

PREFACE
Saturday, May 3, 2003

The Called Historical Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held at 2:00 P.M. in the Old Brick Church in Fairfield County, South Carolina.

Moderator David Sides introduced Joe Timms, who had been baptized in the Old Brick Church, and expressed thanks to Catawba Presbytery, the Bethel Church of Winnsboro, S.C., and Elder “Snooks” Chappell for making this historic meeting possible. He called the meeting to order, and then constituted this first called meeting of the General Synod in the history of the denomination.

C. E. Linderman led the singing of *Bible Songs* No. 209 and D. L. Pearson gave the invocation. Mr. Linderman led the singing of *Bible Songs* No. 171.

W. R. Roberts, Synod’s Historian, presented a historical address, and Mr. Linderman led the congregation, precentor-style, in the singing of Psalm 16.

C. T. McCants read the scripture, Jeremiah 3:14-18, and delivered the sermon.

J. B. Dagenhart, Vice Moderator of General Synod, led in the pastoral prayer.

A motion to adjourn prevailed, and Moderator Sides declared the meeting to be adjourned following the singing of *Bible Songs* No. 280 and the benediction by G. C. Slater.

The 199th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held in Due West, S.C., home of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary.

A number of special presentations and events were a part of the celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the denomination. The presentations and events that were included as a part of the formal meetings of the General Synod are reported in the Minutes of the Synod. This preface is for the purpose of recording those activities held at other times during the celebration.

Sunday, June 8, 2003
7:00 P.M

The Bicentennial Celebration began on the Lord’s Day in the Due West Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church with the presentation “Roots of the Reformation—*Is the Early Church Relevant to the Scottish Reformation?*” by D. M. Fairbairn followed at 8:00 P.M. with the presentation “The Reformation—*Preaching as Worship*” by Hughes Oliphant Old.

Monday, June 9, 2003
8:30 A.M.

The Bicentennial Celebration continued at the Due West Church with the presentation “Scottish Roots of the A. R. P. Church—*The Secession of 1733: Contending for the Gospel?*” by J. L. Carson.

At 9:30 A.M. J. Whytock spoke on the subject “*Associate Reformed Synod of 1782: Union or Betrayal?*”

A coffee break was taken at 10:30 A.M.

Following the break D. Johnson presented his address, “Associate Reformed Synod of the Carolinas—*The Synod of 1803 and the A.R.P.’s Suspicion of Revivalism.*”

At 11:45 Iain Murray spoke on “Scottish Theology—*Robert Bruce: Knox’s Heir in Edinburgh.*”

The morning celebration closed with prayer and a blessing by H. N. Gaston.

Monday, June 9, 2003
1:00 P. M.

Synod’s Orientation for first-time delegates to the General Synod was held at 1:00 P.M. at the Daniel Moultrie Science Center Auditorium.

Delegate registration began at 1:00 P.M in the Bowie Art Center.

Presbytery meetings were held at various places in Due West beginning at 1:45 P.M.

At 1:45 P.M. a special Women’s Program trip to historic Abbeville was followed by a Drop-In at the Due West Retirement Center at 4:00 P.M.

Other events during the week included Women’s Programs Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 A.M. in the Bowie Divinity Chapel hosted by Susan Hunt. A Women’s Program tour of Due West began at 2:45 P.M on Tuesday.

A Women of the Synod Tea was held in the Carson home Tuesday at 3:30 P.M.

The Pastor’s Wives’ Fellowship was Wednesday at 10:45 A.M. at Bowie Divinity Chapel.

Monday, June 9, 2003
7:00 P.M., The Singing of the Psalms
7:30 P.M. The Opening Worship Service,
The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Following an informal Psalm sing the 199th annual meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

began in the Due West Church with the opening worship service and the celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper.

7:00 P.M.	Informal Psalm Sing	C. Earl Linderman
	Accompanist	Mrs. Harriet Linderman
7:30 P.M.*	Call to Worship	Psalm 150
	New Sterling Church Choir	
	*Constitution of the General Synod	
	*Bible Songs	#237
	Memorial Service	W. C. Lauderdale
	The Listing of Deceased Teaching Elders (Since last meeting of Synod)	
	The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders (Calendar Year 2002)	
	The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition	
	Special Music	C. Earl Linderman and Eddie Compton
	<i>As The Hart Panteth</i>	
	Scripture Reading	J. B. Dagenhart
	Sermon	J. B. Dagenhart
	Special Music	New Sterling Church Choir
	<i>Let Mount Zion Rejoice</i>	
	The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	C. E. Linderman,
	T. R. Watson
	The Invitation to the Table	
	The Prayer of Confession and Consecration	
	The Distribution of the Bread and Cup	
	The Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving	
	*Bible Songs	#243
	*The Benediction	J. B. Dagenhart
	*Please stand	

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

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

7:00 A.M.

C. E Linderman led the morning Psalm sing at the Watkins Student Center.

Retiring Moderator D. W. Sides opened the meeting with prayer and the Synod sang a congregational hymn, "His Praise" based on I Timothy 3:1-7.

Moderator Elect W. A. Frazier introduced Dr. Daniel Doriani who led the opening worship service, "The Portrait of a Leader."

Moderator Sides called the first session of the 199th Synod meeting to order.

J. L. Carson, President of Erskine College, thanked the Due West Church for all its help with the meeting of the General Synod, the volunteers who made presentations, the volunteers for the women's and children's programs, and Chip Sherer for overseeing all the

work. He then welcomed the delegates to Due West and Erskine College.

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

Mr. Beard announced the results of the voting in the presbyteries for the 2002 General Synod Overture. The Overture was adopted as a majority of those voting in the Presbyteries voted in the affirmative.

A motion carried that a special offering be received at the Tuesday evening worship service to help Erskine College with the expenses of the Synod meeting.

Following a statement of appreciation for his wife, Betty, for all her support, D. W. Sides presented his Retiring Moderator's Address.

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Friends!

I first want to thank my wife, Betty, who after 48 years remains the apple of my eye, for her support and understanding during my year of extreme travel. The "honey-do" is quite long that awaits me following this meeting of Synod.

Our daughter, Betty Boyd, stopped by our home last Friday on the way to a mountain camping trip. She said "for the first time in my life, I'm going to give you some advice...next Tuesday when you give your parting remarks, be brief"—and I shall.

This has been a learning experience for me. The first thing I learned was to slow down going through Honea Path following receiving a \$400.00 speeding ticket. Jay West, with all his contacts, could not "fix" it. My only option was to throw myself on the mercy of the court. My friends, Grace took on a whole new meaning for me that morning as I stood before a very compassionate judge, and after paying a very small monetary fine and promising not to do it again—I heard those good words—"Go in Peace."

It has also been a very rewarding experience. I have visited all nine Presbyteries, bringing greetings to 8 at a regular stated meeting.

I was the homecoming speaker at Concord and Unity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches. I brought greetings to Shiloh as they celebrated their 200th anniversary. I brought greetings to Pressly Memorial at Red Level, Alabama and to Prosperity at Taft, TN, on their 175th anniversary.

I also brought greetings to Sherwood Forest Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Columbia on their 50 year celebration.

I brought the morning message at First Rock Hill; Prosperity, Taft, TN; Pressly Memorial, Red Level, AL; Old Providence, VA; Progressive, Princeton, NC; Emmanuel Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC; Faith Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Merritt Island, FL; and my home church, New Sterling.

I also spoke to Erskine students at Spring convocation.

I joined the Fayetteville, TN, Church as they burned the note marking the debt on their new building paid.

I have attended some 42 meetings of Boards and Committees as they carried out the work of the church.

I was privileged to moderate the called meeting of General Synod on May 3, 2003, at the Old Brick Church in Fairfield County, SC.

I was invited to conduct the Fall Festival of Faith at the Presbyterian Church I attended as a child, and there made a profession of faith accepting Jesus Christ as my savior. I also attended the annual meeting of NAPARC.

God has blessed the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church but we face some very serious problems—I will only mention two:

1. Affordable Health Care.
2. Integrating new churches into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian family, getting them to embrace the programs, agencies and institutions of the Church. May I remind you that 1/3 of our churches did not contribute the first penny to Synod's Agency support last year.

These problems should drive this church to its knees as we seek God's guidance and wisdom in addressing these problems.

I want to thank you for allowing "this old farm boy" whose roots are deep in the red clay soils of Piedmont North Carolina to serve my church and my God as your Moderator.

May God continue to bless the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Thank you!

The General Synod rose with a round of applause for Mr. Sides.

Retiring Moderator Sides presented Moderator-Elect W. A. Frazier to the Synod. J. L. Carson escorted Mr. Frazier to the podium. Mr. Sides placed the Moderator's Shield around Mr. Frazier's neck and made brief remarks. Mr. Frazier presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Mr. Sides and led in a prayer for Mr. Sides.

Moderator Frazier introduced the Vice-Moderator, F. M. Hunt II, to the Synod.

Moderator Frazier presented his Moderator's Challenge to the Synod.

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE**“REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS...WHERE THEY ARE”**

Fathers & brethren, thank you for the privilege and honor of serving Christ and His Church as Moderator of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. God must have a sense of humor because at the Bicentennial Synod of the South, you have elected a moderator whose spiritual roots are from the Synod of the North! I was reared in an Old United Presbyterian Church, that was the Synod of the North. I am among a growing number of ARP's who weren't reared in this Church. We have been ecclesiastical and theological orphans who have been warmly welcomed into the ARP family. And so we have grown to appreciate as all ARP's do our 221 years—the history of God's faithfulness! In 2000, we completed a decade of significant growth reaching beyond an ambitious goal of expanding by 50 churches. God gave us seventy!

Today, we convene in Due West, hosted by Erskine College and Seminary. Back in 1977 when this Synod adopted “The Statement on Christian Higher Education,” we had no idea how God would bless our institutions of higher education as that statement was being implemented and continues to be implemented. Erskine is about “...taking every thought captive to obey Jesus Christ...” and we are here celebrating what God has done! Today under the leadership of John Carson & Don Weatherman at the college and R.J. Gore & Neely Gaston at the seminary, we have first-rate academic institutions, faculty and students. In the Association of Christian Colleges, Erskine is the only member from the southeast to make the third tier of U.S. News' annual rankings. Our seminary has more published professors than ever before. Erskine's future is bright as we train the next generation of leaders for the ARP Church and beyond. I'm proud to say that my daughter, Lydia, is a student at Erskine. As a Biblical Studies major, she has benefited greatly from interaction with both college and seminary professors. May the college press on to fully integrate a biblical world view into every academic discipline.

We have not always had a positive outlook as ARP's. Back in the 1960's and 1970's our Church was uncertain about whether we would remain committed to our confessional and Reformed heritage! We wavered on biblical inerrancy and debated women's ordination for several synods. Today those matters have been resolved biblically. God has providentially brought us from the brink of leaving our historic & biblical convictions! To God be the glory!

So this Bicentennial Synod is a celebration of what God has done!

May we join together in worship and adoration of the One who have redeemed us and has preserved us especially as we look in the rear view mirror and are reminded of God's faithfulness through the lectures about our theological heritage.

But this is no time for complacency! We live in fast changing times—a new century, a new Post-modern, Post-Christian era. We must learn to live in the tension between remaining faithful to our Reformed & biblical heritage while at the same time CHANGING like we have never CHANGED before. As those who are Reformed, we must be constantly reforming our thoughts & lives by scripture. But as sinners, we tend to make our culture normative, our preferences absolute and our comfort paramount. Christ calls the ARP Church to radical discipleship! May we so cling to Christ that He would dramatically transform us by His unerring word & Spirit. Therefore, I bring 2 challenges that are essential for us to serve Christ effectively in our 3rd Century!

I. I challenge us to be “Reaching Our Neighbors...Where They Are.”

The Great Commission continues to be our “marching orders!” (Matt. 28:18-20) How can Reformed Churches who recaptured through the Protestant Reformation the doctrines of grace fail to have a passion for evangelism? We're passionate about the Truth as we must be! But Biblical truth must never become an end in itself or it will have become an idol. If we truly worship Jesus who is “...the way, the truth, and the life...” we will have a passion for what God has a passion for—the lost people of this world—His elect. We must repent of settling for theological correctness without evangelistic passion. Brothers, I'm speaking from personal experience! We have self-righteously congratulated ourselves for being Reformed when so many others are not. This sinfully builds “barriers” around the glorious gospel. We so easily become the prodigal's “older brother” after our conversion because our sinful tendency is always toward idols—erecting a “righteous of our own” rather than in Jesus alone. In our sinfulness we would rather erect a “righteousness of our own” of being “Reformed”. This dulls the edge of our evangelistic fervor. Have we forgotten that it was Reformed theology that thrust out the modern missionary movement?

Scripture reminds us that God, the Father, even before the foundation of the world “...chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless...” The Doctrines of Grace are about God taking the initiative to REACH US WHERE WE ARE—or should we say, “WHERE we were?” WHERE did Christ reach you? WHERE you

were? Therefore as God's adopted sons and daughters, we ought to reflect the passion of our heavenly Father! God is a "Missionary God"! Jesus said in John 20:21, "As the Father sent me, I am sending you." God's eternal decree purposed to save a people for his glory by entering history to bridge the gap caused by our sins. (Rev. 17:8) God called out Abraham from all the nations of the world, so that Israel would be a blessing to the nations. (Gen. 12:3) The incarnation was God, the Son, "bridging the gap" caused by our sin. He became the substitute for God's elect. (Rev. 5:9)

B.B. Warfield in an article in his *Biblical & Theological Studies*, asks the question, "Are They Few That Be Saved?" He answers with a resounding, "No!" We have comforted ourselves with a remnant theology that "justifies" smallness even as a badge of honor. But Revelation 7:9 says, "...I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." That same picture was given to Abraham, our forefather in the faith when he and Sarah were childless. On a clear, starlit night, God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars if indeed you can count them... So shall your offspring be!" (Gen. 15:5) God was talking about Abraham's spiritual offspring, the Church of Jesus Christ!

"Reaching Our Neighbors—Where They Are" is my theme as Moderator. In **Luke 10:29** the expert in the law asked Jesus, "Who then is my neighbor?" We ARP's ask that question. I know I do. We limit our neighborly by asking: Who? When? and How much? If people are willing to jump over our stylistic and cultural barriers, they are welcome at our church. If they are willing to become just like us, they are welcome! How different is the sovereign God of Grace who has in Jesus met us WHERE WE ARE!!!

Where are our neighbors? Who are our neighbors? An increasing number of our neighbors that we are commanded to "love as our self" are diverse people in urban centers. Back Creek ARP's community northeast of Charlotte has made me grapple with some issues that may well determine the spiritual vitality of our Synod in our third century. In August 1991, Back Creek had seven functioning farms and several were dairy farms. Newell was a rural community. My happiest memories as a youth are summers working on my grandparents' farms in Western PA. Lowry Ware and James Gettys in their ARP History volume, *The Second Century*, indicate that ARP churches were at one time entirely limited to farming communities with not one in the city. (page 4) They go on to say that our second century from 1882 to 1982 was characterized

as a time of “...lengthening the cords & strengthening the stakes...”

Now in our Bicentennial Synod we must do the same thing again, not just geographically, but culturally, ethnically, and racially because our next century will be in a very diverse country & world. Unless we change—reflecting the demographics of our communities our beloved denomination could become a “footnote” within 50 years.

Back Creek in 12 years has experienced what our primarily rural ARP Church will be facing. Newell, our rural, farming community, is gone! Now we are suburban and moving quickly toward urban. Our University City area demographics are 41% white; 33% black; and 26% other. At Back Creek we are grappling with *HOW we can Reach our Neighbors WHERE they are?* Your neighborhood may be quite different. But how are you connecting with the people in your community? Back Creek has Men’s Basketball on Thursday evenings where it is not uncommon for me to be the only Anglo. We also have Riptide Basketball for 120 youth developed by Jonathan Rockness. About 35% of the children are black. Some of these folks worship with us, though not many, and we have no black members. Pray that we will be enabled to reach our neighbors.

Back Creek has been one of the faster growing ARP congregations, but unless in the next 10 years we reflect the diversity of our community, we will become a “commuter church” & decline will be inevitable! We will be no different than other urban ARP congregations in Charlotte: First ARP, Parkwood, Chalmers, and Tabernacle. Right now New Covenant, Ebenezer, Craig Avenue-Tabernacle, and Idlewild are struggling with reaching their neighbors as Back Creek is. When urban diversity moves into our communities we ARP’s have historically declined because we have not figured out how to reach over cultural barriers to “REACH OUR NEIGHBORS—WHERE THEY ARE...” We must become like World Witness missionaries who grapple with leaping over these barriers every single day! Ray Bakke in his book, *A Theology as Big As the City* writes:

“As we move away from a world of nations to a world of interconnected multinational cities, it’s clear that the frontier of mission has shifted...Mission is no longer about crossing the oceans, jungles, and deserts, but about crossing the streets of the world’s cities. From now on, nearly all ministry will be cross-cultural amid the urban pluralism caused by the greatest migration in human history from Southern hemispheres to the North, from East to West and, above all from rural to urban.” (p. 13)

U.S. News & World Report in the January 6th, 2003 issue says:

“...By 2010 three quarters of the world’s population will be living in urban areas.” (p. 19)

We must go WHERE the people are! In 1900 2% of our neighbors in the United States lived in urban centers over 400,000. The 2000 census indicates that 51% of our neighbors live in urban centers and that percentage is growing rapidly. We have had a good, rural heritage for two centuries. Our third century must reach urban centers because that is where the growing demographic is! “Go, make disciples of all nations...” (Matt. 28:19) The “nations” have come to our cities!

To say that ethnic, cultural, and racial barriers are practically too hard to overcome is to deny the Gospel of Jesus Christ! It is to forget the infinite barrier God, the Son, jumped over as He condescended to save us. It is to deny that Christ’s death for people of every tongue, tribe, nation and kindred has “...broken down the dividing wall of hostility...” Ephesians 2 underlines the supernatural wonder of the First Century that Jews and Gentiles in Christ saw each other as brothers & sisters. Our world is looking for a demonstration of the power of the Gospel. Is that being demonstrated in the diversity of our congregations? As this century progresses, it will be more and more likely that our neighbors will be different from us. The Lord is bringing “the nations” to North America! The only question is, Will we ARP’s be a neighbor? Will we be “REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS—WHERE THEY ARE?”

How can the ARP Church accomplish this?

#1—We must focus our church planting efforts on growing suburban & urban areas. (Outreach North America has already made this commitment, but we need Presbyteries to “own” this as well!)

#2—We must actively seek pastors, church planters & missionaries with cross-cultural experience to mentor us. (Teach us how we can we reach over culture barriers to our neighbors.)

#3—We must encourage local ARP congregations to build relationships with sister congregations across cultural, racial and denominational lines and encourage ARP’s to do the same in our daily relationships. (In isolation we will never develop any skills in reaching people—whether they are similar or different from us.)

#4 –I challenge every ARP to build one friendship with an unbeliever in your neighborhood this year and share the gospel with them. (We have just a little over 27,000 active members. We could double in size if every ARP just REACHED ONE NEIGHBOR—WHERE THEY ARE!)

My second challenge is:

II. To FULLY EMBRACE REORGANIZATION of our ARP agency structure.

In a few years all six of our ARP agency directors will retire after years of effective service. When Neely Gaston was Moderator, he took the initiative to set up the Special Committee on Organization to take a comprehensive look at the way we function. This synod will receive a preliminary report. How encouraging to see God's people so trusting in Christ that we aren't perpetuating organizations and structures, but rather are open to Christ's guidance!

At Back Creek, our elders discussed for 18 months a restructuring of our session committees. Our structure had served well for decades. But as the church grew and the structure evolved it had become a barrier to effective, biblical ministry. Therefore, we reorganized with 5 biblical disciplines: Worship, Discipleship, Community, Outreach and Stewardship (Diaconate). This biblical simplicity has given us new direction. All the kinks aren't worked out yet. But our elders are wondering why we were so slow to change.

Fathers and brethren, we have a unique opportunity to restructure the boards & agencies of our Synod! I challenge us to step out boldly for the sake of Christ's Church and ask: "Jesus, King and Head of the ARP Church, what do you want to be the form of our structures?" This is no time for "turf wars"! Christ's will must be paramount so that we might be more biblical and effective as stewards of the "mysteries of God's grace".

As your Moderator, I pledge to you my desire to faithfully represent our entire synod. Pray that God will give me grace to do that! I also have a sense of being called to encourage a DIALOGUE. To help us biblically rethink some things. We may need to read critically and gain insights from authors who aren't Reformed, not because we "buy" their theology. But because we who are Reformed believe that all truth is God's truth. It should not surprise us that some folks who are not Reformed have seen facets of God's truth that we have missed. May we be humble enough to admit that.

Business as usual will not honor the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the ARP Church. Biblical history reveals a trend. When Christ's Church fails to REACH OUR NEIGHBORS—WHERE THEY ARE, God has a plan. When the primarily Jewish Christians in Jerusalem tended toward isolation, God sent a persecution that caused the church to be scattered and that scattered the gospel. (See Acts 8:1,4) When Israel got smug and ingrown thinking the gospel was only for Jews, God sent Babylon and

Jerusalem was destroyed in 587 BC. The Israelites who had become isolated from their neighbors—the very people they were to bless with the Gospel—were carried off to Babylon. There the exiles in Babylon were told by false prophets that they were to stay outside the cities and remain isolated from the Babylonians. Then God told Jeremiah in chapter 29 to write a letter to the exiles where God said: “Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; Build ye houses, and dwell in them, and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; Build ye houses, and dwell in them, and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel;... (Jeremiah 29:4-8a)

The purity of the Bride of Christ is very important. But purity for purity's sake is as empty as a beauty pageant! May the “Beauty of Christ” be seen in the ARP Church as we REACH OUR NEIGHBORS—WHERE THEY ARE?

Vice-Moderator Hunt presented the program for the 2003 meeting. The program was adopted.

Moderator Frazier introduced guests and attendees to the Synod. He called attention to those assisting in the meeting: John Lutz (Technician), Mrs. Joung Sook Nahm (Interpreter), and M. C. Manwarren (Music Coordinator). Others recognized (See Official Roll of Synod for list of official guests):

Pages: Mr. Brian Howard (Catawba Presbytery) and Mr. Bryan Crotts (First Presbytery).

Ministers Received or Ordained Since the Last Meeting of Synod (Those present were asked to come forward):

First: John Giddens, Leo Markwat, J. B. Oh, Lou Quievryn,

Brian Walker. **Florida:** Jonathan Winfree. **Mississippi Valley:** Bill Izard. **Northeast:** Henry Bartsch, Kevin Carter, Anthony Quinn. **Pacific:** Bon Suk Koo, Brian Sim, Choo Young Soo. **Virginia:** David Vance.

New Missions and/or Congregations Which Have Joined the ARP Family Since the Last Meeting of Synod: **Catawba:** Hope Mission, Pearland, TX, Reverend Gentry McColm, Mission Developer; New Millenium Community Mission, Houston, TX, Reverend Stephane Cobbert, Mission Developer. **Pacific:** The Good Samaritan Church, Los Angeles CA, Reverend Kue Whan Joung, Pastor. **Virginia:** Greyfriars, Blacksburg, VA, Reverend David Vance, Mission Developer.

Seminary and Special Students Under Care of Presbytery (See Appendix). Those present were asked to come forward.

Synod recessed for a Coffee Break.

Synod reconvened with special music by Jonathan Ruth.

Alan Derrick presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Employees and Missionaries: C. Spears Alexander, C. Ronald Beard, Wilfred A. Bellamy, William D. Blakely, Thomas Braithwaite, Milad F. Doss, Donald W. Elliott, C. Biddle Foster, Carl Geisik, William M. Harris, Jr., Hae Soung Kim, Jan Senneker.

W. L. Barron introduced Chaplain Ed Brogan of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel who spoke to the Synod. Mr. Brogan noted the services of R. J. Gore, who is completing a four-year term.

R. T. Ruble presented the 2003 history volume, *The Bicentennial History of the A.R.P. Church*. He recognized the efforts of Edith Brawley, Lowry Ware and Molly Ruble in the work of creating the volume, and called the attention of the Synod to the historic exhibitions around the campus.

W. R. Roberts, Synod Historian, rose to express his gratitude to Mr. Ruble for his efforts in providing the publication, noting that it provides not only a ready reference for us today, but preserves for future generations a history of our church. The following resolution was presented and adopted:

Resolved: That the General Synod rise to express its gratitude to the Reverend Randall T. Ruble, Ph.D., for his efforts in the publication of *The Bicentennial of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church 1950—2003*. Further, that this resolution be entered in the Minutes of this 199th annual meeting of the General Synod.

Mr. Roberts then expressed his gratitude to Dr. Lowry Ware and Dr. James W. Gettys for their efforts in the publication in 1982 of the *Second Century*, noting that it has been a magnificent reference for all who want to learn and understand Associate Reformed Presbyterians. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That the General Synod rise to express its gratitude to Dr. Lowry Ware and Dr. James W. Gettys for their efforts in the publication of *The Second Century, A History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterians, 1882–1982*. Further, that this resolution be entered in the Minutes of this 199th annual meeting of the General Synod.

Moderator Frazier appointed his Moderator's Committees and issued the call for reports for reference to the Moderator's Committees.

A motion carried that the Report of the Special Committee on Organization, a memorial from First Presbytery and a memorial from Catawba Presbytery be a part of the business of the 2003 Synod.

Memorials were referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

Monte Campbell presented the **Recommended 2004 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. The allocation was adopted. [Note: These supersede the allocations budgeted and/or recommended in the reports of Boards and Committees unless noted otherwise.]

Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Income for Calendar Year 2004

In accordance with the procedures 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 2004 are based on the following estimates:

100% of Anticipated Commitments from Churches in 2003	\$2,710,058
5% of Market Value of ARP Foundation Endowment	24,441
Estimated Interest for Allocation	2,500
Total Resources for Allocation	\$2,736,999
The overall increase in funds is .81%.	

In the event that the actual pledges and/or anticipated receipts for calendar year 2004 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. The Board of Stewardship will review the requests and submit its recommendations to the General Synod.

The recommended allocation of funds for calendar year 2004 is reflected in **column 4** of "Recommended Allocations for 2004." Other information presented:

Column 2 reflects the amounts requested by Synod's Boards and Committees, or in the absence of a request, the last requested amount.

Column 3 reflects the **lesser** of the amount requested or the amount based on the percentage approved for 2003.

Column 4 reflects the dollar recommendation of the Board of Stewardship.

Column 5 reflects the recommended amounts as a percentage of the total funds recommended for allocation.

The anticipated resources are insufficient to meet the expressed needs of all agencies. In determining the recommended allocations, the Board of Stewardship considered approved and existing commitments, reserves, and the 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 budgeted for 2003. It should be noted, also, that the obligations incurred by the 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 Administrative Services, ARP Foundation, and Benefits. The allocation to Erskine takes into consideration funding for the Chaplain.

The Board of Stewardship has reviewed the budgets of the agencies of Synod and commends the budgets presented. We remind the members of the Court that budgets should be reviewed in Moderator Committees and/or when the Court considers reports.

The revised allocations for 2003 are shown for comparative purposes.

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATIONS FOR 2004

AGENCY	Lesser of Same % or			% of Total
	Requested	Requested	Recommended	
Boards and Agencies				
Administrative Services	\$ 173,487	\$ 163,729	\$ 163,729	5.98%
Annuities & Relief	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,795	\$ 6,795	0.25%
ARP Center Facility	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,820	\$ 14,820	0.54%
ARP Foundation	\$ 28,437	\$ 28,437	\$ 28,437	1.04%
Executive Board	\$ 99,092	\$ 96,500	\$ 96,500	3.53%
Stewardship & Con.	\$ 41,880	\$ 39,852	\$ 41,880	1.54%
Commission & Com.	\$ -	-	-	
Ecclesiastical Com.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Historical Concerns	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	0.27%
Inter-Church Relations	\$ 17,118	\$ 15,786	\$ 15,786	0.58%
Lay Ministry	\$ 21,500	\$ 17,209	\$ 17,209	0.63%
Minister & His Work	\$ 9,594	\$ 9,594	\$ 9,594	0.35%
Nominations	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0.13%
Theological & Soc.Con.	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.05%
Worship	\$ 28,275	\$ 18,772	\$ 18,772	0.69%
Sub-Total for Non-Prog.	\$ 454,383	\$ 423,994	\$ 426,022	15.58%
Bonclarken	\$ 145,280	\$ 143,533	\$ 143,533	5.24%
Covenant Discipleship	\$ 237,946	\$ 202,667	\$ 202,667	7.40%
Dunlap	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Erskine	\$ 710,709	\$ 557,496	\$ 557,496	20.37%
Erskine Student Union	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.02%
ONA Operations	\$ 674,699	\$ 645,293	\$ 650,960	23.78%
Publications	\$ 112,815	\$ 104,861	\$ 104,861	3.83%
World Witness	\$ 715,000	\$ 650,960	\$ 650,960	23.78%
Program Sub-Total	\$2,596,949	\$2,305,310	\$2,310,977	84.42%
TOTALS	\$3,051,332	\$2,729,304	\$2,736,999	100.00%

ALLOCATIONS FOR 2003

AGENCY	Approved by		Approved As Adjusted by	
	General Synod	Approved %	Board of Stewardship	Adjusted %
Boards and Agencies				
Administrative Serv.	\$ 165,721	5.98%	\$ 162,407	5.98%
Annuities & Relief	\$ 6,878	0.25%	\$ 6,740	0.25%
ARP Center Facility	\$ 15,000	0.54%	\$ 14,700	0.54%
ARP Foundation	\$ 33,834	1.22%	\$ 33,157	1.22%

Executive Board	\$ 97,675	3.53%	\$ 95,721	3.53%
Stewardship & Con.	\$ 40,470	1.46%	\$ 39,531	1.45%
Commission & Com.	\$			
Ecclesiastical Com.	\$	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Historical Con.	\$ 12,500	0.45%	\$ 10,000	0.37%
Inter-Church Relations	\$ 15,979	0.58%	\$ 15,659	0.58%
Lay Ministry	\$ 17,418	0.63%	\$ 17,070	0.63%
Minister & His Work	\$ 9,594	0.35%	\$ 9,594	0.35%
Nominations	\$ 3,500	0.13%	\$ 3,500	0.13%
Theological & Social Concerns	\$ 1,500	0.05%	\$ 1,500	0.06%
Worship	\$ 19,000	0.69%	\$ 18,620	0.69%
Sub-Total for Non-Prog.	\$ 439,069	15.86%	\$ 428,199	15.78%
Bonclarken	\$ 145,280	5.24%	\$ 142,374	5.24%
Covenant Disc.	\$ 205,134	7.40%	\$ 201,031	7.40%
Dunlap	\$ -	0.00%	\$	0.00%
Erskine	\$ 564,281	20.37%	\$ 552,995	20.37%
Erskine Student Union	\$ 500	0.02%	\$ 500	0.02%
ONA Operations	\$ 653,146	23.58%	\$ 640,083	23.58%
Publications	\$ 104,014	3.75%	\$ 104,014	3.83%
World Witness	\$ 658,882	23.78%	\$ 645,704	23.78%
Program Sub-Total	\$ 2,331,237	84.14%	\$ 2,286,701	84.22%
TOTALS	\$ 2,770,306	100.00%	\$ 2,714,900	100.00%

The Report of the Ecclesiastical Commission was presented by H. N. Morris. The following actions of the Commission were presented for approval:

- a. Concerning the failure of churches to fulfill the Terms of a Call, Chapter X, Section E, *Form of Government*, insert subsection 12 and renumber sub-sections 12-17 accordingly. **Approved for overture to presbyteries.**
- b. Concerning ministers serving outside the United States, Resolution authorizing the amendment to the ARP Retirement Plan. **Approved.**
- c. Concerning Pastoral Calls to ministers serving outside the United States, that Chapter X, Section E, *Form of Government* be amended. **Approved for overture to presbyteries.**

Synod recessed for the order of the day.

