January 20-22, 2000
 Leadership in the Revitalized Church
 Communicating Change to the Church
 Purpose Statement, Vision and Philosophy of Ministry
 Dynamic Worship
 Tom Hawkes
 Hal Morris
 Boyce Wilson
- V. Cluster Meeting # 3 — March 7, 2000
 Developing Leaders for Change
 Bob Stauffer
- VI. Workshop # III - April 27 —29, 2000
 Small Group Ministries
 Effective Outreach Programs
 Review of Goals
 Worship
 Steve Childers
 Jim Corbitt
 Mike Jones
 Hal Morris
- VII. Cluster Meeting # 4 —May 16, 2000
 Developing a Changed Culture and Change Agent Leaders
 Harry Reeder
- VIII. Cluster Meeting #5—June 8, 2000
 Introduction and Implementation of New Outreach Programs in
 a Long Established Church
 Wayne Frazier

**RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES
 FOR NEW CHURCHES
 BEING RECEIVED INTO PRESBYTERIES**

1. There is to be at least one congregational meeting with ARP representatives prior to any vote to become ARP. This meeting should be to brief the congregation about the ARP and to include a Q and A session.
2. There must be submitted for review by the Presbytery a written summary of the church's history.
3. The session and congregation must confirm in writing that they accept the doctrines and theology set forth in the *ARP Standards*

without reservations. If there are a few minor reservations, they are to be clearly stated to the presbytery.

4. The church must agree to the *FOG*, *Book of Discipline*, and *Book of Worship* without reservation.
5. The session and congregation must agree to provide financial support to the Denominational Ministry Fund.
6. The session must agree to send Ruling Elders to all stated Presbytery and Synod meetings, unless Providentially hindered. Officers should also be willing and agree to serve on Presbytery and Synod committees and boards as needed.
7. The church must agree to meet Presbytery minimums for pastoral support and contribute to Synod's retirement fund.
8. The church must be self supporting or else submit to the general rules regarding missions as set forth in the *FOG*, Chapter III,B,C and Chapter IX.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is a conservative, evangelical Presbyterian Church. We are committed to reaching the lost both at home and throughout the world. We are a church with a real sense of unity and balance; a church with wide spread general agreement about our direction.

We invite like minded Christians to join with us in the work of Christ's kingdom. We welcome all the different talents, abilities, and interests of those who are interested in a home in the ARP Church. All who can conscientiously affirm our doctrinal standards and who find themselves in agreement with our ethos are encouraged to join with us.

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR MINISTERS BEING RECEIVED WITH A CONGREGATION INTO A PRESBYTERY

The *FOG* has qualifications in Chapter X for ministers. In addition to these, the Committee would recommend the following: The minister

1. must agree that the session and congregation provide financial support to the Denominational Ministry Fund.
2. must give up all official "memberships" in other denominations.
3. must agree to attend all stated meetings of Presbytery and Synod unless Providentially hindered and be willing to serve on Presbytery and Synod Boards/Committees as needed.

In addition, we would recommend that there be a thorough review of the minister's

- a. Track record, including
 1. Number of churches served and length of service in each church.
 2. Membership when he came and membership when he left.
 3. Under what circumstances he left
- b. Financial stability
- c. Marriage

- d. Views on current issues in the church and in our denomination
- e. References
 - 1. From officers of his previous churches
 - 2. From fellow ministers who know him well
 - 3. From seminary professors

**RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES
FOR MISSION DEVELOPERS AND INTERNS
BEING CONSIDERED FOR A NEW CHURCH PLANT**

1. All mission developers and interns must meet the requirements for a minister in the ARP Church.
2. All mission developers and interns must be approved by the ARP Assessment Center/Process or another assessment center that is acceptable to the Board of ONA.
3. All mission developers and interns must be in accord with the National Vision of ONA and will focus on reaching the unchurched.

The National Vision states that we seek to transform North America's heart by reaching the unchurched; transform our denomination's heart by extending the boundaries of our denomination throughout North America; transform our congregation's heart by planting churches with 300 to 500 worshipers committed to planting other churches; and transforming our hearts by initiating evangelistic opportunities, church plants, and new presbyteries as we seek to extend God's grace to others.
4. Before receiving a call to a particular work the mission developers or an intern* being placed with the mission developer will submit a detailed "Ministry Plan" to the Board and to the presbytery committee. As a minimum this plan will include the candidate's
 - a. Primary target group
 - b. Core values including style of ministry and worship
 - c. Use of music in worship
 - d. Detailed outreach strategy including a concise purpose statement
 - e. Detailed strategy for time management
 - f. Plans for youth and children's ministry
 - g. View of the role of women in the local church
 - h. View of the ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - i. Proposed budget and stewardship plan for the first three years

*the intern's ministry plan will not be used during the internship, but will be used to assure compatibility between the intern and the church planter.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Dunlap** was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Dunlap

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Jack Basie. Bob Hovey was elected Secretary.

The roll was taken and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee were reviewed.

The recommendations of the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. were considered and we make the following recommendations:

1. That recommendation #1 be approved.
2. That recommendation #2 be approved.
3. That recommendation #3 be approved.
4. That recommendation #4 be approved.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Jack Basie.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILLIAM H. DUNLAP ORPHANAGE, INC.

The Dunlap Trustees met on two occasions since the last meeting of Synod, November 3-4, 1999, at Bonclarken and March 22, 2000, by telephone conference. Minutes of the meetings have been filed at the ARP Center and will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Moderator's Committee on Dunlap.

Ministries

As a denomination we no longer have "our" home to care for orphaned children. Instead, we support several Christian homes which are providing comprehensive care of children who have been deprived of normal parental care.

Resources for these ministries are provided by

- The endowment established when the Dunlap Home closed. These funds are invested under the auspices of the ARP Foundation with a targeted allocation of 75% equity and 25% non-equity. Equity investments will include large cap growth stocks (40%), large cap value stocks (40%) and international stocks traded on US exchanges (20%). The fund has a long-term, total return objective to average approximately 9% per year. The Board will allocate, on a yearly basis, 5% of the average market value for the three (3) previous years.
- Trusts and restricted endowments which have Dunlap as a beneficiary. Currently Dunlap is a beneficiary of the B. J. Wade Trust, the Ola B. Hunter Trust, the Kennedy Annuity, and the Permanent Funds of Synod.

The Dunlap ministry does not receive any current funding from the General Synod and does not participate in any special offerings of the General Synod. The ministry would willingly receive and would partici-

pate in the development of any testamentary or deferred gift instruments.

Due diligence in the exercise of their fiduciary responsibilities is inseparable from the Trustees' charge by the Church to be its arm in tending to the fatherless. On an annual basis the trustees evaluate grant proposals to determine the homes to receive financial support. Each organization wishing to make application has been provided with a "General Policy and Instructions for Applicants" and "Policy Guidelines for the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage." A Trustee is assigned to each applicant to facilitate understanding and evaluation. Each Trustee is expected to carefully review each proposal in light of these two documents. A special committee of the Board is developing an application form for those seeking funds.

For the present, grant proposals must include:

- a narrative statement that describes how the organization is providing "comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment;"
- names and address of other contributing organizations;
- a line-item budget identifying both income and expenses;
- IRS determination letter (all ministries must be tax-exempt or governed by a tax-exempt organization); and
- audited financial statement, or in the absence of an audited financial statement, a copy of the financial report submitted to the Board of Directors.

Funding for current operations generally is limited to five years and is offered on a declining basis. However, the Trustees are continuing to explore the advisability and possibility of establishing long-term relationships with certain Christian homes which meet the Dunlap criteria and which are "providing comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care." A policy guideline for ongoing relationships has been adopted and is attached to this report as information. Two ministries, Palmer Home for Children and Collins Home, have been identified for possible ongoing relationships.

The Dunlap Trustees have asked sessions and presbyteries to assist in identifying organizations which might need the financial assistance available through the Dunlap Fund. We express thanks to those of you have responded. Interested organizations should be encouraged to contact:

William H. Dunlap Fund
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center
1 Cleveland St., Suite 110
Greenville SC 29601-3696

In 2000 financial support is being provided to the following (the amount of support is reflected in the budget attached to this report): **Barium Springs Home for Children**, P. O. Box 1, Barium Springs, NC 28010, (1-800-320-4157, www.bariumsprings.org), has served the needs of North Carolina children since its founding in 1891. Its Teaching Family Model homes "provide a strong faith centered, family-style of living" for the youth in its care. It is our hope that our nominal financial support will encourage

involvement of churches in North Carolina. **“Charity,” Tula Region, Dubinskaya, Russia.** Through the ministry efforts of a member (Bill Johanson, MD) of the Coddle Creek ARP Church, Mooresville, NC, funds were carried to the orphanage. Thirty-five children live in an old school house. Further ministry is being explored. Funding is provided through the Coddle Creek ARP Church. **Presbyterian Home, 150 Linden Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24503-2099 (804-384-3138),** has existed since 1903 “to provide a ministry of healing and nurturing to individuals and their families... [to] meet the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children, youth, adults and families.” Our nominal financial support opens these services to the churches in Virginia Presbytery. **Shiphrah Ministries’ Extended Care Home, P. O. Box 824, Belton, SC 29627 (864-338-4673, e-mail: shiphrah@armorweb.net),** is an outgrowth of Shiphrah Ministries and became operational in 1996. This ministry provides a Christian environment to meet the needs of young girls who are at high-risk for teenage pregnancies. The program is based on a minimal one-year residential program to a maximum stay ending when a young girl is 18 years old. It is designed to allow the young girl to develop personal relationships based on trust and honesty. The extended care facility has been given the name “Dunlap Home” in memory of Anne Belle Dunlap McDaniel. A matching grant has been approved to assist in the modification of the physical facilities for Shiphrah’s year-long Parenting Program. **The Potter’s House Children’s Home, 140 Dunty Road, Lake Placid, Florida 33852 (941-699-1685, e-mail: alpha1@strato.net.)** The Potter’s House, licensed and accredited by the Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies, also includes an accredited private school for grades K-3–12 and a satellite program of Calvary College. It houses up to thirty-two children, offering shelter for homeless and abused children and unwed pregnant girls. Its purpose is to share Christian love and principles in a loving and accepting environment. A challenge grant has been approved to help the home expand its programs. **The Children’s Home Society of Florida, 1260 S. Golfview Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830 (941-519-3906)** was first funded in 1997. Funds are provided for the Hansen Center emergency center for children who “have been victims of abuse and/or neglect and there are no appropriate family members with whom they are able to live at the present time.” **Roxie Anna Collins Children’s Home Ministry, Highway 188, P. O. Box 745, Seneca, SC 29678 (864-882-0893),** is a non-denominational, Christian family group home, and is funded through private contributions. The home is expanding its ministry by the addition of two new residential homes and a Family Center. The Family and Community Outreach Center will provide a place to conduct counseling, general educational opportunities for the children and families, and three independent living quarters for parents in transition and/or young adults who are preparing to leave the Collins Home. **Palmer Home for Children, P. O. Box 746, Columbus, MS 39703-0746, (601-328-5704),** is “a Christian home for children who have nowhere else

to turn.” Established in 1895, it is chartered under the laws of the State of Mississippi and is governed by an independent, self-perpetuating Board of Directors. Two-thirds of the board members must be members in good standing of a Presbyterian Church (five Presbyterian denominations are represented by the current Board.) Currently the home has seven cottages, each capable of housing 10 children..

