

PREFACE

The 203rd Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held at the denominational conference center at Bonclarken. This preface is for the purpose of recording special activities held in conjunction with the meetings of the General Synod.

The Pre-Synod Conference on Worship
Prayer: The School of Grace
(Moving Beyond the “How-To” Mentality)
Monday, June 4
Afternoon optional fellowship activities

- 5:15 - 6:15** BBQ on the grounds
6:30 - 6:45 Welcome to the Conference & Introduction to the Theme
6:45 - 7:45 Approaching God in Praise – led by Charles Edgar
7:45 - 8:00 Break
8:00 - 9:00 Confession & Repentance – led by Paul Patrick
 Confess both personally & corporately Send people out with closure & grace
After 9:00 Encourage fellowship at the Nibble Nook
Tuesday, June 5
Early a.m. Optional Hike - Experience God’s creation and praise the Creator
8:30 - 9:45 Kingdom prayer; Praying through the Lord’s Prayer - David Galletta Use the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer as an outline for prayer
9:45 - 10:00 Break
10:00 - 11:00 Silence (Listening to the Lord) – led by John Kimmons
 2 Chron. 20:12 “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”
11:00 - 11:15 Break
11:15 - 12:15 Prayer for Revival / Praise God for What He is Doing & Has Done – led by Charles Edgar

Special Synod Week Activities

The **Orientation for New Ministers and Delegates** was held Tuesday at 5:00 P.M. in the Jean White Room, Founder’s Hall.

Erskine Theological Seminary hosted a barbecue picnic on Wednesday, June 6 at 12:30 P.M. at the Headspring Pavilion.

The Ministers Wives’ Fellowship hosted a special program on Wednesday, June 6 from 10:00 A.M. until Noon featuring Mrs. Ethel Dowling and Mrs. Sally Dawson.

Outreach North America sponsored a Church Renewal Breakfast on Thursday, June 7 at 7 A.M. with Dr. Ken Priddy, director of Church Renewal as the featured speaker.

PROCEEDINGS

**203rd Annual Meeting of the
General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, June 5, 2007
7:30 P.M**

General Synod’s evening activities began with an informal Psalm singing led by Earl and Harriet Linderman.

At 7:30 P.M. the 203rd annual meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church officially began with the Worship Service including the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

- 7:00 P.M Informal Psalm Sing.....Earl Linderman
Accompanist..... Harriet Linderman
- 7:30 PM The Prelude Mi Young Lee
- The Processional
- *Call to Worship.....J. Thomas Patterson, Moderator
- *Hymn of Praise: “Come Thou, Almighty King” ..Hymnbook 244
- *Invocation and The Lord’s PrayerJ. Thomas Patterson
- *The Constitution of Synod.....J. Thomas Patterson
- Solo: “Comfort Ye My People” Lucas Johnston, Tenor
- Recognition of Retiring Synod Employees.....J. Thomas Patterson
- The Service of Commissioning
 - J. Paul Bell, Central Services.....C. Ronald Beard
 - Delores P. McDonald, ARP Magazine.....H. Max Bolin
 - Joseph H. Sherer, Jr., Bonclarken..... William B. Patrick
 - Randall T. Ruble, Erskine.....Guy H. Smith, III
- The Prayer of Commissioning.....John E. Hill
- The Anthem:..... “Let Mount Zion Rejoice”
Coddle Creek ARP Church Choir

Memorial Service.....J. Thomas Patterson
 The Listing of Deceased Teaching Elders (Since Last Synod)
 The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders (Calendar Year 2006)
 *Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Hymnbook 399
 The Scripture:..... Galatians 6:11-18
 The Sermon: "Three Deaths" John E. Hill
 *Psalm: "Consecration and Dedication". Bible Songs 243
 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper..... John E. Hill
 *Hymn: "There Is A Green Hill Far Away" Hymnbook 202
 The Benediction..... John E. Hill
 The Postlude..... Mi Young Lee

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

Retired employees Donna Wentz and Louise Raby were recognized. Ed Hogan and Beth Willis were presented with plaques marking their retirement July 31, 2007.

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

7:00 A.M.

C. E Linderman led an informal morning Psalm singing on the Dining Room Porch of the Hotel.

Following the reading of the 2006 theme verse of scripture, and the singing of an opening hymn, Retiring Moderator J. Thomas Patterson led in prayer.

Kyle Sims introduced The Rev. Mr. Matt Kingswood of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America who led the opening worship service.

Retiring Moderator J. Thomas Patterson called the first session of the 203rd General Synod meeting to order.

The new President of Bonclarken Conference Center, Joseph H. (Chip) Sherer, welcomed the delegates to Bonclarken.

Principal Clerk C. R. Beard constituted the roll of Synod.

Mr. Beard announced the results of the voting in the Presbyteries on amendments sent to the Presbyteries in overture from the 2006 meeting of the General Synod. All amendments were approved by a majority of those voting in the Presbyteries.

Mr. Patterson presented his Retiring Moderator's Address.

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Fathers and Brothers,

We are assembled in this place for another meeting of our General Synod. Another year of work is behind us, and another year of work is before us. This has been a busy two years for me and an experience I will not forget. I am humbled to have served as your Moderator,

and I thank you for the privilege of doing so.

It is my hope the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church will grow -- spiritually as well as numerically. I continue to pray daily the Lord will bless our churches and our presbyteries by adding more congregations and missions to our rolls. The opportunities for expansion are all around us, but we must become more aggressive in our outreach and evangelism if we are going to seize them. I had hoped that during my year as Moderator, we would have seen new congregations added to every presbytery. That is still my hope -- that in the coming year every presbytery will add one or more new congregations and/or missions. Will you pray with me that will be so, and that when we meet here next year, we will rejoice that every presbytery has established or received one or more new congregations?

Those of us present in this place, for the most part, represent the leadership within our churches. We are the leaders. As the leaders of the ARP Church, I want to challenge you to take your role seriously and be committed to the furtherance of the Gospel and the ministry of your local church and of our denomination.

Many of us struggle with the day-to-day operations within our own congregations. We have become inward in our approach to ministry and often see little beyond the walls of our own church. I want to challenge us all to look beyond our own walls and to attempt great things for God.

If the ARP Church is going to have an effective ministry, its people are going to have to be knowledgeable of the church and the work we do. I have found that many of our people don't have a clue as to who we are and what we are about. Most are plugged into the local church in a significant way, but beyond the local church, they have no idea of what ministry is done through our denomination and no real zeal to find out.

This can be illustrated by looking at our denomination's major publication, *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*. Three fourths of the members of our denomination do not take the Magazine. Half of our ministers do not receive the Magazine. Some churches have no subscribers at all. To simply put it, 3/4 of our members and 1/2 of our ministers do not know what is going on in our denomination, because they don't receive the one publication that tells them about it. You might conclude that I am over emphasizing the value of our Magazine as it relates to the loyalty of our people to our denomination and its ministry, but I don't think I am. I see a real breakdown in communication when our people aren't informed and simply don't care what we are doing through our General Synod. You might say

we live in a day of high technology, and people can get what they want to know from other sources. You might tell me that people just don't take time to read anymore. You might even say the expense involved prohibits some from receiving our publication. You may even be right about some of this, but can we use it as an excuse to allow such an important work to fall by the wayside? Brothers, we are the leaders in our denomination. If we aren't leading our people in the very basics, how effective is our leadership? How will our people ever get plugged into the ministries of the ARP Church if we, the leadership, are not leading?

Sometime during every year, we receive encouragement to contribute to our Denominational Ministries Fund. How often the phrase is uttered in our local churches, "We can't give more. We have too much we need to do here." So the work of our Synod continues to struggle along, and budgets have to be cut every year, because the work of our Synod is underfunded. If our churches don't support the work of our denomination, who will? We have to get serious about funding the work of our General Synod. This is not an option. In my local congregation, we have been amazed at how the Lord has given us so much back as we have reached out beyond our own walls. No, it hasn't been easy. There has been resistance every step of the way, but in the end our people are developing a sense of mission and ministry, and the Lord is using us in ways we never thought possible. The amazing thing is that the more we give away, the more the Lord gives back to us. Imagine that! Now don't get me wrong. I'm not saying we give to the Lord in order to get Him to give back to us tenfold. I am saying you can't out give God. When you invest in His Kingdom, He supplies what is needed. Brothers, we are the leaders in our denomination. If we aren't leading our people in the very basics, how effective is our leadership? How will our people ever get plugged into the ministries of the ARP Church if we, the leadership, are not leading?

Most of you know my passion for church planting. I don't understand why the rest of you are not fired up about starting new ARP churches everywhere. It wouldn't hurt my feelings to see ARP churches started in every state, county, province and city in the United States and Canada. You might laugh at my zeal and think that is unrealistic, but shouldn't that be our passion? Shouldn't we be seeking to share Christ with those in every place? Shouldn't the ARP Church have a message and a ministry that needs to be heard everywhere? Shouldn't every presbytery have a list of locations where an ARP church is being considered? Shouldn't every presbytery have

one or more new works in progress? Shouldn't existing congregations be looking about for opportunities to start Bible studies and nurture them into new churches? Shouldn't we be on-fire for expanding our ministry within our own walls and beyond. Outreach North America is encouraging churches to plant daughter congregations -- encouraging churches to get involved in expanding Christ's Kingdom through church planting on the local level. Why aren't more of our churches considering what they can do to start a daughter church in a nearby town or community? Why isn't your church considering what it can do to start a daughter church in a nearby town or community? Brothers, we are the leaders in our denomination. If we aren't leading our people in the very basics, how effective is our leadership? How will our people ever get plugged into the ministries of the ARP Church if we, the leadership, are not leading?

Permit me to digress and go down a rabbit trail for a moment, but I find this humorous. We sometimes use vocabulary that is unfamiliar to the person sitting in the pew. I don't guess your church ever has that problem, does it? You are skilled at communicating everything perfectly clear the first time, aren't you? As my church has been involved in the planting of a daughter congregation, we have tried to keep reminders before our people about this important work. We began the process by calling our people to pray for our "church plant." For the past 4 or 5 years, there has been something in our bulletin every week mentioning prayer for our church plant. On more than one occasion, visitors to our congregation have inquired about "our church plant". Some have said they never heard of a church praying for a plant. Some have even asked to see our "church plant". Oh for better communication skills that we may more effectively communicate what we want others to know!

Most of you also know I have an interest in bringing the Gospel to the multi-cultural communities throughout North America. What an opportunity we have to take Jesus to the people of the world right here in our own country. However, there are complicating factors that inhibit our effectiveness in reaching these multi-cultural people. First and foremost is the language barrier. Then there are the layers of problems added by cultural differences. How much easier it would be for us to do ministry among these people groups if we could make them learn and speak English. How much easier it would be for us to do ministry among these people groups if we could make them adopt our ways and traditions. But the bottom line is we can't. Oh we can impose our language and our ways on these people and tell them if they join us, they will do it our way. We can be heavy-handed

in our approach to dealing with them -- and as a result we can have no effective ministry among them. Oh yes, it is very frustrating to deal with the issues that arise because of our differences, but is that any reason not to take the Gospel to them? We are very patient and kind and willing to work with those who are like us, but we find it hard to display that same patience and kindness and willingness to work with those who are not like us. To put it in simple terms, it may take a generation to bring some of our multi-cultural brothers to a participatory understanding of who we are and how we operate. In all of our sinfulness and short-comings, do you think God would exercise patience in working with us to make and mold us into the people He would have us to be? Should we also not be willing to show this same patience and kindness to those in our midst who are different from us? Over the past year, as I have considered how we should deal with such ministry in a more effective way, I have concluded we have not provided a mentoring process for these brothers to learn how to operate within our system. We take them in and assume they are on the same page as we are just because we have received them. I see little or no effort being given to teaching them our ways. Oh, we might express it in writing and present them with a mandate, but we are lacking in the person-to-person relationships that could produce solid gains in these situations. We seem to be reluctant to enter into any long-term commitment that would help resolve some of our frustrations. I am convinced this is the level we need to be expending our time and efforts.

We need pastors and elders who are willing to patiently, over the long term, mentor our multi-cultural counterparts. I appointed a special committee to look at these concerns. I trust our Incoming Moderator will continue this committee in the coming year. We have barely scratched the surface of what needs to be done in this area of ministry. Brothers, we are the leaders in our denomination. If we aren't leading our people in the very basics, how effective is our leadership? How will our people ever get plugged into the ministries of the ARP Church if we, the leadership, are not leading?

We have just mailed the information on the upcoming Laity in Action Conference which will be held here on July 6 & 7. The timing is not good, because it falls on the same week as the July 4 holiday. Yet, this conference has always provided sound biblical teaching in a short period of time -- two days. The conference is cost effective for those who are concerned about expenses. Activities are provided for the children and child-care is offered for infants and the smaller children. We have a loyal following who attend the conference each

year, but some years the crowd is pitifully small. When we inquire among the lay people, we often get the response, "We've never heard of this conference. No one in our church has ever promoted it." We spend a lot of our resources in trying to promote this conference -- and you don't promote it? I want to solicit your help with this year's conference. The material has been mailed. It has been received in your church office. Please help us promote it. We understand that those who live some distance away from Bonclarken would be prohibited from driving such a long distance for such a short conference, but what about those of you who are within driving distance? If every church within a two or three hour driving distance from Bonclarken promoted the conference and sent us just one family, the chapel would be filled to overflowing. We guarantee your people will hear "some good stuff". We guarantee they will learn something they can take back and utilize within your own church that will be beneficial to its ministry. I plead with you to help us fill up the chapel this year at the Laity in Action Conference. This is such a simple request. Won't you help us? Why not even come yourself? Brothers, we are the leaders in our denomination. If we aren't leading our people in the very basics, how effective is our leadership? How will our people ever get plugged into the ministries of the ARP Church if we, the leadership, are not leading?

In these remarks, it has been my intent to get your attention. It was my desire to get you thinking about some crucial issues facing our church. It was my desire to challenge you to think about these matters and trust you will be moved to action. Moderator's addresses are pretty routine at Presbytery and Synod meetings --so routine we often don't listen to them carefully. However, I hope there will be something said in this address that you will remember, and that it will have some positive impact on the ministry of our local churches, our presbyteries, and our Synod.