(Those matters requiring overture as alterations in the *Form of Government* will be sent down to the Presbyteries for vote and report to the 2004 meeting of the General Synod.)

The Morning business session closed as the Synod was dismissed to attend a history presentation.

**Tuesday, June 10 , 2003
2:00 P.M.**

W. B. Evans led the afternoon worship service on the 20th Century A.R.P. Confessional Context entitled “ARP Confessional and Theological Identity in the Modern Period.”

A motion to reconsider the previous session’s action with regard to the Judicial Commission’s report carried.

A motion carried to amend the Commission’s recommendation with regard to the proposed amendment to the *Form of Government* Chapter X,E,11 by the addition, (following “locally-accredited and registered retirement plan”), the words, “approved by the Presbytery.”

A motion carried that the matters having to do with the financial contributions from Canadian Churches be adopted. The report as a whole as amended was adopted.

REPORT OF ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION ON JUDICIARY AFFAIRS

The Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs (“The Commission”) met on two occasions to consider matters referred by the Executive Board of Synod. Meetings were held February 5, 2003, and April 24, 2003. Mr. Ed Cox convened the first meeting and Mr. Harold Morris was elected Chairman.

Three items were referred to the Commission:

1. Matters relating to the failure of churches to fulfill the requirements of the *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.11.
2. Issues related to the participation of Canadian pastors in the ARP Retirement Plan.
3. Issues related to the financial participation of Canadian churches in the ministries of the General Synod.

The *Form of Government*, Chapter XIV, Section B sets forth the purpose and the authority and responsibilities of an ecclesiastical commission:

1. It is empowered by a court of the Church to examine, consider, and conclude certain designated business.
2. Its actions may be amended or reversed by a majority vote of the appointing court.
3. Its report is to be entered into the minutes and is to be regarded

as an action of the appointing court.

The Commission was informed that the Executive Board of Synod had acted on behalf of the General Synod in making the referrals and proceeded on the basis that it was to examine, consider, and conclude the designated business.

For clarity, the following terms will apply throughout this report:

1. **Churches:** Churches of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. **Retirement Plan:** Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan.
3. **Form of Government:** Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
4. **Ministers:** Ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of churches of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Failure of Churches to Fulfill the Requirements of the *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.11

Chapter X of the *Form of Government* outlines the procedures for calls to particular congregations. Sections 6–10 provide guidance for the preparation of the call by the congregation, with the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery being responsible for having a call properly drafted. Section 11 stipulates the required elements of the call.

The particular concerns expressed by the Executive Board of Synod centered on the following requirement:

“...where the minister’s customary employment is expected to be for more than an aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year, shall include provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan according to the guidelines approved by the General Synod...”

Supporting documentation from the Board of Benefits identified two problems:

1. There are ministers serving under calls that meet the requirements of Chapter X.11 but contributions are not being made for the Retirement Plan in accordance with the Synod approved guidelines.
2. There are ministers that qualify for participation in the Retirement Plan whose call does not include the provision for the church/mission to make contributions for the Retirement Plan.

To qualify as a participant in the Retirement Plan, ministers must be serving under the terms of a Call (defined as the process for establishing the Employee/Employer relationship under the provisions of the *Form of*

Government) and must enroll in the Retirement Plan. If an eligible Employee fails to enroll during the first year of eligibility, credit for Service and Earnings will not accrue until such time as the enrollment process is completed. During the first year of eligibility all eligible Employees are covered for a death benefit (equal to the annualized Earnings at time of death) and for a survivor income benefit (a monthly benefit payable to the Spouse until she reaches age 65). These benefits will not apply for occurrences after the first year of eligibility unless the eligible Employee has enrolled.

The General Synod has adopted guidelines for contributions for the Retirement Plan. Churches and agencies are asked to contribute 8.5% of the Employee's Earnings (Base Salary, plus 40% of the Base Salary if a manse is provided, plus all allowances paid to the minister, excluding those allowances paid under an accountable expense reimbursement plan and reimbursements for expenses.)

It has been the consistent position of the Board of Benefits (and its predecessors) that individual participants should not be penalized when the employing agency fails to make the necessary contributions. Honoring the Board of Benefit's approach to ministry, but recognizing that all other participants are penalized when contributions are not made in accordance with the guidelines, the Commission reports the following:

1. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Contributions Formula, Updated by 1996 General Synod establishes the contribution guidelines referenced in the Form of Government. Part II, "Local Church Congregations Having a Regular Installed Pastor," states a congregation which has a regular installed pastor "is to contribute 8.5% of the current earnings..." Part V, "General Provisions...", is amended to read (changes are indicated by bold type and strikethrough):

"c. All contributions to the Plan are on the same basis as any other contributions to the Church, that is to say that they are ~~voluntary and should to~~ be made out of gratitude to God for His manifold blessings to us all. Unless contributions are received on time and in full it will not be possible for the Plan to operate as designed, which would not appear to be in keeping with our responsibility as stewards to provide for the material needs of those who have so freely given of themselves to meet the spiritual needs of ourselves and others. ~~The failure of any contributor to the Plan to make timely payments will not jeopardize the Plan benefits of any Plan Participant except as may be required by a uniformly applied limit to the benefits of all Participants within a group or class, because of underfunding of the Plan.~~"

2. Churches and agencies are expected to honor the terms of a call regarding contributions (currently 8.5% of Earnings) for the Retirement Plan. The failure of a congregation to make the required contributions is an ecclesiastical matter and can be addressed, ultimately, only at the presbytery level. However, there needs to be placed in the *Form of Government* a procedure for addressing such a matter and to allow the Retirement Plan to be administered fairly and equitably. The Commission is presenting the following amendment to the *Form of Government* for overture to the presbyteries, with the vote in presbytery to be “yes” or “no”:

That the following be inserted as sub-section 12, Chapter X, Section E in the *Form of Government*, and that sub-sections 12-17 be renumbered accordingly:

“12. Where provisions of the call respecting contributions for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan have not been made for a period of one (1) year, due notice shall be given by the Board of Benefits to the minister, the Clerk of Session, Clerk of Presbytery, and Chairman of Presbytery’s Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work that the terms of said minister’s call have been breached. The failure to meet the terms of a call within a period of one year from date of notification shall constitute the termination of the call for Retirement Plan purposes.”

If the call is terminated for Retirement Plan purposes, the minister would cease accruing credit for Service and Earnings until such time as the provisions of the call were fulfilled.

3. For clarification, the Commission notes the following: Participation in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan requires a legitimate call under the provisions of the *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.11. Otherwise it is not a “call” but a contract for ministerial services.

Issues Related to Canadian Churches

Prelude

The General Synod has approved the formation of a Canadian Presbytery effective January 1, 2004. In referring these matters, the Executive Board hoped that any potential issues related to Canadian Churches be addressed at the 2003 meeting of the General Synod and prior to the formation of the Canadian Presbytery.

In addressing these issues, the Commission asked Northeast Presbytery to designate a representative to work with General Synod’s Outside

Counsel, David Conner of Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd, P.A. (and a member of the Greenville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church), to provide guidance on legal and tax issues. Mr. Maurice J. Chiasson, an Elder in the Mount Zion (Canada) Church, was appointed. Mr. Conner commended Mr. Chiasson for his cooperation, assistance and commitment to resolving issues to enable full participation of the Canadian Churches in the life and ministry of its denomination, consistent with Canadian law. The Commission is grateful for the guidance provided.

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan

There are significant differences between Canadian and US tax laws and some of these differences make it difficult to have a single Retirement Plan to cover both Canadian and US ministers. It is doubtful that Canadian law would permit contributions to the current Retirement Plan on the same tax-advantaged basis as permitted under US law. The Canadian law on imputed income would require Canadian ministers to pay income tax on the contributions in the year contributions are made. A duplicate Retirement Plan could be established in Canada, but the cost of maintaining a second plan for the limited number of ministers at present and anticipated in the near future makes this choice impracticable.

The Commission concludes:

1. Ministers serving outside the United States should be excluded as Employees for Retirement Plan purposes. The Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits will need to be commissioned to make the necessary Plan Amendment.

RESOLVED: That the Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits is commissioned to enact the necessary Plan change to exclude the participation of ordained ministers serving in the pastoral ministry outside the United States and to make an equitable distribution to terminated Participants.

2. Churches outside the United States with ministers should be expected to contribute to a retirement program on the same basis, or in an actuarially equivalent amount, as churches in the United States. This will require a change to Chapter X, E, 11 of the *Form of Government*. The following proposed amendment is offered for overture to the presbyteries, with the vote in presbytery to be "Yes" or "No" (Changes are reflected in bold type):

The *Form of Government*, Chapter X, E, 11 shall be amended to read as follows:

"11. The call shall clearly state the amount of salary and other allowances, and shall include information as to manse, vacation, moving expense, medical and hospitalization insurance and, where the minister's customary employment is expected to be for more than an aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year, shall

include provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan (**for churches in the United States**) or to a **locally-accredited and registered retirement plan (for churches located outside the United States)** according to the guidelines approved by the General Synod, and provide for an annual review of the terms of the call. Without such a statement the call shall not be approved. The call shall meet all the requirements of the Presbytery before approval. A call shall be presented to a pastor-elect by the Presbytery in which the congregation issuing the call is located.” **[Amended]**

3. The proposed changes to the *Form of Government* cannot become effective prior to the 2004 meeting of the General Synod. However, it is the opinion and recommendation of the Commission that the presbyteries not wait until that date to begin addressing calls that have been issued to ministers that:
 - a. Were issued without the provision for the congregation to make contributions to the General Synod for the Retirement Plan. If the minister is expected to work in at least 23 weeks during a calendar year (the minimum number of weeks to meet the 1,000 hour of service requirement) a new call should be issued to include provision for contributions for the Retirement Plan (for ministers serving in the United States) or to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan (for ministers serving outside the United States).
 - b. Were issued with the provision for contributions for the Retirement Plan but the terms of the call are not being met.
4. The proposed change that will allow the “termination of a call” for Retirement Plan purposes will not provide ecclesiastical guidance should a church outside the United States fail to make the contributions stipulated in the call. Presbyteries that have churches outside the United States are requested to develop procedures to address such situations.

Financial Contributions from Canadian Churches

In Canada, as in the United States, churches are classified as charities. Canadian churches, unlike churches in the United States, are required to apply for charity status. Applications are made to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (“CCRA”).

Canadian charities are permitted to contribute to other charities, both within and outside Canada. To handle contributions from the Canadian churches for presbytery purposes, a separate Canadian charity, Associate

Reformed Presbyterian Church in Canada (“ARP Canada”) has been established. All ARP Churches in Canada are expected to be members of ARP Canada.

In the eyes of Canadian law, the General Synod and each agency (Board, Committee, and Institution) are considered as other charities. Two methods could potentially be used to facilitate contributions from Canadian sources to the General Synod and its agencies.

1. **Joint Venture.** A Joint Venture allows a Canadian charity to become partners with a non-Canadian charity to further the mission of the Canadian charity. The primary requirement is that there must be representation proportional to the contribution being made by the Canadian charity. Provided funds for ministry from the Canadian churches are contributed through the Denominational Ministry Fund, the current membership for the General Synod as set forth in the *Form of Government*, Chapter XIII, C.1, could meet the requirements for proportional representation.
2. **Agent Agreement.** An agreement is made between a Canadian charity and a charity outside Canada whereby the non-Canadian charity is appointed as an Agent for the Canadian charity to further the ministry of the Canadian charity. In this method, it would be necessary to enact separate agreements between the Canadian charity making the contribution and the charity receiving the contributions.

The Joint Venture is the approach recommended to the Commission by counsel, with Canadian churches making their contributions to ARP Canada. This will allow full participation of the Canadian churches, with the only contractual requirement being an agreement between the General Synod’s Board of Stewardship (as legal entity of the General Synod) and ARP Canada.

Upon the acceptance of this report by the General Synod, a detailed Joint Venture proposal as prepared by General Synod’s Outside Counsel and the Northeast Presbytery Representative will be submitted to CCRA for approval. In the event that there are CCRA problems that cannot be reconciled with the Joint Venture proposal, counsel will submit a detailed Agency Agreement proposal. It is anticipated that final procedures can be in place for Calendar year 2004, allowing participation of the Canadian churches.

Under either arrangement, the Board of Stewardship will establish accounting and reporting requirements, based on the advice of counsel.

Conclusion

The Commission expresses its appreciation for the cooperation of the

Board of Benefits and Board of Stewardship. We express our thanks to David Conner and Maurice Chiasson. We appreciate also the assistance of Moderator David Sides, Moderator-Elect Wayne Frazier, the General Synod Coordinator, Wilf Bellamy, and the Director of Administrative Services, Ed Hogan. We trust that our work will be found acceptable and that it will contribute to the advancement of His Kingdom in the United States, in Canada, and around the world.

Respectfully

Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs

Members: Harold Morris (Chairman), Jim Kidd (Secretary), James Barker, Tom Campbell, Ed Cox, Carl Geisik, John Hopkins, Harold Probes, and Richard Shaw. Mr. Campbell was unable to participate. **Advisory:** David Sides (Moderator), Wayne Frazier (Moderator Elect), and Wilfred Bellamy (Coordinator of Synod)

Synod recessed for the Moderator's Committees meetings with a closing prayer by Song Choi.

Tuesday, June 10, 2000

7:15 P.M.

Synod reconvened with the singing of "Sun of My Soul" and was led in prayer by Moderator Frazier.

Special music was presented by Kathleen Goodman.

J. R. deWitt introduced Michael Scott Horton who led the worship service and spoke on "The Message That Binds Us Together."

A special offering to help defray the expenses of Synod incurred by Erskine College was received.

New pastors from Pacific Presbytery were introduced, Rev. Bon Suk Koo, Reverend Brian Sim, and Reverend Choo Young Soo.

R. J. Cara presided on behalf of the Inter-Church Relations Committee as greetings from Fraternal Delegates were received: Presbyterian Church in America, Elder Jimmy Walters, and Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Elder Knox Sherer. Mr. Michael Scott Horton, of the United Reformed Church, spoke on behalf of the United Reformed Church.

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 March 18, 2003 at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Also in attendance was 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).

North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council. NAPARC consists of six member churches: 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.

NAPARC met in November 2002 at Bonclarken. The PCA hosted the meeting with approximately 40 people in attendance. The ARP voting delegation consisted of David Sides, Wayne Frazier, John Dawson, and Bob Cara.

The *Englise reformee du Quebec* (ERQ, Reformed Church of Quebec) is requesting membership in NAPARC. The ERQ is a very small denomination in the French-speaking province of Quebec, Canada. Her confessional standards are the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Heidelberg Catechism. At the November 2002 NAPARC meeting, the ERQ was unanimously approved by the member delegations; however, the ERQ is not officially in NAPARC until at least 2/3 of the member assemblies/synods ratify their delegation's actions. In March 2003, the Committee approved the ARP delegation's vote for approval of the ERQ. The Committee recommends that Synod ratify the approval of the ERQ as a member of NAPARC.

At the request of the ARP Inter-Church Relations Committee for the November 2002 meeting, the agenda included a discussion of the NAPARC Golden Rule Comity Agreement and its implementation at the presbytery/classis level. There was a consensus expressed that the Agreement needs to be made better known. Below is the wording of the Golden Rule Comity Agreement (for a copy see www.opc.org/relations/comity.html):

North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) Golden Rule Comity Agreement

Comity has meant different things to different people. We representatives of the home missions agencies and committees or boards of our denominations resist territorial statements on comity in the light of the social and cultural complexity of North American society and the great spiritual need of our many countrymen who are apart from Jesus Christ. Out of a concern to build the church of Jesus Christ rather than our own denominations and to avoid the appearance of competition, we affirm the following courteous code of behavior to guide our church planting ministries in North America:

1. We will be sensitive to the presence of existing churches and

mission ministries of other NAPARC churches and will refrain from enlisting members and take great care in receiving members of those existing ministries.

2. We will communicate with the equivalent or appropriate agency (denominational missions committee or board, presbytery missions or church extension committee, or session) before initiating church planting activities in a community where NAPARC churches or missions ministries exist.
3. We will provide information on at least an annual basis describing progress in our ministries and future plans.
4. We will encourage our regional home missions leadership to develop good working relationships.

It is reported that during 2002 all the member NAPARC assemblies/synods ratified the termination of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) from NAPARC. Hence, the CRC was officially terminated from NAPARC in November 2002.

Churches in Fraternal Fellowship

North American churches in fraternal fellowship with the ARP are the CRC, Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), KAPC, OPC, PCA, and RPCNA. In 2002 at the various assemblies/synods, the ARP was represented by and the Committee received and approved reports from the following: Bill Evans, PCA; Bill Evans, EPC. The remaining churches were sent letters of greeting.

EPC. A joint meeting between the ARP and EPC is scheduled for May 7-9, 2002. The meeting is to be held at Erskine and Bonclarken.

OPC. The OPC Committee on Ecumenism contacted the Committee and wants "periodic substantive meetings with their [fraternal] brothers." A meeting is tentatively scheduled for late fall at Bonclarken.

Churches in Fraternal Correspondence

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

Reformed Church of America (RCA). It is reported that previously the ARP had listed the RCA as in fraternal correspondence. However, the RCA does not consider herself in any type of bilateral relationship with the ARP.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Sent in 2003

ARP delegates/representatives are scheduled to be sent to: NAPARC, EPC, PCA, KAPC, RPCNA, CRC, and OPC.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Invited in 2003

The following will be invited: EPC, PCA, KAPC, United Reformed

Churches in North America (URC).

Officers for 2003-2004

Chairman — John Dawson

Vice-Chairman — Jack Whytock

Proposed Budget for 2004

The Committee approved the following 2004 budget:

	2003		2004
General Office Expense	\$ 150	\$	150
Committee Travel	3,400		5,000
ARP Fraternal Delegates/Rep.	7,500		10,000
Hosting Fraternal Delegates	1,000		1,000
NAPARC Dues	500		500
ICRC Dues	3,580		3,580
Total	\$ 16,130	\$	20,230

Recommendations

1. The ARP delegation's vote at NAPARC in favor of approving the ERQ for NAPARC membership be approved.
2. The proposed Committee 2004 budget be approved.
3. All other actions of the Committee, as herein reported, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Cara, Chairman

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAY MINISTRY

The Cornerstone Conference for young adults was held at Bonclarken on February 7-9. The Rev. Neal Mathias, Missions and Outreach Minister at First Church, Columbia, SC, was the speaker. The music was led by Mr. Christ Smith of Austin, TX. Attendance was 25. The 2004 conference will be held at Bonclarken on February 6-8. Lee & Jennifer Duffie of the Greenwood, SC, Church are co-directors of this event.

July 4 & 5 are the dates for the Laity in Action Conference which will be held at Bonclarken. This family event includes a children's program and child-care. The Rev. Stephen Crofts, interim pastor at the Adams Farms Community ARP Church in Jamestown, NC, and Director and Minister-At-Large for the Carolina Study Center, Inc., a university ministry, is the main speaker. He will deliver four messages—one on Friday afternoon, one on Friday evening, and two on Saturday morning. Co-sponsors of the conference are the Committee on Lay Ministry and the Alliance of Loyal

Laity. With this year's conference falling on a holiday, we are in great need of your assistance in getting the information to your people and encouraging them to attend.

Two awards are presented each year at the Laity in Action Conference. One award, the Onesimus Award, is presented to individuals who show themselves slaves for Christ and the Gospel. In 2002, Mrs. Allison Sowers of the Covenant ARP Church in Statesville, NC, and Mr. Fulton Roper of the Greenville, SC, Church were recipients of this award. The second award, the Barnabas Award, is given to churches who prove to be an encourager to other churches. The 2002 recipients of the Barnabas Award were the Rogers Memorial Church in Rock Hill, SC, and the Brookside Church in Boone, NC.

The Family Bible Conference will be held July 21-25 at Bonclarken. The emphasis is "Family Living." This conference is jointly sponsored by the Woman's Synodical Union and the Committee on Lay Ministry. Conference Personnel include: Director —Rev. Ben Dowling; Assistant Director—Rev. Dean Turbeville; Treasurer—Mr. John Barron; WSU Director—Mrs. Harriett Moore; WSU Assistant Director—Mrs. Martha McKenzie; and WSU Treasurer—Mrs. Leila Grace Cooper. The Morning Bible Teacher is the Rev. Det Bowers, pastor of the Christ Church, Chapin, SC. The Evening Worship Leader is Dr. Wilfred Bellamy, Coordinator of the General Synod. The Woman's Synodical Union meets prior to the conference on July 20-21.

For several years we have offered to assemble WorkTeams to assist congregations and agencies with special projects. Volunteers furnish their own transportation and bring their own tools. Meals, lodging, and supplies are provided by the church or agency needing the help. Contact the Director of Lay Ministry for additional information.

We have some limited funding available to assist presbyteries, clusters of congregations, or individual congregations who desire to sponsor events for laymen at the local level. Make application through Tom Patterson (P. O. Box 1283, Mooresville, NC 28115-1283; 704-663-2611; arphigh-road@earthlink.net).

The officers for 2003-2004 are ...

Mr. John Schafer, Chairman
Mrs. Nicole McCoy, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Patti Snyder, Secretary

Tom Patterson serves as the Director of Lay Ministry for the Synod.

Recommendations

1. That the Rev. Dean Turbeville be appointed as Director and the Rev. Rob Patrick as Assistant Director of the 2004 Family Bible Conference.

2. That sessions and pastors promote attendance at the Laity in Action conference, the Family Bible Conference, and the Cornerstone Conference.
3. 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.
4. That laymen be challenged to familiarize themselves with our doctrinal standards as found in the Westminster Confession of Faith.
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 2004 be approved as follows:

Laity in Action Conference	\$	2,500
Family Bible Conference		6,500
Area Laity Workshops		500
Cornerstone Conference		1,750
Director of Lay Ministry		3,500
Cooperative Work with A.L.L.		3,000
Committee Expenses		6,000
Total	\$	23,750

Respectfully submitted,

M. W. Chappell, 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 (ETS). The Coordinator of Synod, Moderator and Moderator-Elect of Synod and the Director of Administrative Services serve as advisory members. Because of changes in job responsibilities at ETS, the Committee is recommending that the Vice President of

ETS replace the Director of Field Work as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

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. As this report is considered, the Court is reminded that the concerns expressed and the actions recommended and/or suggested reflect the experiences of those dealing with these matters.

Assistance to Ministers and Churches

Chapter X.E.1 of the *Form of Government* clearly prescribes 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 the 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. If a minister has requested or indicated a desire to have his data form circulated 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. These data forms will be submitted to churches at the discretion of the presbytery chairman.

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. The Committee has begun the process for updating these forms.

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

	2001	2002	2003
Data Forms Requested by Churches	223	194	202
Data Forms Provided to Pulpit Committees	243	160	242
Data Forms Requested (no forms available)	13	11	12
Data Forms Requested not mailed at request of individuals	9	4	10
Requested (not sent due to fact just relocated)	3	0	0
Data Forms Sent at the Request of Individual	22	12	30
Requests for Updated Forms	23	16	28
Requests by Non-ARP’s to Secure Forms to Complete	32	21	26
Seminary Students’ Data Forms Distributed	22	23	28
Church Profiles Distributed to Vacant Churches	7	10	5
Church Profiles Completed by Vacant Churches	1	1	1
Data Forms of Ministers sent to Non-APR Churches*	0	0	1

*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 is designed to build inter-personal relation-

ships 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. The orientation schedule is being modified from a three-day program to a one-day program to be held at the ARP Center. Orientation programs are scheduled for the last Tuesday in April and the last Tuesday in September. Details may be found in the *Plan Book*. The General Synod will reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for those participating in the orientation program.

Preventative Maintenance

The *Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* enumerates many “Public” and “Private” pastoral responsibilities that have the potential for placing the pastor in very vulnerable circumstances. He is expected to exhort and comfort, counsel with, visit, advise, comfort, and pray with members of his congregation and often to those outside the congregation.

The Committee has authorized a sub-committee, to be chaired by the Director of Outreach North America, to develop guidelines and procedures that could be used by presbyteries to assist pastors as they deal with the physical, psychological, and emotional circumstances inherent in their duties. The Committee will also explore opportunities for presbyteries to have an ongoing “preventative maintenance” program.

Preventative maintenance does not always preclude breakdowns. There is growing evidence that ministers too are subject to decisions and actions that can interrupt, derail, or destroy effective witness and ministry. Committee members are encouraging each other and, through this report, we encourage our fellow presbyters, to address such occurrences on the basis of the “Theology of Church Discipline” as set forth in Chapter 1 of the *Book of Discipline* – “the free love of God in Christ expressed in both mercy and judgment.”

Uniform Written Exams

Uniform Written Exams are prepared and updated periodically 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 others. Consider the following (as of April 11, 2002):

# Churches	263	# Ministers	372
# With Installed Pastor/MD	<203>	# in Pastoral Ministry	<214>
# Churches in Yoked Pastorate	< 3>	# Retired/Disabled	< 71>
# Churches in Yoked Pastorate	1	# Missionaries (WW)	< 13>
Net Vacancies	58	# Erskine	< 10>
# Total Receipts < \$60,000	< 38>	# Chaplains	< 10>
		# Other Synod	< 4>
Net Viable (?) Vacancies	20	# in Special Ministry*	< 12>
		Net Available (?) for Call	38

*Engaged in Non-Synod, Not-for-Profit Ministries

There are ministers without a call who have demonstrated their qualifications for ministry by virtue of their ordination and continuing membership in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (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 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 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 Mr. Terry Wallace. Mr. Gore's term expires and the Committee has asked Reverend Don Yancey to serve for the term expiring in 2006.

Chaplains

The following are expected to be serving as chaplains at the time General Synod meets:

Gale G. Cotton, USA
 Lawrence E. Hamrick, USA
 Michael Kelly, USA
 Michael Kiefman, USA
 Paul Patrick (Erskine College/Seminary)
 C. Stephen Rimmer, USN
 James A. Ryan, Jr., VA Medical Center
 David M. Schwabauer, USN
 Barry K. Wells, USAF
 Brian C. Whitaker, USN
 Michael E. Yarman, USA

Miscellaneous Items

a. **Guidelines for New Churches Being Received Into Presbytery:** Guidelines to assist the presbyteries in the process of receiving new churches and ministers were adopted by the 2000 General Synod. If a Presbytery has not yet done so, these guidelines (or others adopted by the presbytery) should be given to the presbytery Committee/Commission **with guidance for their use.**

We again call 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 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. Additionally, each new church/mission must secure an Employer Identification Number (EIN) by filing Form SS-4 “Application for Employer Identification Number.” IRS is refusing to add new churches to the group exemption granted to the General Synod until such time as the church has an EIN.

b. **Policy Statement on Sexual Harassment.** Second Presbytery is to be commended for their initiative in developing a policy on sexual harassment. The Committee endorses this policy statement for consideration of all presbyteries and recommends that each presbytery adopt this or a comparable statement on sexual harassment. Adopted statements should be reviewed on a periodic basis to insure compliance with existing laws and policies.

- c. **Officers for 2003 - 2004** are as follows:
 Chairman: William Roberts
 Vice-Chairman: William Evans
 Secretary: Ken McMullen
- d. **Meeting dates for 2004:** The Committee will meet in conjunction with the Board of Benefits, April 20, 2004.

Recommendations

1. That presbyteries encourage
 - a. ministers and seminary students to keep updated data forms on file at the ARP Center;
 - b. congregations to complete a "church profile" before seeking a pastor;
 - c. Pulpit Committees to give preference to ARP ministers and students;
 - d. (or require) ministers to attend the General Synod orientation program within the first two years of ministry; and
 - e. congregations to employ ARP seminary students for the summer months.
2. That presbyteries that have not yet done so seek to develop a program to encourage its congregations to incorporate the annual review of the minister's call into an annual ministry review.
3. That appreciation be expressed to the Presbyterian Council for the work it does on behalf of chaplains and military personnel.
4. That the Synod pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our chaplains.
5. That Don Yancey be elected to the Presbyterian Council for the term that expires in 2006.
6. That the Vice President of Erskine Theological Seminary be added as an ex-officio member replacing the Director of Field Work.
7. 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*.
8. That presbyteries be requested to review the guidelines approved by the 2000 General Synod pertaining to the reception of churches and ministers and provide guidance for the use of the guidelines to its Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work.
9. That presbyteries be encouraged to adopt a policy statement on sexual harassment.

10. That the 2004 budget be adopted as follows:

	2003		2004
Committee Travel & Meeting Exp. \$	2,000	\$	1,645
General Office	500		500
Presbyterian Council	7,094		7,449
	\$ 9,594	\$	9,594

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

Respectfully Submitted,
William L. Barron, Chairman

A prayer was offered in thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our chaplains by W.L. Barron.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The Committee on Worship has the responsibility to select projects for the proper use of the Jean McFall White fund. The fund is to be used for the "preservation, recording, distribution, education in and establishment of Psalm-singing." The funds have been used to create a video resource concerned with Psalm-singing that is available for purchase through the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center. A feasibility study for the production of our denomination's own hymnal was made. Publication of the Hymnal was not recommended by the Worship Committee. Further study in this area is recommended.

The committee approved the use of the Jean FcFall White Fund for the commissioning of an appropriate anthem to the glory of God and in honor of Lynn Mann for the 2003 Bonclarken Music Conference.

The 2002 Music Conference under the leadership of Trip McGill and Lynn Grimsley continued its excellent programs. Clinicians for the 2003 and 2004 conferences have been secured.

Conference fees will be \$112.00 for adults, \$107.00 for middle, primary and junior and \$97.00 for Cherubs. The budget submitted for the music conference reflects these increases. The proposed Mid-Winter Conference on Music and Worship did not take place this year. It is recommended that the unexpended funds for this conference be used for the purchase of equipment for the Bonclarken Music Conference.

A questionnaire on worship practices in the denomination was developed and distributed at Synod meeting in July. Brooks Kuykendall, took the results and summarized them. The committee is continuing to

study the results to ascertain how they may best be utilized to fulfill the committee's mission. The committee continues to encourage and develop articles for publication in the ARP magazine concerning worship. The committee continues to endorse the plans for a Mid Winter week end music conference and for continued support of the music program at Ebenezer Seminary in Tampico, Mexico.