The Board continues to provide financial assistance for orphans attending Erskine College. The Board has reviewed with Erskine the need for financial assistance for orphans and has found a continuing need. Funding has been set at \$20,000 per year and will be reviewed periodically.

In addition to the Erskine Dunlap Scholarship program, the Board has a scholarship program for Associate Reformed Presbyterian orphans who are unable to attend Erskine College. Interested parties should contact the Board at the ARP Center address.

The Board reiterates its willingness to work cooperatively with other arms of the Church. The Board does not want to use its funds for substitute financing for existing ministries, but is willing to explore the development of new ministries which will meet the needs of orphaned children which are not now being met.

Administrative Activities

Budget for 2001. The budget for 2001 was approved and is based on using 5% of the three-year (1998-2000) average beginning year market value of invested funds plus the income from trusts. The Trustees call to the attention of the General Synod that no denominational ministry funds are requested from the General Synod. Dunlap funds are audited as a part of the General Synod Audit, with financial reports presented to the Trustees.

Meeting Dates for 2000-2001: November 1-2, 2000, 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken; March 21, 2001, 11:00 A.M. (EST), Telephone Conference Call; and November 7-8, 2001, 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken.

Officers for July 1, 2000—June 30, 2001:

Chairman: Darrell A. Peer

Vice-Chairman: J. Ray Starr

Secretary: Tom Patterson

Treasurer: Guy H. Smith, III.

Ed Hogan serves as the Administrative Officer and administrative support is provided by the Office of Administrative Services.

The death of Trustee Nancy Gaston in October brought sorrow and joy. We express our gratitude for her life of witness and service.

Appreciation is expressed to retiring members Paul Shannon and Martha Dees. We ask the court to note that Mr. Shannon’s service to Christ and His Church through the Dunlap ministry spans thirty-eight (38) years.

Recommendations and Requests

1. We encourage each session to help the William H. Dunlap Trustees identify homes which provide comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment for children.
2. We encourage each session to explore opportunities for involvement in ministry to children in the community.
3. That the Budget for 2001 be approved.
4. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,
William B. Everett, Chairman
Tom Patterson, Secretary

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP FUND Budget

	2000	2001
RECEIPTS		
Investment Proceeds	\$ 111,037	\$ 111,837
Trust Accounts		
Permanent Funds of Synod	1,256	1,319
B. J. Wade Estate	38,776	38,776
Ola B. Hunter Trust	2,999	2,999
Kennedy Annuity (Corpus)	495	495
Denominational Ministry Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 154,563</u>	<u>\$ 155,426</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Administration		
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 3,247	\$ 3,183
Legal Services, Trustee Fees	14,805	14,912
Administrative Support	5,000	4,750
General Office	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Sub-Total for Administration	<u>\$ 23,552</u>	<u>\$ 23,345</u>
Ministry		
• Collins Home	25,000	
• Palmer Home	25,000	
• Shiphrah Extended Care	3,027	
• Alpha Omega Potter House Project	10,000	
• Alpha Omega Potter House	10,000	
• Presbyterian Home, Lynchburg, VA	1,000	
• Children's Home Society of Fla.	3,000	
• Coddle Creek ARP Church ("Charity")	1,000	
• Barium Springs Home	1,000	
• Erskine Scholarships	<u>20,000</u>	
Ministry Sub-Total	<u>\$ 99,027</u>	<u>\$ 91,740</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 122,579</u>	<u>\$ 115,085</u>
Reserve for Ministry	<u>\$ 31,984</u>	<u>\$ 40,341</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$ 1,376,236</u>	<u>\$1,408,220</u>
Ending Fund Balance (Projected)	<u>\$ 1,408,220</u>	<u>\$1,448,561</u>

**POLICY GUIDELINES FOR ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WILLIAM H. DUNLAP OR-
PHANAGE**

FOREWORD

The **primary** purpose of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage (Dunlap) is to provide (and/or support homes which provide) comprehensive physical care; literary, educational, moral and religious training; and emotional and spiritual care in a Christian environment for children when the parent or parents are unable to do so.

In June 1978, the General Synod chose to close its existing home for children and to use assets gathered for that purpose to endow a fund, the earnings of which would be used to support homes providing comprehensive care in the tradition of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage. Since that time, Dunlap, through the General Synod, its presbyteries, and congregations, has identified existing or proposed residential care programs which provide total care of children in a Christian environment. Normally, funding for such programs has been limited to five years and has been on a declining basis.

Recognizing that there are homes which are doing what the William H. Dunlap Home did in the past, the Trustees have adopted these guidelines for establishing relationships which will enhance the involvement of Associate Reformed Presbyterians in the “care, support, maintenance and education of orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children.”

Guidelines

The following criteria must be met before Dunlap shall consider the establishment of an ongoing relationship:

- a. The primary purpose of the ministry must be to provide a home where children receive comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment.
- b. The ministry must have been approved for funding under the *Policy Guidelines for the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage* and must have been approved for funding for at least three consecutive years.
- c. The ministry must
 - 1) reflect the involvement of an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, OR
 - 2) have an Associate Reformed Presbyterian on the board or governing body.
- d. The ministry must be willing to have a member of the Dunlap Board
 - 1) serve as an ex-officio member of their governing board (voice and vote), OR
 - 2) serve as an advisory member of their governing board, but with the right to receive notice and to attend all meetings of the board, including executive session.

- e. Not more than 50% of the board's funding after the Erskine Scholarship allocation shall be allocated under these guidelines.

Formal Agreement

At the meeting in which the third-year funding is approved, Dunlap shall determine if there is sufficient interest to pursue an ongoing relationship. If such interest is indicated, the Administrative Officer shall be directed to work with the ministry and ARP entities or individuals currently involved in the ministry to prepare a formal agreement for submission to the ministry board and to Dunlap at its next meeting. The formal agreement shall include:

- a. The proposed funding for the year following the approved agreement.
- b. The type of representation from Dunlap.
- c. The reporting requirements of the ministry. Reporting requirements shall include
 - 1) an annual audit
 - 2) use of allocated funds
 - 3) statement of how the ministry is maintaining comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment for the children
 - 4) statement of any significant changes in the purpose or operation of the ministry
 - 5) identification of readily, identifiable involvement of Associate Reformed Presbyterian churches or individuals.
- d. Dunlap Responsibilities. Examples of items which might be included:
 - 1) Dunlap shall report annually to the General Synod, listing the name, address, and contact person of the ministry.
 - 2) Dunlap shall provide the ministry with a mailing list of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in its geographical area.
- e. Terms for ending relationship.

Synod adjourned for lunch with the Benediction and Blessing by S. W. Hardy.

Wednesday, June 7, 2000 2:00 P.M.

The afternoon session began with a presentation on the "Ministry of the Erskines" by J. R. Beeke. Following the address, members of the court posed questions to Dr. Beeke.

The promotional program of **World Witness** was chaired by J. Mariner, Director. As a part of the program G. W. Letchworth, on the occasion of his retirement, was recognized by the Board and spoke to the Synod.

The Report of the **Committee on Nominations** was presented

and adopted.

The Moderator called attention of the Synod to recommendation number three and encouraged the Synod to take special note of this need.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations met on February 7, 2000. Present for the meeting were: Cecil Young (WSU Representative), Charles Carlisle (Moderator-Elect), Peter Waid (Second Presbytery Representative), Fred Hartin (Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery Representative), Max Bolin (Virginia Presbytery Representative), Doug Jones (Synod's Coordinator), David Griffin (Mississippi Valley Presbytery), G. J. Gerard (Northeast Presbytery Representative), Jim Klukow (Florida Presbytery Representative), and Dwight Pearson (Catawba Presbytery Representative and Moderator). Absent were Bob Cara (First Presbytery Representative) and K. W. Lim (Pacific Presbytery Representative).

The Committee considered the vacant positions on the boards and committees of the General Synod. The committee reviewed the information forms of all persons whose names were submitted to the Committee. All nominees were approved through a process of open discussion and consensus building.

The Committee expresses its thanks to all persons who allowed their names to be submitted to the Committee for consideration for their willingness to serve. The Committee thanks all persons, sessions, board and committees who submitted the names of persons for consideration. The Committee appreciates the efforts of those persons and sessions who do submit nominees. We would encourage more sessions and individuals to submit names to the Committee.

We ask that those Sessions or persons submitting nominations review carefully the Nominations Packet and the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, to be sure the nominee meets the standards established by Synod. This year we received a number of inappropriate nominations.

The Committee presents the following nominees for service on Boards, Committees, the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, and as officers or representatives of the General Synod. The terms of service will begin July 1, 2000, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected.