Not long ago I heard Warren Wiersbee on the radio. He was preaching from the book of Acts on the subject of growth in the church. He pointed out that it is biblical for the church to grow and increase wherever the Gospel is preached, and we should expect it, but he added that it seemed that many pastors and elders spend much of their time doing all they can to bring about decrease. We need to examine ourselves in light of Scripture and try to ascertain if we are working on the increase of the church or the decrease. You don't have to look very deep to determine which is the result of your efforts. May God help us discern and do those things that are biblical and are pleasing to Him which will promote the growth of the Kingdom in our midst.

Serving as your Moderator has been one of the highlights of my life I have learned to appreciate our denomination and you more than words can express. I thought I knew a lot about the ARP Church, but I soon discovered how little I actually knew. We ARPs have a lot to be thankful for. We have a lot to offer. We ought to be eager to get the word out to others. They need to know about us. Many of them need to be a part of us. Won't you help us?

I want to leave you with these words of challenge, "Brothers, we are the leaders in our denomination. If we aren't leading our people in the very basics, how effective is our leadership? How will our people ever get plugged into the ministries of the ARP Church if we, the leadership, are not leading?"

Retiring Moderator Patterson presented Moderator-Elect Charles F. Edgar, Jr. to the Synod. Vice Moderator Hill escorted Mr. Edgar to the podium. Mr. Patterson placed the Moderator's Shield around Mr. Edgar's neck and made brief remarks. Mr. Edgar presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Mr. Patterson.

Moderator Edgar introduced his wife Joyce and his family members present at the General Synod meeting.

Moderator Edgar introduced to the Synod his Pastor and his family, his business partner, and others who hold particular place in his life.

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

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

"BOOTH LED BOLDLY WITH A BIG BASS DRUM"—These are the opening words to the poem "General William Booth Enters Into Heaven" by Vachel Lindsay on the death of the founder of the Salvation Army.

The poem captures Booth's view that he was a part of God's salvation army, and the military motif that runs through scripture. Lindsay says of Booth:

"Booth died blind and still by Faith he trod
Eyes still dazzled by the ways of God.
Booth led boldly, and he looked the chief,
Eagle countenance in sharp relief,
Beard a-flying, air of high command
Unabated in that holy land."

John Carson beat me to the punch a couple of years ago when he used II Corinthians 10:1-5 for a text. In that passage Paul speaks to us

as being involved in spiritual warfare.

This was a text that taught me more about living the Christian Life than perhaps any lesson that I ever learned. Perhaps a part of the lesson was the high tuition that it cost.

It was the text of my first wife's funeral. We were both 34 years old at the time and had three children 5, 6, and 8. I was a claim adjuster and dealt with people from all walks of life. There were attorneys, body shop employees, junk-yard owners and just a cross section of humanity. My pastor began with that text, and continued discussing the weapons of worldly warfare. I sat puzzled with my children and wondered what these people would think of the presentation. He then said that Virginia Edgar was involved in warfare, but it was the spiritual warfare of that text. He asked rhetorically, "What were the weapons of her warfare?" and directed us to the first verse. The weapons of her warfare were the meekness and gentleness of Christ.

I want to continue the military motif from our text in John 14. It does not address the matter directly, but I believe it is helpful in the battle that we should feel we are in.

The II Corinthians passage is the call to the kingdom army. John 14 is "Boot Camp for kingdom service." We think of boot camp in terms of physical rigor, but the goal really is to gain the mind of the enlistees. Make them think like soldiers and not civilians. This, I believe is what Jesus is doing with his disciples. He challenges them to have their minds centered on areas that are essential to making disciples. This is the commission we have received and it is the primary goal.

Jesus delivered the orders shortly before his death. He was preparing his disciples for the battle after he was gone.

Jesus begins in the first verses speaking eschatologically. He is going to prepare a place for us. I was raised in the Bible Presbyterian Church and ordained in the RPCES. It was the era of great speculation. I shudder to think how much time was spent discussing the millennium and its detail. I wonder if we did not miss the glory of the promise discussing too many details.

Eschatology is not simply a time-table—It is the promise of victory over Death. The consequence of original sin was the just application of God's Justice. "If you eat, you shall surely die." Christ has come to pay the consequence and the promise is restoration.

"The Blessed Hope" is a wonderful promise and it may be a huge contributing factor in the growth of the Church in the "10-40" window. Many of those living in that world live with the knowledge that

"tomorrow they may die." The blessed hope of the resurrection is no "sweet metaphor"—it could be their only hope!

Our people are spending great amounts of time worrying about life in this "three score and ten." Those who live where Christianity is moving in a fashion similar to the first century realize with a reality that tomorrow they may die. This world holds absolutely no security. Their hope is literally in the future that God has promised. We, on the other hand, are preaching to those who are totally comfortable in this world.

Jesus then speaks of "The Way." Many of us live in the so-called Bible Belt where everyone is a Christian, and salvation is simply by dying. We never hear of anyone who is not going to Heaven, no matter what his or her life may exhibit. We need to be challenged to "make disciples" of the Way.

I have been a tent maker all of my ordained life. I have investigated people's lives in many different ways, and I know that we have a lot to do even in congregations that have been established for years. We may know that all have sinned, but many think that making a profession leads to perfection. We would never state this, but we act this way. A military leader must analyze the situation and proceed to offensive action. We spend much time analyzing statistics but the real problem is discipleship. This is the commission we have received: "Make disciples." We lament a lack of Church discipline, but the essence of discipline is the root of the word-Disciple. What we call discipline is often punishment to the undisciplined.

If we can take our congregations from seeking security in this life and living with total hope in the eschatological promise, we will advance the kingdom in the way Christ teaches. Statistics show that present day Christianity does not think differently from the world. We simply parallel the rest of the world.

We have a great example of this in the current motion picture, "Amazing Grace." It speaks of results that came from the Wesley-Whitfield revivals. Whitfield can satisfy our reformed thought process. This era saw one of the greatest examples of social change. It did not result from churches passing resolutions or being directly involved in politics. It came from the preaching of the gospel and its resultant effect in the lives of men like Wilberforce.

Our task is to train our cadres and move from world domination to the blessed hope of eschatology. It makes little difference if the world is modern, post modern or enlightenment. If the Gospel moves men and women to new thinking, it will change whatever the world does or thinks.

We are literally taking converts and packaging them and placing them on the shelves of our Churches.

No one can tell you "How To." This is our challenge. Analyze the local situation and seek God's help in changing. Change does not come easily. Dr. T. Stanley Soltau was an early missionary to Korea. He had to return to Memphis during WWII. He took a typical independent church and taught it the reformed faith. When asked how he accomplished the change, He said, "One degree at a time."

Jesus concludes this passage by reminding us that if we love him, we will keep his commandments. Be sanctified. I love to read Church history and I'm fascinated by the ways sanctification has been treated in different times and places. We are heirs of the marrow controversy, which was really a part of viewing sanctification. Many of the discussions seem to gravitate to the offer of the Gospel, but I believe the real concern was with motivation to keeping God's Law. The "Marrowmen" saw it not in terms of fear of punishment or hope of reward, but the motive of the Love of God.

We can make a real contribution if we continue the effort to see sanctification in terms of God's Grace, rather than spiritual muscle. It would do my heart good to see this approach adopted rather than the "How To" product that seems to sell books in Christian bookstores.

Our spiritual forefather, Ebenezer Erskine grasped the essence of this mind change by God's Grace. He made this covenant with God:

"Lord, if I have done iniquity, I am resolved through thy grace to do so no more. I flee for shelter to the blood of Jesus and his everlasting righteousness; for this is pleasing unto thee. I offer myself up, soul and body, unto God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I offer myself unto Christ the Lord, as an object proper for all his offices to be exercised upon. I choose him as my prophet for instruction, illumination, and direction. I embrace him as my great priest, to be washed and justified by his blood and righteousness. I embrace him as my king to reign and rule within me. I take a whole Christ with all his laws, and all his crosses and afflictions. I will live to Him. I will die to Him. I will quit with all I have in the world for His cause and truth."

Perhaps we can use this to challenge ourselves and our members to be changed by God's grace.

I read a lot on the Civil War and WWII. Military leaders are those who truly measure the battlefield and act accordingly. They have read military history, but the application has to be to the local battlefield. This is what we must learn. Our concentration must be on the

hearts and minds of our congregations and not on what politicians or judges we can place to make new laws. When our troops are properly trained they can go forth into the battle planning in prayer.

It seems that often the moderator's challenge is an opportunity to tell us how poorly we are doing. I am reminded that the RPCES decided to hire a management consultant to advise how to better operate the denomination. The consultant came back and said that he could not help. We were about the same size as that denomination. The consultant said that he could not understand how such a small group could operate a college, a seminary, have such a great number of missionaries and be starting so many new churches.

If we evaluate ourselves in the same way, we must say that God has been good to us in spite of our weaknesses—and we know they are many.

Warfare can be discouraging when the battles seem to go wrong. The amazing thing about Christian warfare is that the great eschatological treatise—Revelation—assures us of victory!

Vachel Lindsay captured this picture beautifully in his poem:

“And when Booth halted by the curb for prayer
He saw his Master thro’ the flag-filled air.
Christ came gently with a robe and crown
For Booth the soldier, while the throng knelt down.
He saw King Jesus. They were face to face,
And he knelt a-weeping in that holy place
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?”

Following his address, the Moderator introduced the Clerks and the Pages to the Synod and explained the changes in speaking from the floor of the Synod. The Moderator introduced those whose technical and musical abilities contribute to the meeting. The Vice-Moderator, Michael Evans, was introduced.

Vice-Moderator Evans presented the program for the 2007 meeting. The program was adopted.

Synod recessed for the Morning Break.

Moderator Edgar appointed his Moderator's Committees and issued the call for the reports of the Boards for reference to the Moderator's Committees.

A motion carried to distribute a paper to the court that will be presented for action at a later time.

Ministers who have been received or ordained since the 2006 Meeting of the General Synod (Those present introduced themselves): Catawba: Stephen C. Reynolds, James F. Mitchell, Brian L .

Howard, Peter G. Rambo. **First:** Tanner Cline, Michael J. Basie, Stacey Cox, David Corley, Joanthan Kim, David Olah. **Florida:** Jeff Liu, Brent Holladay. **Mississippi Valley:** T. J. Gentry. **Pacific:** Jin Hwa Kim. **Second:** James W. McManus, Adrian T. Smith. **Tennessee-Alabama:** Robert I. Illman

New Missions and/or Congregations that Joined the ARP Family Since the 2006 Meeting of the General Synod: **Catawba:** Calhoun (Opelouses, LA). **First:** Freedom Bridge (Wagram, NC), Hephzibah (Bessemer City, NC). **Florida:** Christ Community (Apollo Beach, Ruskin, FL). **Second:** New Millenium (Lithonia, GA), Travelers (Travelers Rest, SC). **Tennessee-Alabama:** Connections.

Seminary and Special Students Under Care of Presbyteries: (See Appendix)

Vice-Moderator Evans presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Employees and Missionaries: Mr. James T. Brice, Reverend Michael L. Garvey, Reverend Donald L. Holloway, Mr. John E. Mariner and Dr. David J. Vickery. Earl Linderman made the presentation on behalf of the Board of Benefits and offered a special prayer.

Synod's Minister and His Work Committee representative, Don Yancey, recognized our chaplains present at the Synod. Synod rose in applause for those present. Mr. Yancey introduced Chaplain Tom Chadwick of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel who introduced those present by name and location and noted those who could not be here. Chaplain Chadwick spoke to the Synod on behalf of the chaplains and the Council.

Martin L. Taylor, Chairman of the Board of Stewardship, made a presentation on giving for denominational ministries. He then presented the **Recommended 2008 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. The allocation was adopted.

Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Income for Calendar Year 2008

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 2007 are based on the following estimates:

Anticipated Commitments from Churches in 2007	\$ 2,999,719
5% of Market Value of ARP Foundation Endowment	36,925
Betts Endowment	13,547
Estimated Interest for Allocation	<u>2,500</u>
Total Resources for Allocation	<u>\$ 3,052,691</u>

The overall increase in funds is @3.78% as compared to 2.18% for the current year.

In the event that the actual pledges and/or anticipated receipts for calendar year 2008 exceed the anticipated amounts, the program agencies of the General Synod (Bonclarken, Christian Education Ministries, Erskine, Outreach North America, and World Witness) will be invited to present requests for additional funding. The Board of Stewardship will review the requests and submit recommendations to the General Synod.

The recommended allocation of funds for calendar year 2008 is reflected in **column 5** of "Recommended Allocations of Synod's Unrestricted Funds." Other information presented:

Column 2 reflects the amounts approved by the General Synod for 2007.

Column 3 reflects the approved amount as a percentage of the total funds to be allocated for 2007.

Column 4 reflects the amounts requested by Synod's Boards and Committees, or in the absence of a request, the last requested amount.

Column 6 reflects the recommended amounts as a percentage of the total funds recommended for allocation.

The anticipated resources are not sufficient 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 following agencies are funded on an as-need basis: Central Services, the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, Committees, Executive Board of Synod and The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc.

The Board of Stewardship reminds the members of the Court that the Board of Stewardship does not act on the budgets of General Synod agencies. Budgets are to be reviewed in Moderator's Committees or when the Court considers Standing Committee Reports.

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF SYNOD'S UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Approved For 2007	Requested For 2008	Recommended For 2008
Central Services	\$ 200,350	\$ 220,148	\$ 220,148
ARP Center Facility	16,000	16,000	16,000
Benefits	6,795	6,795	6,795
Executive Board & Contingency*	147,408	152,122	152,122
The ARP, Inc.	101,489	104,941	104,941
Stewardship*	53,468	50,166	50,166
Commission & Committees			
Ecclesiastical Commission	-	0	-
Inter-Church Relations	17,017	25,230	17,661
Investment Committee	-	2,500	2,500
Lay Ministry	18,551	29,500	20,000
Minister & His Work	10,512	14,384	14,384
Nominations	3,689	5,000	3,829
Theological & Social Concerns	0	0	-
Worship	20,235	31,974	21,000
Sub-Total for Non-Program	\$ 595,514	\$ 658,760	\$ 629,546
Bonclarken	\$ 146,000	\$ 151,840	\$ 151,840
Christian Education Ministries	215,720	222,192	222,192
Dunlap	-	-	-
Erskine	593,411	620,000	616,613
Erskine ARP Student Union	500	500	500
Outreach North America	695,117	715,971	716,000
World Witness	695,117	716,000	716,000
Sub-Total for Programs	\$ 2,345,865	\$ 2,426,503	\$ 2,423,145
TOTALS	\$ 2,941,379	\$ 3,085,262	\$ 3,052,691

* General Synod's Contingency Fund has been moved from Board of Stewardship to Executive Board of Synod.