Recommendations

1. That the 2004 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved.
2. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry D. Wyatt, Chairman

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE BUDGET

	2003 BUDGET	2004 PROPOSED
Expenditures		
Worship Committee		
Psalter/Hymnal Study or		
Worship Resource		
Study—White Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Committee Travel/Room /Board	2,500.00	2,500.00
Telephone/Postage	275.00	275.00
Committee Meeting Expenses	200.00	200.00
Lord's Day Alliance	350.00	350.00
Midwinter Music/Worship Workshop	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL (Worship Committee)	\$ 5,325.00	\$ 5,325.00
Bonclarken Music Conference		
Clinicians, Accompanists, Staff	\$ 16,425.00	\$ 18,400.00
Recreation/Craft supplies/Night		
Activities Dir.	2,425.00	2,950.00
Staff Travel	5,000.00	5,000.00
Staff Food/Lodging	12,000.00	13,000.00
Music for Conference	5,000.00	6,000.00
Cassettes/CDs (taping of concert)	500.00	500.00
Printing and mailing, telephone	3,500.00	3,700.00
Tuning/T-shirts/addit. Conf. exp.	4,800.00	4,900.00
Bonclarken service fee	24,000.00	24,000.00
Contingency/equipment fund	1,500.00	1,500.00
Child care	900.00	900.00

Nurses (2 @\$200)	300.00	400.00
Organ rental/piano rental	1,200.00	1,200.00
TOTAL (Bonclarken Music Conference)	\$ 77,550.00	\$ 82,450.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 82,875.00	\$ 87,775.00
Worship Committee	\$ 5,325.00	\$ 5,325.00
Bonclarken Music Conference	77,550.00	82,450.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 82,875.00	\$ 87,775.00
INCOME		
Gifts, Conference Registrations	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Synod Supplement	27,875.00	27,775.00
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	\$ 82,875.00	\$ 87,775.00

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 subtitled *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.

The Moderator offered prayer for the daughter of Barry Wells.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL CONCERNS

Introduction

The Committee met on August 22, 2002. In the absence of a Chairman, the Executive Board of Synod asked the Rev. William Roberts, Synod's Historian, to serve as Convenor. At the conclusion of the meeting the Rev. Rabun Williams was elected as Chairman and Mr. Jerry Davis as Vice Chairman to serve until the 2003 meeting of the Committee.

Devotional Calendar

Due to an insufficient response, there were not enough devotional messages to compile a Bicentennial Prayer Calendar. The committee decided to pursue the possibility of using the existing devotionals as inserts in the January-June 2003 issues of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* if enough devotional messages were available. It was subsequently determined by the Chairman, in consultation with the Editor of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, Mr. Ben Johnston, that there were not enough devotionals to publish the inserts.

Called Historical Meeting of the General Synod

The Committee approved a motion that the Moderator of the General Synod choose a committee to assist him in preparing for the "Called Historic Synod Meeting" at the Old Brick Church on May 3, 2003. The Historian will assist as will other members of the Committee if requested.

Commemorative Items of the 2003 Meeting of the General Synod

The Committee requested that the Committee to Plan Synod's Program assume responsibility for determining matters relating to commemorative items. It was noted that Mrs. Joyce Ramsey had been contacted on this matter. Mrs. Edith Brawley, Curator of A.R.P. Material at Erskine, will communicate with Mrs. Ramsey following the meeting of the planning committee.

Memorial Garden at Bonclarken

The Committee approved placing a Celtic Cross at Bonclarken as a commemorative for the Bicentennial and that Bonclarken be asked to determine the location. The Historian was asked to prepare an appropriate inscription. At the fall 2002 meeting of the Executive Board, concerns were raised about various aspects of this project. The Board asked the Committee to delay all matters having to do with the Celtic Cross until after the 2003 Synod considers and votes on the matter.

Preservation of Church Records

The Department of Church History (PCUSA, Montreat, NC) continues to serve 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, members receive the quarterly *Journal of Presbyterian History*. Interested persons may write to: Department of History, P. O. Box 849, Montreat, NC 28757.

Congregations and agencies are encouraged to review the *2001 Minutes of Synod* for additional material on the preservation of church records.

The Erskine College Library also maintains selected ARP historical materials, principally General Synod minutes, church and family histories, anniversary materials and other memorabilia, and 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 their 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 Foundation
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center
One Cleveland Street, Suite 110
Greenville, SC 29601-3696

Recommendations

1. That the Proposed Budget for 2004, to be adjusted to reflect the allocations approved by the General Synod for 2004, be approved:

	2003	2004
Receipts		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 12,500	\$ 7,500

Disbursements

Curator of ARP Material, Erskine	\$ 500	\$ 500
Historian Honorarium	\$ 500	\$ 500
Committee Expenses & Travel	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800
General Office Expenses	\$ 1,700	\$ 500
Record Preservation Promotion	0	1,200
Department of Church History, Montreat	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Bicentennial Celebration	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Total Disbursements	\$ 12,500	\$ 7,500

2. That all other actions of the committee, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully Submitted for the Committee,
Rabun Williams, Chairman

The recommendations of the **Moderator's Committee on Stewardship** were presented and adopted.

- a. That all eight (1-8) of the recommendations of the Board of Stewardship be adopted.
- b. That Synod commend the Board of Stewardship for its diligent work, and express its appreciation to retiring Board members Monte Campbell and Herman Lesslie for their service and leadership during the past six years.

REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The Board of Stewardship ("Board") seeks to work cooperatively with individuals, churches, presbyteries, and agencies of the General Synod in the mutual goal of extending His Kingdom. We express our most sincere appreciation to individuals, the Woman's Synodical Union, congregations, and 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 for two regular meetings (September 9-10, 2002 and March 26, 2003). The Board also met at a called meeting November 25, 2002 to act in its status as legal entity for the General Synod to authorize the establishment of a new corporation to receive gifts of land and, in particular, to facilitate a gift of land to Outreach North America. The A.R.P. Church Investment Holding, Inc. was established as a South Carolina non-for-profit corporation. The Board will be developing By-laws for the Corporation.

Audit

The independent firm of Ron Millard, CPA P.A. is conducting the

December 31, 2002, audit. 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 will be presented to each member of the Board, distributed to each agency of the General Synod, placed on file at the ARP Center, and submitted with the official report to Synod.

The audited financial statements will reflect a decrease in General Synod's operating fund balance of \$36,770, as compared to a decrease of \$52,214 in 2001. The fund balance at 12/31/2002 was \$143,025. This represents 5.27% of the adjusted allocations of \$2,714,900 for 2003 (5.23% of the recommended allocation for 2004). Synod, by its previous action, has directed an operating reserve of not less than 6.5% of the anticipated funds for allocation. Accordingly, the Board has allocated (from the expected 2003 Denominational Ministry Fund contributions from churches) funds to increase the operating reserve to the specified level.

Commitments that 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))

Budget of Allocated Funds

Funding For 2003: Each year, at the Spring meeting of the Board, the projected revenues for the current calendar year are reviewed. If the expected funds exceed the allocations approved at the prior meeting of the General Synod, the Board follows the procedure adopted by the 1997 General Synod (page 622, *1997 Minutes of Synod*). This procedure allows the Board to consider additional funding requests from the program agencies of the General Synod and to make recommendations to the General Synod for the additional allocations.

If the expected funds fall below the amount approved for allocation, the Board has the unpleasant and difficult task of adjusting the allocations. For calendar year 2003, it was determined that a total reduction of 2% of the approved allocations was prudent. The adjusted allocations for 2003 are reflected in the "Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds" included with this report.

There were several factors contributing to the need to reduce the allocations:

- As reported earlier, it was necessary to use a portion of the operating fund reserve during 2002 to meet the approved allocations. The operating reserve needs to grow to \$177,905 at the end of this calendar year (6.5% of the recommended allocations of \$2,736,999 for 2004) and funds have been projected to that end.
- At the time of the Board meeting, eighty-one (81) churches had not confirmed their intentions for 2003. Commitments from reporting

churches reflected a net reduction of \$65,577 from the budgeted amount. At the time of this report,

- 192 churches have made commitments to give in 2003
- 15 churches have reported that they will not give
- 16 churches have submitted statistical reports but have failed to indicate their commitment, if any
- 39 churches have not submitted statistical reports and have not made any response for commitments
- 40 of the 55 churches that have not reported their commitments did not make any contributions for 2002
- Assuming the 55 churches that have not reported their commitments make no contributions in 2003, the reduction from 2002 commitments totals \$50,666. If those that gave in 2002 (15), the reduction would be reduced to \$25,114. These reductions assume that all churches will meet their commitments.
- Continuing economic uncertainties encourages caution. In 2002, only 94.97% of the commitments were fulfilled. Over the past three years, the average is 95.86%. This contrasts with the five-year average of 98.04%. The Board is hopeful that the change from the historical practices of churches can be attributed solely to the economic environment. Based on the past few years, however, the Board is uncomfortable in projecting receipt of 100% of the commitments.

For 2004: The Board's recommended allocations are presented separately as "Recommended Allocations of Synod's Unrestricted Income." The total allocation for Non-Program (support) entities has decreased slightly while funding for ONA and World Witness are now equal.

Consistent with prior guidance by the General Synod, the Board of Stewardship will review the approved allocations and will make adjustments as necessary following the receipt of commitments for 2004 and the 2003 year-end report.

For 2005: The Board has approved a change in the "Procedures for Agencies Requesting Allocations." In lieu of five-year projections, boards are requested to identify any significant (that is, 3-5% or more of the annual budget) new projects, missions, personnel, or any other changes – whether additions or reductions – planned in the two years following the current budget. An additional request is that all boards (excluding Erskine) are asked to provide reconciliation of dollars and full-time equivalency between the Synod approved budget and the request for the following year.

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

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 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 urged to make participation mandatory and to schedule a time for attendance.

Denominational Ministry Fund

The General Synod has established that the primary means for Associate Reformed Presbyterians to channel financial resources for denominational witness and ministry is through the Denominational Ministry Fund. These funds are used to fund the allocations approved by the General Synod.

All churches are encouraged to give for denominational ministry through the Denominational Ministry Fund. The goal, established by the General Synod, is for each church to give 20% of its unrestricted tithes and offerings. Churches that are unable to meet the 20% goal are asked to give at least 10% (a tithe of the tithe). Churches that cannot meet the 20% goal are encouraged to increase their level of giving by one (1) percentage point each year toward the goal.

In some circumstances, churches submit gifts as **Denominational Ministry Funds** but designate those funds for a particular agency. In those circumstances, the funds will be treated as Denominational Ministry Funds and will be used to meet the allocation approved by the General Synod. Funds that are designated as additional gifts for the purpose of providing additional funding for a particular agency **are not** recognized as Denominational Ministry Funds and will be distributed as designated.

The witness and ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church could not be accomplished without the continued faithful support of churches that give 10% or more of their unrestricted tithes and offerings. Consider the following:

Churches	#	%	Commitment	%
Churches Giving 20%	16	6.11	494,210	18.47
Churches Giving 10% to 20%	49	18.70	1,202,253	44.92
Sub-total	65	24.81	96,463	63.39
Other Giving Churches	158	60.30	979,960	36.61
Churches Not Giving	39	14.89	0.00	0.00
Totals	262	100.00	2,676,423	100.00

The Board expresses gratitude to the churches that have reported their intentions for commitments through the Denominational Ministry Fund. Where churches do not report, an estimate is made and generally reduces the funding projections for additional allocations in the current year and for the following year. Pledges may be reported by e-mail, by a special form sent to each church, or on the annual statistical report.

In addition to the impact on funding, it is also difficult, if not impossible, to make an accurate analysis of trends when so much data is missing. As of the date of this report:

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Churches Submitting Statistical Reports					
Complete Reports	208	197	208	209	222
Membership Only	5	7	0	3	2
Churches not Submitting Reports	30	45	47	50	39
Total Churches	243	249	255	262	263
New Churches Not Included	3	5	1	3	0

We would again encourage the presbyteries to

- take steps to secure information from its churches,
- counsel churches that are not giving through the Denominational Ministry Fund, and
- encourage churches that are giving less than 10% to increase their percentage level of giving in an effort to reach the Denominational Ministry Fund goals established by the General Synod.

The Board continued in its efforts to establish a structure to allow the Canadian churches to participate financially in the ministries of the General Synod. Working with its Outside Counsel, the Board adopted and referred to Northeast Presbytery a proposed "Agreement on Procedures for Canadian Churches to Provide Financial Support for Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Ministries." The Board was informed at its March 2003 meeting that the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs would address this matter.

The Board continues to hope that Synod will at an appropriate time in the future appreciate the need for and approve a Director of Stewardship Ministries. We believe that such a person would help the Board to more effectively carry out its assigned responsibilities and would provide more assistance and resources for presbyteries and congregations.

A summary report on churches meeting the goals set by the General Synod and a list of all churches that increased their percentage level of giving, will be available at the meeting of the General Synod.

Special Offerings

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

Easter Offering	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
ARP Foundation	\$ 11,163	\$ 11,788	\$ 16,393	\$ 11,588	\$ 12,673
Bonclarken	18,229	18,265	23,955	17,252	19,456
Covenant Disc.	12,154	12,535	17,465	12,377	13,462
Erskine College	16,603	15,785	21,264	15,805	17,091
World Witness	31,195	30,569	35,919	25,843	28,417
Sub-Total	\$ 89,344	\$ 88,942	\$ 114,996	\$ 82,865	\$ 91,099
Thanksgiving Offering					
Erskine Seminary	\$ 11,983	\$ 11,995	\$ 9,351	\$ 11,760	\$ 10,670
American Bible Soc.	10,070	8,903	6,476	8,503	7,571
ONA	24,180	22,113	16,513	19,259	16,012
Christmas Benevolent Fund	56,559	52,824	37,094	42,049	41,029
Sub-Total	\$102,792	\$ 95,835	\$ 69,434	\$ 81,571	\$ 75,282
Total Offering	\$192,136	\$184,777	\$ 184,430	\$164,436	\$166,381

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

The Board of Publications requested that they be included in one of the two special offerings. The Board of Stewardship decided that, although the request had merit, action would be postponed because of on-going discussion within the Special Committee on Organization.

Administrative Information

Meeting Dates for 2003—2004: The following meeting dates have been set:

- September 8-9, 2003, 1:00 P.M., Erskine
- March 29-30, 2004, 1:00 P.M., ARP Center
- September 6-7, 2004, 1:00 P.M., Bonclarken

Officers: The following have been elected to serve for the period July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004:

- Chairman: Ed Carson
- Vice Chairman: Tom Shoger
- Secretary: David Johnston

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 Monte Campbell and Herman Lesslie for their service and leadership during the past six years. We note also with sincere appreciation, the faithful service of presbytery chairmen that serve ex-officio on the Board.

Recommendations

1. That boards and committees requesting allocations from the General Synod for budget year 2005 submit their requests following procedures outlined by the Board of Stewardship.
2. 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 by the Board of Stewardship and
 - b. commit to a planned process attempting to attain Synod's established Denominational Ministry Fund goal.
3. That presbyteries, if they have not done so, establish procedures that require ministers entering ministry in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to attend the General Synod orientation, preferably within the first year of ministry in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
4. That presbyteries, if they have not done so, consider establishing procedures for monitoring and encouraging the reporting of statistical data by the churches in its presbytery.
5. That the Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings be continued for 2004.
6. That the General Synod Audit be accepted and filed at the ARP Center to be available for review.
7. That the Budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved.
8. That all other actions, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully,

Monterey Campbell, Chairman

Budget Board of Stewardship

	2003	2004
RECEIPTS	Budget	Proposed
Synod Supplement	\$ 39,531	\$ 41,880
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board and Travel Expenses	8,268	8,268
General Office Expenses	750	750
Promotion and Publicity	5,000	5,000

Insurance	6,000	6,000
General Synod Audit	5,950	5,950
Reserve for ARP Subscriptions*	1,000	1,000
General Synod Contingency	12,563	14,912
Total Disbursements	\$ 39,531	\$ 41,880

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

Statistical Data, Denominational Ministry Fund

The numbers for 2003, as compared to previous years are reported as follow. The numbers for 2003 are based on the **pledged** amount. The prior year numbers are based on actual **contributions**.

Category	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Churches Meeting Goal					
Gave 20% or More	27	27	18	14	17
Increased by 1 Percentage Point	34	46	40	59	35
Churches Giving but Not Meeting Goal					
Increased Percentage Level	39	43	108	42	56
Remained at Same Percentage Level	0	1	1	5	9
Percentage Level Decreased	79	71	78	72	75
Churches Not Giving					
Zero or Zero Pledge	67	61	63	67	27
No Report or Gifts to Date					28
Giving but Percentage					
Not Determined			6	3	15
Total Churches ¹	246	249	256	262	262

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

Churches Meeting the 20% Goal for 2003, based on the pledge as a percentage of the 2002 General Fund Receipts:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Abbeville	Second	Bartow	Florida
Camden	Tenn-Ala	Due West	Second
Elk Shoals	First	Fayetteville	Tenn-Ala
Louisville	Second	New Sterling	First
Peachtree Corners	Second	Pinecrest	First
Prosperity, TN	Tenn-Ala	Providence	Second
Sherwood Forest	Catawba	Smyrna	Catawba
Unity	Catawba	White Oak	Catawba
White Oak	Second		

Churches that have not yet reached the 20% Goal but did reach the goal of increasing their 2003 percentage level pledge by at least one (1) percentage point over the amount given in 2002:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Bethany	Catawba	Bethany	Mississippi Val.
Bethlehem	Second	Calvary Bible	Northeast
Coddle Creek	First	Concord	First
Covenanters	Northeast	DaySpring	First
Devenger Road	Second	Ebenezer	Catawba
Ebenezer	Virginia	Effingham	Catawba
Faith (Merritt Is.)	Florida	Good Shepherd	Catawba
Good News (AZ)	Northeast	Hardeeville First	Catawba
Hickory Springs	Mississippi Valley	Hope (Lakeland)	Florida
Lake Wales	Florida	Lemira	Catawba
Lifeline	Northeast	Lincoln Memorial	Tenn-Ala
Mooresville	First	New Hope	Catawba
Pressly Memorial	Tenn-Ala	Redeemer	Second
Reformation	First	Richland	Mississippi Val.
Scots Kirk	Catawba	Stony Point	First
Thomson	Second	Unity	Second
Waxhaw	First	Woodruff	Second
Young Saeng	Pacific		

Additionally, the 2003 pledge of the following churches represents a percentage increase over their percentage level of giving in 2002:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Arsenal Hill	Catawba	Bethel	Catawba
Blacksburg	Catawba	Centennial	Catawba
Clover	Catawba	Edgemoor	Catawba
Edwards Memorial	Catawba	Hopewell	Catawba
Lancaster First	Catawba	Oak Ridge	Catawba
Rowan	Catawba	Tirzah	Catawba
Ambassador	First	Boyce Memorial	First
Calvary	First	Christ	First
Covenant Fellowship	First	Crowders Creek	First
Ebenezer	First	Emmanuel	First
Huntersville	First	Idlewild	First
New Covenant	First	New Perth	First
Pisgah	First	Progressive	First
Providence	First	Statesville First	First
Tunnel Road	First	Westminster	First

each Presbytery as far as possible.

3. The moderator's committee recommends that the committee report to Synod in 2004.

Items 1, 2, and 3 were adopted.

- b. Memorial #2 — First Presbytery, On Coddle Creek Church's 250th Anniversary:
 1. The moderator's committee recommends adoption of the memorial.

Adopted.
- c. Memorial from Mississippi Valley Presbytery, On Children Voting in Congregational Meetings:
 1. The moderator's committee recommends adoption of the memorial.

Following debate, the motion was defeated and the memorial was not adopted.
- d. Memorial from Second Presbytery, On Women In The Life Of The Church:
 1. The moderator's committee recommends that this memorial be referred to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns to develop a position paper for the Synod concerning women in the life of the church.

Adopted.
- e. Memorial #1 – Northeast Presbytery, On Enrolling Non-Baptized Children As Non-Communicant Members:
 1. The moderator's committee recommends that the memorial be referred to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns to report back to Synod in 2004.

Adopted.
- f. Memorial #2 – Northeast Presbytery, On Retirement Plan For Canadian Pastors:
 1. The moderator's committee recommends that the memorial not be adopted due to previous action of this Synod through the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judicial Affairs' report.

The Moderator ruled this memorial moot in light of the previous action.
- g. Memorial #3 – First Presbytery, On A Position Paper On Morality:
 1. The Moderator's committee recommends adoption of the memorial.
 2. The moderator's committee recommends also that this memorial be referred instead to Covenant Discipleship for recommendations.
 3. The moderator's committee recommends a report back to the 2004 Synod.

Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 were adopted.

- h. Memorial from Catawba Presbytery, On Fundraising In Churches:
 - 1. The moderator's committee recommends adoption of the memorial.
 Adopted

**Memorial
Catawba Presbytery
[Adopted]**

WHEREAS in the meeting of our General Synod in 1997, a "Concise Statement on Biblical Stewardship" was approved, which statement emphasizes the tithe and benevolent offerings as means appointed by God for the financial provision for the ministry of His church; and

WHEREAS the General Synod in 1965 approved the following Statement of Policy: "The Board of Stewardship shall continue to express its opposition to fund-raising schemes such as bazaars, bake sales, etc., recognizing that in most (if not all) such cases, such efforts represent an effort to escape our responsibility to adhere to the principle of stewardship presented in the Bible." (Minutes, page 325); and

WHEREAS recent research by the Barna Research Group indicates that evangelical Christians in the year 2000 contributed only 2.5 percent of their income to charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS review of the financial statistics of the churches of our Synod would seem to indicate that Associate Reformed Presbyterians by and large are not faithfully tithing to their local congregations; and

WHEREAS many of our congregations are struggling under financial pressure, in some cases due to the rising cost of health insurance for church employees, and seem hard pressed to meet financial obligations, all the while members may not be faithfully tithing; and

WHEREAS in some congregations there has been historically and also recently the practice of raising funds for the support of the church and its work through the engagement of the church or its organizations in the selling of products or merchandise in the name of the church within the community to which the congregation ministers; and

WHEREAS this matter has been divisive in some congregations, with some believing such practice undermines proper understanding of stewardship and commitment to support the work of the church through tithing and making sacrificial offerings, and further that it may have a negative affect on the mission and witness of the congregation within its community, while others believe such practice is an extension of biblical stewardship and a means of making proper use of God-given skills and talents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Catawba Presbytery memorial-

izes the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in its meeting in June 2003 to instruct its Board of Stewardship, through whatever means of advisement or counsel it may require, to make study of the biblical and pragmatic issues involved in the matter of financial support and fundraising in the local church, and to present to the General Synod for its approval at its meeting in June 2004 a position paper setting forth biblical principles guiding the practice of the local church in regards to proper means for securing the finances necessary for the work of the church.

Adopted: June 9, 2003

By: Catawba Presbytery

Guy H. Smith, Jr., Stated Clerk

**Memorial Number One
From First Presbytery
[Adopted]**

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
On the Memorial on Worship from the
Reformation ARP Church**

The Special Committee recognizes that the Memorial from the Reformation Church (*Minutes of First Presbytery, March 12, 2002*, Appendix D, p. 20) raises concerns which are shared by many in our presbytery. We also recognize that there are many who, for various reasons, disagree with some or all of the proposals made in the memorial.

Notwithstanding the merits of the claims and proposals made in the memorial, we find that adopting the memorial would have the effect of adding restrictions on public worship not found in the *Book of Worship of the ARP Church*, and would, therefore, constitute an infringement by presbytery on the responsibility for the conduct of public worship which the *Book of Worship*, Chapter III, A (paragraph 2) assigns to the local session and the minister who leads the service.

We, therefore, recommend that the memorial on worship from the Reformation Church be answered by the following alternative memorial (as the Reformation Memorial does raise important concerns about the conduct of public worship which are shared by many in our presbytery):

Whereas, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is a connec-tional church which has sought to observe the practice of unity, love and fidelity shaped by the Scriptures and the Standards of the ARP Church, and

Whereas, the *Westminster Confession of Faith* declares that “the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by God Himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that He may not be worshipped

according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.” (WCF, XXI: 1), and

Whereas, The ARP Church has adopted a *Book of Worship* to provide guidance for the worship practices of the church, and

Whereas, modern technology and contemporary innovations in worship practice have introduced elements into public worship in our churches other than those listed in the *Book of Worship*, and

Whereas, debates have arisen among our congregations over both the necessity and the acceptability of various elements of public worship indicating a need for further clarification and guidance, and

Whereas, the *Book of Worship* is part of the *Standards of the ARP Church* and subject to revision only by the General Synod;

Therefore, First Presbytery memorializes the 2003 meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to instruct the Moderator to appoint a special committee of Synod with the following responsibilities:

1. To conduct a study on Reformed Theology relating to the elements and practice of public worship in the ARP Church.
2. To offer such proposals as may be necessary to bring greater clarity to the *Book of Worship*, while maintaining conformity with the Holy Scripture and the Westminster Standards, and
3. to provide such additional guidance on the conduct of public worship to local sessions and ministers as deemed necessary.

Adopted on March 11, 2003

Doug Petersen, Chairman

G. H. Hallman, Stated Clerk First Presbytery

**Memorial Number Two
From First Presbytery
[Adopted]**

In the year 1753 courageous men led their families to the lovely hills and forests of Piedmont North Carolina. They anticipated a bright, if hard future. Not a solitary folk, they gathered together for worship. Their faith was characterized by a deep conviction and an evangelical warmth. Of Seceder conviction, they established a church on Coddle Creek. Early family names included Carrigan, Braly, Gillon, Ross, Neel, McKnight, Partks, Caudle, Kerr, Sloan, Black, Bell, Qwallace, Smith, Emerson, Irwin, Torrence, Robinson and Chisolm. At least fifteen installed pastors have ministered at Coddle Creek.

Of this congregation men have entered upon the ministry including: Neill E. Pressly, M. W. Pressly, Hugh R. McAulay, N. E. Smith, W. C. Kerr,

T. R. Kerr, G. L. Kerr, W. W. Orr, C. Y. Love, Leon McDill Allison, John Patterson Johnston, Richard Wayne Dickson, Stephen Goodnight Myers and Ronald Robert Eastes.

Missionaries drawn to foreign service include Janie M. Love, Della Johnston Shedd, Karen Jo Kistler, and Phillip Shea Alexander.

In the year 2003, the Coddle Creek congregation continues worship and outreach as it celebrates Two Hundred Fifty years of ministry. We rejoice that God is still calling out individuals for ministry and missionary service.

In grateful appreciation, the Coddle Creek congregation celebrates throughout this year, culminating in a Homecoming on October 19 with Peter Marshall as special guest. With one eye on a fruitful past, we cast the other eye to a hopeful future and intend to initiate a daughter church plant in the near future.

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.” (Psalm 34:1-3)

Therefore, the Session of Coddle Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church memorial First Presbytery to recognize this Anniversary year and to refer this memorial to the General Synod so that the wider Church may rejoice with us.

Adopted on March 11, 2003

G. H. Hallman, Stated Clerk

First Presbytery

Memorial Number Three

From First Presbytery

**[Adopted. Referred to Board of Covenant Discipleship for
Development of Position Paper]**

WHEREAS, The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod has in the past produced position papers on abortion, homosexuality and scripture, and

WHEREAS, The morals of the United States of America have deteriorated, at least in part, due to the lowering of moral standards by the mass media, i.e., movies, TV, internet, etc., and

WHEREAS, Our Holy God in His Word has called the Christian “to be holy” (Lev. 19:2; I Peter 1:16), and

WHEREAS, Christian denominations in the past have not spoken against the evils of society of their day in a united front, i.e., the church in Germany before WW II, and

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus has called Christians to be salt, light, living stones, etc., and to go into all the world “to preach the gospel and make disciples,”

THEREFORE, First Presbytery respectfully memorializes the 199th General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to instruct its committee on Theological and Social Concerns to develop a position paper on ways that members, Sessions and Courts, of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church might encourage neighbors, communities, and our nation to high moral standards as expressed in the Ten Commandments and other Scripture passages. **[Amended]**

Adopted on June 9, 2003

G. H. Hallman, Stated Clerk

First Presbytery

Memorial
Mississippi Valley Presbytery
[Not Adopted]

WHEREAS, problems have arisen in churches which have large numbers of children and young people voting in congregational meetings on church budgets, building programs, the hiring and firing of pastors, expenditures of money and church business that require maturity and discernment beyond the years of a child or a young person.

WHEREAS, in a congregation that has a substantial number of youth they can and do change the outcome of a congregational meeting. In most cases the children vote as directed by their parents, which is normal and biblical since they are under the authority of their parents. However, this gives the parents of children an unfair advantage to determine the outcome of a meeting, and of church business.

WHEREAS, Jesus said that we should not forbid the little children to come to Him and receive them into the Church, as well as the ministry of the Sacraments. However, he did not say that they should be able to vote in congregational meetings! Those children who know Him and can discern the Lord's body should receive the Lord's Supper and be received into membership. Yet these two functions should be properly distinguished: the spiritual ministry of growth and nurture, and the business function of voting in a congregational meeting.

WHEREAS, the *Form of Government* allows each session to set a minimum age for a person to be an ordained officer of the church, this same logic should also be applied to allowing a session to determine a minimum age for voting in congregational meetings. Those churches that wish to allow their children to vote can continue this practice; and those churches that wish to set a minimum age may do so.

THEREFORE, Mississippi Valley Presbytery memorializes the General Synod to change the wording of the *Form of Government*, Chapter V., Concerning the Church Member, Section A., Definition of a Church Member, Paragraph 1 (second sentence) which currently reads in part: "He

is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the congregation, including the right to vote in congregational meeting, the right to hold office unless restricted by a minimum age limit set by the session, etc.” to read: **“He is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the congregation, including the right to vote in congregational meeting unless restricted by a minimum age limit set by the session, the right to hold office unless restricted by a minimum age limit set by the session, etc.”**

Adopted on March 4, 2003

James A. Ryan, Jr., Principal Clerk
Mississippi Valley Presbytery

**Memorial
Second Presbytery**

[Referred to Committee on Theological and Social Concerns]

WHEREAS, issues pertaining to the role of women in the church have been divisive for many denominations;

WHEREAS, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has in the past decided not to amend the *Form of Government* so as to allow the ordination of women to the office of minister and elder;

WHEREAS, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has not yet adopted a denominational position paper dealing with the role of women in the Church;

THEREFORE, Second Presbytery hereby memorializes the General Synod to consider and adopt the attached position paper, “Women in the Life of the Church,” which was adopted by Second Presbytery meeting in regular session on March 11, 2003. **[See Appendix]**

Memorials From Northeast Presbytery

Northeast Presbytery, ARPC, at its Spring 2003 meeting, on April 4, 2003, at the Ballston Center ARP Church, did APPROVE two Memorials to be forwarded to the General Synod for consideration at its June 2003 meeting.

Memorial Number One

[Referred to Committee on Theological and Social Concerns]

The first Memorial originates with the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement. The Northeast Presbytery approved forwarding the Request of the PCOTA (as a Memorial from Northeast Presbytery, to wit:

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement has respectfully requested Northeast Presbytery to address the following constitutional inquiry to General Synod:

May we enroll as non-communing members of the Church, infant children of communing members of the Church, as soon as the infant children are born, or only when they are baptized?

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement has provided “Facts for Consideration” and “Discussion” to accompany their request; and,

Whereas, the constitutional inquiry affects not only congregations of Northeast Presbytery, but all congregations within the General Synod; therefore,

Northeast Presbytery does hereby **MEMORIALIZE** the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to respond to the foregoing constitutional inquiry and to give special attention to the “Facts for Consideration” and “Discussion” provided by the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement.