Board of Annuities and Relief

2006— Michael Cruce (Young Memorial)

ARP Foundation

2004 — Steven Jun Suk Kim (Walking With God) (P) (Replacing Ik Gun Lee)

2006 — Timothy A. Erskine, William J. Summerville (First Gastonia) (F)

Bonclarken

2003— Phillip Reavis (Greenville) (Replacing Brown Parkinson)

2006— Jimmy Matthews (Tirzah), Robert M. Collins (Effingham), Mrs. Lisa R. Senn (Newberry)

Covenant Discipleship

2006 — Lou Ann Aheron (Ebenezer, SC)

Erskine

2001 — James S. Kidd (Fayetteville) (Replacing Susan Audé Fisher)

2006 — John T. Moore (First Columbia), W. Hartley Powell (Non-ARP), Dr. Mabel L. Purkerson (Non-ARP), J. Barry Dagenhart, Robert B. Elliott, III

Executive Board

2004— R. Burns Sanderson (Prosperity, AL) (T) , M. Stevens Ulmer (V)

Outreach North America

2006— R. Eddie Spencer, Penny Thornton (Sherwood Forest) (WSU)

Publications

2002 — James D. McLurkin (Replacing Mark E. Ross)

2003 — Elizabeth W. “Libby” Draffin (Due West) (Replacing Debbie Schwencer)

2006 — Rob Roy McGregor

Stewardship

2006— R. S. (Joe) Ellis, III (Due West)

William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.

2004— Ho Jin Kang (Vineyard) (P)

2006 — Jenni West (WSU) , Teddy Ray (Fayetteville) (T)

World Witness

2006 — Paul Nunn (Chapel-By-The-Sea), Mary Alice Mitchell (Ebenezer, SC), Patsy Ratchford (Christ Community) (WSU)

Ecclesiastical Commission On Judiciary Affairs

2003 — Harold B. Probes, Jr. (Replacing Warren Wardlaw)

2004 — Carl Geisik, James C. Barker

Historical Concerns

2006— Bobby F. Edmonds (Pressly Memorial, SC)

Inter-Church Relations

2006— Steve Weber (Prosperity, TN), Charles B. Evans, III

Lay Ministry

2001— Sara M. Morrison (Due West) (Replacing Joyce Hamer)

2004— Duane Clark (Brookside), John T. Schafer (Covenant), Patti Synder (Huntersville)

Theological and Social Concerns

2004 — David J. Walkup, Jeffrey Weber (Christ Community)

2001 — Robert W. Bell, Erskine Seminary Representative

Worship

2004— Melinda Miller (Non-ARP), Brooks Kuykendall (Due West), Charles Stoker

Officers of Synod:

2004— Principal Clerk: C. Ronald Beard

2004— Treasurer: Guy H. Smith, III

2004— Historian: William Roberts

The following Presbytery appointees are reported as information:

Covenant Discipleship

- 2001— Richard Lewis (C), Greg Hamer (F), Brian Phipps (FL), Kyle Locke (S)
- 2003— William B. Everett (M)
- 2004— Theodore Y. Kim (P), Ronald L. Pritts (V)
- 2006— Robert Whittet (N), Paul K. Shannon (T)

Executive Board of Synod

- 2001— Wayne Stanchfield (M), Christopher Bortz (N)
- 2002— Guy H. Smith, Jr. (C), Lee Ackart (FL), Eui C. Lim (P)
- 2003— Rob Roy McGregor (S), David Sides (F)
- 2004— R. Burns Sanderson (T), M. Stevens Ulmer (V)

Outreach North America, The Board of Church Extension

- 2001— Edgar W. "Eddie" Williams, Jr. (C), James F. Wittke (FL), Hae S. Kim (P)
- 2002— Douglas Petersen (F), Alan Avera (N), Roy Hulling (T)
- 2003— Randal T. Ruble (S), M. Stevens Ulmer (V), Stephen W. Hardy (M)

Board of Stewardship

- 2001— Sun Min Hwang (P), Zeb C. Williams (V)
- 2002— David Lauten (C), J. Michael Lineberger (F), Thomas Shoger (FL), C. Biddle Foster (N), Tim Erskine (S)
- 2003— Mrs. Martha Dees (M)
- 2004— Charles Kocisek (T)

William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.

- 2001— William B. Everett (M)
- 2002— J. Ray Starr (F), J. Barry Wells (N), Ho Jin Kang (P)
- 2003— Darrell Peer (FL), David J. Vickery (S)
- 2004— Ho Jin Kang (P), Zeb C. Williams (V)
- 2005— Michael Rogers (C)
- 2006— Paul K. Shannon (T), Jenni West (WSU)

Committee on Minister and His Work

- 2001— Ray A. King (C), David Galletta (N), H. Neely Gaston (S), W. L. Barron (FL), Shadrach K. Chung (P), Calvin W. Todd (T)
- 2002— Robert P. Brawley (F), Robert C. Gordon (V)
- 2004— Charles Y. Todd (M),

Committee on Nominations

- 2001— Dwight L. Pearson (C), Shadrach K. Chung (P), James L. Klukow (FL)
- 2002— David T. Griffin (M), G. J. Gerard (N), Gary Pierstorff (S), Donald G. Hampton (V), Mary Ann Fleagle (WSU)
- 2004— Paul K. Shannon (T), John E. Hill (F)

Officers for the Committee July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001 are: James L. Klukow, Chairman; G. J. Gerard, Vice-Chairman; and David T. Griffin, Secretary.

The Nominations packets for 2001 will be mailed in September 2000. The deadline for submission of nominees will be January 15, 2001. The Committee will meet February 12, 2001, at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

Recommendations

1. That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in the positions indicated.
2. That each person or group desiring to submit a nomination review carefully the "Guidelines For The Committee on Nominations" found in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, to be sure the nominee meets the standards established by Synod.
3. That each Session, Pastor, Board and Committee make a greater effort to identify qualified persons who are willing to serve on the various Boards and Committees of Synod, and to submit the names of these individuals to the Committee On Nominations.
4. That each Presbytery be asked to consider appointing an alternate representative to Synod's Committee on Nominations in the event that the chairman of a presbytery Committee on Nominations is not able to attend Synod's Committee meeting
5. That Synod request that Presbytery Clerks present the need of nominations for the Committee on Lay Ministry to each presbytery.
6. That the General Synod authorize \$3,500 for Committee expenses in 2001.

Respectfully submitted,
H. Max Bolin, Chairman

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2001.

Moderator-Elect Gaston nominated Dr. Robert M. Alexander of Rock Hill, SC.

Mr. Alexander was elected by acclamation and was escorted to the podium by his pastor, R.J. Robinson. Mr. Alexander introduced his wife and mother.

A motion was made to move the beginning date of Synod 2001 to June 4. The motion failed.

The Report of the Moderator's Committee on Erskine was presented and adopted.

Report of Moderator's Committee on Erskine

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Charles B. Evans, III. Kenneth McArthur was appointed Secretary. The roll was taken.

Representatives from Erskine College were present to share information and to answer questions.

Responsibilities of the Moderator's Committee were reviewed.

The recommendations of the Erskine Report were considered and recommendations 1-7 were adopted.

We make the following additional recommendations:

8. That Synod pause to give thanks to God for Dr. Bill

Kuykendall's recovery from recent surgery, and to pray for his continued improvement.

9. That Synod express its deep gratitude and thanks to God for His bountiful blessings bestowed on Erskine College and Seminary through their Board of Trustees, President, Staff, and Faculty—being especially mindful of God's provision which enables Erskine to be debt-free. God is to be praised and the leadership of Erskine is to be commended.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Dr. E. Reynolds Young.

REPORT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE

Fathers and Brethren,

As Erskine enters this new millennium, God continues to be faithful. Challenges are great but His provision has been more than sufficient. His faithfulness is experienced through students, faculty, administrators, alumni and friends—especially the members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Balanced: Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning—Erskine is the only college in the South which is classified by the independent Carnegie Foundation as a National Liberal Arts College (BA1) and is also a member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU).

Record Enrollment—College and Seminary got off to a great start with the highest combined enrollment in its history—886 (College—521 [514 full-time equivalent] students; Seminary—365 students). With intense competition for students and soaring costs, enrollment continues to be a vital issue for Erskine's future.

Bell Bequest: Charles and Edna Bell—faithful members of the Chester ARP Church—left Erskine \$7.5 million to endow [1] a Chair in Biblical Studies at the Seminary, [2] scholarships for College and Seminary students, and [3] an Enrichment Fund which will continue to elevate Erskine's quality for generations to come.

Administrative Restructure with an Emphasis on Development: As of July 1, 2000, new positions (Director of Development, Development Secretary, Director of Educational Services) as well as realignment and reassignment of other positions will enable Erskine to search for additional resources.

Dr. Jay West appointed Vice President for Corporate and Church Relations and Chaplain: Chaplain Jay West's work at Erskine has grown to the point where he oversees multiple ministries on campus performed through a network of Seminary student interns, relates to organizations beyond the campus (e.g., Young Life, English Language Institute of China) and leads conference ministries with churches and parachurch groups. Because of Dr. West's ability to grow his present ministry, he has been tapped to focus on two vital needs for the future of Erskine—Seminary Development and Business Development. Erskine

will hire an Assistant to the Chaplain to insure that campus ministries may thrive.

Cabinet Leadership: Dr. Don Weatherman, our new Vice President and Dean of the College (July 1999) has impressed one and all by his Christian faith, experience in higher education, articulate advocacy and exceptional people skills. Lee Logan has performed admirably as Vice President for Development and Facilities; however, in our restructure he will be freed from responsibilities for Facilities so that he may devote full-time to Development. A search for a Vice President for Finance and Operations began in March—led by Dr. Henry Hollingsworth (Chair), Mr. Welsh Bostick, and the Rev. Doug Petersen. Ms. Jean Pinson serves as Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Monty Wooley continues as Vice President for Student Services and Athletics. Dr. Steve Sniteman has served well as Vice President for Enrollment Management and Technology; however, at his request he will return to teaching sociology two-thirds of the time and be one-third Chief Marketing Officer beginning July 1. Dr. R. J. Gore is Vice President and Dean of the Seminary.

College Teaching Load Reduction and Sabbaticals. The Board's approval of these two items makes Erskine more competitive with peer national liberal arts colleges.

College Commencement and Baccalaureate Service, May 14, 2000: Mr. Joe Black—Erskine alumnus, author and entrepreneur—was selected by the Senior Class to give the commencement address. The Reverend John Kimmons, Erskine alumnus and Senior Pastor of Christ Community Church in Greensboro, NC, was our baccalaureate preacher. Honorary degrees were awarded to Dr. L. Edward Davis, Northville, MI, and Mr. James E. McDonald, Greenwood, SC.