Ron Beard presented an oral report for the **Special Committee on Organization**.

John D. Cook presented the report of the **Special Committee on Vision**. The report was adopted.

REPORT OF THE VISION COMMITTEE

I. Introduction

The Vision Committee was appointed in the wake of the 2005 Meeting of the General Synod. Its creation was occasioned by an address to the General Synod by the outgoing president of Erskine College and Seminary, John Carson, who challenged the Synod to engage the broader culture. The Committee was given the mandate to "prayerfully reflect upon . . . the current state of the ARP Church in the present day setting, and to report . . . on ways that the ARP Church can be more proactive in impacting society with the Gospel." The Committee consists of John Cook (chairman), John Carson, Tom Shoger, Boyce Wilson, Rob Patrick, Curt Young, Brad Anderson, Greg Hamer, David Sides, Floy Jumper, Ann Aheron, Patsy Ratchford, Wilfred Bellamy, Tom Patterson, and Bill Evans.

The Committee has been guided in its deliberations by certain core convictions about the nature and task of the church. We believe that the church is called to be a holy community—chosen by God before the foundations of the world, redeemed by Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. As in all ages, the church as the people of God is called to be "holy," that is, separate from the sin and brokenness of the world (see 1 Peter 2:9). Unlike ancient Israel, however, in the current age between the first and second advents of Christ, the church is also called to be actively engaged in the world by showing God's love and grace to that needy world, and by modeling the wholeness and transformation of life and thought that are to be found only in Jesus Christ and in obedience to His Word. This holy community is marked out and strengthened by the preaching of the Word, by the administration of the sacraments, and by the practice of biblical church discipline. It is called to make disciples of all nations, and it is to be driven by a passion for God and His glory. All this implies that the church will only have a decisive impact on the world when it is *different* from the world. Jesus underscored the importance of this difference between the church and the world when he spoke of the church as salt and light in a darkened world (see Matthew 5:13-16).

II. The ARP Church in the Context of Contemporary Culture

The Committee believes that this is a critical time in the history of the ARP Church. Although the ARP Church has faced many challenges in the past, the current broader cultural situation is decisively new and different. Previous generations of ARP's lived predominantly in an American South in which the culture was heavily influenced by Christianity. There was considerable overlap between the assumptions of the prevailing culture and the moral teachings of the churches. Church attendance was regarded as a mark of respectability in many communities, and the pronouncements of the church were treated with respect. One may speak of a synthesis of southern white middle-class culture and the ARP Church, in which the definition of a "good Christian" was as much cultural as it was biblical. The effects of this on the church were both positive and negative. The church had a position of prestige and influence at the center of culture from which to speak, but the church also was often unduly influenced by the prevailing culture. Now, however, much of that has changed. We are entering a "post-Christian" period in which Christian faith is excluded from the public square and relegated to the realm of private preference. Historic Christianity is even scorned by many influential cultural leaders of our day. The older synthesis of Christianity and respectable, middle-class southern culture has to a great extent broken down. Christians not only have difficulty influencing the broader culture, they even struggle to gain a hearing for their concerns.

Despite this challenging context, the ARP Church has much for which to be thankful. We have a "goodly heritage" with our historic emphases on the kingship of Christ and the free offer of the Gospel. The ARP Church is blessed to have educational and missions agencies that have touched many lives over the years. Members of the ARP Church have given sacrificially over many years to maintain these works. In fact, it seems that the ARP Church has done more with limited resources than perhaps any other denomination in North America. Despite various struggles over the years, the ARP Church has not been rent by schism, and many sense a spirit of love and mutual concern within the body. For all this we can and should give thanks.

But all is not well. The ARP Church is not growing. Total membership figures have remained more or less static for a number of years, and recent years have seen declines in the active member rolls. The number of small rural churches without an economic base for population growth and the average age of congregants in many ARP con-

gregations do not bode well for the future. The Committee has identified four factors that appear to contribute to this lack of vitality.

There is, first of all, a lack of theological unity and the emergence of recognizable factions within the ARP Church. What sets these factions apart is, in many cases, different views of culture. Some seek to continue the older synthesis of Christianity and middle class southern culture; as the culture moves in an increasingly secular direction they tend to follow the culture and so lean toward theological and cultural liberalism. Others adopt a broad evangelicalism that emphasizes relevance to the contemporary culture and adopts many of the trappings of that culture while minimizing Reformed distinctives. Again, the danger here is one of cultural captivity. Still others seek to recapitulate a Reformed identity that is rooted in the distant past. The danger here is irrelevance. Finally, some attempt to follow a path that is both authentically and meaningfully Reformed and also responsive to the contemporary cultural context. If these differences cannot be negotiated and transcended successfully, our hopes for productive engagement with the broader culture will be undercut.

Second, the ARP Church is tolerant of mediocrity. Some have observed that we are “addicted to niceness,” and that we tacitly condone a lack of excellence so that feelings will not be hurt. This indifference to excellence is evident in a variety of areas of the church’s life. The ARP Church is not widely known for producing great preaching on a broad scale. Presbyteries are often not uniform in their examination standards for new ministers. In many congregations the basic pattern of ministry remains unexamined and unchanged for decades. As a result of all this, many church members have low expectations, and a corresponding lack of enthusiasm for the church. Furthermore, because church discipline is rarely practiced in some quarters of the ARP Church, church membership is “easy” and is therefore valued little by some. All this is evidence of what has been called a “culture of negligence.” It betrays a lack of passion for the church and, most of all, for the glory of God. Our besetting sin as a denomination seems to be that we are “neither hot nor cold” (see the letter to the church in Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-17).

Third, there is a crisis of biblical instruction in the church. Catechetical instruction is no longer a vital part of many congregations. Generations have grown up in ARP congregations without systematic, clear, and detailed instruction in basic Christian beliefs. The level of biblical and theological knowledge in some quarters of the church is distressingly low, and certain other denominations are putting us to shame in this area.

Fourth, one often senses a “moralism” at work in the ARP Church. Many members seem to live on a level of “works righteousness,” as if being a Christian is simply a matter of being a good person. This leads to complacency and self-satisfaction that is poisonous to the vitality and health of a church historically rooted in the doctrines of God’s sovereign grace.

From this, we see that, despite our outward orthodoxy, the problems that beset us are to a significant extent theological. The Committee believes that theology matters. It is the living out of right belief that separates the church from the world, and it is the theology of the church that defines the friction points of conflict between the church and the world. The relevance of the church is determined not by how well the church adapts to the culture of the world, but by how well it lives out in the midst of the world the culture of holiness demanded by Scripture. And so the question must be asked: Is the ARP Church shining as a light in the midst of the darkness of a fallen world culture, or is it merely blending into the cultural climate of the day? The fact that a clear answer cannot be given to this question is indicative of the state of the problem.

III. Proposed Responses to the Current Situation

As we confront these pervasive problems, we must recognize our total dependence upon God’s grace and our own powerlessness to effect change. The church is a supernatural organism, the body of Christ empowered and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. The power that transforms the church will come from God himself and not from us. Nevertheless, we as God’s people have a responsibility to be obedient and to press forward in obedience to God’s Word. We must do God’s work in God’s way. We must eschew the use of the weapons of the world (see 2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

We must also approach God with a spirit of repentance. As we have seen, the pressing threats to the health of the ARP Church at this point in history are as much internal as external. Any strategy for broader cultural transformation must begin with the repentance and the transformation of God’s people.

In obedience to God’s Word we must work diligently to cultivate a “culture of holiness” within the ARP Church. Such a “culture of holiness” will involve a renewed commitment to the full authority of God’s Word in the life of the church. We must not just pay lip service to Scripture; we must look to it constantly as our standard and guide. We must make the message of Scripture a daily part of our lives through the study, teaching, and memorization of Scripture. This culture of holiness will also involve living corporate and

individual lives that are characterized by purity and integrity in our relationships with self and others. Certainly our broader culture is permeated with sexual stimulus and innuendo, and as Christians we must stand apart in order to live lives of wholeness and integrity. Just as Ezra confronted the distressing problems of the post-exilic community by emphasizing both knowledge of God's Word and obedience to God's Word (see Nehemiah 8:1—10:39), so must we.

We must recover a passion for God and for His truth. We must never be satisfied in giving less than our best to God. We must have a "holy dissatisfaction" with anything less than excellence in ministry and congregational life. And finally, we must step out in faith as a holy people to engage the broader culture with the claims of the gospel. Confident of God's transforming and empowering grace, we must seek to be faithful in the locations God has placed us.

To the end that God's people may be empowered to be disciples in the midst of our broader culture, we present the following:

- **The Way of the Cross**—If we want to see the Holy Spirit empower our denomination let us do the one thing the Holy Spirit always and everywhere blesses; let us preach and live with integrity the faith once delivered to the saints. We must remember that the transforming power of God is particularly manifested as God's people take up the cross and follow Christ in the way of suffering and self-denial (see 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; 12:9-10).

- **Worship**—Because God rules over all, and Christ is the King to Whom all authority is given by the Father, worship must be understood as the offering of one's whole life to God (Matthew 28:18; Romans 12:1; Colossians 3:17). Thus, true and proper worship is much more than a one-day-per-week matter! Faithfulness in worship demands that we commit ourselves to the private exercises of worship and family worship, that we prepare our hearts and minds for corporate worship, that we train our children to be lovers and worshippers of the one true God, and that together with our families we are faithful in worship on the Lord's Day.

- **Powerful Preaching**—Reformation in the church always begins with the teaching and preaching of God's Word. Churches committed to honoring Christ and serving him faithfully must make a strong, biblical pulpit ministry their first priority. Impotent pulpits produce impotent churches.

- **Christian Education**—A major focus of the church both on the congregational and denomination levels must be the training of people in biblical knowledge and Christian doctrine. All Boards, Agencies, and Committees of the Church on the General Synod,

Presbytery, and Congregational levels should make it their focus to communicate and exemplify a biblical and Reformed worldview in their respective work. Erskine College and Seminary should intentionally aim to disciple their students with a kingdom perspective and a biblically Reformed world and life view. Both the College and the Seminary should encourage students to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all areas of life, and they should model the integration of Christian faith and learning.

- **Multi-Generational Ministry**—A Reformed ecclesiology embraces every generation. The church is perhaps the one place where multiple generations gather on a regular basis. Yet we are in danger of losing a significant portion of the younger generation. The ministry of the ARP Church must be intentionally multi-generational as it seeks to equip mature adults, younger adults, adolescents, and even very young children with instruction in God's Word and in Christian truth that is appropriate to each age group. Conferences and educational materials should emphasize the relevance of the Gospel for all generations.

- **Culturally Responsive Ministry**—The ARP Church, through its educational ministries, should seek to produce disciples who are able to communicate the truth of the Gospel in both the context of the church and in the world.

- **Strategic Planning Process**—The time is ripe for a comprehensive strategic planning process that will evaluate the current ministries of the General Synod in light of the present and future challenges facing the ARP Church, and propose a strategic plan for the future.

IV. Recommendations

1. That the Report of the Vision Committee be approved.
2. That the Presbyteries, Sessions, and General Synod Boards and Agencies be encouraged to study and discuss this report, with a view to strengthening the ARP Church for its mission. Further, that Presbyteries be asked to present a report to the 2008 meeting of General Synod on the results of such study and discussion.
3. That the Moderator appoint a Strategic Planning Committee (to, at his discretion, include some members from the current Vision Committee) for the General Synod, and that this Report of the Vision Committee be referred to that Strategic Planning Committee upon its constitution. The stated purpose of this Strategic Planning Committee will be to evaluate the current ministries of the General Synod in light of the present and future challenges facing the ARP Church, and to propose a strategic plan for the future.

4. That the Committee be dismissed from its labors.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Cook, Chairman

Andrew K. Putnam presented the report of the **Special Committee to Revise the *Form of Government***. The report was adopted.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVISE FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The 202nd meeting of the General Synod, in response to a proposal by Moderator Tom Patterson, authorized a special committee to begin the process of revising the *Form of Government*. As a part of the process of revision, the 2006 Report of the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns (2006 *Minutes of Synod*, pages 446-450) and the 2003 Memorial from Northeast Presbytery (2003 *Minutes of Synod*, pages 73-75) were referred to the special committee with the charge "that clarity and harmony be brought to the *Form of Government* on the issues raised concerning non-communicant members and the non-communicant roll" (2006 *Minutes of Synod*, page 445.)

The members who have been appointed to the committee are as follows: Andrew K. Putnam, Chairman, Jeffrey J. Kingswood (Canadian), John R. deWitt (Catawba), Kenneth J. McMullen (First), William L. Barron (Florida), Edwin Dees (Mississippi Valley), John E. McCarthy (Northeast), Hae Soung Kim (Pacific), Ben Johnston (Second), Fred Hartin (Tennessee-Alabama), David Blugerman (Virginia), and Tom Patterson. The Moderator-Elect and Coordinator of the General Synod will serve as advisory members. William L. Barron has accepted a call to another presbytery but will continue to serve on the Committee. James L. Klukow has been appointed as the representative from Florida Presbytery.

Your committee is diligently working on the revision of the *Form of Government* and would appreciate your prayers and input in the coming months.

Respectfully,

Andrew K. Putnam, Chairman

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

REPORT OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod, September 7, 2006 and March 1, 2007. A third meeting is scheduled for May and the official report will be updated to reflect actions of that meeting. Committee members also receive quarterly reports from investment managers and consultants for review.

The Committee is continuing to develop guidelines and policies for future operations and has begun to implement the specific duties assigned to it:

a. Management of all investment funds under the oversight of the ARP Foundation/Stewardship (including the funds of the General Synod) and the Board of Benefits. These funds represent three distinct types of investments:

(1) Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Trust. The Board of Benefits has utilized an Investment Consultant to monitor and advise the Board of Benefits. The Investment Committee, at the request of the Board of Benefits, has received reports from the consultant and meets with him on a periodic basis. The fund value at 12/31/2006 was \$ 40,921,190. A member of the Board of Benefits meets with the Investment Committee in an advisory role.