Facts for Consideration

1. The *Westminster Confession of Faith* (XXV. 2.) says that “The visible Church...consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children....”
2. The *Westminster Larger Catechism* says that “The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.”
3. The *ARP Form Of Government* (V.A.2.) indicates that “The children of believers by right of being born into covenant relationship are non-communicant members of the Church.”
4. Josh 5:2-5 indicates that even though the children of Israel had neglected the sacrament of circumcision, they were nevertheless considered children of the covenant and were, in time, induced to obey God by receiving the sign of the covenant.
5. The *ARP Form Of Government* (V.C.1.b.) also says that “The session shall enter into its record all pertinent information, including the names of any baptized children....”
6. The *ARP Form Of Government* (V.E.4.) says that “The non-communicant roll shall consist only of the names of those who are baptized children of communicant members of the congregation but who have not yet made profession of their faith in Jesus Christ.”
7. The *ARP Book of Worship* (VIII.A.2.) says that “At the time of baptism the child shall be recorded as a baptized “non-communicant” member of the Church, and shall be numbered among those for whom the session has responsibility.”
8. There appears to conflicting guidance in the *Form of Government*, V.A.2. describes the children of believers as ‘non-communicant members’ without regard to whether the children have, as yet, been baptized. V. E. 4. indicates that only baptized children of communicant members shall be on the non-communicant roll.

- a. If we follow the guidance of V.A.2. we would enroll children of communicant members as soon as they are born;
 - b. If we follow the guidance of V. E. 4. we would not enroll these children until they are baptized even though we consider them non-communicant members.
9. There are communicant members of the ARP who, as yet, have not come to the Biblical conviction that their children are entitled to and should receive the sign of the covenant, and who, as a matter of conscience, are neglecting to have their children baptized, and who are receiving instructive-discipline and prayers of the session.

Discussion

The *Westminster Standards* describe the Church as composed of those who make profession of their faith as well as “their children.” Their inclusion in the covenant of grace is not tied to their having received the sacrament of baptism, though baptism is certainly expected. The ARP *Form of Government* says that non-communicant membership in the Church is a “right” that children of believers have, based on their “being born into covenant relationship”. Baptism certainly is the sign of their standing in the covenant, but their membership appears to be tied to their birth rather than their baptism.

At several places in the *Form of Government* the non-communicant roll of the Church is described as including only children of communicant members who have been baptized. The rolls seem to be a record of those children who by birth are non-communicant members and who have been baptized. No guidance is given as to how to keep record of non-communicant members who have not as yet been baptized even though the *Westminster Standards* speak of them as belonging to the visible Church.

To provide quality pastoral care, some record should be kept of children of believers even before they receive the covenant sign of baptism. However, the *Form of Government* does not explicitly give a local congregation guidance as to how to keep record of these children.

Therefore we ask the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, may we enroll as non-communicating members of the Church, infant children of communing members of the Church as soon as the infant children are born or only when they are baptized?

Rev. G. J. Gerard
Principal Clerk

Memorial Number Two

[Referred to Committee on Theological and Social Concerns]

The second Memorial originates with pastors and congregations of Northeast Presbytery churches located in the Dominion of Canada. There

has been a long standing difference of thought and understanding as to how, if legally possible, the Canadian ARP churches with installed pastors can/should participate in the ARP Retirement Plan, as mandated by the General Synod.

Whereas, there are long standing differences of thought and understanding as to how, if legally possible, the Canadian ARP churches with installed pastors, can/should participate in the ARP Retirement Plan, as mandated by the General Synod; and,

Whereas, the General Synod is not presently legally recognized as a charitable organization within the Dominion of Canada; and,

Whereas, individual congregations and pastors of Northeast Presbytery located in Canada have not uniformly or consistently participated in the ARP Retirement Plan; and,

Whereas, attempts to rectify and reconcile differences and establish definitive legal means for all Canadian ARP churches and pastors to uniformly participate in the ARP Retirement Plan have not been accomplished, and are not expected to be accomplished within the foreseeable future; therefore,

Northeast Presbytery, ARPC, respectfully **MEMORIALIZES** the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to **EXEMPT** ARP Churches with Installed Pastors in Canada from required participation in the ARP Retirement Plan.

G. J. Gerard
Principal Clerk

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod, 2004.

R. T. Ruble nominated Frank M. Hunt II. W. B. Patrick, Jr. and R. W. Cameron, Jr. seconded the nomination.

A motion carried that the nominations be closed and Mr. Hunt be elected by acclamation.

Mr. Hunt was escorted to the podium by his son F. M. Hunt III and addressed the Synod. He introduced his wife Margaret, his daughter, Louise Watkins, and his Daughter-in-law, Laura Hunt.

Following announcements, General Synod recessed for a Coffee Break.

The first item of business when Synod reconvened was the previous night's motion which had been moved, seconded, and debated Tuesday evening. The motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Board of World Witness has seen a significant loss of missionaries over the last 15 years;

WHEREAS, the loss of many of these missionaries has been for reasons other than normal matters such as retirement, poor health, family concerns, etc.;

WHEREAS, the loss of many of these missionaries has been associated with a breakdown of relationship or confidence with World Witness management;

WHEREAS, the Board of World Witness has not sufficiently addressed these matters;

WHEREAS, there is a growing loss of confidence in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod with World Witness; and

WHEREAS, this loss of confidence is affecting the ability of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod to work together as one unified body for the advancement of the Gospel in the world;

THEREFORE in light of the foregoing concerns, I move that the Synod instruct the Ecclesiastical Commission to investigate this situation, and report its findings to the Executive Board of General Synod at the next meeting of the Executive Board, and that the Executive Board take such action as they deem necessary, and that they report their findings and actions to the next stated meeting of Synod.

The following motion as amended was referred to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns for report to the General Synod meeting in 2004:

That the General Synod encourage sessions upon calling congregational meetings to remind congregations who is entitled to vote, and that each communing member is to prayerfully seek the mind of God in voting.

The recommendations of the **Moderator's Committee on Board of Benefits** were presented and adopted..

- a. That recommendations 1-7 be adopted.
- b. That recommendation #8 of the Board Report be adopted as amended: "That if it has not been done, presbyteries be requested to include in its manual of procedures guidelines for addressing the issue of Social Security exemption with students."
- c. That recommendations 9 and 10 be adopted.
- d. That recommendation No. 11 be adopted.

REPORT OF BOARD OF BENEFITS

"Thank you for blessing me with God's blessings from our denomination. It has made my life one of relief from concern about meeting my financial obligations. Thank you so much again. God has been so good to me." *Widow of Retired Minister*

“I have received the generous gift from the churches, and I want to express my gratitude. It – the gift – always seems to arrive when I need it most. I thank you and many friends whom I don’t even know.” *Retired Missionary*

“God has been so wonderfully kind and mindful of my needs, and I can’t tell you how much it means to have this helping hand. When you are reduced to practically nothing financially and begin to lie awake wondering how to make ends meet, God is always there—knowing my needs and knowing I cast all my burdens upon Him. From the caring members of the Board of Benefits, by the grace of God, this blessing has come. How I do thank those responsible and give God the praise and glory.” *Widow of Former Minister.*

The Board of Benefits (“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 thanks **you** that we can receive on your behalf, the gratitude of those we serve. We covet your continued prayers and earnestly invite and encourage 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 Ron Millard, CPA P.A. audits 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

Christmas Benevolent Ministry

Gifts received through the Thanksgiving Offering, the J. C. Lott Endowment, the Christmas Benevolent Fund Endowment, and interest earned on funds held for distribution make possible a ministry to many retired servants of the Church. These funds are used

- To continue the benefit to widows who had been receiving support from the Widow Benefit Fund. This fund was exhausted during 2000. Three widows continue to receive an average of \$250 per month.

- To provide support and love gifts to an individual who
 - Qualifies to receive a retirement benefit from the ARP Retirement Plan or is receiving a disability benefit payment under the General Synod’s disability program; **and**
 - was actively employed in the denomination immediately prior to retirement or disability; **and**
 - has served a minimum of five years’ active service in the denomination; **or**
 - is a surviving Spouse of a qualified participant, or, if receiving a survivor benefit, was the Spouse when the participant died.

Guidelines have been developed to guide the Board in the distribution of funds and no changes have been made in the guidelines since the last meeting of the General Synod:

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.

After funding the Widow Benefit Fund distributions, priority is given to 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.

A total of \$52,345 was available for distribution during the December 2002-November 2003 period, as compared to \$50,499 approved in the preceding period. \$8,550 was allocated for the Widow Benefit Fund distributions. The balance of available resources was approved for distribution to eligible participants. At the time the 2002-2003 distributions were approved

	Last Report	This Report
Widow Benefit Fund Participants	6	3
Eligible Family Units	97	99
Need Based Applications	8	5
Need Based Grants	3	2
Other Grants	80	83

Pastors and clerks of churches where eligible participants attend or have membership are encouraged to help the Board in this ministry. Please encourage 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.

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 ministers of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church who have dependent, unmarried children who

- are full-time elementary, secondary, college or graduate students
- and**
- are between the ages of 16 and 25.

Widows with eligible dependent children will be informed of this policy immediately following the death of a minister.

If the funds are not needed for this purpose, a portion 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.

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 without causing undue hardship on the participating employees. It is becoming more difficult each year to control these costs and the Board makes an effort to balance cost and benefits.

For several years the Board has retained Gallagher Benefit Services as consultants and broker for the insurance programs. **On an annual basis** Gallagher goes to the market place

- for competitive bids from re-insurers (for specific claims that exceed \$85,000 and for aggregate claims if they exceed 120 % of the expected claims);
- for quotes on fully insured plans for comparative purposes; and
- for proposals from Third Party Administrators (TPA's) for comparison to the current TPA (Kanawha).

In addition, Gallagher advises the Board

- on plan design changes that have potential for impacting future plan costs
- on changes in federal and state guidelines

The skills and expertise of Board members is also very important to the efforts of the Board to design and present meaningful programs. Members bring not only professional skills, but also an awareness of needs and concerns being expressed locally.

Eligible employees include all full-time employees of churches, General Synod agencies (excluding World Witness which offers a separate program), and the Due West Retirement Center (a ministry of Second Presbytery.) Full-time employees are defined as those employees scheduled to work 30 or more hours per week. Associate Reformed Presbyterian seminary students are eligible for the medical insurance, with dependent coverage optional. Retired employees (and dependents if the employee had

dependent coverage at the time of retirement) may continue the dental coverage for a maximum of 18 months or to the date they reach the Medicare eligibility age, whichever occurs first. Medical coverage may be continued to Medicare eligibility age provided:

- the retiree has been a participant during the five-year period preceding retirement; and
- the retiree is at least age 59 _ at the time of retirement; and
- the retiree is not eligible for other coverage as an employee.

If the retiree does not meet the eligibility above, coverage may be continued for a maximum of 18 months. If the retiree has dependent coverage at the time of retirement and the employee reaches Medicare eligibility age before a covered dependent, the dependent may continue coverage at the employee rate until the dependent reaches Medicare eligibility age.

The group insurance program provides the following coverage and except as noted, participants must enroll in all coverage areas:

- Medical Insurance. Medical coverage may be waived (if permitted by the presbytery) if the employee is covered as a dependent in another group program. Dependent coverage is optional. Dependent children are covered to age 19, but may be continued to age 25 if the dependent is unmarried and is a full-time student
- Dental Insurance. Coverage is optional for both employee and dependents. At the present time late enrollment is permitted but coverage is limited to preventive care in the first year following a late enrollment. Coverage of dependent children ends at age 19 but may be continued to age 23 if the dependent is unmarried and is a full-time student.
- Employee Term Life Insurance and Accidental Death Insurance. Coverage amounts are \$10,000 for Erskine employees (they have other coverage), \$20,000 for hourly employees, and \$50,000 for salaried employees.
- Long Term Disability Insurance. There is a 90-day waiting period from onset of total disability before benefits begin. The benefit is coordinated with Social Security and provides a monthly benefit equal to 60% of monthly compensation at the time the total disability begins. Erskine employees are not covered in the General Synod program but have a separate policy.

Coverage for Erskine employees and all salaried employees begins on the date of employment. Coverage for non-Erskine hourly employees begins on the 91st day of employment. All coverage is conditional on the employee enrolling within the first 30 days of eligibility. **EMPLOYEES THAT FAIL TO ENROLL WITHIN THE GRACE PERIOD ARE NOT**

PERMITTED TO ENROLL AT A LATER DATE UNLESS THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

- The employee has enrolled in the program, has waived the medical coverage on the basis of being a dependent on another group plan, loses dependent status (for reasons other than failure to pay premiums or for cause), and requests enrollment within 31 days of the loss of dependent status.
- The employee has enrolled in the program, dependent coverage was waived on the basis of coverage under another group plan, coverage is lost (for reasons other than failure to pay premiums or for cause), and there is a request to add dependents within 31 days of the loss of coverage.
- The employee adds a dependent either by marriage or birth or adoption of a child. If the employee is a participant, dependent coverage may be added. If the employee has not enrolled both the employee and dependents may enroll. Enrollment must be completed within 31 days of the qualifying event.

Former seminary students will have a second eligibility period at the time they qualify as an employee.

IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT EMPLOYING AGENCIES AND PRESBYTERIES BE AWARE OF THE ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.

As a reminder, portions of the group insurance program are fully insured. The premiums for dental, life, accidental death, and long term disability are set by the carrier and the premiums collected are paid to the carrier on a monthly basis. Our actual usage (experience) for dental may impact the renewal, but will have little impact on the life, AD&D, or LTD.

Medical, which includes the drug prescription program, is partially **self-insured**. A portion of the premiums is used to purchase reinsurance, a portion is used to pay administration cost to the Third Party Administrator (Kanawha as of 9/1/2000), and the balance is retained to pay the medical and drug claims. The following represents the medical expense breakdown for the past three calendar years:

	2000	2001	2002
Paid Medical Claims	81.24%	88.11%	87.10%
Stop Loss Premiums ¹	10.25%	7.81%	8.45%
Access Fees to Preferred Providers	.73%	.66%	.61%
TPA Administrative Fees	5.05%	2.67%	2.81%
Administrative Costs ²	2.73%	.75%	1.03%

¹For individual claims that exceed \$85,000 and aggregate claims that exceed 120% of expected claims

²Represents General Office costs plus Insurance portion of Administrative Services Budget

Usage has and will continue to drive the premium cost. As hospitals and physicians charge more, as the cost of drugs increase, and as the participants use these services and products costs will continue to rise. When a claim is paid, payment comes from the premiums paid.

To emphasize-premiums for medical insurance are determined principally by the claims incurred. 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.

Recognizing the difficulties that churches have in meeting the rising health care costs, the Board has had to shift some of the cost to the participants. A three-year comparison is shown to illustrate:

Effective for Calendar Year	Prior to 2002	2002	2003
Single Deductible	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 500
Family Deductible	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 1,000
Out of Pocket Max. After Ded.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000
Family Out of Pocket Maximum	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000
Emergency Room Co-Pay	\$ -0-	\$ 100	\$ 100
Drug Card			
Generic	\$ 7.50	\$ 10	\$ 10
Preferred	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 30
Non-Preferred	\$ 20	\$ 35	\$ 35
Office Visit Co-Pay	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 15

A second medical plan was offered for January 2003. This plan increases the single deductible from \$500 to \$1,000, the family deductible from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and the out of pocket maximums to \$4,000 for single and \$8,000 for family. In the initial year there was a \$556 savings in premiums for the increased risk.

The Board has also approved a Health Risk Management Program to be located at Erskine College, to be open, initially, to plan participants, but not dependents. Non-participant employees of Erskine College may utilize the program on a paid basis. This program will use health evaluations to identify potential health risks and will use a nurse practitioner for routine office visits. When enacted at other locations, there has been an approximate \$1.70 -\$2.45 return on investment when measured in cost savings. The Board has approved the program for one year, to be enacted in the Fall of 2003. While directly benefiting only a portion of the covered participants, the potential impact on claims will be beneficial to the entire group. If successful, the program may be opened to dependents of participants.

The Board has also begun to gather information on **alternate health insurance programs** that screen participants prior to their entry. These programs do not collect premiums to cover the aggregate liability, but provide for appeals to participants to meet particular needs. The Board will continue to explore perceived advantages and disadvantages in its effort to provide meaningful security at the lowest possible total cost to individuals and churches.

The medical insurance is renewed in August each year. In prior years the Board has financed the increased premiums from August through December from reserves. The use of reserves in the prior policy year (2001 – 2002) and the increased aggregate liability of the Plan for the current policy year (August 2002 – July 2003) made it necessary for the Board to increase the medical premium in October 2002. We realize that this caused difficulty and the necessity was regrettable. Churches and agencies are reminded that the Board encouraged budgeting for a possible 20% increase in October 2003. An increase will be implemented in October 2003 only to insure financial viability of the medical plan.

The benefit consultants are preparing for the August 1, 2003 renewal. As a part of the renewal process, the consultants and Board:

- Will evaluate quotes for a fully insured program and alternate re-insurers.
- Will again provide cost factors for restructuring premiums to provide for Single, Single plus 1, and Family coverage. The total dollar premium must be collected and the restructuring would simply reallocate the costs. The **projected** costs for the year 2004 will be submitted to the churches as soon as possible after the August 1, 2003, renewal date. New employees enrolling after August 1, 2003 will be billed at the revised premium rates.

At the last meeting of the General Synod it was pointed out that the medical plan language pertaining to abortions was inconsistent with the position of the General Synod adopted in 1981. As the Board reviewed this issue it was discovered that the particular language had been inadvertently changed when we moved to Kanawha as Third Party Administrator in 2000. The language has now been changed and to the extent allowable by law reflects the language approved by the General Synod. The following are listed under Plan Exclusions:

Abortion: Services, supplies, care or treatment in connection with an abortion unless the life of the mother is endangered by the continued pregnancy.

Complications of non-covered treatments: Care, services or treatment required as a result of complications from a treatment not covered under the Plan, except complications from an abortion for a

covered Employee or Spouse are covered. This Plan covers pregnancy for Employee, Spouse or Child.

The Long Term Disability carrier has determined that all LTD claim payments must be reported to the IRS as taxable income. There would be a dramatic increase in cost to change the program to an employee-paid premium (making claims non-taxable). In lieu of a change, the Board is exploring the legality of designating disability payments made from the General Synod LTD program as a housing allowance. If it is found to be legally possible, the LTD benefit will be designated as a housing allowance and to the extent the designated housing allowance is used for that purpose and does not exceed the fair rental value of the housing plus utilities, it will be non-taxable.

Participants are encouraged to contact our benefit consultant account manager at Gallagher Benefit Services (Donna Childers: donna_childers@aig.com, 1-800-558-0009) or the Kanawha account manager (David Holmes: dwholmes@kanawha.com, 1-800-476-9150, ext 116) to help resolve problems. Additionally, participants are able to go directly to khsonline.com, establish an account, and view claim and eligibility status.

Retirement

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is a qualified, non-contributory, defined benefit plan. The Plan covers employees whose customary employment is for more than an aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year and 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.

It has been necessary to define the meaning of "hour of service." Under the options available the Board has chosen to use the provision that awards 45 hours of service for each week in which an Employee works. This definition will apply to all ministers serving under the terms of a Call. If a call for pastoral service is presented to a minister, and the minister is expected to work during 23 weeks or more in the Calendar Year, the Call needs to include provision for contributions to the General Synod for the ARP 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 3.1% 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 has consented in writing to another form of benefit, the benefit paid to the retiring Participant will be actuarially reduced. If the Spouse survives the retired Participant, the Spouse will begin receiving a benefit equal to one-half the benefit received by the retired Participant.

With the written consent of the Spouse, the joint and survivor benefit can be changed from the one-half continuation rate to a 2/3, 3/4 or full continuation rate. It is also possible for the Spouse to reject the joint and survivor annuity, with the retired Participant receiving a lifetime annuity. The Board encourages **great caution** in the election of this type of benefit.

All benefits are taxable, but for ordained Participants, 100% of the benefit is designated as a housing allowance and is non-taxable to the extent that it is used for that purpose. Benefit payments to retired ministers is classified as "Taxable Amount Not Determined." Retired ministers have been given a copy of the Housing Allowance Resolution and this may need to be filed with their tax return. Board procedures have been established to require third-party verification of ministerial status at the time of retirement for former Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers.

The Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits serves as Administrator of the Plan.

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.

The Board has an Investment Policy Statement to guide the investment managers and this policy statement is reviewed on a periodic basis

At December 31, 2002, invested net assets available for benefits, on a market basis, totaled \$27,702,798 as compared to \$30,978,906 at December 31, 2001.

Calendar year 2001 resulted in a negative return on investments of 9.9% as compared to a benchmark of -3.78%. Calendar year 2002 resulted in the first negative return since 1994 (-1.7%) and only the second negative

return in 25 years (-2.5% in 1977). The Retirement Plan Fund is expected to exceed benchmark returns over a five-year time period or a full market cycle. The benchmarks are: 30% of the S&P 500/Barna Growth, 18% of the S&P 500/Barna Value, 6% of the S&P 600 Small Cap Index, 6% of the MSCI EAFE Index (international stocks), and 40% of the Lehman Brothers Government/Credit Bond Index. These benchmarks became applicable for the first quarter 2000. Benchmarks for the prior 3-year, 5-year, and 10-year periods are based on 60% S&P 500 and 40% Lehman Brothers.

	1 Yr*	2 Yrs*	3 Yrs*	5 yrs*	10 Yrs*
Total Portfolio	-9.85%	-4.51%	-1.39%	5.00%	8.80%
Benchmark	-8.86%	-6.35%	-4.92%	2.64%	8.42%
Percentile Ranking	47	1	3		

* Annualized returns

The General Synod funds the Plan, primarily from contributions made by 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 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. Because of regulations governing qualified plans, the Earnings recognized for Retirement Plan purposes are limited to an amount not to exceed the threshold established for Highly Compensated Employees (HCEs). The maximum Earnings for 2002 was \$90,000 (a correction to the \$ 85,000 reported in the 2002 Report) and remains at \$90,000 for 2003. This amount is subject to annual adjustment by the IRS.

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

Concern for adequate and equitable funding of the Plan was expressed by the Executive Board and has been addressed by the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs. The Board has reviewed the preliminary decisions of the Commission and concurs with their recommendations and findings. The Board will be guided by the General Synod and will make Plan Amendments as directed by the General Synod.

Actuarial Valuation

Hunt, DuPree, Rhine & Associates, Inc., a Wachovia Company, is the Plan actuary. The Plan has an actuarial review every three years. A Plan review was conducted as of January 1, 2003 and found to be actuarially sound. Actuarial reviews are conducted to determine the minimum contribution level required to maintain the Plan on an actuarial sound basis and

to determine if it is possible to provide a change in the benefits. The Plan actuary was asked to make projections assuming the same contribution level and to adjust the expected annualized returns from 8% to 7.5%.

The ARP Retirement Plan Fund has been determined to be actuarially sound and if the actuarial assumptions are met in terms of contributions and earnings, the Plan will be able to meet all present and future obligations.

The actuarial review revealed that the fund does not have the necessary assets to increase the defined benefit for both those currently retired and for those that will retire in the future. While the three-year fund performance has **exceeded** the investment benchmarks for the period since the last review, it was below the actuarially assumed return of 8%. This, coupled with the failure of some churches to make contributions in accordance with the guidelines approved by the General Synod, made it actuarially unsound to change the defined benefit. The Retirement Plan Trust is sufficiently funded to allow a 6.45% increase in future benefits paid to those that will be receiving retirement benefits as of January 1, 2004. Participants retiring after January 1, 2004 will continue to receive a benefit based on 3.1% of Total Career Earnings.

Plan Changes

The IRS has approved the current Plan. Recent law changes will require some changes and these are being drafted by the Plan Attorney. Additional Plan Amendments have been approved by the Board and will be submitted to the Plan Attorney. The actual Plan Amendment will be submitted with the official report of the Board to the General Synod. The Board has approved the following Plan Amendments:

- a. Article I: Add a definition for "LEAVE OF ABSENCE." This will be the period of time that a Participant does not accrue credit for Service or Earnings and whose Service has not terminated in accordance with Article III (3).
- b. Article I (3)(c): Amend to limit the recognition of Earnings during disability to the end of the period for which payments are made or to actual retirement if earlier.
- c. Article I (4): Amend to define "Call" as both the process and the document that establishes an Employee relationship with an ordained minister.
- d. Article I (7): Amend to provide an additional allowance equal to 6.45% of Total Career Earnings for those Participants who retired (or will have retired) on or before January 1, 2004 and whose service had not terminated in accordance with Article III (3) prior to retirement.
- e. Article I (8): Amend to specify the manner in which "hours of service" are to be determined.

- f. Article III (3): Amend to specify that the manner for determining the date of termination.
- g. Article V (3): Amended to clarify that age 65 factors are to be used for all postponed retirements. [**Note: Plan language was omitted in Amendment No. 1.**]

The participation of Ministers serving churches in Canada has been referred to the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs. It is the consensus of the Board of Benefits that the Plan should not be changed to exclude Canadian ministers **unless participation would require the establishment of a separate Retirement Plan for Canadian ministers or would create undue hardships on the Participants.**

Qualified Domestic Relation 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 relation orders that purport to be a QDRO. The Plan Attorney will review QDRO's 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 relation order prior to submitting it to the court for judgment.

Changes in Retirement Plan Participation

The following changes for the period January 1, 2002-December 31, 2002, are reported for historical purposes:

- a. Active Participant and/or widow of deceased Participant retired: Donald W. Elliott (10/1/2002); C. Biddle Foster (7/1/2002); Carl Geisik (11/1/2002); John E. Hill (5/1/2002); Hae Soung Kim (4/1/2002*); Jan Senneker (3/1/2002).
*Pension payments required by law.
- b. Terminated Participant retired: William F. Blakely (7/1/2002); J. Rogers White (2/1/2002).
- c. Active Participant and/or widow of deceased Participant lost by death: Mrs. W. R. (Emma Echols (4/9/2002); Charles E. Edwards (2/22/2002); John E. Kennedy (4/10/2002); James H. Ragsdale (1/31/2002).
- d. Inactive Participant lost by death: None.
- e. New Participants: Stephane Cobbert (6/10/2002); Timothy R. Dibble (1/15/2002); John C. Giddens (7/7/2002); Richard Daniel Hazen (4/13/2002); Stephen E. Jordan (3/3/2002); John Michael Lashley (1/6/2002); Leo C. Markwat (6/16/2002); Brian C. Peake (6/23/2002); Tim R. Watson (1/13/2002).
- f. Active Participants accumulating Credited Service as an employee of Erskine or as a Military Chaplain: R. W. Bell; J. L. Carson; Gale G. Cotton; L. Hamrick, Jr.; Michael A. Kelly; Michael R. Kiefman; Paul

- G. Patrick; C. S. Rimmer; D. M. Schwabauer; J. T. West; R. Douglas White; M. E. Yarman.
- g. Participant reinstated to active participation or had prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings restored as continuous: L. Paul Burns (5/15/02); John C. Door (6/10/2002).
- h. 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: T. E. Braithwaite*; S. Harrison Cain*; Wyatt H. Folds (2005); M. A. Hunnemann (2013); Michael I. Leach (2003); Kyle J. Locke (2007); K. I. Lotze*; J. A. Loughner (2007); R. A. Mill (2007); Ronald L. Pritts (2004); Edwin M. Sink, Jr.; Patrick V. Williams (2011); Rabun M. Williams (2017); Steve R. Woods (2004).
- *Termination for failure to accumulate an additional Year of Service not applicable.
- i. 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; S. C. Berthiaume; J. R. Blevins; D. M. Boggs; Mary Suzanne Brawley Allers; D. E. Brisben; T. M. Campbell; M. D. Chesser; W. A. Church; D. L. Clubb; M. D. Connor; G. W. Curry; Lawrence C. Cutherell; T. N. DeHart; Karen M. DeHaven; R. W. Dickson; R. I. Dornbush; M. F. Doss; C. W. Echols; L. A. Erwin; J. H. Farrar; G. J. Gerard; T. D. Gorden; R. J. Hamilton; D. B. Harding; Teresa Lynn Harms; Mark R. Hornby; R. F. Ingram; E. S. Irby; K. E. Jacobs; T. L. Jones; K. F. Koehler; J. B. Lewis; S. D. Manley; D. W. Matthews; R. F. McAndrew; O. N. McCarter; B. McLendon; K. J. McMullen; W. G. McClain; R. S. Miles, Jr.; K. F. Muldoon; T. M. Oates; T. L. Owens; J. S. Price; S. C. Reynolds; D. R. Robinson; B. F. Sanders; W. T. Sherer, III; R. D. Sherrill; D. P. Smith; L. Charles Stoker; C. A. Stuck; G. J. Syms; J. E. Taylor; A. L. Toth; W. H. Tyson; M. S. Ulmer; Emily vanDalen; D. L. Wakeland; W. T. Warren, Jr.; R. A. White; Adam C. Williams; J. M. Williams; J. R. Wright; R. J. Yelverton.
- j. Widow who has qualified for a vested benefit deferred to the retirement date of the deceased Participant: None.
- k. Participant who has prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings which will be recognized as continuous on completing five (5) years of continuous service: Gale G. Cotton; P. J. Forwood; Paul G. Patrick (12/31/2006); C. D. Trimmier; Robert Washington.
- l. Former Participants removed from participation in the Plan without qualifying to retain a vested benefit (Credit for prior Service and Earnings will be reinstated if Participant completes five years of

- continuous service): J. M. Aubey; David W. Harper; D. M. Satterfield.
- m. 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*; W. F. Blakely; Mrs. E. L. (Betty) Bland*; R. A. Bodey**; J. H. Boyce; W. J. Boyd**; R. D. Bradham**; Mrs. C. D. (Mary Kate) Brearley; Mrs. A. C. (Jeanie) Bridges*; P. A. Campbell**; R. M. Canfield; Mrs. J. A. (Grace) Cannon***; J. Coad, Jr.; C. L. Concha; Mrs. P. G. (Imogene) Covone*; Florence Craig; F. H. Crisco; D. E. Dagenhart; Mrs. L. L. (Betty) Dattler***; B. E. DeWitt**; D. W. Elliott; 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; C. Geisik; Mrs. W. P. (Mary) Grier*; W. D. Hall; J. F. Heinsohn ; Mrs. J. B. (Mary) Hendrick*; Mrs. R. E. (Judith) Herrmann*; Mrs. G. F. (Bertha) Johnson*; D. O. Jones; Mrs. J. E. (Sarah) Kennedy*; L. P. Kennerly; H. S. Kim; R. A. King; G. C. Knecht****; W. Y. Koh****; Mrs. V. F. (Jean B.) Latham*; W. C. Lauderdale; R. B. Leaptrott, Jr.**; G. W. Letchworth; C. Earl Linderman; W. A. Macaulay**; H. S. Mace; J. L. MacLeod; Mrs. R. B. (Gladys) Marshburn*; K. D. McArthur; C. T. McCants; C. W. Medlin**; Mrs. R. S. (Harriet) Miles***; C. L. Mitchell; W. F. Mitchell****; K. F. Morris; T. G. Morris; B. E. Murdock; Mrs. F. J. (Betty) Musselman***; Mrs. J. A. (Ruth) Nguyen*; Mrs. B. R. (Lenore) Nowak***; Mrs. G. R. (Mabel) Oates*; Mrs. H. E. (Sara) Pressly*; Mrs. J. E. (Jeannie) Pressly*; Sarah H. Pressly; Mrs. W. L. (Elizabeth C.) Pressly*; Mrs. P. E. (Donna) Price*; Troy L. Pritt; H. B. Probes, Jr.; W. O. Ragsdale; C. A. Reed; L. L. Richardson**; Mrs. A. L. (Margie) Roberts*; Robert J. Robinson; 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*; H. L. Smith**; J. C. Smith; Mrs. J. P. (Mary) Steele*; J. T. Stephenson**; J. W. Stodghill**; W. B. Sutherland; J. R. Thompson**; J. A. Turner**; J. Roger Wade**; Mrs. W. M. (Mary) Wardlaw*; Mrs. H. C. (Addie Jane) White*; J. Rogers White**; R. A. Whitesides; Z. C. Williams; T. L. Wilson; J. R. Wolff**; 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. Benefit is frozen.
- ***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.
- n. At year's end, the following persons were serving under the terms of

- a Call and may be eligible for Retirement Plan participation. Enrollment procedures have not been completed: **Catawba:** None. **First:** Song Choi (Statesville Korean); L. Eugene Frady (Calvary); J. Donald Jordan (Christ Church); William Maier (Tunnel Road); L. Morgan (Chalmers Memorial); John Spence (Redeemer); J. C. Unda (Hendersonville Hispanic). **Florida:** None. **Mississippi Valley:** None. **Northeast:** David Els (Trinity), Joseph J. Kim (Kwang-Myung), J. vanEyck (Riverside). **Pacific:** Young Hwa Chung (Antioch World Mission), L. Joseph Paek (Il Sim), Chong Hun Byun (Korean Bethel), Chang Young Kim (Valley Peace), Hoo Y. Cho (Western). **Second:** Hyon K. "Paul" Shin (Young Nak). **Tennessee-Alabama:** None. **Virginia:** None. **General Synod Agency:** None.
- o. Lump-Sum Settlements were made with the following former Participants who had qualified for a vested benefit with a present value of less than \$5,000: None.