Board of Trustee Leadership, 2000-01: Mr. William B. Patrick, Jr., Chairman; The Rev. L. Calvin Draffin, Vice Chairman; Dr. Sanita S. Frazier, Secretary.

New Faculty: The Synod may be especially interested in the following new hires at the Seminary—Dr. George Schwab (Ph.D. Westminster), Old Testament; Dr. Howard Eyrich (Ph.D. Westminster), Counseling; College—Dr. Terry Eves (Ph.D. Dropsie) Bible; Dr. John Wingard (Ph.D. Miami) Philosophy.

A copy of the 1999-2000 Erskine College Catalog (Exhibit A), 1998-2000 Erskine Seminary Catalog (Exhibit B), 1999 Audit (Exhibit C), and the Request to the Board of Stewardship (Exhibit D) are submitted with the official report.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- The fall term began with a number of very positive developments. First, we started the term with 514 full-time equivalent students (506 Financial FTE). That is an increase of 45 full-time equivalents over the fall of 1998. Since we did not fill two full-time teaching positions vacated last year we began the school year with a student-faculty ratio of 13.8 to 1. Second, the two faculty members we did hire late in the

summer are very fine additions to the college community.

- The following full-time faculty were hired for the 1999-2000 academic year: Dr. John F. Warren, Assistant Professor of Music and Choral Director; Dr. Stephen D. Emmons, Assistant Professor of Music to teach the instrumental/music education courses; Professor Ben C. Jeffords, Associate Professor of Accounting; Dr. Elizabeth Galloway, Visiting Professor of Education. Dr. Stefanie Baker has been hired as Assistant Professor of Biology for the 2000-2001 academic year.
- A wide range of part-time faculty were hired to teach during the fall and spring terms as well. Part-time faculty are teaching art, Bible, accounting, business law, German, music, and physical education.
- We have advertised six tenure-track positions to be filled for the 2000-2001 academic year. The positions are in Biblical studies, education, French, marketing, philosophy, and physics.
- Dr. William Junkin, Professor of Physics, will become half-time Associate Dean for Learning and Technology on July 1, 2000.
- The faculty has approved a Freshman Seminar Program that will link freshman advising with freshman writing.
- Dr. Mary Lang Edwards of the Department of Biology led a group of students to Africa for a Winter Term course during January. The group enjoyed visiting various sites.
- The E. B. Kennedy Scholarship Final Competition was held in January. The two E. B. Kennedy Scholars selected are Miss Audrey Barry of Rockford, Tennessee, and Miss Jenny Trammell, Greenwood, South Carolina.
- Two Erskine students and their faculty mentors completed undergraduate research projects sponsored by the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. Miss Angel Bible (whose mentor was Dr. Tom Gorry) and Mr. Qusai Darugar (whose mentor was Dr. Kim Opperman Pacheco) gave the results of their work at a meeting hosted by Milliken Corporation on February 2. These two students won very competitive grants to finance their research. Miss Bible's research topic was "Magnetism and Psychological States." Mr. Darugar reported on his research: "Synthesis of Phthalocyanines to be Used as Precursors for Self-Assembled Monolayers in Biosensor Devices."
- The college re-examined our summer school offerings and the faculty voted to reduce summer school to only one session. We will offer other summer programs which include RYLA, RISE, Chamber of Commerce Business Camp.

McCain Library

- Mr. John Kennerly was named Head Librarian of McCain Library.
- Ms. Sara Morrison was hired as Interlibrary Loan/Cataloging Librarian.
- Retrospective Conversion Project Update—The library continues to work toward the completion of this project. This process of reclassifying approximately 60,000 books and adding them to the online catalog

is nearly 65% complete, leaving approximately 21,000 books. The library's budgetary line item "Retroactive Conversion" in the amount of \$5,000 per year will be indispensable until this project is complete. With a strong-enough workforce, the project potentially could be completed in 3-4 years.

- Space Concerns—The library continues to face a very real need for additional space. The simple placement of additional shelving in the existing building is no longer feasible on a long-range scale. Additional shelving was added in 1996 at the cost of erosion of space designated for individual and group study.
- Archives and Special Collections—It behooves the College and Seminary to work towards the establishment of an area designated specifically for Archives and Special Collections. An area such as this would provide proper storage conditions for these unique and invaluable collections as well as provide tangible evidence of the institution's interest in its rich heritage.

Bowie Arts Center

- Artist Charlie Pate and Dr. Alexander Patrick were honored at a reception and dinner in Bowie Arts Center on November 15, 1999.
- Exhibits on display in Bowie Arts Center this term included photographs from "The Rhythm of Light" series by Bruce Hagen of Abbeville, "Fretworked Images" by Frank Spencer of Greenville, "Stitched, Stuffed and Sewn—Fabric Art from the Upstate," Abbeville County Public School Art Show, handmade prints by Fred Pilkington, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts exhibit, and Greenwood Artists Guild exhibit.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- Erskine will end FY1999-2000 with its operating budget in the black for the ninth consecutive year. This continues to be a top priority of the Board of Trustees and the administration.
- Erskine College spends over 27% of its educational and general expenditures on scholarships. Additional scholarship dollars will continue to be needed to compete for students in today's marketplace.
- The adopted FY 2000-01 operating budget is based on 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) students (450 boarding) in the College, 168 M. Div. FTE students in the Seminary, and 40 D. Min. FTE students in the Seminary.
- College tuition/fees/room/board increased from \$19,998 to \$20,624. This represents a 3% increase.
- Seminary fees increase to \$210/sh for the Masters' programs and \$230/sh for the Doctor of Ministry program. This is a \$5 increase per credit hour in the Seminary.
- For FY2000-01, we will have approximately \$709,232 in scholarship income and will expend \$3,785,992 in college scholarships. This difference of \$2.07 million is the unfunded portion of our scholarship program.

- The FY2000-01 budget provides funds for a 4% salary increase for faculty and staff, which became effective January 1, 2000.

CHAPLAIN

- The new internship venture between the college and seminary has added many new dimensions to the Chaplain's Office. Lee Britt coordinated the spring break trip to Wales in conjunction with World Witness, which proved to be a tremendous success. Eleven musically talented students were selected for the trip. They performed in public school assemblies, on college campuses, and in youth centers. Jamie Harkins has facilitated Young Life leadership growth and coordinated the RIOT Bible studies. Katie Dillard completed her internship as the coordinator for the "Great Erskine Lock-In" and the conference/retreat staff (Jamie Harkins will coordinate the Lock-In for 2000.). Alice Ridgell initiated a community ministry at a local nursing home this fall with great success and served the Baptist Student Union as well as focusing FCA on athletic ministry. Madeline Jackson was responsible for working with the Seminary Student Life Enrichment Fund. Miss Jackson assisted with the spring kick-off of the SSLEF. The intern staff continues to meet Wednesday afternoons at 4:45 p.m. Individual meetings with the chaplain are held each Monday. The number of interns will be reduced from five to four in 2000-01.
- Living Hope has been revised and will be taught by Mrs. Jennifer Fairbairn, the wife of seminary professor Dr. Don Fairbairn. All three levels will be taught in a small group setting rather than a classroom setting.
- Erskine will send nine students with ELIC this summer to serve in China and Mongolia. Seniors Art Carter, Jason Grogan, and Matt Davidson will serve one-year appointments. Other students are making plans to serve long term.
- ELIC and Pacific Link offered Erskine curriculum and models of summer English camps for the possibility of beginning a new summer camp on this campus for the children of expatriates. Mary Lowe, Director of Educational Services, is coordinating this new effort as well as teaching ESL at Fuji on Thursdays.
- The Chapel schedule for the Spring included speakers and performers such as: The Moderator, presidential candidate Alan Keyes, pianist Ken Medema, author Kelly Monroe, actor Henry Holden, President Carson, Dr. Gore, and Dr. West.
- Erskine students will compose most of the Bonclarken summer staff this summer.
- Erskine students performed many of the duties at presbytery retreats held at Bonclarken this year.
- The college and seminary continue to share several joint chapel services.
- The counseling load has increased from a slower pace in the previous semester.
- The Great Erskine Lock-In was enjoyed by approximately 455 stu-

- dents. Dr. Steve Garber was the speaker and Silars Bald led the music.
- Salt N' Light continues to be offered by the Due West ARP Church for Erskine students.
 - The student initiated 9:11 group meets for praise and worship on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
 - Several faculty and staff are teaching Bible studies for college students.
 - Habitat for Humanity is trying to acquire a piece of property in Due West to build a Habitat home.
 - The Board of Trustees voted recently to hire an Assistant to the Chaplain.

DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Development

- The College and Seminary are blessed to receive record setting voluntary support. Beginning July 1, 1999, contributions have been received totaling \$9,679,511.75. These contributions have been received for a variety of purposes including the annual fund (Living Endowment), for permanently invested general and restricted accounts (Endowment Fund) and for capital improvement projects. As a result of these gifts the highest annual fund contributions have been recorded as well as new record setting contributions in the athletic fund program. This unprecedented voluntary support is extremely helpful and badly needed as the College continues to improve the quality of its academic offerings, student life programs and its dedication to fulfill the mission of the institution.
- The following endowed scholarships, estate gifts and other restricted gifts have been received for the benefit of the institution:
 - Estate of Carey J. Finely
 - Estate of Herbert G. Oates
 - William O. Ragsdale Scholarship Fund
 - Estate of Joy E. Clarke
 - Estate of Elisabeth C. Huffman
 - Richard Austin Lazenby Scholarship
 - Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Sneed, Jr. Scholarship Fund
 - Charles M. and Edna S. Bell Gift from Bell Trust
 - James W. and Donna R. Strobel Scholarship Fund
 - I. N. Kennedy Scholarship Fund
 - Athletic Training and Sports Medicine Educational Fund
 - Dr. Agnes Ridley Bell Gift Annuity
 - Elizabeth B. Smith Charitable Trust
 - Gift from the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation
 - John C. Taylor III Scholarship Fund
 - Mary F. Garner Revocable Trust
 - Professor Louis Galloway Scholarship Fund
 - Rebecca Whitesides Miller Scholarship Fund
 - Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund
 - Daniel Stinson Bell Memorial Scholarship Fund

- The Daniel-Moultrie Science Center construction project, which began as a \$7.5 million project, is within \$173,357.56 of completing funding for the entirety of the project. This modern facility continues to be enjoyed by the institution and has advanced the strength of the academic program.
- In an attempt to provide an ever increasing emphasis on the importance of the development work, a special appropriation has been provided from the Daniel unrestricted earned income to fund two new positions in the Development Division—Director of Development and Secretary. These positions will cultivate the opportunity to secure and properly process additional contributions for the institution as well as provide general support for the Development Division. In an effort to better align the functions of the division, the office of Public Relations organizational line of responsibility will be transferred to the newly established division of Chief Marketing Officer. As this report is being written, we are also in a search for a Director of Alumni Affairs as Mr. Aldon Knight accepted a position at Clemson University. Mr. Knight provided excellent service and is to be commended for his good work.
- The identification of future major capital campaign needs continues, as well as the refinement of the endowment fund and major capital campaign needs with an emphasis on the renovation of the Erskine Building, Memorial Hall and the dormitories. A committee is being appointed by the Chairman of the Board to investigate these specific matters. Information gathered from this research will be reported to the Board of Trustees and available for preparation of the strategic long range plan.