(2) Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities. Members of the Board of Stewardship serve as trustees for the charitable trusts, and the trustees have asked the Investment Committee to provide investment oversight. The committee receives reports and works with the custodian and investment manager, Cornerstone Management, Inc. Each charitable trust is a separately invested entity and the six (6) trusts totaled \$661,606 in value at 12/31/2006. A report on the Gift Annuity Fund (\$176,827) is included in the General Synod Audit, Schedule 12.

(3) Endowments and Endowment-type Funds. These are individual accounts belonging to churches (8), presbyteries (1), and individual restricted funds of agencies of the General Synod (41). Each account is invested to meet the risk profile of the fund. At 12/31/2006 these funds were valued at \$10,653,261. Representatives of entities with funds invested under the oversight of the Committee are invited to participate in an advisory capacity.

b. Reviewing all current investment relationships for funds currently invested under the oversight of the ARP Foundation/Stewardship and funds of the Board of Benefits. The May meeting is for the

purpose of reviewing and evaluating proposals from the existing investment consultants and one additional investment advisory group. These proposals will be reviewed without prejudice and could result in changed relationships. Advisory members are being included in this process and representatives of Bonclarken have been invited to participate.

c. Discuss with other boards and agencies the possibility of including their funds in those under management. Part of the purpose of the investment committee is to let the boards focus on its mission. The Committee will continue to be available to assist any church or agency of the General Synod, both in an advisory capacity (i.e., to make recommendations) and to exercise particular responsibilities authorized by asset owners (i.e., change in investment managers, asset allocation studies.)

Members of the Committee were saddened with the unexpected death of Scott Bush and extended its sympathies to Mr. Bush's family. His knowledge and commitment as a member of the ARP Foundation and subsequent service as an organizing member of the Investment Committee are noted with sincere appreciation.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the three members that were willing to serve an extra year in the infancy of the Committee—Will McMaster, Joe Summerville, Cliff Dyhouse.

The Committee makes the following recommendation:

1. That this report be received as information and that presbyteries and sessions note the availability of services offered by the Investment Committee.
2. That the Committee be granted \$2,500 for committee travel and expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
Will McMaster, Chairman

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LAY MINISTRY

We would report that the unifying the leadership and budget for the Family Bible Conference as adopted by Synod last year is working well and has simplified that part of the work.

The Laity in Action Conference will be held at Bonclarken on July 6-7. This conference is co-sponsored by The Committee on Lay Ministry and the Alliance of Loyal Laity. The conference is a family oriented event and will include a children's program and child-care.

Dr. Jay E. Adams will be the featured speaker. He will deliver 4 messages on the theme, "Everyone Evangelizing Everywhere: A Series from the Book of Acts".

The Committee presents two awards 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 2006, Mrs. Carolyn Evans, from the Pinecrest ARP Church, was the recipient of this award. Carolyn has served as conference pianist for a number of years. She is active in ARP Women's Ministries and is serving on the Dunlap Orphanage Board. The second award, the Barnabas Award, is given to churches who prove to be an encourager to other churches. The 2006 recipients of the Barnabas Award were the Rehobeth ARP Church, Waxhaw, NC, and the Helena ARP Church, Moss Point, MS. The Rehobeth Church is a newly organized ARP congregation, the result of a merger of an ARP mission and a PCUSA congregation. The Helena Church has taken the lead in providing a base camp, support, and encouragement for those helping with Hurricane Katrina Relief along the Mississippi Coast area.

The Family Bible Conference will be held July 23-26 at Bonclarken. This conference is jointly sponsored by ARP Women's Ministries and the Committee on Lay Ministry. Conference Personnel include: Director - Rev. Rob Patrick; Assistant Director - Rev. Morrie Lawing; Treasurer—Mr. John Barron; ARPWM Director - Mrs. Eliza Hardin; and ARPWM Assistant Director - Mrs. Tracey Smith. The Evening Worship Leader is the Dr. Mark Ross, associate professor of Theology for Erskine Theological Seminary who will be speaking from I Peter. The Morning Bible Teacher is the Rev. John Currid, professor at Reformed Seminary, who will be speaking from Genesis on the Life of Joseph. ARP Women's Ministries meets prior to the conference on July 23.

We continue our search for a Director of the Cornerstone Conference for Young Adults. This is an important conference for a specific age group, and we must find someone who will serve as director for this ministry. If you have suggestions of possible candidates, contact the Director of Lay Ministry.

We offer 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. You may contact the Director of Lay Ministry for additional information if you have a need.

Limited funding is 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; arphighroad@earthlink.net).

New officers elected for the 2007-2008 term are ...

Mr. Tim Burrell, Chairman

Mrs. Sue Roberson, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Claire Bodenstein, Secretary

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

Recommendations

1. That the Rev. Morrie Lawing be appointed as Director, the Rev. Greg Hamer as Assistant Director, and Mr. John Barron as Treasurer of the 2008-2009 Family Bible Conferences.
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, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.
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 and that encouragement to participate in community-based ministries be given through the local congregation.
6. That the retreat and conference ministries of the ARP Church 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 2008 be approved as follows:

Laity in Action Conference	\$	4,000
Family Bible Conference	\$	10,000
Area Laity Workshops	\$	500
Cornerstone Conference	\$	2,000
Director of Lay Ministry	\$	4,000

Cooperative Work with A.L.L.	\$	3,000
Committee Expenses	\$	<u>6,000</u>
Total	\$	29,500

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Burrell, Chairman

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

Recommendations 1-7 were adopted. Debate on Recommendations 8-12 was postponed until the start of the next business session.

The Memorial from Northeast Presbytery was read for referral to the Moderator's Committee on memorials.

The Morning business session closed with prayer and the Benediction pronounced by John van Eyk.

The Moderator's Committees met at 1:45 P.M.

From 3:00 until 5:00 P.M. the members of the General Synod, their families and invited guests attended the retirement reception in honor of Ed Hogan and Beth Willis.

*The General Synod
Of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
Cordially invites you to attend a retirement
Reception in honor of*

Ed Hogan

and

Beth Willis

*For their many years of faithful service to the
General Synod*

Wednesday, June 6th, 2007

3PM-5PM

Youth Activity Building

*Bonclarken Conference Center
Flat Rock, North Carolina*

Wednesday, June 6, 2006

6:30 P.M.

The Organ Prelude was presented by Mi Young Lee.

P. J. McClung led the evening worship service.

Dr. Peggy Gray, President of ARP Women's Ministries, presented her address to Synod.

Dr. Gray and Wilfred Bellamy led in a commissioning service for the new Administrator of ARP Women's Ministries, Elizabeth Burns.

A Motion carried to print the address of President Gray in the Minutes of Synod.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. Moderator and Friends, it is an honor for me to speak to you and to represent ARP Women's Ministries.

I come to you this evening with good news and joy in my heart! God has blessed me with a rich experience these past two years as ARPWM President. I have sensed your prayers and concerns for the women's work this year, and that has brought me comfort. My computer skills have increased 10 fold, my writings have consumed reams of paper, but best of all, the friendships that I have made during this time have become treasures that I will cherish. The ARPWM Board has been a magnificent team, productive, compassionate, gracious and faithful. My husband, Reid Gray, has been a pillar of strength, providing loving support and understanding, a process called mellowing.

Our theme verse this year is, "And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me' " Luke 9:23. Women across the denomination can identify with this verse, as they make the practice of prayer, Bible study and service a daily habit. This verse hits the bulls' eye, because the part about denying self became a living testimony as we shucked our ways of the past and established a new relationship with Synod.

Now, about that new relationship...It happened in June 2005, when ARP Women's Ministries was incorporated into the ARP Form of Government, which meant that the final approval and seal of the denomination was set upon ARPWM. We officially became an integrated ministry of the church. Until that time, the concept of auxiliary had created a somewhat independent and external group who functioned separately. In the past, godly women had taken some of the visible works into hand and the new relationship speaks of an ecclesiastical emphasis rather than an organizational emphasis.

Whereas, the WSU had run its own system of ruling in the past, in the wisdom of our current planners and leaders, the local congregation has come to the forefront, and is becoming more prominent in the thinking of the local ARPWM chapters. While the essential links for fellowship and cooperation are being maintained, it is in the local congregation that the work is being done and responsibility is being taken. ARPWM has moved from a legalistic "We will tell you what to do," to a resource, helping mode, "Let us share something that may work for you." What a significant attitude shift for our ARPWM leadership and what a benefit this is to our local church chapters!

Today we find ourselves standing where we hoped we might be standing—in the midst of God's grace. These past two years we have witnessed the new program's growth. We rejoice as we recall the words of Corrie Ten Boom, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God." The unfolding of the new ARP Women's Ministries work has caused our heart to hear music we've never heard before. The music comes from the joy we experienced as we watched the unfolding of something that was at first seriously questioned, but as planning materialized and implementation took place, acceptance flourished.

"How are the local women's groups doing?" someone asked. "Praise God, and we do give Him the glory, the local groups are doing beautifully, as the word spreads on the new philosophy." One elder's wife from the Louisville ARP Church, in GA spoke with great enthusiasm recently about the things they were engaged in, saying what a difference the ARPWM shift had made for them. They are now a self-determining group of women who have accepted the fact that the local ministries are their responsibility and they have stepped up to fulfill them. Capable women are now moving into leadership because they no longer feel that they are beholden to an outside entity.

Right now, the heart of ARPWM work centers on the local congregation. The number one, single best thing we can do for our churches is to encourage women to establish small Bible study groups, which are facilitator led, where every woman comes together after having studied, then the material is discussed and God takes over from there.

My daughter and one of my dear close friends said "Please tell about the restructuring in the New Sterling circles and the new excitement we have experienced." It happened this way. During the fall, several women asked questions about possible changes in the women's work. With signs that God was urging us to move ahead,

four women began praying. It wasn't long until our whole group engaged in prayers and meetings, and used Kathy Barron's 40 days of devotions, "From the Ground Up," for our private devotions, which unified our hearts and minds. From September-December we sometimes struggled and at other times glided. We kept everyone informed, mailed personal surveys to each woman in the church, held planning meetings, held joint circle meetings, and then engaged a sign up period - offering five choices, with each lady indicating which group she wanted to join. The outcome of our self-study was that two traditional circles became one traditional circle and three Bible study groups, with an increase of 18 new members who were scattered throughout the four groups. Each group meets once a month and the Women's Ministries Council meets quarterly. The report is that every group has new enthusiasm and attendance is very good.

As we saw from the beginning, there is some concern about the flow of funds through the ARPWM and this is something that we will continue to review. However, word from the Board of Stewardship is that agencies are adjusting and early panic is subsiding. With congregations being led to understand that giving to the agencies can be orchestrated through the church, we believe that a significant portion of this will be emphasized through the work of the women.

One weak area that we need to focus much prayer and thought on is the mutual recognition of the importance of Presbytery and Presbyterial and how they might collaborate. For example, Presbyteries, could your Executive Committees explore the possibility of an integrated endeavor with Presbyterials as we act jointly to facilitate the flow of funds through the churches to the agencies? Another concern is that several Presbyteries do not invite the Presbyterial Presidents to report on women's activities. That is something that can be remedied easily—a simple invitation to your Presbyterial President to attend and report to Presbytery would benefit both bodies.

A member of one Presbytery told me recently that he found it uncomfortable that an entire meeting of Presbytery could come and go without even a mention of the work of the women, especially in consideration of the fact that a great deal of what occurs in our Presbytery is in the hands of women and is supported by their prayers, their giving and their loving concern for the fellowship and often, for outreach in the church communities.

Nine Presbyterials and Presbytery Reps have been active this year: Canada, Catawba, Florida, First, Mississippi Valley, Northeast, Second, Tennessee/Alabama, and Virginia. Canada and Northeast are

regulars now and we are still in touch with the Pacific Rep, but at this point she is not attending Board Meetings. Our incoming President, will continue that work with our blessings.

We are told in Romans 12 that we have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

Working with ARPWM Board and other Boards at the denomination level has created within me a deep sense of appreciation for the work of our ARPs. As I carried out my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees at Erskine College and Seminary, seeing progress in action and attending the Inauguration of Dr. Randall Ruble, I realized the value and the beauty of supporting a small Christian College. Visiting Presbyterian functions was always rewarding. Seeing women acquire skills in the areas of mentoring, conducting effective panels, using resources, grasping the use of small group studies, and at this year's FBC, anticipating the beauty of family storytelling will linger with us for time to come.

For the past two years we have had the pleasure of seeing women work together on many occasions. I have learned several truths about these ARPWM women:

They are women devoted to prayer.

They are women who teach God's truths through Bible study.

They are women who find joy in service.

They are women who promote relationships.

They are women who pass on their love for Christ from generation to generation.

Members of the Court and Friends, you have been a great audience and I have much appreciation for what you do as you provide leadership for the ARP Church. As the baton moves from me to Sue Roberson, the incoming President, on September 1, 2007, say a prayer for Sue and the members of next year's ARPWM because, again, there will be much work to be done and the Board will need your support.

Our closing thought is: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." -Psalm 118:1

Elizabeth Burns, please come forward for your commissioning service. Dr. Wilfred Bellamy, ARP Coordinator and minister will perform this service.

At this time, it is my pleasure to introduce Mrs. Elizabeth Burns, newly appointed ARPWM Administrator. Elizabeth is from Wilmington, NC, a member of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, ARP. She was born in Glasgow, Scotland and moved to the eastern United States with her family at the young age of two, in 1957. She and her

husband Frank have 2 sons and 3 grandchildren. Elizabeth is here for the beginning of her Orientation, and employment begins on August 1, 2007. Elizabeth succeeds Ann Aheron, Interim Administrator, since September, 2005. Elizabeth brings skills in technology, public relations and teaching as she has been a small group leader for several years and a lead lecturer for nine years with Bible Study Fellowship.