Miscellaneous

Ministers Opting Out of Social Security

Internal Revenue Code section 1402(e) makes it possible for a minister to be exempted from coverage under the Social Security system. The minister must file an exemption application (Form 4361) certifying that he 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 General Synod has previously taken the position that there is nothing in the Standards of the Church that would support the "religious principle test." Accordingly, denominational benefit programs have been structured to anticipate the benefits provided by the Social Security system. If a minister opts out of Social Security and does not replace these benefits he could create extreme hardship for his family.

Budget for 2004

The Board's Operating Budget for 2004 is attached to this report and reflects the allocation approved by the Board of Stewardship. The Board does not carry forward unused funds that are allocated from the Denomi-

national Ministry Fund.

Administrative support for the ministries of the Board is provided by Administrative Services and for several years the Board has provided funding equal to @25% of the Administrative Services Budget as approved by the Executive Board of Synod. As reported last year, the Board has approved funding 50% of its commitment from resources for the insurance programs and 50% from the contributions received for the Retirement program.

Officers for 2003-2004

Chairman: Paul Bell

Vice-Chairman: C. Earl Linderman

Secretary: Ed Hogan

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

Meeting Dates

November 6-7, 2003, 1:00 PM (Orientation); 2:00 (Board),
Bonclarken

April 19-20, 2004, 2:00 PM, Bonclarken

November 4-5, 2004, 1:00 (Orientation); 2:00 PM (Board),
Bonclarken

Looking Ahead

The present ministry of the Board has been built on the shoulders of giants. Men and women, laity and ordained, have given of themselves and their resources to help build our present ministries. The individuals are too numerous to mention.

As we give gratitude to those that served in the past as members of the Ministerial Insurance Committee, Retirement Committee, Ministerial Insurance and Retirement Committee, Board of Annuities and Relief, and Board of Benefits, we express our openness for guidance and change that the future might bring.

We see the need for better integration and cooperation between the Board and the presbyteries, especially the presbytery committees/commissions on Minister and His Work. We see the need for more churches to identify persons with background and experience in managing benefit programs. As we anticipate the retirement of the present Administrative Officer (Secretary), we see the need for insuring competent administrative leadership and support. We see the need for better communication of the design and purpose of our benefit programs. We trust that the Special Committee on Organization will address these issues as their work progresses.

We note also the nature of our ministry. The Board seeks to fulfill the expectations of the General Synod not only in the products and services provided, but also the precepts that guide the ministry. Accordingly, the

Board has encouraged the Special Committee on Organization to form a sub-committee to work cooperatively with the Board of Benefits to review, assess, and explore the benefit needs of congregations, ministers, and staff.

The Board continues to express gratitude for the privilege of service and deeply appreciates the support of those that make the ministries possible.

Recognition and Appreciation

The Board has expressed its appreciation to retiring members Gerry Kunz of the Greenville Church and Tom Watson of the Louisville Church.

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 Benefits 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 General Synod endorse Amendment Number One to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Adopted September 1, 1961 As Amended and Restated Effective December 31, 2002.
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 presbyteries be requested to include in their manual of procedure reference to the definition of "hour of service" in the ARP Retirement Plan.
7. That presbyteries be requested to insure that all calls to ministers that will be employed in the pastoral ministry for 23 or more weeks in a calendar year include the provision for contributions for the ARP Retirement Plan.
8. That, if it has not been done, presbyteries be requested to give consideration to including in its manual of procedure guidelines for addressing the issue of Social Security exemption with students during the ordination process. [**Amended**]
9. That the proposed budget for 2004 be approved.
10. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be affirmed.
11. That the Retirement Committee, Board of Benefits, be commis-

sioned to approve Plan Amendments required for compliance with federal regulations.

Respectfully submitted
Board of Benefits

AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
RETIREMENT PLAN
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 1, 1961 AS AMENDED AND RESTATED
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2001

This Amendment to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan (the "Plan") as amended and restated effective December 31, 2001 is adopted by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (the "Synod") effective July 1, 2003 or such other date as may be provided in this Amendment.

WHEREAS, the Synod desires to amend said Plan

NOW, THEREFORE, the Church hereby amends the Plan as follows (NOTE: for clarification purposes only, changes are indicated by bold type or strikethrough):

- (1) Amend Article I (4) to read as follows:
 - (4) CALL: As set forth in the Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the process **and document** for establishing an Employee relationship with a salaried, ordained minister of the Church serving in a pastoral ministry of the Church.

(NOTE: This change clarifies that the term as used in the Plan refers both to the process and to the document that establishes the Employee relationship. This clarification is needed both for clarity and for administering the proposed change in the *Form of Government*, if approved.)

- (2) Amend Article I (7) by adding section (e):
 - (e) **Effective January 1, 2004, for all Employees who retired from active service prior to January 1, 2004, and are receiving retirement benefits under this Plan, an additional allowance equal to 6.5% of such annual Earnings credited prior to the date of retirement.**

(NOTE: This change will provide for a one-time adjustment in Earnings for those Employees who have retired or who will retire prior to January 1, 2004 (including the beneficiary of such deceased retired Participant). This increase will not change the defined benefit for future retirees nor will the change apply to former Employees who transferred from the Denomination prior to retirement.)

- (3) Amend Article I(8) EMPLOYEE to read as follows:
- (8) 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 **of service** in a calendar year or who become disabled while engaged in such employment. **Hours of service shall be credited on the basis of 45 hours for each week that the Participant qualifies as an Employee.**

(NOTE: This change defines how the Plan will recognize Service in determining Year of Service.)

- (4) Amend Article I by renumbering Section (11) through Section (21) as Section (12) through Section (22) and add Article I (11) LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

- (11) LEAVE OF ABSENCE: The period of time that a Participant does not accrue credit for Service or Earnings and whose Service has not terminated in accordance with Article III (3).

(NOTE: It is a difficult task to communicate to Participants their status when they are no longer accruing credit for Service and Earnings but have not been terminated from the Plan in accordance with Article III (3). The above definition would allow a reference to that period of time.)

- (5) Amend the first portion of Article III (3) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT to read as follows:

- (3) TERMINATION OF SERVICE: Service 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.~~ **The date of termination shall be the end of the Plan Year in which an additional Year of Service would have been required.** Service shall terminate earlier in the event of:

(NOTE: Article III (3) stipulates that there will be a “Termination of Service” if the consecutive one-year periods in which no Credited Service is accumulated exceeds the number of years of

Credited Service. The Plan does not specify the termination date when this occurs. This change defines that date.)

BOARD OF BENEFITS

Proposed Budget

	2003 Revised Budget	2004 Proposed Budget
RECEIPTS		
Unrestricted for Operations		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 6,740	\$ 6,795
Undesignated Receipts	0	0
Unrestricted Sub-Total	\$ 6,740	\$ 6,795
Designated Estimates for Benevolence		
Christmas Benevolent Fund		
Special Offering	\$ 51,005	\$ 51,005
Christmas Ben.Fund Interest	1,200	1,200
Lake Wales Christmas Ben. Fund	1,030	,030
J. C. Lott Trust	5,739	5,739
Benevolent Sub-Total	\$ 58,974	\$ 58,974
Group Insurance Resources		
Group Insurance Premiums	\$ 4,168,272	\$ 5,126,538
Group Insurance Miscellaneous	19,937	19,937
Group Insurance Sub-Total	\$ 4,188,209	\$ 5,146,475
Retirement Plan Resources		
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Ret.	\$ 2,886	\$ 2,886
ARP Retirement Plan	865,898	891,875
Retirement Plan Sub-Total	\$ 868,784	\$ 894,761
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 5,122,707	\$ 6,107,005
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board and General		
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,795
Office and Miscellaneous	4,240	4,000
Board and General Sub-Total	\$ 6,740	\$ 6,795
Benevolence		
Benevolence Sub-Total	\$ 58,974	\$ 58,974
Group Insurance		
Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserve	\$ 4,156,284	\$ 5,113,118
Group Insurance Administrative Support	31,925	33,357
Group Insurance Sub-Total	\$ 4,188,209	\$ 5,146,475
ARP Retirement Plan		
Audit	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Actuarial Fees	10,000	1,000
Administrative Support	31,925	33,357
Miscellaneous Expenses	250	250

Transfer to Trustee	825,109	858,654
ARP Retirement Plan Sub-Total	\$ 868,784	\$ 894,761
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 5,122,707	\$ 6,107,005
Disbursements Over (Under)		
Receipts	\$ 0	\$ 0

The recommendation of the **Moderator's Committee on ARP Foundation** were presented and adopted.

- a. That recommendation #1 be approved.
- b. That recommendation #2 be approved.
- c. That recommendation #3 be approved.
- d. That recommendation #4 be approved.
- e. That recommendation #5 be approved.
- f. That the Foundation be commended for its diligent work on behalf of the Synod

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

The Directors of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation ("Board") met twice since the last meeting of the General Synod. These meetings continue to be used to review and evaluate the work of administrators, consultants, and investment managers and to provide leadership and vision to the work of the Board. We express thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve Christ and His Church.

Board Leadership and Support

Officers serving for the period July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003: Mr. Rodney Shands, Chairman; Mr. Cliff Dyhouse, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Joe Summerville, Secretary. Officers for the period July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004: Mr. Rodney Shands, Chairman; Mr. Jim Bockover, Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Joe Summerville, Secretary. We gratefully acknowledge and express appreciation to Mr. Cliff Dyhouse and Mr. Jack Dingeman as they complete their service. Two members resigned for personal reasons and we express appreciation for their past service: Mr. Steven Jun-Suk Kim and Mr. Jeffrey A. Whitmeore.

Mr. William A. Deaton, who had been part of the ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation ("Foundation") for over 30 years, retired at the end of 2002. He has been retained as a consultant and is to assist individuals and the Board in the establishment of deferred gifts. He can be contacted at 704-376-0705.

Mr. Ed Hogan serves as the Administrative Officer for the Board and staff support is provided by Administrative Services. Cornerstone Man-

agement of Norcross, GA (www.cornerstonemgt.net) assists the Board in the development and management of charitable trusts and annuities. PRIME Asset Consulting of Atlanta, GA assist the Board (and those the Board serves) in the areas of Investment Policy Planning, Asset Allocation Modeling, Manager Search and Selection, and Performance Measurement.

Ministry

The Foundation continues to provide resources for denominational ministry through the **Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation Endowment**. The goal for the Foundation Endowment is that it will grow an average of 10% per year through additional gifts and investment performance. The purpose for the Endowment is to provide a steady flow of resources to supplement those provided by churches through the Denominational Ministry Fund. On an annual basis, five percent of the prior three year ending market value of the Foundation Endowment is contributed to the General Synod as a contribution to the Denominational Ministry Fund. At 12/31/2002, the market value of the Endowment was \$456,669. In addition to the Foundation Endowment, the Board:

- Administers a Gift Annuity Fund. Gift annuities become the immediate property of the Foundation and the Foundation agrees to pay a lifetime annuity to the donor. There are immediate tax advantages to the donor and the amount of income is determined by the rate schedule approved by the American Council on Life Annuities. The Foundation is obligated to pay the lifetime annuity. For this reason, all gift annuities are segregated from the Foundation Endowment. At the death of the last beneficiary (two-life limit), the remaining proceeds are distributed to the named beneficiaries. If the Foundation Endowment is a named beneficiary in the annuity, there is no administrative charge. If the Foundation Endowment is not a named beneficiary, there is an annual fee of 1.5% of the market value of the annuity.
- Serves as Trustee for eight (8) charitable trusts. Each trust is administered in accordance with a trust agreement established at the time the trust is established. An investment policy statement is developed in consultation with the donor to provide the expected level of income. Charitable Remainder Trusts pay a fixed percentage over the life of the trust. Income from a Charitable Remainder Unitrusts will be a percentage of the beginning year market value of the fund. At the death of the last beneficiary (two-life limit) the remaining proceeds are distributed to the named beneficiaries. The Foundation Endowment must be a named beneficiary in trusts administered by the Board. Including the Foundation Endowment, twelve (12) denominational ministries are named beneficiaries in the existing annuities and trusts

- Administers Endowment-type funds donated for particular purposes. Often a donor wants to establish a means to provide resources for special ministry within the ARP Church. A Donor Agreement is prepared at the time of the gift and the Board will administer the funds in accordance with the agreement. The Board is careful to make provision for the use of the funds in the event the funds cannot be used for the purpose designated. At the time of this report the following special purpose funds have been donated to the Foundation for designated purposes:

1. **Special Endowment Fund.** This fund was established by Logan V. Pratt, Sr., a founding director of the Foundation and past member of the Board. All gifts and realized gains and losses on investments are treated as the corpus of the fund and only the net income from interest and dividends is distributed to the specified agencies. 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, Covenant Discipleship (Christian Education), Due West Retirement Center, Erskine College, Outreach North America, and World Witness. Additional gifts of \$27,914.71 were added in 2002. The 12/31/2002 fund balance (at cost) was \$147,115.53 including an income balance of \$7,437.41 (as compared to \$3,441.86 at 12/31/2001). The income balance has been distributed in accordance with the terms of the fund, with 10% of the income given to the General Synod to help fund the Denominational Ministry Fund allocations. The fund is open for additional contributions. We again express our appreciation to Mr. Pratt.
2. **ARP Foundation Crowders Creek Cemetery Fund.** Established in 1988, one half of the income is reinvested with the other 50% distributed to the Session of the Crowders Creek Church for cemetery maintenance. If the income distributed to the Session exceeds the amount needed for maintenance or expansion of the cemetery, the excess is to be divided equally between the Boards of World Witness and Outreach North America. The fund is open for additional contributions.
3. **Robert Oates Fund for Evangelism Leadership Training.** Established with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oates in 1989, the fund is to be used "to promote person-to-person evangelism training and experience within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination, especially within the ranks of the teaching elders." Typically, offering scholarship assistance for attendance and completion of evangelistic courses will do this. First priority will be given to ARP Seminary students at Erskine. Second

priority will be given to ministers or staff of ARP churches that have not had the opportunity in the past to attend such training programs. Third priority will be give to ARP Seminary students in seminaries other than Erskine who express a desire for such training. Over \$10,600 has been distributed to date. Should the need exist, the donor has requested, and the Board has concurred, that the corpus can be invaded. Interested persons should contact the Administrative Officer (Ed Hogan) or the Vice President of ETS (Neely Gaston). The fund is open for additional contributions.

- **Administers Donor Advised Funds.** The Board will accept and administer gifts that are to be distributed over a short period of time, using, generally, a money market fund for investment purposes. The funds are distributed to other charities at the discretion of the donor in accordance with the agreement made at the inception of the fund.

Development

The Development and Ministry Committee, working with Mr. Deaton and Leland Beaudrot of Administrative Services, continues to develop the web site for those interested in the Foundation's ministry. Crafted Solutions, Inc. has been engaged to assist in the development of the web site and to help develop resource materials for the Foundation's ministry. Interested persons are encouraged to visit www.arpsynod.org/found/html.

In projecting budgeting needs beyond 2004, the Foundation has expressed to the Board of Stewardship the need for a full-time staff member for development. This concern has also been conveyed to the Special Committee on Organization.

Investment Management

The Foundation continues to serve as the designated investment advisor for boards, presbyteries, churches and other entities of the denomination. We encourage the General Synod to continue to seek out members with financial training and experience.

The UBS PaineWebber PACE Select Advisor Trust is used as the investment vehicle for endowment type funds under the Foundation's umbrella. The PACE Trust is a family of twelve, style-specific, no-load funds managed by institutional investment advisors. This program

- Is designed to promote diversification in the investments. The Foundation recommends that the equity investments be allocated on the following basis: Large Co. Value (26.67%), Large Co. Growth (26.67%), Sm/Md Co Value (13.33%), Sm/Md Co Growth (13.33%), and International (20%). The Intermediate Fixed Income Fund is recommended for non-equity investments. Portfolios are adjusted back to the benchmark each quarter if there is more than a 5% deviation.

- Allows churches and agencies greater flexibility in allocating and reallocating assets to meet particular financial objectives. Each agency determines the asset allocation that most fits their needs and risk tolerance.
- Provides direct reporting on the investments by providing each fund with a monthly statement from the investment manager.
- Provides the best investment manager for a particular asset class. The size of the investment pool allows UBS PaineWebber to hire the best manager for a particular asset class rather than one investment manager for several asset classes.
- Provides for quicker response when there is the need to change an investment manager if there is a change in the firm due to loss of personnel, style drift, or poor performance.

The Administrative Officer receives monthly statements and facilitates additions and withdrawals. Quarterly performance statements are submitted to the Investment Committee. The consultant meets with the Board at regularly scheduled meetings and is available for telephone conference between meetings. There are now fifty-six (56) separately invested funds (included those references above) invested in the PACE Select Advisor Trust. The ONA Endowment is invested primarily with SunTrust Bank. Asset mix ranges from 80% equity to 100% fixed income. At 12/31/2002, the value of funds under the Foundation umbrella was \$8,802,820 at cost, with a market value on that date of \$7,122,458.

The Foundation continues to monitor investment performance. The Board has continued to extol the virtue of patience and consistency, believing that the diversification, quality of investments, and quality of the investment managers will produce the expected results over a full market cycle.

Churches with endowment-type funds with an investment horizon of at least five years are encouraged to contact Administrative Services for additional information.

Audit

The funds under the investment umbrella of the 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, Greenville, SC.

Administrative

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2003 and for 2004 have been set as follows: September 25-26, 2003 (1:00 PM, Bonclarken); February 23, 2004 (9:00 AM, ARP Center, Greenville); and September 23-24, 2004 (1:00 PM, Bonclarken).

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 2004 be approved.
4. That each session seek to identify persons for recommendation to the Committee on Nominations that have the professional background and the desire to serve as a member of the Board.
5. That the activities of the Board, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully,

Board of Directors, ARP Foundation, Inc.

Rodney Shands, Chairman

Ed Hogan, Administrative Officer

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, INC
BUDGET**

RECEIPTS	2003	2004
General Synod Allocation	\$ 33,157	\$ 28,437
Special Offering	16,000	12,000
Endowment Fund Transfers	2,893	12,441
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 52,050	\$ 52,878
DISBURSEMENTS		
Consultant Retainer & Fees	\$ 9,623	\$ 9,623
Consultant Expenses	5,665	5,665
Advertising & Promotional Materials	3,000	3,150
Promotional Mailings & Misc.	700	700
Contingency	1,500	1,500
Development Sub-Total	\$ 20,488	\$ 20,638
Board & Ministry		
General Office	\$ 650	\$ 683
Administrative Support	3,750	3,750
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	3,206	3,366
Denominational Ministry	23,956	24,441
Board & Ministry Sub-Total	\$ 31,562	\$ 32,240
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 52,050	\$ 52,878
Net Change in Operating Funds	\$ 0	\$ 0

The recommendations of the **Moderator's Committee on Bonclarken** were presented and adopted.

- a. That recommendations 1-3 be adopted.
- b. That recommendation 4 regarding a change of name for Bonclarken be adopted.
- c. That a 5th recommendation be added as follows:

“That the General Synod encourage all presbyteries and committees to use the facilities at Bonclarken more fully during the winter months.”

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Brothers in Christ,

On behalf of, and as Chairman of the Bonclarken Board of Trustees, I would like to highlight some of the actions and directions of the board for 2002.

Our attention was focused on some of the critical areas of financial management and the building of an infrastructure that will provide years of benefit for both the staff and board. We recognize that only by God's grace and direction and His strength have we seen very positive results. In 2002 we saw the second highest number of churches and individuals utilizing the grounds of Bonclarken. Many of our camps were filled to capacity and we experienced significant increases in many of our ministries. Our goal is to win people to the saving grace of Jesus Christ and we desire that Bonclarken be a tool that God uses to make this happen.

Positive financial results have been achieved as we have implemented new ideas and procedures. We will continue to strengthen our financial stability for the long-term future as we strive to meet the goals of long-term plans. The debt on the Youth Activity Building continues to shrink as we receive generous gifts from our faithful donors. At the close of 2002, the debt stood at \$400,000, representing a reduction of \$294,000 for the year. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Growth is also taking place regarding the properties at Bonclarken. Agape Cottage was completed in time for the 2002 summer season. This building was made possible by the generosity of two major gifts to Bonclarken. Additional improvements to Bonclarken will include the complete replacement of the water lines on the grounds. The City of Hendersonville will complete this project during the summer of 2003, thereby eliminating the waste of water and providing better facilities for the placement of lines, as they are needed in the future.

It should be noted that the Board has completely reviewed the By-Laws of Bonclarken and adopted those newly revised By-Laws. Additionally, a study was conducted of the Bonclarken Property Owner's Manual and it has also been completely updated and adopted. Currently, the Administrative Committee is reviewing the Bonclarken Board Policies and preparing a detailed manual for the board and staff.

The Bonclarken Board of Trustees wishes to express a deep thanks to Synod and the many members of the ARP church whose generous gifts make it possible to meet the needs of Bonclarken.

Recommendations

We make the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That the General Synod continues to support Bonclarken in the allocation of Synod funds and in the annual special offering.
2. That the General Synod encourages all presbyteries and committees to use the facilities at Bonclarken more fully for retreats.
3. That the meeting of General Synod be held at Bonclarken on June 8, 2004.
4. That the General Synod approve changing the official name of "Bonclarken" from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Assembly Grounds, Inc. to Bonclarken Conference Center and authorize the Bonclarken Board of Trustees to accomplish such name change with the North Carolina Secretary of State. Further, that the name change be reflected in all documents of the General Synod, including the "Manual of Authorities and Duties."

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Ratchford,

Chairman, Bonclarken Board of Trustees

Proposed Budget — Board of Bonclarken

	2003	2004
	Budget	Proposed
Operating Revenue		
Rentals	\$ 1,235,000	\$ 1,272,000
Canteen/Gift Shop	51,000	52,500
Homeowners	65,000	65,000
Programs & Camps	88,000	91,000
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 1,439,000	\$ 1,480,500
Non-Operating Revenue		
Contributions	\$ 267,000	\$ 282,000
Total Revenue	\$ 1,706,000	\$ 1,762,500
Operating Expenses		
P/R & Benefits	\$ 936,000	\$ 962,000
Cost of Sales	199,000	205,000
Administration	146,000	150,000
Maintenance	35,000	36,000
Food Service	26,000	27,000
Camps	62,000	64,000
Utilities	182,000	191,000
Insurance	45,000	46,500
Other	51,000	53,000
Operating Contingency	24,000	28,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 1,706,000	\$ 1,762,500
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Executive Director's Salary \$64,468 plus Retirement and Insurance package.		

The recommendations of the **Moderator's Committee on Covenant Discipleship** were presented and adopted.

- a. That recommendations 1, 2 and 3 be adopted.
- b. That the staff of Covenant Discipleship (Dr. David Vickery, Rev. Bob Elliott, Mrs. Ann Brice and Mrs. Marge Malone) be commended for their faithful service over the past year.
- c. That Synod, through the Office of Covenant Discipleship, encourage local congregations to establish the goal of the systematic memorization of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* and the *Children's Catechism* as important tools for teaching the doctrines of the Reformed Faith.

REPORT OF COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP THE EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD

Introduction

“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

Our Mission...

Equipping the Body of Christ to train disciples to be passionate followers of Christ.

We seek 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 world view.

This annual report is a summary of the major ministry activities of the Board of Covenant Discipleship for the year 2002 and includes a budget and other recommendations for Synod's approval.

Board Meetings and Officers

The Board of Covenant Discipleship held two meetings this past year February 19-20 2002; September 17-18, 2002.

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 2002 year: Dr. Charles Steele, Chairman; Rev. Ron Pritts, Vice-chairman; Miss Lou Ann Aheron, Secretary. The officers elected to serve for the year 2003 are Dr. Charles Steele, Chairman; Rev. Richard Lewis, Vice-chairman; Miss Lou Ann Aheron, Secretary.

Board Ministries

Horizon Conference attendance 384; Quest Conference attendance 369; Camp Joy 3 full sessions 111 campers and 113 counselors and staff; Appalachian Mission—284 ARP young people and adults from 24 churches conducted Vacation Bible Schools in 16 locations in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia ministering to more than 600 children with 46 known conversions. Bosenior was held at Bonclarken with 102 in attendance. 65 attended the God's Third Day Creations Conference. There were 56 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 21 of our congregations. Catechism Recitations: The Children's Catechism—44 recitations; Westminster Shorter Catechism—4 recitations. Church School Enrollment 17,141.

Use of Curriculum Materials

a. Vacation Bible Schools: Eighty-five churches reported holding Bible Schools in 2002 with a total enrollment of 6361. Sixty-six had schools for youth and children only; nineteen had schools for the entire family. Fifty-three provided nurseries. Two churches held a two day school; another held a four day school. Some schools reported using more than one type of material. **Materials used:** Bible—5; Cook—11; Concordia—3; Gospel Light—17; Great Commissions—8; Group—11; Scripture Press—3; Standard—7; Ventures—1; Other—20; Own—5.

b. Church School: In the Children's and Youth Divisions, the most popular materials used were David C. Cook and Great Commissions. 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 166 churches reported and that some churches used more than one curriculum in a given department.

Literature	Preschool	Elementary	Youth	Adult
ARP	—	—	1	89
CRC	9	10	6	2
Cook	29	26	25	24
Bible	12	16	26	40
Great Commission	33	45	42	1
Scripture Press	1	1	—	2
Standard	5	6	5	12

Gospel Light	11	12	9	1
PCUSA	1	3	2	4
Other	15	16	23	36
Own	11	11	14	22

Recommendations

1. That the General Synod review and adjust the 2004 General Synod Meeting date to keep youth conferences and mission trips from conflicting with each other.
2. That the Report and actions of the Board of Covenant Discipleship be adopted.
3. That the budget for 2004 be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Steele, Chairman

Revenues	2003	2004
Denominational Ministry		
Total Covenant Discipleship DM Alloc.	\$ 205,134	\$ 237,946
Total Easter Offering Allocation	\$ 14,427	\$ 14,860
Total Misc Contributions-Operations	\$ 21,586	\$ 22,143
Total WSU Contributions	\$ 14,427	\$ 14,860
Registration and Fees		
Total Conference Registrations	\$ 88,000	\$ 63,800
Total Mission Trip Receipts	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
Sales & Subs. Adult Quarterly Income	\$ 52,113	\$ 53,676
Interest on Operating Funds		
Operating Reserve Int Allocat	\$ 194	\$ 200
Special Endow Fund-Covenant Disc	\$ 516	\$ 516
Total Revenues	\$ 418,397	\$ 430,001
Expenses		
Total Payroll	\$ 180,589	\$ 202,728
Total Staff Benefits	\$ 42,506	\$ 46,787
Total Staff Expenses	\$ 13,447	\$ 13,716
Board/Committee Expenses		
Covenant Discipleship Board	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,160
Total Promotional Expenses	\$ 3,881	\$ 4,075
General Office		
Ministry Resources	3,000	3,150
Equip/Software	\$ 5,174	\$ 5,324
Total Communications	\$ 5,511	\$ 5,787
Total Rent	\$ 5,345	\$ 5,612
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,350
Total Facility Management	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,472
Publications Expenses		

Total Adult Quarterly Expenses	\$	31,726	\$	33,040
Total Adult Qrtly Large Print Exp	\$	3,454	\$	3,627
Total Adult Qrtly Teacher Expenses	\$	3,182	\$	3,341
Total Other Publications Expenses	\$	2,000	\$	2,100
Ministry Disbursements				
Covenant Discipleship Audio Visual	\$	750	\$	788
Award Bibles & Books	\$	1,000	\$	1,050
Total Conferences and Training	\$	67,160	\$	69,029
Total Short-Term Mission Trips	\$	11,300	\$	11,865
Total Expenses	\$	397,425	\$	430,001

Questions were asked and addressed with regard to a previous action of the 2002 Synod concerning the allocation and expenditure of funds for the PointE ministry.

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

- a. That recommendations 1 and 2 be adopted.
- b. That recommendation 3 be adopted with the first sentence to read: "Presbytery church extension committees shall be strongly encouraged to insure that there is no net reduction in salary due to cost of living increases."
- c. That recommendation 4 be adopted.
- d. That Synod commend the efforts of the staff and developers of O.N.A.

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

Outreach North America is thankful for the opportunity we have to aid in the extension of the ARP Church in North America. Our purpose as a Board is to "INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST BY HELPING OUR PRESBYTERIES PLANT NEW CHURCHES AND RENEW EXISTING ONES." We are excited by the challenges and opportunities that the Lord is bringing to us. This report will summarize the activities of your Board during the last year.

I. Expanding our Boundaries

In 1998 the Synod adopted a National Vision Statement from Outreach North America. Our vision statement has four points:

1. Reaching the unchurched in America.
We believe that we need to emphasize reaching the unchurched in our new church plants.
2. Expanding the boundaries of our denomination.

We look forward to the day when the ARP Church is a national church.

3. Planting churches, which from their beginning will have a vision to plant daughter churches.
4. Transforming the hearts of our congregations that we seek to extend God's grace to others in evangelistic outreach throughout North America.