Alumni Office

- Alumni affairs continue to add to the overall strength of the College. Last year's Living Endowment Campaign set new records for voluntary support and concluded the year with total contributions in the amount of \$724,952.00. Chapter meetings were resumed and a number of chapters enjoyed informative sessions on activities as well as encouraging support for the annual fund. Under the leadership of the Alumni Office, a number of fine events including Alumni Day and Homecoming have been well attended. The Alumni Office, through the web site for Erskine College and Internet access, has provided increased communication and support to members of the Alumni Association. The South Carolina license tag and credit card programs have been successful, along with the staff and faculty appreciation dinners hosted by the Association.

Public Relations

- The quality of communications from the institution has continued to improve with emphasis on marketing. More individuals are using EC Netnews and email to communicate with the College and receive information on the institution's activities. This increased emphasis has not come at the expense of good quality printed materials that are mailed to the constituents of the College and Seminary.

Facilities

- During the past year, work totaling approximately \$200,000 has been completed to improve the facilities of the Education Department, McQuiston Divinity Hall and canteen, now called Snapper's. In addition, over \$400,000 of work has been completed to improve the basic infrastructure of the institution including new heating, air conditioning, hot water systems, as well as the replacement of roofs at the Galloway Center and McCain Library. Painting projects, underground water systems and other projects were included in this additional work. Appreciation is due the Facilities staff for undertaking this additional work while maintaining the hundreds of work orders that are processed daily for maintenance repairs and special event set ups.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Enrollment Management

- The SAT scores and other measures of academic merit are extremely positive as we finalize our freshman class for the academic year 2000-2001. However, the competitiveness of the college marketplace is extremely fierce as many institutions have increased their financial inducements to attract new students. We expect that the financial discounts will continue and even further increase which will pose great challenges for small liberal arts colleges.
- We continue to emphasize recruiting in private Christian schools. Dr. Carson has been a major factor in this endeavor as he has spoken at a number of assemblies of Christian high schools. We feel that the future is very bright for Erskine in this area as our Christian Commitment should be a natural fit for students that are enrolled in predominately Christian private schools.
- The advertising campaign has substantially increased over the past year. We have advertised in Campus Life (a Christian College magazine), the Greenville News, World Magazine, and a Chamber of Commerce publication. We are also poised to renew our billboard campaign. While our advertising has focused primarily on recruiting new students, we have also advertised with an eye of obtaining new development funds and contacting our alumni. In addition to our aggressive advertising campaign, we also have increased the quality of all the publications coming from Erskine as we feel that quality in our publications should match the quality of our institution.
- We see the Web as a major area of expansion for Erskine College. Currently, a large percentage of our applications come from the Web. In the future, we expect that electronic applications will substantially replace the paper method as more students are choosing to apply on-line. The Web is also the method of choice for information about Erskine as prospective students, alumni, current students, and faculty/staff are finding that they enjoy the timely information made possible through the Web.
- The on-line EBK application process is now a reality. As a result of an

easier method to apply for the prestigious scholarship, we expect applications to substantially increase.

- A wonderful spin-off from the Bell gift has been the Bell Scholarship Fund that guarantees recipients full tuition scholarship. We expect to select three Bell Scholars per year beginning in the Fall of 2000. Bell Scholars will epitomize the highest levels of character, a strong Christian commitment and the ability to perform academically.
- The campus-wide business enrollment plan that Dr. Carson implemented has involved every academic department. We expect that his focused attention to recruiting will pay dividends in the future.

Technology

- The administrative software package (CAMS) is now fully operational. Having all aspects of the campus tied into an integrated system is resulting in more accurate data, a reduction in repetitive tasks, and increased productivity.
- The entire technology area is expanding rapidly. No longer is keeping ahead of the technological shifts a luxury. Being progressive is essential. As a result, new servers have been added to increase the speed and ease of information flow throughout the campus. We are in the process of adding new equipment to computer services to continue to maintain our lead in informational management. We believe that Erskine College is among the technological leaders in classroom teaching.

STUDENT SERVICES AND ATHLETICS

Student Services

Personnel

- Mr. Stacey Palmore continues to serve as Resident Director in Grier.
- Mr. Bryan Rush continues to serve as Resident Director in Kennedy.
- Mr. Nathan Frazier was appointed Pressly Resident Director in Fall, 1999.
- Mrs. Brooke Clinton was appointed Robinson Resident Director and Student Activities Director in Fall, 1999.
- Ms. Ruth Burton continues to serve as Resident Director in Carnegie.
- Mrs. Becca Lewis continued to serve as Resident Director in Bonner until December, and Mrs. Marana Basie was appointed .
- Mr. Monty Wooley, Dr. Robyn Agnew and Mrs. Penny Thomas continue to serve as Student Deans.
- Dr. Jay West continues to serve as the Erskine Chaplain.
- Mrs. Sandra Hagan continues to serve as Administrative Assistant in Student Services.
- Mrs. Jean Jackson continues to serve in a part-time position in the Career Orientation and Networking Office.

Programs

- An extensive orientation program (including CPR/First Aid certification, leadership training, risk behavior identification, etc.) was conducted for Student Life Assistants and Resident Directors in August,

1999.

- A five-day Freshman Orientation (including computer, library, and study skill instruction, alcohol/other drug education and service opportunities) was conducted in August, 1999 for 157 Erskine freshmen.
- A workshop was conducted in early Fall for organizational leaders and advisors.
- Mrs. Clinton organized and promoted 30 mini-sessions during Winter Term and the sessions were taught by students, staff and community members. Included were Basic Car Mechanics, Resume Writing, Erskine Ghost Stories, Tree Climbing, Flower Arranging, and Sewing.
- Throughout the year, there has also been an active intramural program for all Erskine College and Seminary students, faculty and staff.

Student Elections/Appointments

- Chris Spires, a rising junior from Winnsboro, SC, was elected President of the Student Government Association.
- Student Life Assistant interviews resulted in the appointment of six new female SLAs and six new male SLAs.

Spring Events

- The annual Erskine/Lander Education Fair was held Thursday, March 9, on the Lander University campus. Eighty-four recruiters from fifty-eight school districts participated.
- Family Day will be held Saturday, 29 April. The Parent Advisory Council plans to conduct a silent auction as its primary annual fund-raiser.
- Spring Fling, sponsored by the Erskine Entertainment Board, will be held 28-29 April and will include outdoor musical performances, cookouts and games on the circle.

Athletics

- Mark Peeler was named head men's basketball coach.
- Garth Pollonais has been named men's soccer coach, and Brad McCarty has been named women's soccer coach.

Public Safety

- No incidents of violent crime have been reported on our campus this year.
- An administrative goal continues to be to increase public safety coverage time on campus to 24 hours per day/seven days per week.
- We are looking at areas on campus in respect to lighting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following requests and recommendations are offered by the Board of Trustees. That the General Synod:

1. accept the gratitude of Erskine faculty and staff for the \$50,000 additional funds given by the Board of Stewardship to provide a 1% Christmas bonus in 1999.
2. thank God for His sustaining mercy during the past year and pray continually that Erskine may "grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

3. grant the following requests for funds:

Operating Budget Request: College/Seminary request for a total of **\$531,300** in operating funds for 2001. These funds will be used as unrestricted funds for current fund operations and scholarship support.

Special Appropriation for Chaplain: In 1988, the General Synod adopted the Report of the Committee of Moderators which called for the employment of a full-time Chaplain at Erskine College and Seminary. The report called for the General Synod to provide **\$25,000** annually toward the cost of this position with Erskine paying the remainder of the salary plus all salary increases. The amount from the General Synod should be considered as over and above the normal appropriation for the College.

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Student Union: The Board of Trustees again request financial support of **\$500** to assist the important work of our denomination's Student Union.
4. designate special days when the work of Erskine College and Seminary may be presented before the congregations of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and receive—in conjunction with other Synod agencies—a special offering. I am extremely grateful that not one pastor or session refused my request to present my vision message to a congregation, but I recognize that additional presentations of Erskine's work by others is essential for awareness of our mission and work to flourish.
5. encourage local churches to use their bulletins, newsletters, and other means to publicize events at Erskine College and Seminary.
6. ask presbyteries and presbyterials to invite representatives from the College and Seminary to participate in youth conferences, retreats, and/or special events.
7. remind ministers and their staffs to inform high school students about the College's Quality Events plus other spiritual and education opportunities, and to encourage all who desire to be equipped for ministry to inquire about the wide variety of educational opportunities at the Seminary.