John Dawson presided on behalf of the Inter-Church Relations Committee as greetings from Fraternal Delegates were received. The Fraternal delegates were:

Dr. Don Fortson (Evangelical Presbyterian Church)

Dr. Roy Taylor (Presbyterian Church in America)

Rev. Bruce Parnell (Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America)

Rodolfo del Angel, Moderator of IPAR.

Mr. Dawson led the Synod in prayer for the concerns and futures of our fraternal denominations.

The Report of the **Committee on Minister and His Work** was reopened, and debate on recommendation #8 resumed. The recommendation was referred to the Committee to Revise the Form of Government.

Recommendation 9 was adopted.

Recommendation 10 was adopted.

Recommendation 11 was adopted.

Recommendation 12 was 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 on Minister and His Work, the Chairman of each presbytery's Chairman on Credentials, the Director of Outreach North America, and the Vice-President of Erskine Theological Seminary (ETS). The Moderator and Moderator-Elect of Synod, Coordinator of Synod, and effective July 1, 2007 the Executive Director of Central Services, serve as advisory members.

The Committee exists "as an enabling instrument for the courts, agencies, and congregations of the General Synod who are involved in securing the services of theological students and ministers who desire work or a change of work." This report will address the specific duties assigned to the Committee as enumerated in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

To Secure and Maintain Dossiers (Duties 1 and 2)

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 assisted by Central Services, maintains dossiers submitted by ministers and students. Forms developed by the Committee are administered 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 continues the process of updating these forms.

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

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Data Forms Requested by Churches	202	356	112	97
Data Forms Provided to Pulpit Com.	242	317	165	91
Data Forms Requested				
• no forms available	12	14	6	6

• not mailed at request of individual	10	25	22	11
• not sent due to fact just relocated	0	2	2	1
Data Forms Sent at the Request of Individual	30	45	112	56
Requests for Updated Forms	28	25	16	14
Requests by Non-ARP's to Secure Forms	26	10	6	8
Seminary Students' Data Forms Distributed	28	94	30	18
Church Profiles Distributed to Vacant Churches	5	20	28	11
Church Profiles Completed by Vacant Churches	1	5	4	0
Data Forms of Ministers sent to Non-ARP Churches*	1	1	0	0
Request to be Removed from Eligibility	-	-	5	6
Non-ARP's meeting with Presbytery for Recommendation	-	-	2	

*At request of Minister

At the request of the Committee, General Synod's website provides a list of those congregations seeking a pastor. Churches are listed for a particular presbytery by the Presbytery Chairman. For a current listing, view <http://www.arpsynod.org/minops.html>.

The Committee acknowledges with appreciation the many years of service provided by Beth Willis as she has coordinated these services to students, ministers, and congregations. Thank you Beth.

Military and Institutional Chaplains (Duties 3, 4 and 5)

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 included with this report as a matter of information and will be on file at the ARP Center. Representatives on the Council are Reverend Ronald Beard (as Stated Clerk), Mr. Terry Wallace (2007), Reverend R. J. Gore (2008), and Reverend Don Yancey (2009). Mr. Wallace has completed a three- year term and the Committee is recommending that he be appointed for a second term ending June 30, 2010.

General Synod 2006 referred to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns "the matter of prayer and Associate Reformed Presbyterian Chaplains in the U.S. Armed Services" "to study for the

production of a pastoral guidance paper to be approved by Synod and provided to our Chaplains." Your Committee on Minister and His Work, in the context of its assigned duties relating to military chaplains, has requested our endorsing agency, The Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel, to provide a statement on this matter. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee and, if a special committee is appointed as per the proposed recommendation of the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns, will be submitted to that committee.

The following are expected to be serving on active duty as military or VA chaplains at the time General Synod meets:

Gale G. Cotton, Major, USA
 Ronald R. Eastes, 1st LT, USA
 Lawrence E. Hamrick, Major, USA
 J. Michael Hendrick, Captain, USAF
 David M. Johnston, 1st Lt., USA
 Paul B. Joyner, Captain, USAF
 Michael R. Keifman, Captain, USA
 Michael A. Kelly, Captain, USA
 Christopher L. Reeder, Captain, USAF
 James A. Ryan, Colonel, VA (also serves as
 Reserve Chaplain in ANG)
 Barry K. Wells, Captain, USAF
 Michael E. Yarman, Major (Selected LTC), USA

In addition to chaplains serving on active duty, the following are Reserve Chaplains:

L. Paul Burns, Major, USA
 R. J. Gore, Lt. Colonel, USA
 Joseph S. Moore, Lt, USA

The following serve in the Civil Air Patrol:

Edward Fleagle
 Donis H. Watkins

We note also, the following retired military chaplains and express gratitude for their past service:

John S. Banks
 Thomas E. Braithwaite
 Meredith L. Cavin
 William Nale Falls
 Douglas O. Jones
 William A. Macaulay
 C. Stephen Rimmer
 Robert Washington, Jr.
 Hershel D. Yancey

Paul G. Patrick serves as Chaplain at Erskine College.

Members of the court and congregations are encouraged to remember all chaplains and military personnel in their prayers and to seek opportunities to be supportive of their ministries.

The *Form of Government*, Chapter X.B.5 states: "The varied work of the Church makes it necessary and proper for ministers to engage in ministries other than those specified [pastor, teacher, evangelist, missionary]." These men, too, should be kept in our prayers.

Ministerial Assistance (Duty 6)

The Committee is "to assist the minister in areas of his work so long as it does not usurp the authority and responsibility of the presbytery." The following areas are brought to the attention of the courts as the Committee seeks to provide services and resources to assist ministers:

A. Preventive Maintenance

Most individuals have had occasion to use "preventive maintenance." We take our automobiles in for an oil change, tune-up, or rotate the tires; or we may have our home furnaces and/or air conditioners inspected, changing air filters; if we have a business we surely have maintenance on large and expensive office equipment. Some of us even have annual physicals as a preventive measure.

Regrettably, as a church, we do not exercise the same good judgement with our most valuable and expensive assets - our pastors and other ministry employees. The Committee confesses its failure to provide encouragement, resources, and assistance and has, in the past year, begun to address issues related to preventive maintenance.

In the past, we have focused our attention on finding the means to help ministers be better prepared to deal with the many varied responsibilities of the pastoral ministry. The pastor 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. These activities have the potential for placing the pastor in very vulnerable circumstances. We continue to urge those presbyteries that have not yet done so to adopt policies addressing sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.

These areas of concern are important, but there are many other areas that need to be addressed. The Committee devoted a significant portion of its time during the year to identifying more clearly those areas of concern.

At the request of the Committee, Coordinator Wilfred Bellamy, prepared a working paper for the Committee. Among his conclusions we note the following:

- Being preventive obviates the necessity for remediation.

- The earlier we develop our maintenance measures the more preventive we become.
- The more we care about the Ministers of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the more we will study the issues (as they impact ministers and other employees) and work to encourage preventive maintenance.

As presbyters we must be prepared to deal with issues that could occur despite our efforts for prevention. Should there be the necessity, it is expected that it will be addressed 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."

The Committee has identified several tangible and immediate steps that can be taken by presbyteries and congregations:

- a. Ministers and Elders are encouraged to participate in the Pre-Synod Conference - "Prayer: The School of Grace" (Moving Beyond the "How-to" Mentality). This will be coming together, not to listen to a speaker, but to pray together. This can be a time of renewal and re-energizing.
- b. Sabbatical Leave Policy. The demands of ministry are immense, as indicated above. Burnout can occur. Renewal and re-energizing are needed. The Committee believes a planned sabbatical may possibly alleviate many of the stresses experienced by both the minister and the congregation. Accordingly, we have recommended to the presbyteries that they adopt a sabbatical leave policy for ministers and will provide a sample policy for their guidance.
- c. Ministers and congregations are encouraged to be pro-active in addressing potential areas of conflict that could impact relationships. Too often, presbyteries are asked or are forced to "fix problems," rather than being asked to find solutions. Presbytery Committees are aware of the necessity of creating a culture of trust and confidentiality for this approach to have any opportunity of success.
- d. 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 – for both the minister and the congregation. 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>.

B. Interim Pastors

A well-trained, well-prepared Interim Pastor is critically important during a sabbatical period or during a period of pastoral transition. The Committee adopted two actions addressing Interim Pastors:

- a. Erskine Seminary has been asked to explore a training program or identify training opportunities for ministers who might serve congregations on an interim basis.
- b. The Committee will collect any contract provisions that presbyteries have adopted. If a presbytery has not adopted contract provisions for interim pastors, the Presbytery chairman have been asked to lead their committees in a study of contract provisions for interim pastors.

C. Pastoral Transitions

The Committee has appointed a sub-committee to develop guidelines and resources for a self-study for congregations going through a pastoral change.

D. Orientation Program for New Ministers

The orientation program is designed to build inter-personal relationships among new ministers and to build relationships between ministers and those who are engaged in the ministries of the denomination. We continue to urge ministers to make every effort to attend an orientation program early in their ministry. We encourage presbyteries to insist on this. Orientation programs are scheduled for the last Monday and Tuesday in April and the last Monday and Tuesday in September. Spouses are invited and the program begins with dinner (6:00 PM on Monday) and concludes at 4:00 PM on Tuesday. The General Synod will reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for those participating in the orientation program.

E. 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. 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.

Uniform Written Exams (Duty 7)

A uniform written exam was last updated in 1995. Copies of the exam may be secured from Central Services. The Committee was unable to review the exam during the past year. Presbytery Chairmen have been asked to have their committees review the current exam for the purpose of possible updating. Some presbyteries have developed their own exams, and Presbytery Chairmen continue to share with each other exams that are currently being used.

Budget (Duty 8)

The Committee presents the following budget estimates for 2008.

		<u>2008</u>
Committee Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$	2,500
General Office		750
Presbyterian Council		<u>8,625</u>
	\$	<u>11,875</u>

Miscellaneous Items

A. Referral by 2006 General Synod.

The 2006 General Synod directed the Committee on Minister and His Work, in conjunction with the Board of Outreach North America, to study the *Form of Government* regarding the procedures for receiving a congregation, and to report back to the next General Synod with recommendations regarding the proper placement of these procedures in Chapter XII: Concerning the Presbytery.

A task force was appointed, with two members from the Committee on Minister and His Work and two members appointed by Outreach North America. General Synod's Parliamentarian was invited to participate.

The task force presented its recommendations to both Outreach North America and to the Committee on Minister and His Work. Outreach North America approved in principal and the report was considered by the Committee on Minister and His Work. The pro-

posed amendment to the Form of Government is attached to this report with a recommendation that it be approved for overture to the presbyteries.

There are a few changes to the proposal referred by General Synod:

- a. The recommended placement is in Chapter III, with the addition of a new Section, with a reference in Chapter XII. The memorial suggested placement in Chapter XII.
- b. The recommended amendment uses the term “fellowshipping congregation” rather than “Associated Congregation.”

B. Officers for 2007 - 2008:

Chairman: John Cook

Vice-Chairman: David Lauten

Secretary: Fred Carr

The Committee has asked Paul Bell, Executive Director of Central Services, to assist as an Advisory Member.

C. Meeting Dates for 2006 - 2007: The Committee will meet in conjunction with the Board of Benefits. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM on the following dates: October 31, 2007, April 16, 2008, and November 5, 2008.

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; and
 - d. congregations, where financially feasible, to employ ARP seminary students for the summer months.
2. That presbyteries require ministers to attend the General Synod orientation program early in their pastoral ministry.
3. That presbyteries that have not yet done so develop a program to encourage its congregations to incorporate the annual review of the minister’s call into an annual ministry review.
4. That appreciation be expressed to the Presbyterian Council for the work it does on behalf of chaplains and military personnel.
5. That the Synod pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our military and institutional chaplains.
6. That Terry Wallace be elected to the Presbyterian Council for the term that expires in 2010.
7. That presbyteries that have not yet done so adopt policy state-

- ments on sexual harassment and sexual misconduct
8. That the proposed amendment to the *Form of Government* be adopted for overture. **[Referred to Special Committee To Revise Form of Government]**
 9. That upon approval for overture, presbyteries be permitted to use the proposed amendment as a guide for receiving interested congregations.
 10. That the membership of the Committee on Minister and His Work be updated to reflect the Executive Director of Central Services as an Advisory Member, replacing the Director of Administrative Services.
 11. That the budget for 2008 be approved.
 12. That all other actions of the Committee as reported herein be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles F. Edgar, Chairman

Proposed Amendment to Form of Government
[Referred to Special Committee To Revise Form of Government]

1. Add new section D. under Chapter III of the *Form of Government*.
 - D. Procedure for Receiving an Organized Congregation
 1. The receiving of an organized congregation within its geographical bounds is an act within the authority of the presbytery. Receiving a congregation outside the geographical bounds of an existing presbytery requires action of the General Synod (See Chapter XIII.B.2.e. of this *Form of Government*.)
 2. A church must hold at least one congregational meeting with representatives of the governing presbytery prior to any vote to become an Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation. At a meeting prior to the meeting to vote, ARP representatives will acquaint the congregation with our denomination and will hold a question and answer time to answer church members' questions.
 3. A congregation that desires to become a congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church shall apply to the presbytery, through its clerk, to be received. In its application the congregation shall state the reasons that have moved it to apply for membership in the ARP Church and shall include a written summary of the church's history.
 4. The presbytery shall provide a transition committee for all congregations seeking to be received. The purpose of this

transition committee is to help the congregation work through the process of being received by the presbytery.

5. Prior to being received by presbytery, the session and the congregation must:
 - a. Accept the doctrines and theology set forth in the *Confession and Catechisms in The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.
 - b. Agree to follow the *Form of Government, Book of Discipline, and Book of Worship* of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
 - c. Agree to provide appropriate support to both presbytery and synod through participation and finances.
6. Presbytery, or a commission appointed by presbytery, shall examine the elders of the congregation seeking to be received as to their subscription to the formula for ordination and installation in the *Form of Government*, Chapter IX.D.3., and shall make sure that the members can give assent to the questions for membership in the *Form of Government*, Chapter V.C.1.
7. When the presbytery has approved the application for the congregation to be received as an organized congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, it shall appoint a day and hour for the congregation to be formally received. If a presbytery determines that a congregation is not ready to be received, the presbytery may invite the congregation to be a fellowshiping congregation for no more than four years as it transitions into the presbytery. This will allow time for the congregation to come into conformity with *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* and will allow time for the congregation and the presbytery to get to know one another.
 - a. Presbytery may give fellowshiping congregations the privilege of voice, not vote, in meetings of the presbytery.
 - b. Presbytery is encouraged to examine and receive the minister(s) of the fellowshiping congregation who meet the requirements of *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*. Presbytery must approve the call of ARP ministers installed as ministers of fellowshiping congregations following a procedure similar to that of a call to a pastor. Calls to Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers serving fellowshiping congregations shall meet all requirements of the *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.11 and shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter X.E.12 of

this *Form of Government*.