We are seeing expansion of the ARP Church throughout the Southwest, the West Coast, and in eastern Canada. We are seeking to be responsive to the opportunities that will come to us as we celebrate our bicentennial. We believe that the ARP Church can once again become a national church. We strongly believe that the Lord would have us plant and receive churches throughout North America.

II. Reaching the Culture

The Board takes seriously our mandate to reach North America. In order to do that, we believe that we need to develop multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-racial works. We have a new church start in the Houston area pastored by Stephane Cobbert. Stephane is an Afro-American and his work in the Bear Creek area of Houston will be a multi-cultural, multi-racial work. The Board has also approved a second-generation Asian work for the Los Angeles area.

At the last Synod meeting, a Memorial was approved that called upon the Board to work with World Witness in establishing a ministry to reach Muslims in North America. The work has been started utilizing Ali Mitchell who had served as a missionary to Pakistan as the director of the work. The ministry has two goals;

1. To develop ministry teams to evangelize and disciple Muslim communities located in close proximity to ARP churches, and
2. to encourage and offer special training for ARP churches to pray for and reach out to these particular communities.

The ministry is named ARP CONNECT and is centered in Columbia, SC at this time.

Rev. Mitchell has been working with Columbia area churches and with members of the Muslim community.

World Witness and Outreach North America are working together on this ministry. There is a coordinating committee composed of two members of each Board and they meet regularly. In addition, the Directors of both agencies meet monthly with Rev. Mitchell to review the work. After starting in Columbia, the goal is to expand the ministry to other areas where there are significant concentrations of Muslims.

III. Revitalization Programs

The seventh Revitalization program has just finished the training parts

of the program. Four churches have been involved in this program. They are Lakeside Fellowship, Gilead, Pinecrest, all in North Carolina, and Edgemont in Virginia. The initial results have been very encouraging and we expect the participating churches to experience positive changes and growth.

To date, nearly 40 ARP Churches have participated in these seven programs. Surveys have indicated that nearly 70% of the churches saw positive growth and change as a result of participating in the program.

We plan to start an eighth program and soon will begin recruiting six churches. We encourage our churches to prayerfully consider becoming part of the next program. We plan to produce a recruiting/informational video/dvd involving testimonies from participating churches to explain the program to other congregations

IV. Florida Land Gift

Sunvest Resorts, Inc. has given a generous gift of land to Outreach North America. The gift consists of 15 separate tracts on the perimeter of a 500-unit condominium community know as Lakeshore Club Villas which is located 10 miles east of Lake Wales. There is a total of 53 acres located on the shores of Lake Walk-in-Water.

We have engaged a consultant to investigate the best utilization of the property for the best return to Outreach North America. Our goal is to produce income from this gift that will be used for the planting of new mission churches. We deeply appreciate this wonderful gift from Sunvest Resorts, Inc.

V. Church Planter Recruitment and Training

Outreach North America is like the Marines: We are always looking for a few good men. It is a real concern that we continue to find men who have the gifts and the calling to be church planters. We solicit the help of our churches in identifying and recruiting candidates. Every year there are more requests for church plants than we can supply with suitable candidates.

Each year we seek to recruit men from Erskine Seminary and other reformed seminaries. Candidates who are recommended by their Presbyteries attend our Assessment Center. Our latest Assessment Center was held February 24–28 at Bonclarken. Eight ARP couples participated, along with seven couples from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. (We conduct joint assessment centers with the EPC.) We plan to do a second Assessment Center in Memphis toward the end of the summer.

Those who are seen as having good potential as church planters are offered one-year internships, which give men valuable “on-the-field” experience before they go out on their own. In addition, we have instituted mentoring programs to assist church planters in the early days of their new

works. The Board is exploring the use of a professional mentoring program conducted by Vision Planners, Inc.

In addition we hold an annual retreat for church planters and their families. These retreats are a time for instruction, interaction, worship and fellowship. The last one was held January 27-30 at Bonclarken with a total of 41 attending. Our goal is to prepare and equip our church planters as best we can for the difficult task of starting a new church.

VI. Supporting our Church Planters

The Board always seeks ways to become more effective in supporting and helping our church planters. At the retreats, we seek feedback from them as to how we might better serve them. As a result of such feedback at the January 2003 retreat, two former church planters, both of whom are now pastors of organized churches, presented recommendations to the Board based on their experiences as “parachute drop” developers. The Board’s response is to develop new models for church plants that might be more effective and efficient in producing new churches that are large enough to quickly plant daughter churches.

Another concern is for the financial support of our Church Planters. We have found that some church planters have gone three years without any increase in income, which has caused severe financial strain in some cases. For that reason, the Board is proposing a change in our Policy Book to insure that there is no net reduction in salary due to cost of living increases.

Near-by churches can be a tremendous encouragement to new church plants. For example, churches in the Rock Hill, SC, area entered into partnership with the Living Waters Church in Lake Wylie to support the mission with funds and volunteer workers. These workers helped with the nursery, taught young people, greeted visitors, etc. This support, which lasted for about a year, gave the Living Waters Church a head start in building a congregation that is able to take over these responsibilities.

VII. Changed Lives, Changing Lives Campaign

The capital fund campaign has received to date a grand total of \$ 2,479,464.19 in designated and undesignated gifts, with some pledges still outstanding. The major purpose for the campaign was to produce a permanent endowment that would give grants from its earnings. Sixty percent of the earnings go to our new churches to help them in the purchase of land and/or their first building. Forty percent of the earnings go back to our Presbyteries for the work of church extension in the Presbytery. The amount each Presbytery receives from the investment income is based on the percentage of the contributions from donors in that Presbytery.

Our goal was to have \$2,000,000 in the endowment. We are very close, with a total to date of \$1,930,432.99. Earnings from the endowment were first distributed in 1999. To date, Presbyteries’ 40% share of the ONA

endowment has added \$119,743 to their mission work.

Matching grants from ONA's portion to date have totaled \$179,614.50. From these funds, matching grants of up to \$30,000 are made to our new churches. As of this date, six of our churches have been approved for \$30,000 grants. We are thankful to the Lord for the gifts of His people that enable us to make these grants.

VIII. Status Report on the Work

Two new works were started in 2002. They are the Hope mission in Pearland, TX with Gentry McColm as the developer and Greyfriars mission in Blacksburg, VA with David Vance as developer. In addition, there was a restart at Surfside Beach, SC with David Zimmerman. There is also an exploratory work in Anderson, SC, being conducted by a seminary student.

We anticipate as many as eight new works in 2003. There are proposed works in Houston, TX; near Fort Lauderdale, FL; in Maumelle, AR; in Columbia, SC; in the suburbs of Memphis, TN; near Birmingham, AL, area; in Chatham, Ontario; and a second-generation Asian work in the Los Angeles area. These new starts depend upon church planter and funding availability. There are now 36 mission churches in our denomination supported by either/or Synod (through ONA) or by the Presbyteries.

The following 17 churches received funding from Synod during all or part of 2002.

Catawba Presbytery

Good Shepherd, Houston, TX	Rev. Jan Sattem
Grace Covenant, Irmo, SC	Rev. Jerry Berry
Hope, Pearland, TX	Rev. Gentry McColm
Iglesia Biblica, Columbia, SC	Rev. J. J. Diaz
Living Water, Lake Wylie, SC	Rev. Bill Babson
Redeemer, Surfside Beach, SC	Rev. David Zimmerman

First Presbytery

Centerpoint, Winston- Salem, NC	Rev. Jim Wittke
Christ Community, Franklin, NC	Rev. Terry Bloemsma
Open Door Korean, Charlotte, NC	Rev. Eung Chu Lee
Waxhaw, Waxhaw, NC	Rev. David Satterfield

Florida Presbytery

Hope, Tampa, FL	Rev. Mike Jones
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Northeast Presbytery

Good News, Fredrick, MD	Rev. Peter Kemeny
Good News, Gilbert, AZ	Rev. Clyde Reed

Second Presbytery

Hope, Dacula, GA	Rev. Bill Nash
Son Sung, Norcross, GA	Rev. Chan E. Jeon

Virginia Presbytery

Greyfriars, Blacksburg, VA

Rev. David Vance

Wellspring, Troutville, VA

Rev. David Blugerman

The proposed budget for 2003-2004 is attached.

The officers of the Board for 2003-2004 are

Chairman —Rev. Alan Avera

Vice Chairman—Rev. Gilbert Rowell

Secretary—Mrs. Penny Thornton

Recommendations

1. That Synod encourage Presbyteries and churches to invite church planters, Presbytery and Synod directors to speak at their churches to present the need for planting churches to reach North America for Christ.
2. That Synod encourage churches to broaden their vision for reaching our culture by supporting their nearby church plants by prayer, by financial and equipment gifts and by recruiting volunteers for short-term help in the work of the mission.
3. That Synod approve the following change to the ONA Policy Book:
Add the following sentences to V. A. 8 h —“Presbytery church extension committee shall insure that there is no net reduction in salary due to cost-of-living increases. We suggest consulting an index, such as The Washington Index, to ascertain the cost-of-living index for a particular geographic area.” **[Amended]**
4. That pastors and students of theology be encouraged to prayerfully investigate a possible call to church planting.
5. That the proposed budget be approved.
6. That the report of the Board of Outreach North America be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Avera, Chairman

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA**Operations Budget for Administration & Progra**

	2003		2004
Administration & Program Receipts			
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 388,792	\$	393,859
Direct Support and Specials	\$ 5,089	\$	5,242
Hillcrest Fund	\$ 6,104	\$	5,914
Manse Loan Fund Invest. Income	\$ 9,279	\$	10,484
Mattie B. Ellis Fund Income	\$ 570	\$	536
Operating Fund Interest	\$ 4,025	\$	4,100
Permanent Fund Income	\$ 6,013	\$	5,691
Ralph Grigsby Fund	\$ 1,627	\$	1,627

Revitalization – Church Fees	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Special Endowment Fund (Pratt)	\$ 750	\$ 750
St. Andrew Church Fund	\$ 7,237	\$ 6,884
Special Offering	\$ 16,012	\$ 20,000
WSU Unrestricted	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
Administration & Program		
Receipts Total	\$ 479,498	\$ 489,087
Administration & Program Disbursements		
Administration		
Director of Outreach North America		
Salary & TDA	\$ 31,337	\$ 35,240
Housing	\$ 31,388	\$ 32,957
Retirement	\$ 5,521	\$ 5,797
Insurance	\$ 12,935	\$ 14,838
Social Security Equity Allow.	\$ 2,225	\$ -0-
Director Sub-total	\$ 83,406	\$ 88,832
Assistant to Director		
Salary & TDA	\$	\$ 43,292
Housing	\$	\$ 16,391
Retirement	\$	\$ 5,073
Insurance	\$	\$ 14,790
Assistant to Director Sub-total	\$ -0-	\$ 79,546
Admin. Support Sub-total	\$ 84,432	\$ 69,483
Staff Expenses Sub-total	\$ 27,968	\$ 23,930
General Office and Board		
General Office	\$ 15,722	\$ 15,722
Rent	\$ 8,236	\$ 8,648
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 14,352	\$ 15,070
Search Committee	\$ 10,000	\$ -0-
Promotion and Publicity		
Outreach	\$ 6,278	\$ 6,592
Other	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
General Office and Board Sub-total	\$ 69,588	\$ 61,032
Administration Sub-total	\$ 265,394	\$ 322,823
Development		
Mission Developer Training		
Assessment Center	\$ 14,035	\$ 14,737
Mission Developers Retreat	\$ 14,620	\$ 15,351
Mission Dev. Training/Sup.	\$ 26,317	\$ 27,633
Church Planting Course	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Intern Program	\$ 108,000	\$ 111,240
Mission Dev. Training Sub-total	\$ 164,972	\$ 170,961

Coordinator Supplements		
Catawba Presbytery	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000
Florida Presbytery	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000
Consultants	\$ 7,527	\$ 7,000
Development Sub-total	\$ 25,527	\$ 19,000
Revitalization		
Revitalization Sub-total	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
Program Sub-total	\$ 208,499	\$ 207,961
Administration & Program		
Disbursements	\$ 473,893	\$ 530,784
Operating Fund Reserve		
Change in Fund Balance	\$ 5,605	\$ <41,697>
Beginning of Year Fund Bal.	\$ 267,694	\$ 273,299
End of Year Fund Balance	\$ 273,299	\$ 231,602

Operations Budget for Church & Mission

Church & Mission Receipts		
Denominational Min.Funds	\$ 251,291	\$ 254,566
Interest on Reserves	\$ 4,635	\$ 2,815
Reclassification of Special Alloc.	\$ 50,622	\$ -0-
Church & Mission Rec. Total	\$ 306,548	\$ 257,381
Church & Mission Disbursements		
Evangelism		
The ARP Connect (Muslim		
Ministry)	\$ 19,600	\$ 20,000
Undesignated	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
Evangelism Sub-total	\$ 24,600	\$ 30,000
Multi-Cultural Supplements		
Catawba Presbytery		
Iglesia Biblica (Columbia, SC)	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
First Presbytery		
Open Door Korean	\$ 5,333	\$ 1,333
New Work	\$ -0-	\$ 12,000
Multi-Cultural Sup.Sub-total	\$ 9,333	\$ 15,333
Bi-vocational Plants		
Virginia Presbytery		
Greyfriars (Blacksburg)	\$ 9,000	\$ 3,000
Bi-vocational Plants Sub-total	\$ 9,000	\$ 3,000
New Church Development		
Catawba Presbytery		
Good Shepherd	\$ 10,833	\$ 833
Grace Covenant	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000

Redeemer	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000
First Presbytery		
Christ Community (Franklin)	\$ 16,667	\$ 6,667
DaySpring (Projected 7/1/2003)	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000
Waxhaw	\$ 27,500	\$ 25,000
Northeast Presbytery		
Good News (Fredrick, MD)	\$ 10,000	\$ -0-
Ontario, Canada (Pending)	\$ -0-	\$ 11,667
New Work	\$ -0-	\$ 30,000
New Church Dev. Sub-total	\$ 125,000	\$ 124,167
New Church Plants		
Catawba Presbytery		
Hope	\$ 55,417	\$ 32,083
New Millenium	\$ 43,750	\$ 48,750
First Presbytery		
Centerpoint	\$ 12,500	\$ -0-
Florida Presbytery		
Park Springs Daughter Church	\$ -0-	\$ 30,000
Pacific Presbytery		
Second Generation Plant (6/1/2003)	\$ 34,583	\$ 52,917
Virginia Presbytery		
Wellspring, Roanoke	\$ 27,500	\$ -0-
New Church Plant Sub-total	\$ 173,750	\$ 163,750
Partnership Plant		
Catawba Presbytery		
Living Waters	\$ 14,167	\$ 4,167
Partnership Plant Sub-total	\$ 14,167	\$ 4,167
Providential Contingency		
First Presbytery		
Emmanuel	\$ 6,000	\$ -0-
Waxhaw	\$ 3,000	\$ -0-
Mississippi Valley		
Maumelle, AR	\$ 9,000	\$ -0-
Northeast Presbytery		
Good News (Gilbert, AZ)	\$ 10,000	\$ -0-
Undesignated	\$ -0-	\$ 20,000
Providential Cont. Sub-total	\$ 28,000	\$ 20,000
Church & Mission Sub-total	\$ 383,850	\$ 360,417
Program and Ministry Sub-total	\$ 596,861	\$ 633,204
Church & Mission Reserve		
Change in Fund Balance	\$ (77,302)	\$ (103,036)
Beginning of Year Balance	\$ 264,992	\$ 187,690
End of Year Balance	\$ 187,690	\$ 84,654

The recommendations of the **Moderator's Committee on Dunlap** were presented and adopted.

- a. That all the recommendations and requests made by the Dunlap Board of Trustees be adopted in totality.
- b. That we give thanks to the Board for such a thorough report.

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

The Dunlap Board of Trustees (Board) met on two occasions since the last meeting of Synod, November 6-7, 2002, at Bonclarken and April 16, 2003, by telephone conference. Minutes of the meetings have been filed at the ARP Center.

Looking Back

The William H. Dunlap Orphanage (Dunlap) served the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church for seventy-three years as a home for orphaned and needy children. Since its closing in 1978, the Board has been the arm of the Church seeking to provide care for children who have been deprived of normal parental care. This is done, primarily, through financial support to Christian group homes that provide comprehensive care. The challenge for the Board is to identify and evaluate those ministries that best emulate that which we would do if we were still providing "our" home.

The transition from being a "home" to an agency that seeks to provide "home care" through other entities required the development of policies and guidelines that created parameters for ministry. Prayer, research, trial and error, followed by prayer characterized the life of the Trustees in the years following the close of the Dunlap Home. Over the years the Trustees have developed guidelines and procedures to provide consistency and focus in its approach to ministry. The Board has kept the General Synod informed and, when deemed appropriate, has asked for approval for its actions. Particular actions include:

- 1979—Liquid assets placed in care of Synod's Treasurer for investment.
- 1981—Synod authorizes sale of real estate and directs that the proceeds be applied to fulfill the dictates of the Trusts created by Anna Bell Dunlap McDaniel and Elizabeth Dunlap Spain.
- 1982—Unrestricted funds turned over to the General Synod and used to purchase the campus property for the William H. Dunlap Retirement Home and for a grant for the developing Due West Retirement Center.
- 1983—Synod affirms the intent of the Dunlap Board to give financial

- support for child care under certain requirements and through appropriate channels at home and abroad.
- 1985—William H. Dunlap Scholarship Program at Erskine approved. The scholarship program was restructured in 1992 to restrict future scholarships to “students who have been deprived of one or both parents, either by death, desertion, or other condition which prevents such student from having normal parental care.”
 - 1987—Charter amended to enlarge the corporate purpose to allow support of projects related to the care of orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children.
 - 1987—Scholarship program for qualified children unable to attend Erskine approved.
 - 1990—The Trustees appointed a task force “to look into the possibility of the Dunlap Board becoming a full-time child care giver.”
 - 1991—The findings and recommendations of the task force were presented to the General Synod. Synod acted to “reaffirm with the Trustees, that the purpose of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage shall be to provide and/or support comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment for a child or children when the biological parent or parents are unable to do so.” This report was foundational for the development of specific guidelines. Each new Trustee is given a copy of the full report of the Task Force.
 - 1992—The Report to Synod included the following:
 - Policy Guidelines for the Board of Trustees. These guidelines had been revised to reflect the more defined purpose of the Board and its approach to funding of ministries.
 - General Policy and Instructions for Applicants.
 - 1996—The Board appointed a committee to explore long-term relationships with homes which are fulfilling the purposes of Dunlap.
 - 2000—The Board presented to the General Synod its Policy for Ongoing Relationships.
 - 2001—The Trustees presented to the General Synod its “Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief.” The revised statement was presented in 2002 and further clarification will be reported this year.

Looking Forward

There are several ongoing challenges for the General Synod and for the Dunlap Trustees:

- Shall we be content to focus energy and resources “to support projects related to such children,” i.e., orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children)?
- Shall we seek to gather greater financial assistance from churches and individuals for this ministry?
- Should the scope of ministry be expanded to include responsibility for

providing resources to assist churches to develop child care programs?

- How can Dunlap better partner with churches to identify opportunities for ministry?
- What agency/department should (or will) provide staff support as the agencies are structured and staffed for future ministry?

The Dunlap Trustees have asked sessions and presbyteries to assist in identifying organizations that might need the financial assistance available through the Dunlap Fund. We express thanks to those who 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

On receipt of an inquiry, the organization is sent the following:

- Application for Grant
- General Policy and Instructions for Applicants
- Policy Guidelines for the Board of Trustees
- Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Faith

Grant applications must be submitted by October 1 to receive Board consideration. To facilitate understanding and evaluation a Trustee is assigned to each applicant. Funding is approved on a calendar year basis and except for ministries that have been approved for an ongoing relationship, funding for current operations generally is limited to five years and is offered on a declining basis.

Two ministries, **Palmer Home for Children** and **Collins Home**, have been approved for ongoing relationships. A Dunlap representative serves on each Board:

- Collins Home—David Vickery
- Palmer Home—William B. Everett

These two homes provide opportunities for mission and ministry to individuals and churches. These ministries have been encouraged to inform churches of their ministry and of opportunities for service and involvement. Resources for pastors and other professionals are referenced through the General Synod web site: <http://www.arpsynod.org/dunlap.html>

Present Ministry

The following ministries are receiving financial assistance during this calendar year. **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.” We provide nominal financial support to Presbyterian Home to open these services to the churches in Virginia Presbytery. Virginia Presbytery has been asked to provide input to the Board on an annual basis to help determine if there is a continuing need to support the ministry. Website: www.phfs.org. **Collins Home & Family Ministry**, Highway 188, P. O. Box 745, Seneca, SC 29679 (864-882-0893), is a non-denominational, Christian family group home, and is funded through

private contributions. The home has expanded its ministry by the addition of another residential home and a Family Center. The Family and Community Outreach Center provides a place to conduct counseling and general educational opportunities for the children and families. Website: www.collinschildrenshome.org. **Palmer Home for Children**, P. O. Box 746, Columbus, MS 39703-0746, (662-328-5704), 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. A new home is being built in DeSoto County, Mississippi. Website: www.palmerhome.org. **DeSoto Sunrise Homes**, 1281 Main Street, Southaven, MS 38671, 662-342-0155. This is a new ministry for Dunlap. Funding is for the DeSoto Sunrise Girls Home in Hernando, MS. This home “provides residential care and Biblically based treatment services to teenage girls, who have been abused, neglected, or who have been exhibiting behavioral problems at home or school.” This ministry has been endorsed by the session of the Graceview ARP Church, Southaven, MS. Email: shanecms@aol.com. **French Camp Academy**, One Fine Place, French Camp, MS 39745-9703, has received a special grant in the past, but this is the first year for ministry support. French Camp Academy is “an interdenominational Christian boarding school for young people, mostly teenagers from some type of broken, or troubled, or dysfunctional home situation.” There are many students that meet the Dunlap Fund’s definition of orphaned and live at FCA on a year-round basis. Website: www.frenchcamp.org. **The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.**, 19001 Huebner Road #2, San Antonio, TX 78258-4040, 210-244-2600, “befriends developing countries by sending out professionals who operate centers of mercy and offer support in teaching the Bible.” Dunlap’s support is for use in the Rafiki Children’s Center for orphans. Rafiki Children’s Centers are located in Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Malawi, and Kenya. Website: <http://www.rafiki-foundation.org/>

The Board continues to provide financial assistance for orphans attending Erskine College. The Board reviews with Erskine on an annual basis the need for financial assistance for orphans and has found a continuing need. Funding is set at \$20,000 per year.

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 is willing to explore the development of new ministries that will meet the needs of orphaned children that are not now being met.

Resources

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

Resources for ministry are provided by

- The endowment established when the Dunlap Home closed plus funds previously held in the Permanent Funds of Synod. We noted last year, with sincere appreciation, a gift from the estate of Vernon E. Lackey of Statesville, NC. Final settlement of the estate has been made. These funds are invested under the auspices of the ARP Foundation with a targeted allocation of 75% equity and 25% non-equity. On a yearly basis, up to 5% of the average market value for the three (3) previous years is budgeted for ministry.
- 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, and the Kennedy Annuity.

Administrative Activities

Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief. The Statement printed in the *2002 Minutes of Synod*, page 430, was not the statement represented in the body of the Report (page 428). The Statement as approved by the Trustees is attached to this report and should be printed in the *Minutes of Synod*.

Budget for 2004. The budget for 2004 was approved and is based on using 5% of the three-year (2001 - 2003) average beginning year market value of invested funds plus the income from trusts. The actual expenditures for 2004 will be approved at the Fall meeting of the Board. The Board calls 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 Board.

Meeting Dates for 2003 - 2004: November 5-6, 2003, 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken; March 24, 2004, 11:00 A.M. (EST), Telephone Conference Call; and November 3-4, 2004, 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken.

Officers for July 1, 2003—June 30, 2004:

Chairman: Darrell Peer

Vice-Chairman: William B. Everett

Secretary: Tom Patterson

Treasurer: Guy H. Smith, III.

Ed Hogan serves as the Administrative Officer. The Office of Administrative Services provides administrative support.

Recommendations and Requests

1. We encourage each session to help the William H. Dunlap Trust-

- ees identify homes that 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 2004 be approved.
 4. That the following items be included in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*: Policy Guidelines for the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage; Policy Guidelines for Ongoing Relationships; and Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief. (**Note:** Copies of these documents, as adopted by the Dunlap Trustees are included with the report for informational purposes.)
 5. That the Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief be printed with this Report.
 6. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Darrell Peer, Chairman
 Tom Patterson, Secretary

**WILLIAM H. DUNLAP FUND
 Budget**

	2003	2004
RECEIPTS		
Earnings for Ministry (5% of 3-year Avg)	\$ 66,789	\$ 57,669
Permanent Funds of Synod	1,118	
B. J. Wade Estate	38,776	39,613
Ola B. Hunter Trust	2,999	2,033
Kennedy Annuity (Corpus)	495	495
Denominational Ministry Funds	0	0
Total Receipt	\$ 110,177	\$ 99,810
EXPENDITURES		
Administration		
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 3,183	\$ 2,666
Administrative Support	4,500	4,500
General Office	500	500
Sub-Total for Administration	\$ 8,183	\$ 7,666
Ministry		
• Collins Home	\$ 25,000	\$ 92,144
• Palmer Home	25,000	
• Presbyterian Home, Lynchburg, VA	1,000	
• French Camp Academy*	10,000	
• DeSoto Sunrise Home*	12,000	

• Rafiki Foundation*	6,000		
• Erskine Scholarships	20,000		
Ministry Sub-Total	\$ 99,000	\$	92,144
Total Expenditures	\$ 107,183	\$	99,810
Reserve for Ministry	\$ 2,994	\$	0
*Restricted to Home/Full-Time Care			

Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief

Introduction

We the Board have the great privilege and responsibility of awarding grants to those who care for orphans “in a Christian environment.” We are duty bound to ensure that the funds are distributed to homes that understand the title “Christian” in the same traditional, orthodox, and biblical way William H. Dunlap did.

As you apply for grants, please specify that you agree with the “Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief” below. Also, though not required, we would be encouraged to know the specific steps you are taking to make Christ known to your children. Thank you for the priceless work God is doing through you!

Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Son, Jesus Christ, was begotten by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and only those who by His Grace trust in Him alone for salvation are made right with God on the ground of His shed blood.

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God without error in all that it teaches.

We earnestly desire that every child entrusted to our care would profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior and we will endeavor to make Him known to each one.

The recommendations of the **Moderator’s Committee on Erskine** were presented and adopted.

- a. That recommendation 1 be adopted.
- b. That recommendation 2 be adopted.
- c. That recommendation 3 be adopted.
- d. That recommendation 4 be adopted.
- e. That recommendation 5 be adopted.
- f. That recommendation 6 be adopted.
- g. That Dr. Carson, the staff, the faculty, and the Board be

commended for their obedience to the Lord and vision for Erskine.

REPORT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE

Fathers and Brethren,

School of Wisdom: Erskine College is an excellent academic institution which sharpens intellects and cultivates abilities in modern languages, science, math, history, music, and other subjects. But Erskine desires to be more. Erskine desires to be a *School of Wisdom*.

Daniel and three of his fellow Hebrews were “enrolled” in an excellent school in Babylon during the tenure of King Nebuchadnezzar, the institution’s President. They comprised quite a student body—*without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king’s palace* (Dan. 1:4). The Chief Official (Academic Dean) was *to teach them the language and literature* of their school (Dan. 1:4). The Guardians (Student Deans) were to look after their well being—especially their diet—and see that they followed the rules (Dan. 1:11-16). This was an excellent place of learning.

However, the Chairman of the Board (God) had more in mind than merely the students’ course of study and physical well being. God wanted these students to learn great lessons in the curriculum of life. Daniel and his friends recognized that the best of administrations is ultimately futile if God is left out of the process. The students are not only to be praised for demonstrating tact and wisdom in dealing with the administration, but are especially to be praised for their faithfulness to and confidence in God. They put God first, and He honored them.

National Recognition: Erskine again was ranked in Tier #3 in the *US News and World Report* rankings of national liberal arts colleges. Of all the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) institutions in the South, Erskine is classified highest.

Academic Programs: A new major in Art, a minor in Information Technology, and new Bible offerings are the results of a Program Review initiative.

Business and Finance: Erskine welcomes Ed Troublefield as Vice President for Finance and Operations, a position he held previously at Lander University. Controller Denise Giannetti-Walsh has received her C.P.A.

Seminary Administration: After conducting a national search, The Rev. Neely Gaston was selected as Vice President for Erskine Seminary with primary responsibility for administration and development.

Gold Campaign: Excellent leaders have stepped forward to lead Erskine’s drive for excellence. Primary elements of the campaign will be [1] a Music Education Center which will include a new Music Education Facility and a renovated Memorial Hall; [2] the Drummond Center which will include endowed chairs in economics and politics, program money, and

a conference center; and [3] endowments for scholarships, chairs, and athletics.

Public Relations Awards: Erskine's Public Relations has again been recognized for its excellence. The Gold Campaign brochure was awarded Best of Show nationally. For the third year in a row, EC Netnews was voted the region's best electronic newsletter.

2003 Bicentennial Synod: This Bicentennial commemorates the founding of the Associate Reformed Synod of the Carolinas in 1803. Erskine is privileged to host this special meeting of Synod. A conference will feature presentations and panel discussions focusing on the history of the ARP Church. Special programs will be available for women, youth and children. Housing will be in newly renovated dorms. This will be a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted with Erskine, General Synod, and the ARP Church.

SCACU: Dr. John L. Carson is currently serving as President of the South Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities and will host a meeting of the organization's presidents and other administrators in Charleston, SC, February 6-7, 2004.

Cabinet Leadership: Dr. John L. Carson, President; Dr. Donald V. Weatherman, Vice President and Dean of the College; The Rev. H. Neely Gaston, Vice President of the Seminary; Dr. R.J. Gore, Dean of the Seminary; Mr. W. Edward Troublefield, Jr., Vice President for Finance and Operations; Mr. Lee W. Logan, Vice President for Development; Dr. John T. West IV, Vice President for Institutional Relations; Mr. R. Monty Wooley, Vice President for Student Services and Athletics; and Dr. Stephen B. Sniteman, Chief Marketing Officer.

Chaplain: The Rev. Paul Patrick has been selected as Chaplain.

College Commencement and Baccalaureate Services, May 18, 2003: Dr. Nancy Currie, NASA astronaut, gave the commencement address. Honorary degrees were awarded to Dr. Parker Young of Athens, GA, and the Rev. Jim Corbitt of Greenville, SC.

Board of Trustee Leadership, 2003-2004: Mr. John Moore, an elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, has been re-elected Chairman for 2003-04.

ACADEMIC/ENROLLMENT

- The following full-time faculty were hired for the 2002-2003 academic year: Dr. Maggie Emery, professor of secondary education; Dr. Nora Espinoza, assistant professor of biology; Prof. Laura Getty, assistant professor of education; Prof. Sharon Linnehan, assistant professor of art; and Dr. Lisa Signori, assistant professor of modern languages (French).
- The College's admissions office underwent several significant changes. Mr. Bart Walker is our new director of admissions. He was the director of admissions at Lees-McRae College, associate director of admissions at Carson-Newman College, and worked in the admis-

sions office at Huntington College. We also have four new admissions counselors: Ms. Erin English, Ms. Tobé Frierson, Mr. Chris Spires, and Ms. Tara Sluder.