Yours in Christ,
John L. Carson, President

REPORT OF ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fathers and Brethren:

- Once again, we at Erskine Seminary have been blessed by God with a good year. As the report below shows, God has given us the privilege of serving Him in many exciting ways this year. We are especially thankful to the A.R.P. churches for your financial support, your prayers, your students, and your kind words of encouragement. We are committed to continuing to serve the A.R.P. Church.
- Permanent teaching faculty for the year included Bible professors

Milton Eng, William Kuykendall (retired December 1999), Jimmy Agan, and Loyd Melton; Theology and History professors Don Fairbairn, R.J. Gore, Merwyn Johnson, and Ray King (retired May 2000); and Ministry professors Robby Bell, Robert Glick, Jack Heinsohn, Steve Lowe, Mary-Ruth Marshall, and Luonne Rouse. Part-time faculty were John Blumenstein, Stephen Clyborne, Bill Evans, Howard Eyrich, Hal Freeman, Dale Johnson, Bob Lewis, Dan Page, Keith Richardson, Randy Ruble, Earl Troglin, and Doug White.

- Dr. Jimmy Agan (Ph.D., Aberdeen) was appointed as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies and Dr. Don Fairbairn (Ph.D., Cambridge) was appointed Assistant Professor of Church History and Missions in the Fall of 1999. Dr. R. J. Gore was officially installed as the 10th Vice President and Dean of Erskine Theological Seminary on April 13, 2000.
- Faculty members continue to teach and preach in A.R.P. churches throughout the denomination as well as in churches in other denominations represented here. Faculty members regularly lead worship services, conduct sermons and training sessions, and lead Bible studies in churches across the country. Dean Gore has led special services and conferences in several ARP churches throughout the school year. He was a chapel speaker at Erskine College, Anderson College, and Holmes College of the Bible.
- Fifty-six students graduated in May 1999, and fifty-seven degrees were conferred, tying 1998's record number. Forty students received the Master of Divinity degree; two, the M.A. in Christian Education; two, the M.A. in Theological Studies; one, the M.A. in Pastoral Ministry; one, the Diploma in Theology; and 11 the Doctor of Ministry degree. The Commencement speaker was Dr. John Richard de Witt, Pastor of Seventh Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Fall enrollment included a record incoming class, with 105 new students (there were 50 new students in the spring, also!). There were 366 students total in the fall, and 354 students total in the spring. During the previous year, over 420 different students were enrolled at one time or another. More than twenty different denominations are represented and our student body included 11 international students.
- Erskine Seminary continues its D.Min. program at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, Ft. Jackson, SC.
- Our curriculum continues to expand as we received approval for the new M.A. in Counseling Ministry, a program that will begin in the Fall of 2000. In 1999, we graduated our first students in the new M.A. degree programs in Theological Studies and Pastoral Ministry.
- Erskine continues to develop its Distance Education courses and Dr. Steve Lowe has been appointed Associate Dean and Director of Distance Education.
- The annual Missions speaker was Frank Van Dalen. The Ford Lecturer on Small Churches was The Reverend Richard C. Looney, Resident Bishop, South Georgia Annual Conference of the United

Methodist Church.

- The Whitesides preacher was The Rev. Mr. Harry Reeder, PCA minister and pastor of the Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL. The Whitesides Pastor's Institute was established in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Major V. Whitesides, lay leaders of the First A.R.P. Church of Gastonia, NC.
- The Robinson Lecturer was Dr. Bruce Waltke, Professor of Old Testament, Regent College. This lecture series honors the memory of Richard Lee Robinson, former Dean of the Seminary by bringing to campus world-famous scholars to discuss important issues of the day.
- Erskine Seminary continues to make important steps forward. The first floor of McQuiston Divinity Hall has been renovated. These renovations include three new offices, an office for the Erskine Distance Education Network, a kitchenette for students, and a homiletics lab in the space that once was the old chapel. In Bowie Divinity Hall, all classrooms have received new conference style tables and padded chairs and all classrooms now are capable of using Laptop/Presenter technology.

Respectfully submitted,
R. J. Gore, Jr., Vice President and Dean
Erskine Theological Seminary

E. R. Young led in prayer for Dr. Bill Kuykendall.

G.C. Slater rose to a point of personal privilege to recommend a paper on the Westminster Confession by R.J. Cara to the Synod.

The **Report of the Moderator's Committee on The Executive Board** was presented.

Report of Moderator's Committee on the Executive Board

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. David Johnston. Reverend W. L. Barron was appointed secretary. The roll was taken and the duties and responsibilities of the Committee were reviewed.

The Report of the Executive Board was reviewed and members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments concerning the material referred by the Court.

The recommendations of the Executive Board of Synod were considered and we make the following recommendations:

1. That recommendation #1 be adopted.
2. That recommendation #2 be adopted.
3. That recommendation #3 be adopted.
4. That recommendation #4 be adopted.
5. That recommendation #5 be adopted.
6. That recommendation #6 be adopted.

7. That recommendation #7 be adopted.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Chairman, Reverend Doug Petersen.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD

The Executive Board of Synod is the agency of the General Synod empowered to carry out the work of the General Synod in the interim period between meetings of the General Synod. It provides oversight of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, the Office of Administrative Services, the promotional work of the General Synod, and the Coordinator of the General Synod. It is responsible for presenting to the General Synod organizational and administrative changes to enhance the capability of the General Synod to fulfill its primary responsibility for “the initiation, planning, organization and administration of programs designed to enable it to carry out the mission of God in Christ’s Church by word and deed in the General Synod and also in the local congregation, the Presbytery and the whole world.” (*Form of Government*, Chapter XIII.B.1). Voting membership includes the current officers of the General Synod (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Vice-Moderator Elect, Principal Clerk, and Treasurer), the immediate past five moderators, one ruling or teaching elder from each presbytery, and the Chairman of the Board of Stewardship. Non-voting advisory membership includes the Coordinator, Historian, Parliamentarian, President of WSU, and Chairmen and Chief Administrative Officers of the boards of the General Synod.

The Executive Board met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects the actions and activities of the Executive Board and presents recommendations for the consideration of the court.

Acts on Behalf of the General Synod

The Executive Board has been granted the authority and duty to act on behalf of the General Synod in emergency situations. These are situations which, in the opinion of the Executive Board, cannot wait until the next stated meeting of the General Synod but which do not warrant a called meeting of the General Synod. There were no acts on behalf of the General Synod since the last meeting of the General Synod.

Referrals and Communications

- A. **Invitation from the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.** An invitation to attend a “strategy meeting” in Washington, DC, on November 23, 1999, was referred to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns.
- B. **Request from Mississippi Valley Presbytery.** Mississippi Valley Presbytery asked the Executive Board (or the General Synod if the Executive Board were to decide that such action was necessary) to grant approval to the Dunlap Retirement Center Board to make changes to its state charter. The Executive Board affirmed the action of the 1986 General Synod which directed both the Due West

Retirement Center and the Dunlap Retirement Center Board to take steps to change their Charter to allow the members of their boards to be appointed by presbytery. (p. 64, 1986 *Minutes of Synod*.)

- C. **Inquiry from Committee on Theological and Social Concerns.** The Committee requested the Executive Board “to clarify the issue as to whether the list of duties in *the Manual of Authorities and Duties* limits the authority of the Committee.” The Executive Board reviewed the prior actions of the General Synod and confirmed the limitations on the Committee as expressed in the particular duties of the Committee as set forth in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.
- D. Request for Confirmation to the Chaplain’s Offices of the Pentagon. The General Synod was asked to provide confirmation that the Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel continues to be the official agency to endorse ARP clergy into the military chaplaincy. This confirmation was required by May 1, 2000. In the absence of specifically assigned responsibility, the Executive Board authorized the Principal Clerk to provide the confirmation.

Committee Responsibilities

The Executive Board has four standing committees:

- A. **Committee on Administration:** This committee oversees the work of Administrative Services which provides management of the ARP Center Facility and accounting and general administrative support services for all agencies of Synod, except for Erskine, Bonclarken, and World Witness. Staff members are Ed Hogan, Leland Beaudrot, Beth Willis, Louise Raby, and Donna Wentz. Administrative Services serves as the administrative offices for Annuities and Relief, ARP Foundation, Dunlap, Executive Board, and Stewardship. The committee meets prior to each meeting of the Executive Board. The Principal Clerk serves as chairman and the membership includes the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Board of Stewardship. The Coordinator and Administrative Officer serve as advisory members. The committee is responsible for preparing the budgets for Administrative Services, the Center Facility, and the Executive Board.

The Center Facility operates as a separate entity for funding purposes. Funding comes from allocations from the General Synod, rents from tenants (ARP and non-ARP), and occasional, unsolicited grants.

Administrative Services continues to be an active participant in helping churches and agencies develop web-sites and in linking those sites for a more effective presentation to the denomination. Church leaders and members are encouraged to visit the web at **<http://WWW.arpsynod.org>**.

The proposed 2001 budgets for the Center Facility, Administrative Services, and the Executive Board are attached.

- B. **Committee to Plan Emphases:** This committee is chaired by the Moderator-Elect and membership includes the Vice-President of the Woman's Synodical Union and representatives from each presbytery in alternating years. The committee prepares the emphases for the ensuing calendar year. The "Emphases for 2001" was adopted for recommendation to the General Synod.
- C. **Committee to Plan Synod's Program:** This committee is chaired by the Moderator-Elect and he chooses a committee to assist him in planning for the meeting of Synod. The Executive Board approved the tentative program and authorized the Moderator and Moderator-Elect to make changes as might be necessary prior to presentation to the General Synod. The preliminary program is distributed with the unofficial reports.
- D. **Committee on Oversight of Coordinator:** Committee members are the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and the two immediate past moderators. The immediate past moderator serves as chairman. The committee meets with the Coordinator prior to each meeting of the Executive Board and reports to the Executive Board.

The special committee to study the office and position of Synod's Coordinator (Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and the past five moderators) has begun its work and is expected to make a final report to the Executive Board at the Fall, 2000, meeting.

The committee has recommended to the Executive Board that the Executive Board continue Doug Jones as Coordinator through June 30, 2001.

Miscellaneous Items

- A. **Purpose Statement.** The 1990 General Synod adopted a "policy statement to guide the denomination in the 1990s. (p. 363, 1990 Minutes of Synod.) The Executive Officers of the General Synod have been asked to update the purpose statement for consideration by the Executive Board and referral to the General Synod.
- B. **Attendance of Advisory Members in Executive Session.** The 1999 General Synod chose not to approve a recommendation which would have included the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and Synod Coordinator as members during an executive session of the boards, commissions, and standing committees of the General Synod. It is recommended that paragraph 5 of the Introduction to the Manual of Authorities and Duties be amended to reflect the position of the General Synod (change is reflected in bold print):
- "5. Ex-officio members, including those defined herein as "Presbytery Representatives," have the same privileges as those members appointed by name. Advisory members have all privileges except the privilege of making motions, **attendance in executive sessions convened by the board, committee, or commission**, and the privilege of vote."