- c. Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ministers of fellowshiping congregations with calls approved by presbytery shall be eligible to participate in synod's benefit plans.
 - d. Fellowshiping congregations shall support presbytery and synod through both participation and finances.
 - e. Fellowshiping congregations will be entered on the roll of presbytery as a fellowshiping congregation, and the congregation shall submit the reports that are required of organized congregations and/or mission congregations.
 - f. The congregation must complete any necessary ecclesiastical process of withdrawal before becoming a fellowshiping congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
 - g. The fellowshiping affiliation may be terminated at any time by either the presbytery or the congregation.
8. At the time agreed upon, during public worship, the presbytery or its commission shall require the members to enter into covenant by answering affirmatively the following question, either by voice, by uplifted hand, or by standing: "Do you in reliance on God's grace, solemnly promise and covenant that you will walk together as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation, according to the Constitution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, working toward the purity and the unity of the Church?"
 9. The presiding officer shall then say: "By the authority of presbytery, I now declare that you are received as a congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."
 10. Ruling elders and deacons that have been elected by the congregation may then be installed into office in the new Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation.
 11. If the minister has been previously examined and received into presbytery, and with a call approved by presbytery, he may be installed as minister in the new Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation.
 12. The presbytery shall record the name and date the congregation was received as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation, the number of members, and the names of the officers. Where applicable, the addresses of the pastor, the clerk of session, and the chairman of the diaconate shall be included in the report.

2. Re-letter sections D – G of *Form of Government* Chapter III.
3. Add a sentence in Chapter XII. Concerning the Presbytery, in section B.2.e. The amended XII.B.2.e would read (added part in bold)
 - e. To unite, divide, organize, dissolve, receive, dismiss, and transfer congregations. **See Chapter III., Concerning a Particular Congregation of the Church, for procedures.**

The **Report of World Witness** was presented. Gary Letchworth spoke to the Synod on behalf of World Witness. The **Moderator's Committee on World Witness** recommended the adoption of all recommendations and the following recommendation:

That the Synod express its sincere appreciation to Rev. Frank van Dalen for his hard work and dedication in the work of World Witness and the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

The recommendations of World Witness and the recommendation of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF WORLD WITNESS, THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS TO THE 2007 MEETING OF THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." (Daniel 7:14)

In a world that is increasingly chaotic, there is one thing that is absolutely certain: Christ's Kingdom is being established in every land, among every people, and of every tribe and language on this terrestrial ball. Through its Foreign Missions Board, the ARP denomination has the privilege of participating in this work in four critical areas. These four foci have been structured according to the Great Commission (Matt 28:18 – 20) in which the planting of churches is divided into the two major categories of Church Entry ministries ("baptizing them") and Church Maturity ministries ("teaching them"). Within the first major category, World Witness focuses on the Muslim world and on post-Christian Europe. Within the second major category, World Witness focuses on supporting the ARP Synods of Pakistan and Mexico, and on the support of teaching ministries around the world through the Mobile Theological Training Team.

The following report provides highlights of the past year of ministry.

The Board**(a) Meetings**

At its January, 2007, meeting, the Board of World Witness voted to request General Synod to alter the Manual of Authorities and Duties to allow for the Board to meet two times per year rather than the three times currently specified. The current January meeting is too soon after the close of the financial year to receive an auditor's report. The current April meeting is too close to General Synod for the Annual Report to Synod to be prepared, approved and delivered in a timely manner. Therefore, the Board has proposed that these two Spring meetings be replaced by a single meeting in March. It is anticipated that this will lead to a cost savings of \$7000.

(b) Personnel

In 2005-2006, the Board appointed a number of new missionary candidates to several fields. During the 2006-2007 year, the focus has been on developing the financial support needed for those missionaries to go to the field. However, due to the anticipated retirement of four missionary couples over the next five years (Brunson, Warner, Schwencer, Stewart), the Board continues to seek qualified candidates to serve in the ministry. Eric and Ginger Lockamy have been appointed to Rio Verde, Mexico, where they will replace the Warners. The Executive Director's appointment of Chip Taylor as the Director of OPORA ministry in Russia (replacing Pam Brunson) was approved by the Board. The Board has also appointed Fariborz and Shirin Khandani as candidates to serve with Tat Stewart in the Persian-language world ministry, subject to the approval of the Canadian Presbytery. Turkey will see an increase in missionaries with the appointment of the Thomas and Benicourt families. The Board encourages churches and individuals to support these and other candidates who have been approved for Pakistan (Terry Schultz) and Wales/UK (Judy Buis).

(c) Policy

As noted in its 2006 report, the Board continues to support full cooperation in ministry with all other ARP Synod agencies. However, the Board also continues to hold the opinion that a separate administrative and financial structure will enable World Witness to be most effective in its ministry. The Board has already been advised that the essential structures of a mission society, its human resource functions and its fund raising are so different from the other agencies that integration would be most unwise. On a personal level there is full cooperation, respect and consultation between the Executive Directors of World Witness and Central Services. We all seek administrative efficiency and cooperation. World Witness has joined the Synod's phone system and

turn raises a further question: are there other theological problems here that would compromise the use of NCD materials in the ARP Church?

Here we must recognize that C. A. Schwartz sees theology as central to his NCD endeavor (the key text here is his *Paradigm Shift in the Church: How Natural Church Development Can Transform Theological Thinking*). He sees NCD as both founded upon a particular theological methodology, and as pointing toward decisive theological transformation. Seeking to place NCD in historical perspective, Schwartz argues that NCD is part of a “third Reformation.” Just as the Reformation of Martin Luther involved a reform of doctrine and the second Reformation of Pietism entailed reformation of spirituality, so today there is a “third Reformation” involving the structures of the church (*Paradigm Shift*, pp. 82-95). Schwartz’s endeavor is, if nothing else, ambitious!

The influences informing Schwartz’s work are, as we might expect given his German background, heavily Teutonic. His relentless focus upon human experience is reminiscent of Friedrich D. E. Schleiermacher (known as “the father of liberal theology”), and he has also been heavily influenced by the dialectical theological method of the twentieth-century German “crisis theologians.” His view of revelation as “encounter” betrays the pervasive influence of the Swiss theologian Emil Brunner. All of this comes together in what Schwartz calls his “bi-polar paradigm.” Here he persistently works in dialectical fashion between two poles—the spiritual/dynamic and the institutional/static dimensions. Here he seeks both to recognize aspects of truth that are found in a wide variety of ecclesial contexts, and to emphasize that doctrinal expressions are often one-sided and incomplete (*Paradigm Shift*, pp. 97-100).

At numerous points, however, Schwartz’s views are problematic from the standpoint of the teachings of Scripture and the Standards of the ARP Church. To be sure, he is not a Calvinist, for he views the doctrine of predestination as an example of “a deterministic view of God” to be avoided, and he rejects the church’s traditional doctrine of original sin involving inherited depravity (*Paradigm Shift*, pp. 57-61). Note, however, that the Committee likely would not have rejected NCD solely on the ground that Schwartz is not Reformed.

Another set of problems arise out of Schwartz’s basically Neo-orthodox understanding of revelation. The “objective element” of revelation is Jesus Christ (*Paradigm Shift*, p. 101). He distinguishes between the canon of Scripture and the “word of God.” The written word must become a “living word” through the power of the Holy Spirit, and he decries “the formally authoritarian, fundamentalistic

view of the Bible which culminates in the dogma of verbal inspiration" (*Paradigm Shift*, pp. 112-113). With his Neo-orthodox predecessors, Schwartz seems to assume that God's revelation is personal rather than propositional.

Schwartz's views of faith, doctrine, and ethics are consistent with this. Biblical faith is not a matter of "accepting a doctrine" or "believing that something is true." Rather, truth should be seen "as encounter" (*Paradigm Shift*, pp. 101, 103). Schwartz writes, "Faith in the biblical sense is not 'believing in something'—a doctrine or dogma—but a personal encounter involving trust, obedience, and love" (*Paradigm Shift*, p. 107). While Schwartz rightly fears a reduction of faith to intellectual assent, he subverts the genuinely biblical emphasis that true Christian faith has cognitive content. Deprived of the foundation and anchor of propositional biblical revelation, Schwartz's view of doctrine quickly becomes vague and relativistic. He asserts, for example, that Christian doctrine not only "is changeable" but that "it must be changed over the years." He also suggests that "different doctrines can be right at the same time." The only criterion for judging doctrine is pragmatic: "theological statements must be useful for the development of the church in a specific situation—no more and no less" (*Paradigm Shift*, pp. 108-111). Likewise, this carries over into Schwartz's view of Christian ethics. Here too there are no objective standards. He insists that "no ethical code must be allowed to lead us to regard God's will as static, as if God required the same of all Christians in all stages of their lives. . . . The criterion for all ethical standards must be whether they help Christians to grow more and more into Christ" (*Paradigm Shift*, pp. 132-134). At the end of the day, Schwartz leaves the Christian with no firm place to stand! Just as troubling, these views of the nature and role of doctrine inform the criteria for determining what a healthy church is.

After extensive discussion of the theology and methodology that informs the NCD program, the Committee passed the following motion without dissent:

"That the Theological and Social Concerns Committee go on record as not recommending any of the Natural Church Development Materials, including the surveys."

The Committee based this conclusion on a number of concerns. First, as noted above, the theology that informs the NCD program stands in significant tension with the Standards of the ARP Church. The Committee also believes that it is difficult to disentangle the NCD methodology and tools from the theological presuppositions that underlie them.

Second, the Committee has doubts about the scientific rigor of the methodology employed by the program. The theoretical basis of NCD appears to be the product of but two individuals' efforts (Schwartz and his colleague Christoph Schalk), and it also appears that this basis has not been subjected to a rigorous peer review process prior to the extensive marketing of the program. While NCD does seem to have identified a set of sociological factors that have an impact on a local church's growth patterns, and it has developed useful tools for measuring these factors, a concern for such factors is not unique to the NCD program.

Third, Committee members also expressed concern that approval of even more innocuous elements of NCD might reflect favorably upon the more objectionable theological aspects of the program.

Recommendations:

1. That the Moderator appoint a Committee, to include representation from individuals with military chaplaincy experience (including at least one currently serving active duty military chaplain), from the Theological and Social Concerns Committee, and from the Minister and His Work Committee of the General Synod, to produce a pastoral guidance paper dealing with the matter of public prayers offered in the context of ministry by military chaplains.
2. That all other actions of the Committee, as herein reported, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,
William B. Evans, Chairman

The business session was adjourned with a Benediction by Ken Priddy

Thursday, June 8, 2007
7:00 A.M.

C. E. Linderman led an informal morning Psalm singing on the Dining Room Porch.

Charles W. (Chuck) Wilson led the morning worship service.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** recommended that the Memorial from the Canadian Presbytery not be adopted. Following discussion, the Memorial was not adopted.

MEMORIAL FROM THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY RE. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BOOK OF WORSHIP [Not Adopted]

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Moderator of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church appointed a special com-

mittee that was charged with the following responsibilities:

1. To conduct a study on Reformed Theology relating to the elements and practice of public worship in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian 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.

WHEREAS, in their report to the 2004 General Synod, the committee recommended that the Book of Worship be revised; and,

WHEREAS, in their report to the 2005 General Synod, the committee requested (and was granted) a further extension of time to complete its work; and,

WHEREAS, in 2006, the committee completed a first draft for a revised Book of Worship which was made available to the sessions of the of the presbyteries of the ARP; and,

WHEREAS, where readers believed changes should be made, they were encouraged to send those changes to the clerks of the presbyteries, who were then charged with sending the comments for changes to the special committee by March 15, 2007.

THEREFORE, the Canadian Presbytery respectfully **MEMORIALIZES** the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod to grant a request for a further one (1) year extension on the presbyteries' discussions regarding proposed changes to the Book of Worship for the following reasons:

1. This is a constitutional issue which will impact the entire denomination and therefore requires further discussion.
2. The issue of worship is a contentious one in the modern church and therefore we need to exercise caution in any proposed revisions to the Book of Worship.
3. The special committee which is responsible for drafting the revisions for the Book of Worship has already requested a number of extensions in their deliberations which lend support to the first two reasons.

Approved by the Canadian
Presbytery on January 27, 2007
Attest: Bill McKay
Stated Clerk of Presbytery
Canadian Presbytery

The Report of the **Synod's Special Committee on Worship** was presented and adopted.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

In 2003, the 199th meeting of the General Synod adopted a memorial from First Presbytery (*Minutes of the General Synod—2003*, pp. 69f.) which directed the Moderator, the Rev. Wayne A. Frazier, 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.”

The Rev. Wayne A. Frazier appointed the following members to the Special Committee on Worship: H. Max Bolin (Virginia), Raymond W. Cameron, Jr. (Florida), Charles H. Carlisle (Second), Herschel N. Carlson (Northeast), Charles F. Edgar (Tennessee-Alabama), William B. Everett (Mississippi Valley), R. J. Gore, Jr. (Second), Randy Imler (Catawba), Douglas W. Petersen (First), Mark E. Ross (Catawba), David W. Sides (First), Gabriel C. Statom (Florida), and Jack C. Whytock (Canadian). The *ex officio* members who have served on the committee are: Wilfred A. Bellamy (Coordinator of the General Synod), and Moderators Wayne A. Frazier, Frank M. Hunt II, William B. Evans, and John T. Patterson, Jr.

In its report to Synod in 2004, the Special Committee on Worship recommended that to meet the requirements of the memorial, which Synod had adopted in 2003, *The Book of Worship* should be revised. The 200th meeting of the General Synod approved that recommendation and extended the committee's appointment to continue with that revision (*Minutes of the General Synod—2004*, pp. 428-430). In 2005, the committee again reported on its progress, and requested a further extension of time to continue with its work. The 201st General Synod approved that request (*Minutes of the General Synod—2005*, pp. 92-94).