- Ms. Judy Smith, former financial aid office manager, was promoted to financial aid counselor. Ms. Tish Fitzgerald was hired recently as the office manager.
- We have advertised four tenure-track faculty positions to be filled for the 2003-04 academic year. Two of these positions, which are in education, remain to be filled. Dr. Chrystal Bruce has been hired as assistant professor of chemistry for next year. We have received a verbal commitment and are awaiting the written commitment regarding the physics position.
- The E. B. Kennedy Scholarship Competition came to a successful conclusion in January with the selection of Miss Rebekah Turbeville of Hendersonville, NC, and Mr. Patrick Martin of York, SC.
- Diana Plyler was selected as the South Carolina Independent College and University Student of the Year. She was also presented the Murphy Osborne Award as the outstanding student-athlete in CVAC.
- Jonathan Ruth won the South Carolina National Association of Teachers of Singing Auditions in the College Sophomore Men's category.
- Two Erskine students, Miss Elizabeth Smith and Miss Hannah Bell, and their faculty mentors, Dr. Stefanie Baker and Dr. Rachel Smith, completed undergraduate research projects sponsored by the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. The students gave presentations on results of their research at a meeting hosted by the Fluor Corporation.
- The Program Review Committee was set up to examine the College's academic programs in light of the Strategic Plan. After a detailed study, the committee recommended the additions of four majors (Art, German, Political Economy, and Theatre), the restructuring of two of our current majors, and a regular review of academic programs. In response to their recommendations, the faculty have approved an Art major and a new minor in Information Technology.

Enrollment Management

Erskine College began the 2002-2003 academic year with 587 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. Our freshman class of 165 is the third largest in the past 21 years; we also had 17 transfer students, and a retention rate for returning students of 86%.

Library

- The Reid Science Building has been renovated and most of the space in it has been converted to a library annex that houses a new reading room and our archives and special collections.

- The movement of materials into the annex has allowed us to remodel and reconfigure the main reading room in McCain Library.

MARKETING

The Erskine Public Relations Office, since the last meeting of Synod:

- received nine major awards, including Best of Show for the upcoming campaign brochure, as well as awards for the e-newsletter Erskine Netnews (third consecutive year), the web site (third consecutive year); the alumni newsletter Inside Erskine; advertisements placed in high school newspapers; and the new athletic logo;
- received more than \$296,000 of “free” advertising in South Carolina newspapers from May-December 2002 in press releases created by the Erskine news bureau;
- welcomed Savannah College of Art and Design graduate Jennifer Pellin to the staff as Graphics Coordinator;
- moved Julie Miner to the Web Coordinator position;
- completely redesigned the alumni newsletter, Inside Erskine;
- created a tri-vision billboard focusing on academics, on display in Greenville, SC;
- published an issue of Erskine Seminary News in February 2002;
- published the Erskine College Catalog as well as the Erskine Seminary Catalog;
- published fall and spring arts brochures;
- began conceptual work and photography for a new admissions viewbook to be published summer 2003;
- began initial plans for web redesign, to be debuted in fall 2003;
- created light boxes featuring posters of Erskine students outside the admissions office in Belk Hall; and
- advertised for the first time in *U.S. News & World Report*, a full-page ad in the September 23 issue.

FINANCE

- Erskine will end FY2002-03 with its operating budget in the black for the twelfth consecutive year. This continues to be a top priority of the Board of Trustees and the administration.
- College tuition/fees/room/board will increase by 3.9% in FY2003-04, raising the average total cost to \$23,071.
- Seminary fees will increase in FY2003-04 to \$240 per hour for the Master’s programs and \$250 per hour for the Doctor of Ministry program. In addition, a matriculation fee is being implemented in FY2003-04 for all Seminary students.
- For FY2003-04 we will have approximately \$1.55 million in College and Seminary scholarship income and will expend approximately

\$5.38 million in scholarships. The difference of some \$3.83 million represents the unfunded portion of our scholarship program.

- The College budget for FY2003-04 was approved in May by the Finance and Facilities and Executive Committees of the Board of Trustees.
- Poor financial market conditions have taken a toll on the College Endowment. We expected the Endowment to exceed \$41 million by June 30, 2002, but the actual market value at that time was approximately \$39 million. As of December 31, 2002, the value had dropped to some \$37 million. It appears likely that the value of the Endowment on June 30, 2003, will be less than that of June 30, 2002. The only positive thing to report on the Endowment is that even though there has been a loss in value, the loss percentage is less than that for comparable indices.

FACILITIES

- The Board of Trustees has announced plans to construct a new dormitory for men by the fall of 2004 to meet the demands of increased enrollment.
- During the past year, the work order system generated an average of 300 work orders a month enabling the Facilities Management Department to report, track and complete the work in a timely manner.
- The preventive maintenance (PM) system, an integral part of the work order system, has scheduled and completed PM on 32 buildings to date this fiscal year.
- Building inspections have continued to be performed this year to document the conditions and cost of the facilities for deferred maintenance and capital renewal needs.
- Major projects completed include the renovations of Pressly and Carnegie with Robinson and Kennedy scheduled this summer. Other projects include renovation of Reid Hall, re-painting of Lesesne Auditorium (with new carpet and seat coverings to be installed this summer), acquisition and installation of new shelving in the Library, new carpet scheduled to be installed in the Library this summer, and modifications to Food Service facilities scheduled this summer.

DEVELOPMENT

- The Gold Campaign (our capital campaign) is at the midpoint of the Advanced Gifts Phase. The public announcement of the final goal is scheduled for October 11, 2003, if all internal goals are met satisfactorily. Financial commitments have far exceeded expectations; however, we still have much more to be raised to achieve full success.
- Campaign facts as of March 11, 2003, are as follows:

Campaign Start: July 1, 2001
Campaign Ending: December 31, 2006
Target Goal: \$35,300,000
Public Goal: To be set in fall 2003

Major Goals:

College and Seminary Scholarships (Endowment)—\$12,000,000

Facility Improvements—\$13,300,000

*Memorial—\$7,500,000

*Drummond Center—\$3,500,000

*Erskine Building—\$1,000,000

*Others—\$1,300,000

College and Seminary Faculty and Academic (Endowment)—
\$5,000,000

Annual Fund—\$5,000,000

Campaign Budget: Paid from donations received and not from
Current

Fund budget of college staff.

Total budget—\$1,216,140

Two Income Reporting Divisions:

1. Current gifts – outright gifts

2. Planned gifts – counted at present value and not face value

Structure: Steering Committee – Joe and Kathy Black, Co-Chairs
Six Subcommittees –

*Major and Planned Gifts—Dave Cathcart, Chair

*Drummond Center—Paula Harper Bethea, Chair

*Memorial Renovation and Addition—Bill Ranson and
Mary Lou Pearson, Co-Chairs

*Athletics—Bill Simpson, Chair

*Alumni and Parent—Sarah Brice, Chair

*Public Relations—Cheryl Moultrie, Chair

*Honorary Chairs—Robert and Cheryl Moultrie
Jan Westmoreland

Additional Steering Committee Membership –

Welch Bostick John Moore

Charles Carlisle Bill Patrick

Emmett Davis Jim Pressly

Neely Gaston Mabel Purkerson

Joe Lesesne Randy Ruble

- The Annual Fund, under the leadership of Bob Cunningham and Laurens Ashburn, has received gifts and pledges of \$1,122,748 as of March 11, 2003, which is near its goal of \$1.25 million by June 30, 2003.
- For campaign brochure, Campaign Plan and Case Statements, please

- contact the Development Office at Erskine College.
- As set forth in the Strategic Plan, progress is being made to post 16 directional signs to the campus in 12 locations, marking significant routes to the campus in Abbeville, Anderson, and Greenwood Counties.
- The Board of Trustees approved an updated Master Plan which includes new construction and other improvements to the buildings and grounds on campus.

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Institutional Relations

- The Drummond Center began an operations campaign September 1, soliciting funds for program development. The targeted amount for program support is \$1.3M. The Capital Campaign began March 1, 2003, following the Drummond Award banquet.
- The Drummond Award Banquet, a ticketed dinner, was held on Tuesday, February 25 in Columbia, SC. Mr. Tim Russert, of *Meet the Press*, was the keynote speaker. The 2003 Drummond Award was presented to Mr. Roger Milliken. Tickets for the banquet were available to the general public for \$125 per plate or \$1,000 per table of eight. A total of 525 people attended the banquet, and all but three Drummond board members attended.
- A Memorandum of Understanding and Bylaws, drafted by Mr. William B. Patrick, college attorney, has been approved by the Drummond Center Founders Board and the Erskine Board of Trustees.
- The Drummond Center sponsored several programs including: an orientation for legislators, a retreat for the South Carolina Association of College and University (SCACU) Presidents, and a speakers bureau. Currently, the Drummond Board is considering a Drummond Fellows program for high school students, community forums, and a Student Government Conference.
- The Institute of Advanced Business and Cultural Studies small business incubator with space for seven business start-ups should be complete by May 1. Dr. Tracy Kramer is designing the program and interviewing prospective businesses. A grant request for equipment is currently being considered by USDA for \$50,000.
- Duke Energy has renewed the contract for training with the BetterQuestioning software. Duke Energy continues to train their employees on the Erskine campus.
- Dr. Bill Junkin was awarded the Innovision Technology Award.
- Negotiations continue with Verizon Wireless. The Verizon proposal was rejected and countered. Erskine is awaiting their response.
- Softlabs, Inc., a division of BMW is negotiating a partnership with

BetterQuestioning software.

- Negotiations continue for a cooperative work between the United Methodist Church and the Board of Counselors Seminary Division.
- The Seminary continues to focus on the Confessing Church Movement of the PCUSA. At present, two chairs have been solicited from prospective donors.

Chaplain

- Rev. Paul Patrick has developed a plan of ministry for the Chaplain's Office.
- The Chapel and Convocation program has been revised with the assistance of the Convocation Committee.
- Rev. Patrick intends to focus on one-on-one counseling and small group ministry.
- Mission trips for 2002-03 include Wales and Guatemala.
- Rev. Patrick developed a small group ministry led by the Chaplain, College and Seminary faculty, and students.
- A Foundations Bible Study is currently being used by the Chaplain and students.
- The ARP Student Union is being energized. Currently, 15 students are meeting.

STUDENT SERVICES AND ATHLETICS

Personnel

- New Resident Directors on the Erskine campus: Mr. Ted Fabre—Pressly Hall; Miss Kelly Gallamore—Robinson Hall; and Mr. Adam Bruyere—Kennedy Hall.
- Continuing Resident Directors: Ms. Ruth Burton—Carnegie Hall; Mr. Randy Estep—Grier Hall; Mrs. Marlo McDonald—Bonner Hall.
- Mr. Monty Wooley and Dr. Robyn Agnew continue to serve as Student Deans; Mrs. Penny Thomas continues as Associate Dean, Mr. Randy Estep continues as the Director of Public Safety, Mr. Chip Sherer continues as Director of Athletics, Mrs. Reba Stille continues as the Director of Health Services and Mrs. Brooke Clinton continues to serve as Student Activities Director.
- 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 from August 19-26. This time was highlighted by a three-day retreat to

Bonclarken.

- A five-day Freshman Orientation (including computer, library, and study skill instruction, alcohol/other drug education and service opportunities) was conducted from August 27 through September 1.
- A workshop was conducted in early Fall for organizational leaders and advisors.
- Mrs. Clinton organized and promoted more than 40 mini-sessions during Winter Term. The sessions were taught by students, staff and community members. Included were Basic Car Mechanics, Resume Writing, Cake Decorating, Quilting, and Ballroom Dancing.
- Throughout the year, there has also been an active intramural program for all Erskine College and Seminary students, faculty and staff.

Student Elections/Appointments

- Senior Nick Brookshire, President of the Student Government Association for the 2002-03 academic year, has announced that Student Government Association elections will be held in April.
- Selections for the 2003-04 Student Life Assistant interviews were held on March 18-19.

Spring Events

- Spring Fling, sponsored by the Erskine Entertainment Board, will be held April 11-12 and will include outdoor musical performances, cookouts and games on the circle.
- Relay for Life, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, will be held May 2 in Galloway Gym.

Athletics

- Coaching staff: John Showalter, Men's/Women's Cross Country; Mark Peeler, Men's Basketball; Maggie Peeler, Women's Basketball; Kevin Nichols, Baseball; Vardon Cox, Men's Tennis; Calhoun Parr, Women's Tennis; Aileen Hawkins, Softball; Lance Watkins, Men's Soccer and Becky Fletcher, Women's Soccer.

Career Services

- In February, 29 Erskine seniors were awarded interviews during the ICUSC Interview Day. They shared a total of 92 interviews from 28 companies.
- The annual Erskine/Lander Education Fair was held in March. Eighty-two recruiters from fifty-one school districts and private schools participated.
- The Parent Advisory Council will hold their fifth meeting of the year on April 12. Dr. and Mrs. Carson will entertain them in their home for lunch.

Public Safety

- Security systems in the four renovated dorms seem to be addressing safety concerns. Final two dorms scheduled for this summer.
- Surveys of students to identify lighting issues.
- Parking situation has been addressed but still have some parking issues remaining.
- Officers maintain accreditation with Criminal Justice Academy.
- Some long range plans to be addressed: Emergency Preparedness, State Accreditation, Victim's Assistance Program, Update Public Safety Web Page, Upgrading SLED reporting system.

Recommendations

The following requests and recommendations are offered by the Board of Trustees. That the General Synod:

1. 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."
2. Grant the following requests for funds:
 - **Operating Budget Request:** College/Seminary request for a total of \$620,709 (10% increase over 2003 actual) in operating funds for 2004. These funds will be used as unrestricted funds for current fund operations and scholarship support.
 - **Special Appropriation for Chaplain:** A new Chaplain has been hired to devote full attention to the spiritual needs of Erskine students as well as faculty and staff. Erskine is grateful that the ARP Synod has contributed \$25,000 annually since 1988. However, in light of cost of living increases, Erskine requests a **\$15,000** increase to bring the total support for this item to \$40,000 for 2004.
 - **Associate Reformed Presbyterian Student Union:** The board of Trustees requests financial support of **\$500** to assist the important work of our denomination's Student Union.
 - **Faculty/Staff Salaries:** Erskine appreciates the encouragement provided us several years ago with \$50,000 for faculty/staff salaries. Although Erskine is much stronger now than then, the current economic situation with the drop in our endowment has once again forced us not to include any raises in this coming year's budget. Erskine requests **\$50,000** for faculty/staff salaries.
3. 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 con-

junction with other Synod agencies — a special offering.

4. Encourage local churches to use their bulletins, newsletters, and other means to publicize events at Erskine College and Seminary.
5. Ask presbyteries and presbyterials to invite representatives from the College and Seminary to participate in youth conferences, retreats, and/or special events.
6. Remind ministers and their staffs to make known to their high school students the E. B. Kennedy Scholarship Program, the Great Erskine Lock-In, and other spiritual and educational opportunities, and to encourage all who desire to be equipped for ministry to avail themselves of conferences, lectures, and other educational opportunities at the Seminary.

Yours in Christ,
John L. Carson, Ph.D.
President

REPORT OF ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fathers and Brethren:

- Once again, we at Erskine Seminary give thanks to the Lord for his blessings over the past year. As the report below shows, God has given us the privilege of serving Him in many exciting ways. 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. We currently have 49 ARP students enrolled for the spring term and 47 were enrolled in the fall term.
- Permanent teaching faculty for the year included Bible professors Jimmy Agan, Doug Culver, Loyd Melton, and George Schwab; Theology and Church History professors Richard Burnett, Don Fairbairn, R.J. Gore, Dale Johnson, and Merwyn Johnson; and Ministry professors Robby Bell, Jerdone Davis, Robert Glick, Jack Heinsohn, Steve Lowe, Mary-Ruth Marshall, and Luonne Rouse. Part-time faculty were Joel Bruce, Steve Clyburne, Paul Dean, Ray King, Randy Ruble, Tommy Tucker, Pete Wilbanks, Nancy Walker, and Doug White.
- Dr. Richard Burnett (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) was appointed as Assistant Professor of Theology and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program beginning the fall of 2002. Jerdone Davis, who recently graduated with the Doctor of Education degree (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2003) was appointed as Instructor in Christian Education.
- Of historic significance, the position of Vice President and Dean was divided into discrete offices. The Rev. H. Neely Gaston, formerly pastor of the Greenville ARP Church, was selected by the Board of

Trustees to become the first Vice President of the Seminary and provides overall leadership for the seminary. Dr. R. J. Gore, former Vice President and Dean, continues to serve as the Dean of the Seminary.

- Dr. Robby Bell assumed responsibilities as Associate Dean of Students and Dr. Mary-Ruth Marshall became our Assistant Dean of Women.
- We have one new appointment for the fall of 2003, Mr. Adrian Smith. He is a graduate of London University, Free College (Edinburgh) and Westminster Theological Seminary. He is currently completing his dissertation in New Testament at Westminster and will replace Dr. Agan who has resigned to take a call to the pastorate.
- Dr. Jack Heinsohn, beloved Professor of Preaching, announced his retirement this year. We are thankful for the many years of dedicated service he has rendered. All at the seminary will miss him next year. He will continue to serve as an adjunct faculty member in the future.
- Faculty members continue to teach and preach in ARP churches throughout the denomination as well as in churches in other denominations represented here. Faculty members regularly lead worship services, conduct seminars and training sessions, and lead Bible studies in churches across the country. Dean Gore has preached in a number of ARP churches throughout the school year and has served as an Adjunct Instructor in Preaching and Worship at the United States Army Chaplain Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC.
- The following faculty members have published works within the last year: Don Fairbairn, *Eastern Orthodoxy Through Western Eyes* (Westminster/John Knox), and *Grace and Christology in the Early Church* (Oxford University Press); R. J. Gore, *Covenantal Worship* (Presbyterian and Reformed); George Schwab, *The Song of Songs' Cautionary Message Concerning Human Love* (Peter Lang); and Richard Burnett, *Karl Barth's Theological Exegesis* (JCB Mohr Vorlag), and *A Cry of Need and of Joy* (Reformation Press). These and additional works by Doug Culver, Ray King, and Merwyn Johnson are on display at the seminary.
- Fifty-four students graduated in May 2002. Thirty-two students received the Master of Divinity degree; three, the M.A. in Christian Education; five, the M.A. in Theological Studies; two, the M.A. in Pastoral Ministry; one, the Master of Arts in Counseling Ministry (first graduate in this new degree program); one, the Diploma in Theology; and ten the Doctor of Ministry degree. The Commencement speaker was Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey of the United Methodist Church.
- Fall enrollment included a record incoming class, with 115 new

students. There were 358 students total in the fall. Spring had the second highest incoming class on record with 48 new students. More than twenty different denominations are represented and we continue to have record numbers of ARP students. The challenge before the seminary continues to be that of providing a theological education to the increasing number of ARP students. Scholarships have not increased as quickly as our ARP student body.

- Erskine Seminary continues its D.Min. program at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, Ft. Jackson, SC and operated extension sites in Augusta, GA; Greenville and Charleston, SC; and Asheville, NC.
- The seminary has developed a new plan to keep students moving through their M.Div. program, the “Seminary for a Day” or 24/3 program. Students who are able to devote one 24 hour period per week (fall, J-term, spring, and summer) can complete their degree in three years. This will be implemented in the 03-04 school year.
- Erskine Theological Seminary announced plans to launch the “Institute for Reformed Worship,” beginning in January of 2004. Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old will serve as Dean of the Institute and the program of study will lead to a D.Min. in Worship.
- Erskine continues to operate its Erskine Distance Education Network (EDEN) courses and Dr. Steve Lowe serves as Associate Dean for Distributive Learning.
- The Rev. Tat Stewart was speaker for our annual missions conference sponsored jointly with World Witness. Dr. Manny Ortiz, Professor of Practical Theology, Westminster Theological Seminary, was the Ford Lecturer on small churches. Dr. Tom Schreiner, Professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was the Robinson Lecturer, and Dr. Phil Ryken, Pastor, Tenth Presbyterian Church (Philadelphia), was preacher for the Whitesides Pastors’ Conference. In addition, this year’s Erskine lecturers included former NFL player Frank Reich (Christianity and Public Service), Dr. Calvin Stapert (Christianity and Music), Prof. John Frame (Christianity and Public Morality), Dr. Marva Dawn (Christianity and Worship), Dr. Calvin Miller (Christianity and Literature), and Dr. Dick Gaffin (Sermon on the Resurrection). Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old gave the lecture for the Ann W. Leith Endowment for the promotion of Psalmody.

Respectfully submitted,
H. Neely Gaston, Vice President
Erskine Theological Seminary

The Chaplain of Erskine College, Paul Patrick, made a brief report on his first year’s work and his plans for the future.

The recommendations of the **Moderator’s Committee on the**

Executive Board were presented and adopted.

- a. That recommendation #1 be adopted.
- b. That recommendation #2 be adopted.
- c. That recommendation #3 be adopted.
- d. That recommendation #4 be adopted.
- e. That recommendation #5 be adopted.
- f. That recommendation #6 be adopted.
- g. That recommendation #7 be adopted.
- h. That recommendation #8 be adopted.
- i. That recommendation #9 be adopted.
- j. That we thank the Executive Board for their work and that their report be adopted as a whole.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD

The Executive Board met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects its actions and activities and presents recommendations for the consideration of the court.

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 for 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.

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.

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. Prior to considering a particular action, the voting members of the Board entitled to sit as a member of the court must first vote to act on behalf of Synod. Since the last meeting, the Executive Board took the following actions on behalf of the General Synod:

- A. **Approval of Special Offering:** In response to an initiative from the leadership of World Witness, the Executive Board authorized a special appeal to assist the victims of the Iraqi war. The appeal was to be made following the Easter Special Offering and administered by World Witness.

- B. Referral to Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs.** Two related issues surfaced that, in the opinion of the Executive Board, needed to be addressed so that a determination could be made by the 2003 General Synod. These matters were referred to the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs:
1. All Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the church under the terms of a call are participants in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan provided they enroll within the first year of eligibility. The *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.11, includes the requirement that the call to a particular congregation (where the minister's customary employment is expected to be for an aggregate of 1,000 hours in calendar year) is to include provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the Retirement Plan. There are churches with eligible employees that are not making the prescribed. There are also calls that do not include the provision required by the *Form of Government*. The Executive Board referred the matter for study and recommendation to the General Synod.
 2. The matter of procedures for Canadian Churches to participate financially in the ministries of the General Synod has not been resolved. The Ecclesiastical Commission was asked to study and report to the General Synod on these matters prior to the establishment of the Canadian Presbytery.

Referrals and Communications

- A. Called Historical Synod Meeting.** As approved by the 2002 General Synod, a special Called Historical Synod meeting has been planned for March 3, 2003. The Moderator and Synod Historian have worked cooperatively with the Session of the Bethel Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to plan for the meeting.
- B. Publication of Bicentennial History.** The publication, as prepared and edited by The Reverend Randall Ruble, has been submitted to the printer and is expected to be available by the General Synod meeting date.
- C. Historical Marker at Bonclarken.** The Executive Board recommended to the Committee on Historical Concerns that all matters having to do with the Celtic Cross as an historical marker be delayed until after the 2003 Synod considers and votes on the matter. The Committee on Historical Concerns is expected to present recommendations to the General Synod if a historical marker is to be erected.
- D. New Personnel.** In an advisory action to the Boards and Committees of the General Synod, the Executive Board **encouraged** the postponement of hiring of any new administrative positions and the

postponement of any CEO search until after the preliminary report from the Committee on Organization to the 2003 General Synod.

- E. **Change in General Synod Meeting Date.** The 2002 General Synod asked the Executive Board to “study the issues related to the dates of future meetings of the General Synod and report back at next year’s Synod Meeting.” The Executive Board invited the presbyteries to submit comments. Bonclarken also submitted comments. A recommendation will be presented to change the opening worship service from Monday to Tuesday and to provide flexibility to meet on either the first or second Tuesday in June.
- F. **Translation of Standards.** The General Synod has Chinese, Hungarian, Korean, Spanish, and English speaking congregations. The only *Standards* published under the authority of the General Synod has been in English. While there is no objection to translations, a recommendation will be presented to specify the English version published by the General Synod as the official version.
- G. **Northeast Presbytery Memorial.** The 2002 General Synod referred to the Executive Board for inclusion in its report for 2003 “the whole matter of Northeast Presbytery Memorial Number 3.” (See 2002 *Minutes of Synod*, page 367 for the Northeast Presbytery Memorial.) The Executive Board appointed a committee to bring a recommendation to the Executive Board. The Committee made the following recommendation:

“While it is a good idea that a standard be set for Executive Leadership Positions with Associate Reformed Presbyterians being given preference, existing church membership within the ARPC should not be a requirement for employment.”

The Executive Board concurred with the recommendation of the committee.

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.) Administrative Services serves as the administrative offices for Benefits, ARP Foundation, Dunlap, Executive Board, and Stewardship. Full-time staff members are Ed Hogan and Leland Beaudrot. Beth Willis, Louise Raby, Donna Wentz, and Alisa Prince continue to work on a part-time basis. The Executive Board has expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Administrative Services staff.

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 proposed 2004 budgets for the Center Facility, Administrative Services, and the Executive Board are attached.

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. The Board has a “Rental Space Renovation Policy” to guide rentals and renovations.

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 of the denomination. Church leaders and members are encouraged to visit the site at <http://www.arpsynod.org>.

- B. **Committee to Plan Emphases:** The Moderator-Elect serves as chairman. Membership includes the Vice-President of the Woman’s Synodical Union and representatives from each presbytery in alternating years, chosen by the Moderator-Elect. The committee prepares the emphases for the ensuing calendar year. The “Emphases for 2004” was adopted for recommendation to the General Synod.
- C. **Committee to Plan Synod’s Program:** The Moderator-Elect serves as chairman 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 Reverend Wilfred A. Bellamy began his duties as Coordinator July 1, 2002, and is to be commended for both his work as Coordinator and as a member of the Special Committee on Organization. He was a member of the Special Committee prior to assuming his duties as Coordinator and was encouraged to continue to serve as a member by the Committee on Oversight.

The Coordinator sought counsel from the committee concerning

an amended orientation program for new ministers and the possibility of starting a new orientation program for new presbytery moderators, board and committee chairmen, and others who might benefit from a refresher course concerning committee, board and court procedures. The committee encouraged the Coordinator to pursue his idea and the Executive Board authorized him to proceed with implementation.

The committee encouraged the Coordinator to stay the course concerning requests from presbyteries and churches concerning ecclesiastical matters. The Coordinator is not to serve as a “clearing house” concerning pulpit vacancies and it is not in the job description of the Coordinator to report to presbyteries in the ARPC. The Committee on Oversight wants the Coordinator to be helpful, but emphasizes that he continue to focus on the duties outlined in his job description and coordinate the work of the General Synod.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Board that the work of Wilfred Bellamy as Coordinator be continued. The position description of Coordinator, as adopted by the General Synod and included in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, allows the Executive Board to renew the contract on an annual basis for up to three additional years. With General Synod’s approval, the term of service may be extended on an annual basis for an additional four years, for a maximum service of eight years. The Executive Board has renewed the contract for the period July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004.