- C. **Presbytery Geographical Areas.** The *Form of Government*, Chapter XIII, B.d., empowers the General Synod to “organize, divide, unite, and dissolve Presbyteries...” Chapter XII.A. presents the Presbytery as the court which “has the oversight of a group of congregations within a specific geographical area.”

In its report to the General Synod in 1999, the Executive Board presented for the consideration of the General Synod, proposed geographical areas for the nine presbyteries. The proposed geographical area for Northeast Presbytery included the state of Ohio which had been added by the General Synod in 1994 (1994 *Minutes of Synod*, pages 658, 790), and certain provinces of Canada which had been approved by the General Synod in 1990 (1990 *Minutes of Synod*, pp.448-451). The Moderator’s Committee on the Executive Board recommended the approval of the proposed boundaries.

An amendment was offered and approved during the deliberations of the court that the proposed boundaries be approved “with the exception that the Virginia and Northeast geographical areas remain the same boundaries as adopted in 1987.”

The original boundary for Northeast Presbytery was presented to the General Synod in a memorial from Virginia Presbytery in 1986: “The boundaries of the new presbytery to be: on the north—the Canadian border; on the east—the Atlantic Ocean; on the south—the Rappahannock River, the western boundaries of Fauquier and Loudoun Counties of Virginia to, the West Virginia state border to, the southern boundaries of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie and Wood Counties of West Virginia; on the west—the West Virginia and Pennsylvania state borders.”

Through consultation with the clerks of Northeast Presbytery and Virginia Presbytery it has been determined that there was no intent to remove the state of Ohio or the Canadian provinces from the geographical area of Northeast Presbytery. The areas in question were the counties in West Virginia. Therefore, the Executive Board recommends that the General Synod set the following geographical areas for Northeast and Virginia Presbyteries:

Northeast Presbytery—Constituted January 1, 1987, it was formed by the division of Virginia Presbytery. It is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and includes the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec; the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; those counties in the state of Virginia to the east and north of the boundary formed by the western boundaries of Fauquier and Loudoun Counties and the Rappahannock River; and in West Virginia the counties of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie and Wood.

Virginia Presbytery—Constituted in 1854. It includes the state of

Virginia except for those counties to the east and north of the boundary formed by the western boundaries of Fauquier and Loudoun Counties and the Rappahannock River and the state of West Virginia except for the counties of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie and Wood.

- D. **Corrections to *Form of Government*.** This is included as information only and changes should be noted in existing copies. These changes will be reflected in the next printing.
- a. Page 187 (IX.B.2.c.). The reference to Amendment No. 1 should be Amendment No 2 and the date should be June 3, 1975.
 - b. Page 187 (IX.B.2.c.): It should read:
 “c. Ruling elders and deacons shall not be eligible to hold the same office until one (1) year has elapsed after the close of their terms of office.”
 This wording was correctly included in editions prior to retyping, but an old amendment (referred to as Amendment No. 2 in the 1975 *Minutes of Synod*) was improperly picked up. This change was approved by Synod in 1975 and sent in overture. It was reported June 8, 1976. The reference at the bottom of the page will be to Amendment No. 2B.
 - c. Page 215. The reference to Amendment No. 2 should be changed to Amendment No. 2A.
- D. **Correction to Minutes of Synod, 1999.** The following correction in noted as information: In the proposed change to the *Form of Government*, page 390, item “e”, the reference to ‘Chapter XIII.B.2.d.(2)(a) and Chapter XIII.B.2.d.(2)(b)’ should read ‘Chapter XIII.B.2.d.(3)(a) and Chapter XIII.B.2.d.(3)(b).’ This correction was forwarded to the presbyteries prior to their vote on the proposed amendment. (NOTE: This proposed amendment was first proposed in 1998 and the correct reference was cited. See page 83, 1998 *Minutes of Synod*.)
- E. **Format for Printing of Standards.** In response to many requests, the next printing of the Standards will be a 6x9, loose leaf notebook.
- F. **Denominational Directory:** The Administrative Officer has been asked to explore the possibility of publishing an annual directory of churches.
- G. **Rules of Procedure.** Item # 3 of the *Rules of Procedure* (page 647, 1999 *Minutes of Synod*) require the reading of minutes each day and immediately prior to the final adjournment. This rule has not been followed. It is recommended that item # 3 of the *Rules of Procedure* be deleted.
- H. **Voting Procedures for Amendments.** *The Form of Government*,

Chapter XV.C.2., stipulates that the General Synod “shall stipulate the exact manner in which the Presbyteries shall vote upon a proposed amendment.” Most amendments are proposed through memorials and considered by the Moderator’s Committee on Memorials. Guidelines are being developed to assist and guide the Moderator’s Committee on Memorials in preparing instructions for voting on proposed amendments considered by that Committee.

- I. **Registering as Canadian Charity.** The Executive Board was asked to oversee the process “to prepare, submit and fulfill the necessary requirements of Revenue Canada, to properly register the General Synod....” There has not been an opportunity to address this issue. This will be addressed prior to the next meeting of the Executive Board.
- J. **Meeting Dates:** The following meeting dates have been set: November 10, 2000 and November 9, 2001. The Spring 2001 meeting date has been tentatively scheduled for April 6, 2001, but will be changed if it conflicts with a stated meeting of a presbytery.

The Board has expressed its appreciation to retiring members Ed Cox (former moderator on completion of his seven years of association with the Executive Board), Charles Edgar (Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery), and Wayne Ogdon (Virginia Presbytery). The Board acknowledges and expresses its appreciation to Moderator Dwight Pearson and Vice-Moderator Jim Brice for their leadership and spiritual direction during the past year.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed budgets for Administrative Services, ARP Center Facility, and Executive Board of Synod be approved.
2. That the “Emphases for 2001” be adopted.
3. That the Coordinator be commended for his service and that his contract be continued through June 30, 2001.
4. That the proposed change to paragraph 5 of the Introduction to the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be approved.
5. That the proposed geographical areas for Northeast Presbytery and Virginia Presbytery be adopted.
6. That item # 3 in the *Rules of Procedure* be deleted.
7. That all other actions of the Executive Board as reported herein be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,
Dwight L. Pearson, Moderator
C. R. Beard, Principal Clerk

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	2000	2001
RECEIPTS		
Current Fund Receipts		
Denomi. Ministry Funds	\$ 162,175	\$ 155,862
Allocation of Reserve	\$ -	\$ 11,613
Misc. Sales & Services	\$ 3,840	\$ 3,840
Operating Fund Interest	\$ <u>1,966</u>	\$ <u>1,858</u>
Sub-Total	\$ <u>167,981</u>	\$ <u>173,173</u>
Agency Support		
Annuities & Relief	\$ 61,970	\$ 63,240
ARP Foundation	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,550
W. H. Dunlap Fund	\$ 5,050	\$ 5,050
Other Agencies	\$ <u>500</u>	\$ <u>500</u>
Sub-Total	\$ <u>70,070</u>	\$ <u>71,340</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u>238,051</u>	\$ <u>244,513</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Director		
Salary	\$ 57,528	\$ 59,254
Retirement	\$ 4,890	\$ 5,037
Insurance	\$ 7,689	\$ 8,073
Employer Tax	\$ <u>4,401</u>	\$ <u>4,533</u>
Director	\$ <u>74,508</u>	\$ <u>76,897</u>
Assistant to Director		
Salary	\$ 24,998	\$ 25,747
Housing Allowance	\$ 7,868	\$ 8,104
Social Security Allowance	\$ 1,334	\$ 1,374
Retirement	\$ 2,794	\$ 2,877
Insurance	\$ <u>7,556</u>	\$ <u>7,934</u>
Assistant to Director	\$ <u>44,550</u>	\$ <u>46,036</u>
Support Staff Sub-Total	\$ <u>93,278</u>	\$ <u>96,201</u>
Staff & Program		
Workman's Compensation	\$ 830	\$ 1,081
Director Travel & Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Staff Travel & Expenses	\$ 311	\$ 311
Org. and Professional Dues	\$ 250	\$ 250
Contingency	\$ <u>1,274</u>	\$ <u>1,312</u>
Staff & Program	\$ <u>3,665</u>	\$ <u>3,954</u>
Equipment		
Copier Lease	\$ 11,436	\$ 11,436
Equipment Purchase	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$ <u>2,000</u>	\$ <u>2,000</u>
Equipment	\$ <u>18,436</u>	\$ <u>18,436</u>
General Office		
General Office	\$ <u>19,522</u>	\$ <u>11,436</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$	<u>253,959</u>	<u>252,960</u>

Income Over (Under) Exp.	\$ (15,908)	\$ (8,447)
Beg. Unencumbered Reserve	\$ <u>62,357</u>	\$ <u>46,449</u>
Ending Fund Reserve	\$ <u>46,449</u>	\$ <u>38,002</u>

**ARP CENTER FACILITY
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	2000	2001
RECEIPTS		
Allocations & Interest		
Den. Ministry Allocation	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
General Synod Int. Alloc.	\$ <u>194</u>	\$ <u>(103)</u>
Allocations & Interest	\$ <u>10,194</u>	\$ <u>14,897</u>
Miscellaneous Receipts		
Misc. for Current Oper.	\$ 45	\$ 25
Investment Gains	\$ —	\$ —
Transfer from Admini. Ser.	\$ <u>—</u>	\$ <u>—</u>
Misc. Receipts	\$ <u>45</u>	\$ <u>25</u>
Rent		
Christian Ed, ONA, Publications		
Administrative Services		
Covenant Discipleship	\$ 4,171	\$ 5,084
Outreach North America	\$ 6,048	\$ 7,371
Publications	\$ 3,888	\$ 4,739
Erksine	\$ 2,357	\$ 2,357
World Witness	\$ 9,567	\$ 15,450
Non—Synod Tenants	\$ <u>11,553</u>	\$ <u>11,803</u>
Rent	\$ <u>37,584</u>	\$ <u>46,804</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u>47,823</u>	\$ <u>61,726</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Staff and General Office		
Misc. Expendable Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 800
General Office	\$ 500	\$ 500
Contingency	\$ 845	\$ 962
Equipment Maintenance	\$ <u>300</u>	\$ <u>300</u>
Staff and General Office	\$ <u>2,645</u>	\$ <u>2,562</u>
Facility Management		
Insurance	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
Renovation, Repairs	\$ <u>6,911</u>	\$ <u>7,339</u>
Facility Management	\$ <u>9,011</u>	\$ <u>9,439</u>
Facility Maintenance		
Garbage Pickup	\$ 675	\$ 700
Ground Maintenance	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Heating /Air Conditioning	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Janitorial	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,400
Non—Contract Labor	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Pest Control	\$ <u>220</u>	\$ <u>220</u>
Facility Maintenance	\$ <u>21,595</u>	\$ <u>21,620</u>