In 2006, the committee completed a first draft of the revised *Book of Worship* (*Minutes of the General Synod—2006*, pp. 599-647). This draft, entitled *The Directory of Public Worship of the Associate Reformed Pres-*

byterian Church, was presented to the 202nd General Synod as information, with the request that it “be circulated for study by members, churches and presbyteries.” Readers of *The Directory* were invited to make comments and submit recommendations for changes to their respective presbyteries. Presbyteries appointed committees to receive and evaluate such comments, and to prepare a report on those comments and recommendations the committee believed the presbytery should present to the Special Committee on Worship (*Minutes of the General Synod—2006*, pp. 416-418).

On March 19-20, 2007, the Special Committee on Worship reconvened to review the reports from the presbyteries. Over 100 comments and recommendations were received. *The committee considered every recommendation that was made.* It was clear that very careful study had been made of *The Directory* and many helpful recommendations for changes were submitted. The committee expresses its thanks to the members, churches, and presbyteries that gave such careful attention in reading the document. As a result, numerous changes have been made in the revised draft of *The Directory* which accompanies this report. These changes have been placed in **bold** print so that readers might more easily identify them.

The vast majority of changes recommended to the committee were of a minor editorial nature. These changes greatly improve the document in clarity, but they do not change the substance of the statements. In a few places the changes strengthen or relax the requirements of the first draft of *The Directory*. Also, in two places the ordering of paragraphs has been changed, and some paragraphs have been combined with others (pp. 9 and 13). In these cases, the whole paragraph has been put in **bold** print, even though little or no change has been made in the substance of the paragraph. The result is that *the revised draft is very much improved, but in substance the same document as submitted one year ago*, despite the numerous changes made.

One of the significant things about the 100-plus comments received from the presbyteries is that there was hardly any overlap in the comments. Very rarely did a comment or recommendation from one presbytery cover the same issue as one from another presbytery. This would indicate that the document as presented last year did not contain anything that caught the eye of many readers and was clearly seen to be out of accord with what the ARP church as a whole confesses as the teaching of Scripture concerning worship. Indeed, *four presbyteries did not recommend any changes at all.* Consequently, in the very few recommendations received asking for a substantive change in *The Directory*, the Special Committee on Worship pro-

ceeded with great caution and weighed the recommendations over against the judgment of the other presbyteries. In all such deliberations, the first consideration was whether the recommended change was in accordance with Scripture, and the second was whether it is a view that can be confessed as Biblical by the ARP church generally. The General Synod is asked to keep both of these considerations in mind as well as it considers the revised draft of *The Directory*. What we are seeking here is a comprehensive statement of what the Scriptures teach on the topic of worship that the ARP church can confess as its faith.

From the recommendations received, the Special Committee is aware that in a few places what is presented in *The Directory* is not something that can be confessed by each one of our officers. In such cases, which thankfully were very few, the committee labored to provide a statement that could be embraced by as many of our officers as possible, without abandoning our widely-shared convictions about the teaching of the Scriptures.

The members of the Special Committee on Worship express their sincere, deep, and abiding thanks to the General Synod for the opportunity we have enjoyed to study and consider the things which pertain to the worship of our great God. May the Spirit of truth, who leads us into all truth, so direct our hearts and minds that we all might “speak the same thing” and “be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (I Cor. 1:10, KJV).

The Special Committee on Worship makes the following recommendation:

1. That The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church be amended by replacing The Book of Worship with The Directory of Public Worship for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. **[See Appendix for Directory of Public Worship]**

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Ross, Chairman
Ray Cameron, Secretary

The following motion carried:

The Special Committee on Worship requests to be continued for the purpose of meeting with the Special Committee on the *Form of Government*, to communicate with them about matters which overlap with the Directory of Public Worship.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod, 2008.

Mark Ross nominated Gordon Query. Neely Gaston seconded the nomination. A motion carried that the nominations be closed and Mr. Query be elected by acclamation. Mr. Query was escorted to the podium by Dr. Ross and addressed the Synod.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2008. Moderator-Elect Query nominated William C. (Bill) Marsh. Mr. Marsh was elected by acclamation.

Following announcements, General Synod recessed for the Morning Break.

Upon resumption of business, a motion carried:

That the General Synod approve a change in the boundaries of First Presbytery to expand the boundaries to include the following counties in Appalachia: (KY) Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Letcher, Perry, Whitley; (TN) Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, and Washington; (VA) Lee, Russell, Scott, Washington and Wise.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The Committee on Worship continued deliberating over the scope of the work of this committee on the behalf of Synod by brainstorming and focusing on the revised purpose statement and list of duties approved by General Synod in 2005.

Synod's Committee on Worship has spent much time developing a committee which represents a broad range of worship topics. Our committee is now equally balanced with representatives from the field of music; theology or clergy; and laypeople or members-at-large. While we feel sponsoring the Bonclarken Music Conference for the benefit of our churches is very important, we wish to focus our attention on broader matters of worship.

The Bonclarken Music Conference continues to nurture and develop all ages of musical worship across the denomination. The committee wishes to express gratitude to Trip McGill and Lynn Grimsley who work very diligently to present an outstanding conference each year. This year's conference promises to be outstanding as always. Clinicians for the 2007 Music Conference are as follows:

Lucy Ding, Adult Choir
Shannon Jeffreys, Youth Choir
Judy Bowers, Middle School Choir
Janeal Krehbiel, Junior Choir
Paula Wilson, Cherub and Primary Choirs

Other areas in which the Committee on Worship has played an influential role in the denomination are listed as follows:

The committee is working with Erskine Seminary in preparing a list of recommended hymnals, psalters, and other worship resources which are compatible with the belief and practices of the ARP church. The committee is working with the ARP magazine to present updates on the work of this committee and the Special Committee on Worship. Additionally, collaborations are being developed to present several articles and book reviews on the area of worship.

The committee is researching suitable and useful worship-related materials to have available on the denomination's website. We are working on making the Bible Songs, Scottish Psalter, and other psalm-related documents compiled by Joshua Klatt available on the website.

The committee is discussing and researching ways to develop and improve music in the small churches within our denomination. We will be further researching this area and working to make resources available to churches such as: quality recordings to be used in churches without live musicians; a program in which we could send experts to help local church musicians develop a music program; a list of resources recommended for small churches without a music staff.

The committee is working on compiling a list of resources that pertain to private and family worship. A brochure will be made available to churches that encourage the practice of family worship.

The committee will be discussing with Erskine Seminary a possible symposium on psalm-singing which would take place in the next few years at Erskine. The committee would like to share resources and responsibility with the seminary in planning such an event.

The committee will be sponsoring Roundtable discussion groups for the purpose of educating and informing people about the proposed Directory of Public Worship. These will take place at the Music Conference and the Family Bible Conference. The committee is willing to facilitate these in other places upon request.

The committee continues to discuss the possibility of hosting mid-winter music workshops for choir directors and organists. The possibility of working with Erskine on this has great potential, especially with the new facility for music at Erskine.

The committee has maintained a relationship with the work of the Moderator's Special Committee on Worship.

The committee is continuing to prepare itself to carry on the work of the Moderator's Special Committee on worship upon its completed recommendation. The committee will be prepared to assist in the implementation of the new document, as well as educating elders, laypeople, and ministers on its direction for public worship. Preliminary discussions have been made with the Christian Education committee for potential collaborations.

The committee is open to ways of encouraging and promoting the use of Psalm-singing among churches in our denomination. The committee will continue to welcome proposals for projects to be funded as part of the Jean McFall White Memorial Fund. Three projects have been endorsed by the committee this year:

The publication of a metrical psalm supplement, "The Reformed Heritage Collection of Psalms," by Dr. Gabriel Statom which contains thirty-two psalm settings representing various psalters from Presbyterian traditions. A copy of this collection will be sent to all ARP ministers for perusal.

The appointment of an exploratory committee to look into developing resources to further encourage psalm-singing in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The committee will look into developing a collection of psalms and scripture songs with a diversity of musical sources which will include historic and modern materials.

The committee maintains a checklist for selecting and evaluating hymnals and psalters which may be found in the 2003 Report to Synod.

The Committee on Worship makes the following recommendations:

1. That the 2008 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved.

Gabriel Statom, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

Proposed Budget for 2008

EXPENSES	2007 Budget	2008 Proposed
Worship Committee		
Psalter/Hymnal Study o Worship		
Resource Study-White Fund	\$	\$ 0
Committee Travel/		
Room & Board	\$ 2,500\$	3,000

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

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Telephone/Postage	\$ 275	\$ 275
Committee Meeting Expenses	200	200
Lord's Day Alliance	350	350
Mid-Winter Music/Worship Workshop	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL (Worship Committee)	<u>\$ 5,325</u>	<u>\$ 5,825</u>

BONCLARKEN MUSIC CONFERENCE

Clinicians 1 @\$2000, 5 @ \$1500	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500
Accompanists 5 @ 500	2,500	2,500
Conference Directors 3 @ 500	1,500	1,500
Organist 1 @ 500	500	500
Recreation Leader 1 @ 230	200	230
Recreation Supplies	300	300
Craft Leaders 2 @ 200	400	400
Craft Supplies	600	600
Night Activities	1,250	1,250
Night Activity Director	200	200
Worship Leaders 3 @ 300	900	900
Children's Church/Nibble Nook Music	1,500	1,500
Child Care	900	900
Staff Travel	5,720	6,000
Staff Food/Lodging	14,999	15,999
Counselor Honorariums 30 @ 100	3,000	3,000
Music for Conference	6,500	6,500
Conference Recording	500	500
Printing/Mailing	3,500	3,500
Telephone	500	500
Conference Fee (Bonclarken)	27,000	27,000
Nurses 2 @ 200	400	400
T-Shirts	4,500	4,500
Piano Tuning	400	400
Organ Rental/Piano Rental	1,500	1,500
Contingency/Equipment Fund	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>

TOTAL (Bonclarken Music Conference)	<u>\$ 90,769</u>	<u>\$ 91,649</u>
Worship Committee	<u>5,325</u>	<u>5,825</u>
GRAND TOTAL EXPEND.	<u>\$ 96,094</u>	<u>\$ 97,474</u>

INCOME

Gifts, Conference Registrations	\$ 64,125	\$ 65,500
Synod Supplement	<u>31,969</u>	<u>\$ 31,974</u>
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 96,094</u>	<u>\$ 97,474</u>

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

The Committee met on January 23, 2007 at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Director Frank van Dalen was present and gave an overview of the emphases of World Witness. He also reported and advised on the ARP Synods of Mexico and Pakistan.

Sister Synods

Mexico. Last year the synod moved “That the ARPC will work with the Mexican Synod (IPAR) to insure that our relationship is fraternal, equal and cooperative.” We sent John Dawson and Peter Kemeny as fraternal delegates to attend IPAR’s synod meeting near Mexico City on February 8-11, 2007. At the pre-synod meeting with the synod executive and interchurch relations committee they discussed IPAR’s seven-point plan for growth and revitalization. Three of these points which included cooperation with our synod were: 1) our missionaries working with their ministers to plant churches in several strategic cities; 2) our working with them at Eben-Ezer seminary by sending two professors to teach in the areas of theology, Bible and languages; and 3) that our people work alongside them in rebuilding the physical plant of Eben-Ezer seminary. There are individual churches in Mexico that need help repairing their buildings. The Mexican synod thinks the best way to facilitate this help would be to encourage individual churches in the US to build “sister congregation” relations with these churches for help and encouragement in the Lord. We anticipate receiving a fraternal delegate at this meeting of synod and having our synod officials meet with a delegation from IPAR to continue to discuss how to keep our relationship fraternal, equal and cooperative.

Pakistan. Many former missionaries and synod officials were present for the 100th anniversary of the work of the ARP in Pakistan. Frank van Dalen reported of our reopening our mission to Pakistan. Moderator-Elect Charles Edgar also gave his reflections on his trip to Pakistan and how his heart was moved by the work in Karachi.

Ecumenical Organizations

The ARP continues as a member of two ecumenical organizations: (1) The International Conference of Reformed Churches (**ICRC**) which will next meet in 2009; (2) the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (**NAPARC**) which met in Montreal in No-

vember 2006 hosted by the Reformed Church of Quebec (**ERQ**). Representing the ARP at the meeting were Vice Moderator-Elect Michael Evans, Charles Clendinen and John Dawson. The council's statement on Women in the Military has not been adopted by enough member synods to pass and will remain open for 2 more years. A bylaw change to clarify the status of observers and visitors at the meeting was adopted. The idea of having concurrent assemblies in 2009 in conjunction with a celebration of the 500th birthday of John Calvin was withdrawn, but the PCA will invite members of the NAPARC bodies to attend special lectures and events that they will sponsor in conjunction with their assembly in that year. The Free Reformed Church received approval by the member assemblies/synods and was officially received into the council.

The Heritage Reformed Congregations (HRC) made application to join the council. Your delegation voted in favor of their application and recommends the synod approve it as well. The HRC is a Reformed body holding to the Three Forms of Unity. It broke from the Netherland Reformed Congregations in 1993 over the issue of the free offer of the gospel. Dr. Joel Beeke, who preached and taught at our synod meeting several years ago, teaches at their seminary, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. They have 10 churches and missions and 13 ministers. More information on them can be obtained at <http://heritagereformed.com>.

Last year we reported that we were investigating membership in another ecumenical organization, the World Reformed Fellowship (**WRF**). Two of our fraternal partners, the PCA and the EPC, are quite involved in the WRF. The WRF is action oriented in addressing the issues and needs of the churches in poorer countries, e.g., theological education, AIDS, etc. Their dues structure is also more open. We recommend the ARP apply for membership in the WRF. More information on the WRF can be obtained at their website: <http://www.wrfnet.org>.

Churches in Fraternal Fellowship

North American churches in fraternal fellowship with the ARPC are: Korean-American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and Christian Reformed Church North America (CRCNA). In 2006 at the various assemblies/synods, the ARP was represented by the following: John Dawson (PCA and EPC), Steve Webber (CRC), and Frank van Dalen (RPCNA). Letters of greeting were sent to the OPC and KAPC.