Miscellaneous Items

- A. **Scheduling of Synod-wide Activities.** To preclude conflicts in meeting dates, the Executive Board is requesting that all changes to previously published dates for Synod-wide activities be checked with the Administrative Services before implementation.
- B. **Meeting Dates:** In response to requests from those that travel long distances, the Executive Board meeting dates have been moved from Fridays to Thursdays. The following meeting dates have been set: October 30, 2003 (changed from previously published date of October 31), March 18, 2004, and October 28, 2004. All meetings are scheduled for 10:00 A.M. at the ARP Center.
- C. **Appreciation:** The Board expresses appreciation to former Moderator James Coad on completion of his seven years of association with the Executive Board, to Ken Hoffman (First Presbytery), Rob Roy McGregor (Second Presbytery), and Monte Campbell (outgoing Chairman of Board of Stewardship). The Board acknowledges and expresses its appreciation to Moderator David Sides and Vice-Moderator Barry Dagenhart 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 2004” be adopted.
3. That the starting date for the next regular meeting of the General Synod be June 8, 2004, and that the meeting be held at Bonclarken.
4. That the *Rules of Procedure* be amended:
 - a. Section 1, First Sentence: “The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church shall meet annually on either the first or second Tuesday ~~Monday~~ of June at 7:30 P.M., as determined at the prior meeting of the General Synod.”
 - b. remaining Sections: Change references to specific days to reflect the changed starting date.
5. That the Memorial from Northeast Presbytery, presented to the 2002 General Synod and referred to the Executive Board, not be adopted.
6. That all changes in previously published dates for Synod-wide activities be checked with Administrative Services before implementation.
7. That the General Synod recognize the English version of the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* as the only official version and that translations be identified as “accurate” and not “affirmed.”
8. That Wilfred A. Bellamy be continued as Coordinator.
9. That all other actions of the Executive Board as reported herein be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,
David W. Sides, Moderator
R. Beard, Principal Clerk

PROPOSED EMPHASIS FOR 2004

DECADE THEME: New Life in the New Millennium
THEME FOR 2004—REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS—WHERE THEY ARE

Primary Theme Verse:

“But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” (Luke 10:29)

Secondary Theme Verse:

“And they sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’” (Revelation 5:9)

Our ARP Centennial was characterized as a time of “...lengthening the

cords & strengthening the stakes..." Now in the year following Bicentennial Synod we must again do this, but not just geographically, but culturally, ethnically, and racially because our third century as a denomination will be in a very diverse country & world. We must fulfill our God-given charter to be a "blessing to the nations" that was given to Abraham, our forefather in the faith. (Gen. 12:3)

JANUARY—REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS AS JESUS HAS REACHED US

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'" (John 20:21)

FEBRUARY—REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS BY GOD CHANGING US

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." (I Cor. 9:22-23)

MARCH—REACHING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

"But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" (Luke 10:29)

APRIL—REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES

"When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." (Lev. 19:33-34)

MAY—REACHING OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

"Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt." (Ex. 23:9)

JUNE —REACHING OUR TEENAGE NEIGHBORS

"After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:10)

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children..." (Deut. 6:5-7a)

JULY —REACHING OUR DISABLED NEIGHBORS

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27)

AUGUST—REACHING OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS

"For (Jesus) himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." (Ephesians 2:14)

SEPTEMBER—REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE WORK-PLACE

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Col. 3:23-24)

OCTOBER—REACHING OUR UNCHURCHED NEIGHBORS

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’ “ (Luke 14:23-24)

NOVEMBER—REACHING OUR URBAN NEIGHBORS

“This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ‘Build houses and settle down...Marry and have sons and daughters...Increase in number there...Also seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.’” (Jer. 29:4-7)

DECEMBER—REACHING OUR POOR AND IMPRISONED NEIGHBORS

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:35-36)

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	2003	2004
RECEIPTS		
Current Fund Receipts		
Denominational Min.Funds	\$ 165,721	\$ 173,487
Miscellaneous Sales & Serv.	5,667	5,838
Operating Fund Interest	747	748
Sub-Total	\$ 172,135	\$ 180,073
Agency Support		
Annuities & Relief	\$ 63,849	\$ 66,713
ARP Foundation	2,550	2,550
W. H. Dunlap Fund	4,500	5,050
Sub-Total	\$ 70,899	\$ 74,313
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 243,034	\$ 254,386
DISBURSEMENTS		
Director		
Salary	\$ 62,863	\$ 64,749
Retirement	5,343	5,504
Insurance	12,923	14,215
Employer Tax	4,809	4,953
Director	\$ 85,938	\$ 89,421

Assistant to Director

Salary	\$	28,773	\$	29,637
Housing Allowance		8,597		8,855
Retirement		3,177		3,272
Insurance		12,778		14,055
Assistant to Director	\$	53,325	\$	55,819

Support Staff Sub-Total	\$	85,726	\$	89,558
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Staff & Program	\$	1,843	\$	2,060
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Equipment

Copier Lease	\$	7,018	\$	7,369
Other Lease		1,000		1,500
Equipment Maintenance		5,691		5,976
Equipment Purchase		5,000		5,000
Equipment	\$	18,709	\$	19,845

General Office

General Office	\$	9,855	\$	10,150
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	255,396	\$	266,853
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Income Over (Under) Expenditures	\$	(12,362)	\$	(12,467)
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Beginning Unencumbered Reserve	\$	49,764	\$	37,402
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Ending Unencumbered Reserve	\$	37,402	\$	24,935
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**ARP CENTER FACILITY
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

2003**2004****RECEIPTS**

Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$	15,000	\$	15,000
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Rent

Covenant Discipleship		5,345		5,475
Outreach North America		7,749		7,938
Publications		4,982		5,103
World Witness		16,381		16,780
Non-Synod Tenants		14,732		14,809

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	64,189	\$	65,105
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DISBURSEMENTS**Facility Management**

General Office	\$	200	\$	206
Expendable Supplies		849		874
Insurance		2,228		2,295
Renovation, Repairs, Reserve		3,893		4,010
Facility Management	\$	7,170	\$	7,385
Facility Maintenance				
Garbage Pickup	\$	743	\$	765

Ground Maintenance	1,800	1,800
Heating & Air Conditioning	3,183	3,278
Janitorial	14,400	14,400
Non-Contract Labor	1,000	
Pest Control	233	240
Facility Maintenance	\$ 21,359	\$ 20,483
Utilities		
Electricity	\$ 15,832	\$ 16,307
Gas	11,830	12,185
Water & Sewer	5,006	5,156
Utilities	\$ 32,668	\$ 33,648
Total Disbursements	\$ 61,197	\$ 61,516
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 2,992	\$ 3,589
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 17,571	\$ 20,563
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 20,563	\$ 24,152

**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

RECEIPTS	2003	2004
Current Fund Receipts		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 97,675	\$ 101,546
Miscellaneous for Current Operations	2,000	2,000
Sales	301	301
Synod Meeting Registrations	2,625	2,625
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 102,601	\$ 106,472
DISBURSEMENTS		
General Synod Officers		
Moderator of Synod	\$ 3,788	\$ 3,828
Moderator-Elect of Synod	3,031	3,062
Principal Clerk	4,476	4,475
Treasurer of Synod	3,675	3,675
Vice Moderator	500	500
Vice-Moderator-Elect	500	500
General Synod Officers	\$ 15,970	\$ 16,040
Board		
Executive Board Travel	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,250
General Office Expenses	1,000	1,030
Orientation to Work of General Synod	5,000	5,000
Emphasis Committee Travel & Exp.	2,000	2,060
Board	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,340

Coordinator

Coordinator Fees	\$	44,000	\$	46,500
Coordinator Reimbursed Expenses		6,000		6,000
Coordinator Miscellaneous		0		0
Coordinator	\$	50,000	\$	52,500

Minutes of Synod

Preparation & Distribution	\$	2,048	\$	2,110
Printing		11,875		12,469
Minutes of Synod	\$	13,923	\$	14,579

Plan Book

Preparation & Distribution	\$	1,089	\$	1,121
Printing		2,084		2,188
Plan Book	\$	3,173	\$	3,309

Meeting of the General Synod

Program and Preparation	\$	4,635	\$	4,774
Honorariums		900		900
Staff Expenses		1,000		1,030
Meeting of the General Synod	\$	6,535	\$	6,704

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 102,601 \$ 106,472

Excess Income Over (Under)

Disbursements \$ 0 \$ 0

The recommendations of the **Moderator's Committee** on Publications were presented and adopted:

- a. That recommendation #1 be adopted.
- b. That recommendation #2 be adopted.
- c. That recommendation #3 be adopted.
- d. That recommendation #4 be adopted.
- e. That recommendation #5 be adopted.
- f. That gratitude be expressed to Ben Johnston for his years of service to Christ and His Church as Editor of the A.R.P. Magazine.

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 over the ARP Center's 800 telephone line, and also through e-mail and the General Synod's web page on the Internet. It created a web page for the magazine. It assisted other Synod agencies in various aspects of communication, including doing the formatting and layout for *The Adult Quarterly*, *Teachers Guide* and *Large*

Print Edition. It operated a book store at Family Bible Conference and served as the distribution agent for the Woman's Synodical Union study books.

The Board met at the ARP Center September 20, 2002, and March 7, 2003, to consider and act upon the work committed to it by the Synod.

The ARP entered into a new three-year contract with Panaprint, Inc., of Macon, Ga., to be our printer. The printer's bid gives greater flexibility regarding the use of color, which can result in a more attractive publication.

Circulation for the magazine has slipped, due in large part to several churches discontinuing participation in our Church Club Plan for subscriptions. The April 2003 issue was mailed to 5,357 subscribers, almost 400 fewer than a year ago.

With subscription and interest income lower than expected, a change in accounting procedures and higher than anticipated printing expenses, the Board of Publications ended 2002 with a deficit of \$8,623 after having built a modest surplus over several years.

At its Spring 2003 meeting the Board, realizing that its avenues for revenue are few, took steps to deal with this deficit. The current year's budget has been cut. Effective June 1, individual subscription rates are increased \$1.50 a year and Church Club Plan rates \$1 a year. A new advertising rate structure has gone into effect. The Board of Stewardship has been asked to include our agency as a beneficiary in one of the two annual Synod-wide special offerings.

The Board once 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.

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 \$236,261 for 2004 was adopted and is included with this report. The Board also updated its five-year financial projection.

The current year's budget includes a \$10,000 line item for the expected expenses in connection with the retirement this year of the present magazine editor and the employment of his successor. The Board elected a search committee which will recommend an editor candidate to the Board; the committee is chaired by Dr. Wilfred Bellamy, Synod Coordinator, and includes Mrs. Libby Draffin, Rev. Gregory Slater and Lawrence Kieffer.

The Board, considering the recommendations of an ad hoc committee assigned to review the agency's purpose and policy statements, voted to make the following changes, subject to Synod's approval:

Statement of Purpose—Remove the word "total" from the opening

phrase which has stated, “The Associate Reformed Presbyterian is dedicated to the presentation of the total concerns of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church...”

Also, insert the word “congregations” in a sentence which will now read, “It is intended to be both an Associate Reformed Presbyterian periodical in which the work of the congregations, boards, agencies, auxiliaries, institutions and committees will be presented...”

Also, “congregations” will be added similarly in such listings in policy manuals and bylaws.

Policy Manual for The Associate Reformed Presbyterian—Add this sentence to III., “The term ‘publication’ shall be understood to mean both print and electronic means of dissemination.”

Change IV. C. with two additions which are shown here in brackets: “The Finance Committee—This committee will recommend to the Board the budget and other items of finance under the Board’s jurisdiction, advise the Board of printing [, online, and any other related] contracts and make appropriate recommendations pertaining thereto, and recommend to the Board subscription policies (subscription plans, solicitations, etc.) and rates. [The committee also shall have oversight of advertising solicitation and rates.]

Change V. B. 6. with an addition shown here in brackets: “Honoraria received for speaking as editor [on issues specifically related to the business of the Board of Publications] shall be turned over to the Treasurer of Synod.”

Change V. C. 4. with additions bracketed to state, “(The editor) shall solicit appropriate articles and features from knowledgeable persons in addition to material submitted by the [congregations,] boards, agencies, auxiliaries, institutions and committees of the denomination [so long as material which is submitted is in keeping with the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church].

Change VI. A. to remove the word “total” from this sentence, “The publication will attempt to draw together the total concerns of the denomination and represent as fully as possible the special programs and emphases of all arms of the denomination.”

Change VI. F. 6, relating to material from the Woman’s Synodical Union, to speak of “the annual supplement” rather than “the December supplement.”

Bylaws of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc.—In Article II, Purpose, remove “total” from the wording “total concerns,” as in the previously mentioned documents. Also, remove the word “special” from the phrase “which reflects the special programs and emphases of all arms of the denomination,” and in the same sentence replace the word “periodical” with “publication.”

Also in Article III. 2., Terms of Office, change the last part of the sentence, "At-large members shall not serve consecutive terms but must retire for one year before becoming eligible for reappointment, except in those cases where they have filled an unexpired term of less than two years," to state, "...except in those cases where they have filled an unexpired term of two years or less."

Change Article VI. 3., The Finance Committee, with the bracketed additions, "This committee will recommend to the board the budget and other items of finance under the Board's jurisdiction, advise the Board of printing [, online, and any other related] contracts and make appropriate recommendations pertaining thereto, and recommend to the Board subscription policies (subscription plans, solicitations, etc.) and rates. [The committee also shall have oversight of advertising solicitation and rates.]

Board officers elected to serve July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 are Rev. John van Eyk, Chairman; Rev. Gregory Slater, Vice Chairman, and Rev. Kenneth McMullen, Secretary.

The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Dr. Joung Sook Nahm as a Board member. Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Libby Draffin and Mrs. Lori Lawing, retiring members, for their services.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled Sept. 5 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 2004.
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 proposed changes in the Statement of Purpose, Policy Manual and Bylaws be approved.
5. That all other Board actions reported herein be sustained.

Rev. John van Eyk, Chairman

BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS BUDGET

	2003	2004
	Budget	Proposed
Income:		
Denominational Ministries Fund	\$ 104,014	\$ 112,815
WSU Unrestricted	3,000	3,300
Agency support	1,500	2,000

Miscellaneous receipts	1,000	2,000
WSU study books	18,000	18,000
<i>The ARP</i>		
Interest on deferred subscriptions	1,000	1,600
Subscriptions	77,000	84,546
Advertising	10,500	12,000
	\$ 216,014	\$ 236,261
Expenditures:		
Editor		
Salary	\$ 61,022	\$ 61,022
Retirement	5,187	5,187
Insurance	8,357	8,357
Employer tax (Social Security)	4,668	4,668
Transition Expenses	10,000	
Editorial Assistant		
Salary	27,981	28,820
Tax-deferred annuity	2,378	2,450
Insurance	4,026	3,686
Employer tax (Social Security)	2,323	2,393
Clerical help	2,000	2,000
Graphic artist		10,000
Workman's Compensation	450	621
Staff travel and expenses	2,600	4,400
Board travel and expenses	3,876	4,000
General office expenses	2,000	5,000
Equipment		2,500
Website	1,000	1,500
Rent	4,860	4,739
Contingency	400	1,000
Publications, promotions, dues	1,236	1,636
WSU study books	15,000	16,000
ARP News Update	250	750
<i>The ARP</i>		
Preparation and printing	43,000	48,300
Labels and postage	12,000	12,600
Materials and supplies	1,000	2,000
Photography expenses	400	1,000
	\$ 216,014	\$ 234,338
Excess income over <under>		
disbursements	0	1,923
Operating Reserve beginning of year	<8,623>	<8,623>
Operating Reserve end of year	<8,623>	<6,700>

Ben Johnson, Editor of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*,

was recognized with a standing round of applause, and briefly addressed the Synod.

A motion carried as follows:

That the adopted program be altered as follows: Move Dr. Horton's address to follow the Unity Panel, to move Dr. Horton's second address to 7:15 this evening, and move the Special Committee on Organization report to the afternoon business. All other orders of the day to be adjusted to conform.

The morning session closed with prayer and the Blessing by J. C. Unda.

Wednesday, June 11, 2003
2:00 P.M.

The afternoon session began with a congregational hymn and prayer offered by the Moderator.

Michael Scott Horton presented his second address, "The Methods of Grace" based on Romans 10: 5-17.

The special ad-hoc panel on Associate Reformed Presbyterian Unity presented the results of their work. Members of the panel were Frank Hunt, Ron Beard, Randy Ruble, Jim Corbitt, Ben Johnson, and Mark Ross.

The Synod sang the song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations met on Monday, February 10, 2003, at 10:00 AM at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Chairman John Hill called the meeting to order. Synod Coordinator Wilfred Bellamy gave a devotional message based upon the text of I Samuel 16:1-7, and then led in prayer.

Committee members present were Joann Johnston (WSU Representative), G. J. Gerard (Northeast Presbytery Representative), David Griffin (Mississippi Valley Presbytery Representative), Grier Westbrook (Catawba Presbytery Representative), Bill Harris (Virginia Presbytery Representative), Paul Shannon (Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery Representative), David Walkup (Florida Presbytery Representative), Rob Roy McGregor (Second Presbytery Representative), and John Hill (First Presbytery Representative). A representative of the Pacific Presbytery was absent. Also present were David Sides (Synod Moderator) and Wilfred Bellamy (Synod Coordinator).

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, boards and committees that 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.

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, 2003, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected.

ARP Foundation

- 2004 — Kenneth Usry (Thomson) (Replacing Jun Suk Kim)
- 2005 — Jeff Lipscomb (Coddle Creek) (Replacing Jeff Whitmore)
- 2007 — Scott Bush (Statesville First), Monty Campbell (Bartow), Anthony Quinn

Benefits

- 2009 — Tom Brown (Back Creek), Patricia Reavis (Greenville)

Bonclarken

- 2009 — Sarah Dagenhart (Rock Hill First), Sandra McCollum (New Albany), David Stephenson (Madison)

Covenant Discipleship

- 2009 — Jeannie Alexander (Rock Hill First)

Erskine

- 2009 — William B. Everett, Douglas Petersen, Guy H. Smith, III (Greenville), Stephen L. Davis (Greenwood), Paula Harper Bethea (Non-ARP)

Outreach North America

- 2009 — Harold Morris (Lake Placid)

Publications

- 200 — Mrs. Dot Tribble (Columbia First) (Replacing Joung Sook Nahm)
- 2009 — H. Max Bolin, Linda Hardin (Sandy Plains)

Stewardship

- 2009 — Mike Foster (Gastonia First)

William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. (Submitted by Presbytery to be Appointed by Synod)

2004— E. E. Fleagle (V) (Replacing Zeb Williams), _____ (P)

2005— Harry Robbins (C) (Replacing Michael Rogers)

2009— David J. Vickery (S), Darrell Peer (FL)

World Witness

2007— John Dorr, Jr. (Replacing Wilfred A. Bellamy)

2009— John Mathis (Parkway Place), Douglas Culver

Ecclesiastical Commission On Judiciary Affairs

2007— E. Timothy Robinson, Sam Crawford (Pisgah), Harold Robertson (Coddle Creek)

Historical Concerns

2009— _____ (WSU)

Inter-Church Relations

2009— Charles Clendinen

Lay Ministry

2006— Douglas Seif (Woodruff) (Replacing Bob Moseley)

2007— Mrs. Phil (Nicole) McCoy (Rowan) (WSU), Dottie Bigham (Ebenezer, NC), Pride Ratteree (First Columbia)

Theological and Social Concerns

2007— Nancy Cook (Thomson) (WSU), Robert Cara

2004— _____ Erskine Seminary Representative

Worship

2006— James Imler (Ebenezer, SC), Libby Draffin (Due West)

2007— Gabriel Statom (Lake Wales First), Martha McKenzie (WSU) (Bartow), Robert Glick (Non-ARP)

Officers of Synod:

2007— Bill Clerk: William E. Kirkpatrick

The following Presbytery appointees/representatives are reported as information:

Covenant Discipleship

2004— Theodore Y. Kim (P), T. R. Dibble (V), Don Yancey (S)

2005— Andrew Basham (C), Greg Hamer (F), Charles Bradley (T)

2007— John Tucker (M), Robert Whittet (N)

2008— Charles T. Lewis (FL)

Executive Board of Synod

2004— James S. Kidd (T), H. Max Bolin (V)

2005— Richard Moore (M), Charles Roberts (N)

2006— Walter Heinsohn (C), P. Frank van Dalen (FL), _____ (P)

2007— C. Earl Linderman (F), William B. Patrick, Jr. (S)

Outreach North America, The Board of Church Extension

2004— Anthony Locke (S), Richard Shaw (F)

2005— Gilbert H. Rowell (C), Robert Hovey (FL), Donnie Bowker (M), Alan Avera (N), E. E. Fleagle (V)

2006— Roy Hulling (T)

Unknown: _____ (P)

Board of Stewardship

2004— David Lauten (C), Charles Kocisek (T)

2005— H. Paul Matthews (N)

2006— Robert Hunter (F), Martha Dees (M), Tom Shoger (S), David Walkup (FL)

2007— L. Paul Burns (V)

Unknown: (P)

Committee on Minister and His Work

2004— Kenneth McMullen (F), Charles Todd (M), William R. Roberts (C), William B. Evans (S), Steven Cavallaro (FL), Calvin Todd (T)

2005— Herschel Carlson (N)

2006— Robert C. Gordon (V)

Unknown: (P)

Committee on Nominations

2004— Paul K. Shannon (T), John E. Hill (F)

2005— A. Grier Westbrook (C), G. J. Gerard (N), William Harris (V), David Griffin (M)

2006— Rob Roy McGregor (S)

Unknown: (P), (FL)

Officers for the Committee, ee July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004 are: John E. Hill, Chairman; G. J. Gerard, Vice-Chairman; and David T. Griffin, Secretary.

The Nominations packets for 2004 will be mailed in September 2003. The deadline for submission of nominees will be January 14, 2004. The Committee will meet February 9, 2004, 9:30 A.M., 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 reminded 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 those making recommendations to the Committee remember the need to use the appropriate form.
7. That more sessions and individuals be encouraged to submit recom-

mendations to the Committee.

8. That the General Synod authorize \$4,000 for Committee expenses in 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
John E. Hill, Chairman

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2004.

Moderator-Elect Frank Hunt nominated J. D. McLurkin.

Mr. McLurkin was elected by acclamation.

T. D. Grant escorted Mr. McLurkin to the podium where he made brief remarks.

The Report of the Special Committee on Organization was presented and adopted.

INTERIM REPORT SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

After profitable sessions, debate and discussion, we find that we have arrived at interim destinations rather than final conclusions. We have discovered as we work more areas in need of further study.

(See recommendation #1)

The committee proposes to show you the unfinished product of where we are, and a glimpse of where we hope to go. We seek to avoid a report that is either incomplete or of little practical use to the church. We have continued to function this year with the division of the committee into its two ongoing subcommittees. The next year we see the committee functioning more as a single entity, using the results of our separate inquiries to formulate more concrete recommendations.

Every agency of the General Synod has been interviewed with the exception of Erskine. Each Director developed detailed task analyses with regard to their areas of responsibility. We are grateful to them for their gracious acceptance of this task and their time and talents used to produce the results.

It has become apparent, as the work has progressed, that change is inevitable and imminent, not simply because Directors are planning their retirement but because responsible analysis leads the committee to the conclusion that several of the agency operations are in need of updating and improving.

Historically the Boards of agencies, appointed by General Synod, have been responsible for each agency and for the supervision of its Director. However, the present studies are focusing on the agencies as a unified endeavor within the ARPC.

It has also become apparent, in the context of the studies, that change in one agency cannot take place in isolation from another. Thus as recommendations for improved effectiveness impact one agency another is impacted similarly. For example, if it is concluded that the most effective and cost-efficient way in which to support the activities of the agencies is by means of "centralized services" all agencies will benefit and none will be left out.

As agencies undergo change their Boards will be asked to support and encourage rather than resist change. If the net effect of the work of the committee is to assist the agencies to undertake more smoothly, cohesively, and less expensively, the organizational endeavors of the denomination, a commitment on the part of all involved parties will be essential.

It is an encouragement to note that to date, while reports have been delivered to all Board meetings, little resistance to change has been encountered.

The denominational Coordinator has communicated to the agency Board chairmen papers that seek to enable rational change.

Since the work of the committee began, the ripple-effect of change has led a number of Boards to take preliminary actions to facilitate change:

1. The Board of Publications, endorsed by the Executive Board of General Synod, has formed a search committee to seek a new "Editor" and not a "Director of Publications."
2. The Board of Outreach North America has formed a search committee to seek a new Director, but is working on a revision of the position description for the new Director that may not necessarily be a replication of the former position description.
3. The Board of World Witness has formed a Transition Committee to supervise the management of World Witness through three years of transition pending the retirement of the current Director.
4. The Board of World Witness Transition Committee has engaged the services of an outside consultant who will perform an objective analysis of the organizational and financial management of World Witness, the results of which will give direction to the transition process and facilitate long range planning.
4. A review of the responsibilities of the Director of Administrative Services is under consideration, in anticipation of the fact that administrative services may not be provided in the future in the same way as they have in the past... see the earlier comment regarding "centralized services."
5. The Board of Bonclarken is considering a Human Resources Audit to streamline the personnel functions at Bonclarken and assist in preparing for the future.
6. The Directors of all ARPC agencies have agreed not to seek and

train their own successors, since the changes anticipated in the agencies must be considered prior to any appointments or promises being made.

7. Consideration is being given to a unified approach to image-building, promotion and publications for all agencies, standardizing the appearance of all ARPC materials, and sharpening the focus of ARPC communications to demonstrate cooperation and cohesion.

Areas that we would propose to approach include such things as a survey of all ministers and sessions separately concerning their input into planning for the future and the solicitation of the involvement of our younger ministers. We propose to seek where the church ought to be going by a multi-level mode of inquiry. And of course much prayer and seeking of the leading of the Spirit in all we do.

The work of the committee has given rise to a number of broader questions that may well dictate how changes are to be implemented and how strategic planning is to take place. These questions are not the specific mandate of the committee but they were introduced during the course of the work of the committee.

Such questions include:

Is a larger (national) denomination necessarily better (more impactful in the cause of Christ) than a smaller (regional) denomination?

General Synod holds itself in a response mode to its Boards, Committees and Commission. Is this posture to be held in future or is General Synod prepared to take a proactive lead in the future?

Do we, as a denomination, have an agreed sense of future direction for which we plan strategically, or are we satisfied to be driven by our agencies and their diverse planning? Will our Boards, Committees and Commission conduct their business reflecting on the overall determinations of the denomination, or will Chairmen and Directors guide our Boards, Committees and Commission setting their agendas according to their own dictates?

As resources are limited and costs increase how are we to control expense, agree on priorities, determine allocations?

Input to Boards, Committees and Commission of General Synod is not always a reflection of the inter-generational nature of the denomination. Is there a way in which the thoughts and opinions of younger ministers and lay men and women can be introduced

into the mix of the thinking and planning of the denomination?

There is much work remaining to be done but the progress made to date leads us to believe that as the committee continues in its endeavors, including dovetailing with the agencies and their boards, much that is valuable will be accrued and the purpose for which General Synod brought the Committee on Organization into being will, by the grace of God, be fulfilled.

Our thinking brings us here at this time:

It is the conclusion of the committee that its work, if it is to bear full fruit, needs to be continued.

With regard to the matter of corporate structure, the committee reviewed the current legal structure with General Synod's outside counsel. The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has never been constituted as a corporate entity. In 1849 the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina approved an act in which the corporate name was designated as "The Trustees of the Associate Reformed Synod. This Act was amended in 1880 ("The Board of Trustees of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of the South"). After various other designations in the intervening years in 1975 the corporate name was changed to the "Board of Stewardship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church". The 1975 amendment further designated the Board of Stewardship as the legal entity of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. As the legal entity of the denomination the Board of Stewardship handles the duties associated with the legal entity. These duties consist primarily of securing required insurance and an annual audit and executing legal agreements. The general perception and the preferred approach on legal documents is to view the General Synod as the legal entity. Based on its review and study the Committee recommends that the corporate name be changed from "Board of Stewardship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church" to "General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church" with the Executive Board of Synod to handle the legal matters currently performed by the Board of Stewardship.

(See recommendation #2)

The review of the other incorporated entities (Bonclarken, Erskine, World Witness, etc.) resulted in no recommended changes to the existing structures at this time. As the Committee's work continues the need to structure other agencies will be reviewed in light of any restructuring recommendations.

The lack of knowledge of and commitment to our Standards on the part of congregations and clergy has been the subject of extended discussion. One conclusion we reached as a result of that discussion is that we perceive that the problems we experience with regard to our "connectionalism" result more from ignorance of the Standards than from a need to alter

them. We do not propose to offer any changes with regard to the Standards at this time.

We strongly reaffirm the necessity of the prominence of the Presbytery in our system of government, having debated the possibilities of placing in the Presbytery's powers more "teeth" with regard to enforcement of the Standards and the rules and directives of Presbytery and the General Synod. We did not come to any concise conclusion as to how to accomplish that. The model of local Sessions' power and responsibilities toward members of local congregations led to discussions of such possibilities as "inactive" status in Presbyteries for congregations and subsequent removal from the rolls. It was a common thread, however, that we all feel that there are situations in some congregations and with individual clergymen that simply are interested in having the denomination as a cover, with no real intent or desire to participate any further.

A present example of the above is the denominational ministry support system of financing which is not working well. There is insufficient Presbytery involvement in the system, and if present trends continue, reduced funding for all causes of the General Synod will be necessary. We are left feeling discomfited. The committee would have preferred to be able to offer more specifics with regard to possible solutions to both the Board of Stewardship and to the General Synod.

(See recommendation #3)

We are comfortable reporting to you that although the present system of ecclesiastical courts may need to be altered at some future date, the time for such a drastic action has not yet come.

Recommendations:

1. That the committee be continued for another year.
2. That the corporate name of the denomination be changed from "Board of Stewardship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church" to "General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church" with the Executive Board of Synod to handle the legal matters currently performed by the Board of Stewardship.
3. That the General Synod submit to its Ecclesiastical Commission the matter of the relationship of Presbyteries and congregations with regard to the power of Presbytery and the responsibilities of congregations.
4. That this report be adopted.

For the Committee

C. Ronald Beard, Chairman

L. E. Frady closed the afternoon session with prayer.

Wednesday, June 11, 2003
7:15 P.M.

The evening session began with a congregational hymn and prayer offered by M. A. Merrill.

Kathleen Gosset sang a selection from Handel's "Messiah", accompanied by M. C. Manwarren.

Michael Scott Horton presented his third address, "The Mission of Grace" based on II Timothy 1:8-14.

Maxine Johnson presented the address of the President of the Women's Synodical Union, using Joshua 4 as the introduction for her report.

WSU PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

We have gathered in Due West to enjoy the meeting of General Synod on this our bicentennial year of being the Synod of the South. In some respects the Old Brick Church, Erskine College and Seminary, and Bonclarken are standing stones, monuments by which we remember and praise God for the mighty acts He has done through the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Denomination. We look back and remember and tell our children what a heritage they have. It is not wrong to look back and remember. However, we dare not keep looking back and only remembering. We must look forward and work toward becoming the person, church and denomination our Almighty God has predestined us to become.

I believe that is why our leaders have been moved to form special committees to look seriously at what changes need to be made in order to assure our work as Christians and ARPs will be the most productive. We dare not sit and say, "But we have always done it this way." It is time to evaluate and change what needs to be changed. The Gospel never changes. The means of delivering it changes.

Following the leadership of the denomination, the women of this body have taken on the task of evaluating the work of the women. A special committee worked on evaluating the problems in the current system of our work and looking into what other women's ministries were finding in their own ministries and how they were addressing those issues. They then took their information and drew up some recommendations to be considered. Following up on that last fall, I named a Task Force to take those recommendations and find ways of implementing them. That Task Force has been working on the development of an even more meaningful organization. They are looking at the areas which the women feel is the core of the women's work in our denomination, namely, spiritual growth,

creative fellowship, Christian service, and church support. The challenge of the Task Force is not only to develop ways in which to maintain our unique area of ministry, but also to promote a greater connection to the denomination's focus and its agencies and boards. This work is in the infancy stages and we hope all who are concerned will pray for this Task Force as they seek unity of purpose and continued forward progress.

Our Presbyterials are also changing. They have been developing ways in which to work with the greatest economy as the number of willing and interested workers declines. They have taken the existing system and trimmed it down combining duties and positions. The work goes on, just in a different "dress".

The WSU has a budget for the year 2002-2003 of \$265,000.00. We will not know until August 31 how close we have come to meeting that budget or if we have gone over. With that money we pay Pam Brunson's salary and half of the salary of Judi Hodges. Until January we were paying half of the salary of Melanie Seeger. We support Outreach North America, Bonclarken, Erskine College and Seminary, Covenant Discipleship, Camp Joy and other denominational agencies and projects, not the least of which is The ARP magazine. Giving has not been as good this year as it has in the past. We are concerned that world situations have caused people to become afraid of letting go of the money with which God has blessed them or perhaps our tithers have gone to be with Him leaving a vacancy which has not been filled by other women who tithe. Only God knows what is happening in the hearts of men and women. I don't think this problem is unique to the women of this denomination. I am afraid it knows no gender or denomination. We are again looking for God's hand as He urges those who have the resources to give as He always gives to us. Please pray with us concerning our financial responsibilities.

The women are working at growing spiritually and have taken advantage of the Bible studies made available to them. We have studied 1 Peter this year. In the fall we will start Esther. The women will vote on our next study, Philippians, in July at our Annual Meeting. We are eager to learn what God has to say to us through His Word. We look to you as our ministers and elders for that leadership as well. You are our Spiritual leaders. Pray with us that you will lead us humbly, enthusiastically and intelligently so that we can grow into the women God wants us to be.

These women have provided food for the hurting and grieved. They have provided baby items and love for the young women who have found themselves in a crisis pregnancy. They have made gift items for the Bonclarken Gift Shop. They have volunteered their time tutoring children in their communities. They have cooked for pot luck suppers in which the offerings have gone to ONA and Presbyterian church planting needs. They

have been there when teachers have been needed for Sunday School and VBS. They have sent cards and goody boxes to our college students and have prayed and prayed for God's will to be done in all areas of ministry. The list goes on and on. Pray with us as we seek God's Will in our areas of service and in yours.

Can you imagine where we would be today if the women in our past had been denied the freedom to perform these acts of mercy and kindness? How would you as men like to have had all those responsibilities in addition to the burden of the responsibility you already carry? I trust our descendants will be able to look back and see how we, their ancestors, shared the burden and made the task a little easier to accomplish. I pray they will be inspired by what God was able to accomplish through us and go on to be willing clay in the potter's hand. Let us remember to pray for those who will be the messengers to the generations we will never see.

We will be praying for you as you go home to actively promote the work you have begun here. You have decided the future.

A motion carried that the Minutes be adopted without reading, and that the final roll call be waived.

A Motion carried in appreciation of the service of the Moderator at this meeting of the General Synod. Synod rose with a round of applause for Moderator Frazier.

The motion to adjourn prevailed.

The Synod sang the song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133.

Synod adjourned with the Benediction pronounced by Moderator Frazier.

Respectfully Submitted,
W. A. Frazier, Moderator
F. M. Hunt, 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