Utilities

Electricity	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,500
Gas	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,000
Water & Sewer	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000
Utilities	\$ <u>22,000</u>	\$ <u>25,500</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 55,251 \$ 59,121

RECEIPTS OVER

(UNDER) BUDGET	\$ (7,428)	\$ 2,605
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 4,854	\$ (2,574)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ <u>(2,574)</u>	\$ <u>31</u>
Land Value	\$ <u>89,000</u>	\$ <u>89,000</u>
Building Value	\$ <u>91,238</u>	\$ <u>82,753</u>

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD**RECEIPTS****2000 Budget****2001****Current Fund Receipts**

Denom. Ministry Funds	\$ 100,828	\$ 100,293
Synod Registrations	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Misc. for Current Oper.	\$ —	\$ —
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u>102,628</u>	\$ <u>102,093</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

General Synod Officers		
Moderator of Synod	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,750
Moderator-Elect of Synod	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000
Principal Clerk	\$ 4,175	\$ 3,978
Treasurer of Synod	\$ 3,675	\$ 3,675
Vice Moderator	\$ 500	\$ 500
Vice-Moderator-Elect	\$ 500	\$ 500
General Synod Officers	\$ <u>15,350</u>	\$ <u>15,403</u>

Board

Executive Board Travel	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,350
General Office Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,489
Orientation to Work of General Synod	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Emphasis Com. Travel & Expenses	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Contingency	\$ <u>(1,275)</u>	\$ <u>1,149</u>
Board	\$ <u>13,975</u>	\$ <u>16,488</u>

Coordinator

Coordinator Fees	\$ 44,000	\$ 44,000
Coordinator Reimbursed Expenses	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Coordinator Misc.	\$ —	\$ —
Coordinator	\$ <u>50,000</u>	\$ <u>50,000</u>

Minutes of Synod

Preparation/Distribution	\$ 1,873	\$ 1,988
Printing	\$ <u>10,350</u>	\$ <u>10,980</u>
Minutes of Synod	\$ <u>12,223</u>	\$ <u>12,968</u>

Plan Book

Preparation/Distribution	\$ 1,057	\$ 1,057
Printing	\$ <u>2,023</u>	\$ <u>2,023</u>
Plan Book	\$ <u>3,080</u>	\$ <u>3,080</u>

Meeting of the General Synod

Program and Preparation	\$ 5,135	\$ 2,324
Honorariums	\$ 400	\$ 400
Staff Expenses	\$ 2,465	\$ 1,430
Service Fee	\$ —	\$ —
Meeting of General Synod	\$ <u>8,000</u>	\$ <u>4,154</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ <u>102,628</u>	\$ <u>102,093</u>
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Excess Income Over

(Under) Disbursement	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
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PROPOSED EMPHASIS FOR 2001**THEME FOR 2001 - Standing Firm in the Faith**

Theme Verses: *“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love”* (1 Cor. 16:13, 14 NIV).

January: Walking by Faith

“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7 NKJV)

The Christian life is preeminently the life of faith. We “walk,” that is to say, we live our lives as Christians, by faith. The New Testament speaks of “faith” as both the act of belief and trust (“faith in Christ”) and the content of that which is believed (“the faith”). Our Reformation forefathers recognized, therefore, that the act of faith involves knowledge of the truth, assent to its truthfulness, and personal trust and commitment. As we walk by faith, it is critically important that we grow in faith and in knowledge of the faith.

Faith is central to the Christian life because it lays hold of Christ himself, who dwells in our hearts by faith (Gal. 2:20). All the benefits of salvation are ours through union with Christ, who is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30).

Challenge: Have you embraced all the implications of walking by faith?

February: Justified by Faith

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1 NKJV).

Through faith in Christ, the believer is declared to be forgiven and righteous in God's sight (Rom. 4:5). This is the heart of New Testament and Reformation religion, and it answers the most crucial religious question of all: how can we as sinful men and women have peace with a holy and righteous God? This fact that we are justified by grace through faith as a gift (Rom. 5:15; Eph. 2:8-9) is both liberating and humbling: on the one hand, we are freed from the slavery of trying desperately to do enough to please God; on the other hand, that there is nothing we can do to earn God's favor and blessing through our own efforts.

Challenge: Have you thanked God today for His loving acceptance of you in Christ Jesus? Have you told someone else the good news of justification by faith in Christ?

March: Sanctified by Faith

"that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:18b NKJV).

Sanctification is the progressive change in the lives of Christians as they die to the old patterns of sinful existence and come alive to the new life in Christ (Rom. 6:1-14). This takes place by faith, as the power of the indwelling Christ works in our lives, making real progress in sanctification a reality (Gal. 2:20). True faith expresses itself in love (Gal. 5:6).

Challenge: Are you trying to live the Christian life in your own human power, or are you by faith allowing God's infinite power to change your life (Phil. 4:13).

April: Continuing in the Faith (Perseverance)

"if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel" (Col. 1:23a NIV).

Those who are joined with Christ by faith must continue, or persevere, in faith (2 Pet. 1:5-9). We are to press on toward the goal, knowing that the power of God is fully sufficient to meet our needs and to bring us safely home (Phil. 3:12-14; 2:13), that nothing can "separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39), and that Christ himself is both the author and the finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

Challenge: Are you trusting Christ to enable you to persevere in faith.

May: Access by Faith (Prayer, Intercession)

"through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2 NKJV).

One of the wonderful privileges of the Christian life is access by faith to the throne of grace, where we find the mercy and grace we need to live triumphantly (Heb. 4:16). Through faith we can approach God in prayer with confidence, knowing that He hears us gladly for the sake of His Son.

Challenge: Is your prayer life characterized by the confidence that comes from faithful reliance upon Christ and his righteousness?

June: A Growing Faith

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing” (2 Thess. 1:3 NIV).

Our experience of faith should not be static and unchanging. Rather, faith must grow and mature in the knowledge and love of God.

Challenge: Is your personal faith in Christ deeper and more mature than it was a year ago?

July: Assurance of Faith

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb. 10:22 NKJV).

The New Testament teaches that Christians can approach God with confidence and assurance of His love, knowing that He is faithful to His promises, and that He is fully able to bring us to our eternal reward with Him (Rom. 8:15-17).

Challenge: Explore the salvation promises of God in the Bible, and rely in faith on His perfect faithfulness (2 Tim. 2:13).

August: Unity in the Faith

“until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God” (Eph. 4:13a NIV).

By faith we are united with Christ, forming the body of Christ with other believers (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Pet. 2:4-5). So it is that by faith that we experience a unity with all other believers, wherever they may be. As members of one body by faith, we need one another, and we suffer with one another (1 Cor. 12: 20-26).

Challenge: Have you reviewed the membership vows you took to promote the unity of the church?

September: Contending for the Faith

“I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints” (Jude 3b NIV).

We as Christians are warned in Scripture that false teachers will emerge, attempting to lead people astray (Acts 20:28-31). Furthermore, we are told to be vigilant and to hold fast to the message that was entrusted to us (2 Tim. 1:13).

Challenge: What challenges to the truth of the gospel are prevalent in our culture today? How can we as individuals and churches “contend for the faith”?

October: Sharing our Faith

“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ” (Phlm. 6 NIV).

Christians are called to share their faith with others (Matt. 28:19-20). A special blessing of the Christian life available to each Christian is the opportunity to share in the spread of the gospel message through proclamation and the giving of resources.

Challenge: Are you sharing your faith in Christ with others? How?

November: Sound in Faith (Christian Education)

“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance” (Titus 2:1-2 NIV).

The goal of the church’s ministries of preaching and teaching is the building up of God’s people so that they may be “sound in faith.” We must receive and accept sound doctrine if our faith is to be sound and mature.

Challenge: What are you doing to encourage and strengthen the educational ministries of your church?

December: The Goal of Faith

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him, and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the saving of your souls” (1 Pet. 1:9 NIV).

As Christians, we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). We look backward to the Incarnation and the work of Christ on earth, and we look forward by faith to the richness of God’s blessing for all eternity (Rev. 21:3-5). But even now we are receiving the blessings of salvation through faith in Christ, and we rejoice.

Challenge: Let’s give thanks to God for the blessings of salvation, both now and in the future.

Synod recessed with the blessing and benediction by D.J. Walkup.

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

7:00 P.M.

Special music was provided by Synod’s Men’s Chorus.

The evening worship was led by J. R. deWitt who was introduced by R.T. Ruble.

A motion carried that the Minutes be adopted without reading, and that the final roll call be waived.

Mr. Carslile recognized with thanks Marty Cope, The Men’s Chorus, the pages, the clerks, the parliamentarian, the technical staff, Ed Hogan, Beth Willis, the Vice Moderator, and all the members of the court.

A motion carried to commend Mr. Carslile for his moderation of the Synod.

The motion to adjourn prevailed.

The Synod sang the song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133.

Synod adjourned with Moderator Carlisle reading Paul's Prayer from the book of Ephesians.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. H. Carlisle, Moderator
W. B. Evans, Vice-Moderator
C. R. Beard, Principal Clerk
C.F. Edgar, Reading Clerk
W. E. Kirkpatrick, Bill Clerk
J. D. Cook, Assistant Clerk
A. K. Putnam, Parliamentarian