EPC. This year we will again hold a joint ministers retreat/conference with the EPC. We have also invited our brothers from the RPCNA to join us.

RPCNA. Representatives from the RPCNA Interchurch Relations Committee met with our delegation again after the meeting of NAPARC in 2006 to continue to pursue a closer relationship. They again invited us to send a man to preach and lead a workshop to better inform them of our ministry. They have invited Dr. Mark Ross to preach and to tell of the ministry of Erskine Seminary. We have invited them to send Pastor Matt Kingswood to preach at our Synod.

CRC. Over the last several years, we have had some concerns with the CRC and felt it appropriate to request a meeting with their ecumenical officer to discuss our relationship with them.

Churches in Fraternal Correspondence

There were no new developments in our relationship with the Presbyterian Church USA, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC), or the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA).

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Sent in 2007

ARP delegates/representatives scheduled to be sent to: NAPARC (Charles Clendinen, Marty Taylor, Moderator Charles Edgar, and the Moderator-Elect), RPCNA (Charles Clendinen and Mark Ross), CRC (Charles Clendinen and Marty Taylor), EPC (Marty Taylor), PCA (Kyle Sims), KAPC (Gerry Gerard), OPC (Tom Shogar). The United Reformed Church North America (URCNA) holds its synod only every three years. We hope to send Charles Clendinen as an observer. The Chairman will appoint a suitable replacement for any delegate if necessary.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Invited in 2007

Delegates/representatives will be invited from: IPAR, EPC, PCA, RPCNA.

Groups of Churches Interested in the ARP

As we continue to become known in North America and around the world, we get inquiries from groups that desire ecclesiastical fellowship. Individual congregations who unite with us do so through the appropriate presbytery. Inquiries by groups of churches (e.g., presbyteries, synods, or assemblies) should be directed to the Inter-Church Relations Committee as it is charged with investigating and studying ecumenical relations that would be beneficial to the Synod and making recommendations accordingly (Duty #9. MAD). The Inter-Church Relations Committee serves the Synod in matters of ecumenical relations and it is the appropriate place for presbyteries

and synods to make inquiries regarding relationship with the ARP Synod.

Officers for 2007-2008

Chairman — Charles Clendinen

Vice-Chairman — Kyle Sims

Secretary — Peter Kemeny

Proposed Budget for 2008

The Committee approved the following 2008 budget:

	2007	2008
General Office Expense	\$ 150	\$ 150
Committee Travel	9,000	9,000
ARP Fraternal Delegates/Representatives	10,000	10,000
Hosting Fraternal Delegates	2,000	2,000
NAPARC Dues	500	500
ICRC Dues	<u>3,580</u>	<u>3,580</u>
Total	\$ 25,230	\$ 25,230

Recommendations

1. That the proposed Committee 2008 budget be approved.
2. That the membership of the Heritage Reformed Congregations in NAPARC be approved.
3. That the ARPC continue to work with the Mexican Synod (IPAR), especially in the areas they have requested.
4. That the ARPC apply for membership in the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF).
5. That all other actions of the Committee, as herein reported, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Howard Dawson, Chairman

The Report of the **Board of Christian Education Ministries** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Christian Education Ministries** recommended: that board recommendation, 1-4 be adopted.

In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended that General Synod commend the past Executive Director, Dr. David Vickery, and the present Executive Director, Brent Turner, for their excellent work.

The recommendations of the Board of Christian Education Ministries and the additional recommendation by the moderator's committee were adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

"Equipping the Saints"

"4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." (Deut. 6:4 – 9)

What is "Christian Education" We live in a world today that has taken the word "Christian" and made it into an adjective. We have Christian music, Christian literature, and even a Christian store. Of course the emphasis here is describing something that should have "Christ" as its main focus. Christian education is no different. Christian education is the training and educating of God's people to live and learn about Christ. Michael Anthony states, "Christian education is the process by which those who have experienced a personal spiritual rebirth in their relationship with God partner with the indwelling Holy Spirit to grow in the image of God." This involves a growing in God's Word and applying what has been learned to one's life.

God's Word is clear that Christian education begins in the home. We see this clearly in Deuteronomy 6:4 – 9 (The Shema) where Moses informs the Israelites to be sure to learn God's law and to pass what they learn down to further generations. The people hearing these words realized the importance of learning and passed down "Christian education" to their children and their children's children. As the people learned God's laws and followed them, they themselves were faithful to teach their children and show them by example how to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, and mind (Deut. 6:5). Moses wanted to make sure that the Israelites remembered how God had led them through the wilderness (Deut. 8:2) and how they should never forget God's faithfulness and law to them (Deut. 6:19).

When God made His covenant with Abraham, He stated that this covenant was an everlasting covenant for him and for his descendants after him (Gen. 17:4 – 8). It was God's intention that Abraham be faithful to this covenant and to pass down the importance of keeping this covenant. This covenant was passed down from Abraham to Isaac, to Jacob, and to Joseph. Moses summoned all Israel and

stated that God had directed them to fear God and to keep all his decrees and commands. The people were to have God's law upon their hearts and to impress them upon their children. They were to talk about them when they walked along the road as well as when they went to bed. They were to tie them on their hands and foreheads and to write them on their doorframes (Deut. 6).

Organization: Officers: Chairman – Rick Lewis , Vice-Chairman – Jerry Hallman, Secretary – Jeanie Alexander

Committees: Executive Committee
Administration Committee
Events Committee
Resource Committee

Board Meetings: The Board of Christian Education Ministries held two meetings this year. These meetings were held on February 13-14, 2007 and September 19-20, 2006 at Bonclarken Conference Center.

Authority: Christian Education Ministries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is the agency of the General Synod which shall plan, organize, administer, and promote the teaching ministry of the Church, except for that higher education provided by Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary; and shall carry out its responsibilities in relation to the presbyteries and congregations in cooperation with the other boards and committees of the General Synod.

In the exercise of its authority the Board shall comply with the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*, and its policies and programs shall be consistent with the purpose of the General Synod.

The Format of this Report is based on the duties and work as defined on the Manual of Authorities and Duties for Officers and Agencies and Rules of Order of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (2006).

Duties and Work Underway...

1. To employ such administrators and staff as are necessary for the work of the Board and to supervise the execution of the Board policies by the staff. (*MAD 2006*)

- Rev. Bob Elliot submitted his resignation and continued work until August 2006. The board honored Bob with a plaque at a youth retreat in honor of his faithful service.

- Dr. David Vickery officially retired as the Executive Director of Christian Education Ministries at the end of 2006. The board thanked David for his many years of faithful service.
- Rev. Greg Hamer submitted his resignation to the board to become an employee of Christian Education Ministries.
- Rev. Greg Hamer was hired as the new Director of Events and began work in February of 2007.
- A search is now under way for a new Director of Resources/ Training. This person should be in place by July of 2007.

2. To prepare and recommend to Synod each year, **a budget** to do the work of the Board and to oversee the use of financial resources designated by the Synod for these purposes. (*MAD 2006*)

	Revised 2007	Proposed 2008
Contributions for Ministry		
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 215,720	\$ 222,192
Easter Offering Allocation	9,570	9,857
Misc Contributions	1,200	1,236
ARP Women's Ministries Contributions	0	0
ARP Women's Min. for Camp Joy	9000	9000
Gifts from Special Endowment Fund	1,250	1,250
Conference Scholarships	1,800	1,854
Camp Joy Contributions and Scholarships	29,555	29,555
Mission Trip Contributions	500	515
Misc. Income	2,000	2,060
Interest Allocation	<u>550</u>	<u>550</u>
Total Contributions for Ministry	<u>\$ 271,145</u>	<u>\$ 278,069</u>
Registration and Fees		
Conference Registration	\$ 91,000	\$ 87,125
Camp Joy Registration	50,550	\$50,550
Mission Trip Receipts	<u>37,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Total Registration and Fees	<u>\$ 178,550</u>	<u>\$ 177,675</u>
Sales & Subscriptions		
Adult Quarterly Income	<u>\$ 42,000</u>	<u>\$ 43,260</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 491,695</u>	<u>\$ 499,004</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits		
Executive Director		
Salary and Housing	\$ 65,000	\$ 66,950

Standard Benefits	26,984	27,370
Director of Events – Hired (Feb. 2007)		
Salary & Housing	\$ 42,167	\$ 47,380
Standard Benefits	16,828	\$ 18,485
Director of Resources/Training (July 2007)		
Salary & Housing (6mos)	\$ 21,075	\$ 43,415
Standard Benefits	10,540	21,441
Other Salaries and Benefits	<u>57,192</u>	<u>54,202</u>
Total Payroll	<u>\$ 239,786</u>	<u>\$ 279,243</u>
Staff Expenses	<u>\$ 11,669</u>	<u>\$ 13,433</u>
Board/Committee Expenses	<u>9,370</u>	<u>9,046</u>
Promotional Expenses	<u>4,040</u>	<u>4,117</u>
General Office Expenses		
Resources	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,150
Equipment	2,547	2,675
Communications	2,169	2,278
Rent	8,969	9,238
Bonclarken Office	1,300	1,300
Contingency	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>8,906</u>	<u>9,351</u>
Total General Office	<u>\$ 31,891</u>	<u>\$ 32,992</u>
Publication Expenses		
Adult Quarterly	\$ 29,597	\$ 30,759
Adult Quarterly - Large Print	5,405	5,675
Adult Quarterly - Teacher	1,817	1,908
Other Publications	<u>559</u>	<u>587</u>
Total Publications	<u>\$ 37,378</u>	<u>\$ 38,929</u>
Ministry Disbursements		
Audio Visual	\$ 60	\$ 63
Award Bibles & Books	<u>48</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Ministry Disbursements	<u>\$ 108</u>	<u>\$ 113</u>
Conferences and Training	<u>\$ 69,350</u>	<u>\$ 64,971</u>
Camp Joy Expenses	<u>\$ 89,105</u>	<u>\$ 89,105</u>
Short Term Mission Trip Expenses	<u>\$ 10,714</u>	<u>\$ 11,175</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 503,411</u>	<u>\$ 543,124</u>
Income Less Expenses	\$ <11,716>	\$ <44,120>
Beginning Operating Fund Balance	24,121	27,228
Beginning Conference Reserve	<u>14,923</u>	<u>0</u>
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 27,228	\$ <16,892>

3. To initiate, develop, promote, coordinate, and evaluate compre-

hensive programs of Christian education for Synod, Presbyteries, and congregations that will help to equip adults, young people, and children for their ministries in the world. (MAD 2006)

- The board heard reports concerning the *Elder—Deacon Training* book. Virginia Presbytery invited CEM to their training session. CEM would like to continue to promote this material.
 - The board is working on updating Ray King's book *The History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*. Ray has graciously given CEM permission to do this. Several men within the denomination have been asked to help work on this project.
 - The board approved that the book *ABCs of the Bible* written by Rev. John Tucker be published and placed on CEM's website: www.covenantdiscipleship.org.
4. To provide and recommend curriculum and other materials necessary for the teaching ministry. (MAD 2006)
- The board asked the Executive Board of Synod to help them define what was Synod endorsed material.
 - CEM is looking at new Sunday school materials for Sr. Highs.

Suggested Curriculum Resources

A wide variety of curriculum resource materials are currently available for churches. Materials selected need to be studied to make sure they conform to Reformed theology. It is the responsibility of each session to select materials, which the session feels is best suited to the needs of the congregation. The following materials have been endorsed and recommended by the Board of Christian Education Ministries as being in doctrinal conformity with the ARP Standards and of excellent quality:

1. **The Adult Quarterly of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church** (Order from the ARP Center, Office of Christian Education Ministries, One Cleveland St., Ste. 110, Greenville, SC 29601-3696, (864) 232-8297 ext. 233). Written by Dr. William B. Evans, Associate professor of Bible and Religion at Erskine College.
2. **The Bible Way Curriculum of the Christian Reformed Church.** (CRC Publications, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560. (800) 333-8300, FAX: (616) 246-0834) Your Board reviewed a selection of this material, much of it extremely interesting and quite well presented. The adult and young adult materials include studies of the teachings of the

major reformed statements of faith and of Christian ethics. This material features Bible study from a reformed perspective for ages three through adult. This material is unusually attractive in overall appearance and format. They will send free sample materials to any ARP Church. <faithaliveresources.org>

3. **Great Commission Publications** (Great Commission Publications, 3640 Windsor Park Dr., Suite 100, Suwanee, GA 30174-1800 (800) 695-3387) Sponsored by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in America, and based on the view that Christian education is for evangelism and personal commitment. Materials are available for preschoolers through adults.

5. To keep Synod, presbyteries, pastors, sessions, DCE's, superintendents, and chairmen of local Christian education committees informed on developments in Christian education generally and to seek to win their cooperation in the denominational program. (*MAD 2006*)

- The board heard reports from all the Presbytery representatives concerning the work that was going on in each Presbytery.
- The board also encouraged all Christian Education Presbytery representatives to carry all pertinent Christian Education information back to their presbytery for implementation.
- CEM staff has recently spoken at 1st Presbytery, 2nd Presbytery, Catawba Presbytery, Florida Presbytery, and Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery.
- A quarterly newsletter was established in 2007 to better inform others of the work that is being done throughout CEM
- The board asked CEM to make more use of e-mail in distributing material.
- CEM had determined to have a more effective ministry to Director of Christian Educators in the denomination and has begun to have special evenings where these Educators can learn and fellowship together.

6. To develop and supervise a full program of camps, conferences, retreats, etc., and to assist presbyteries in these areas. (*MAD 2006*)

- The board looked at its existing camps and conferences and report a great turnout for this past year:

Horizon Conference (Sr. High Conference) attendance—

Quest Conference (Jr. High Conference) attendance—439

Camp Joy—3 full sessions with 117 campers and 120 counselors and 35 staff members

Appalachian Mission—423 ARP young people and adults from 39 churches conducted Vacation Bible Schools in 21 locations in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia ministering to more than 600 children.

Bonsenior (Senior Adult Conference) was held at Bonclarken with 89 in attendance.

There were 71 who participated in the summer missions trip to Wales (co-sponsored by Christian Education Ministries (CEM) and World Witness).

- The board affirmed that Camp Joy has been and continues to be a ministry of CEM and is fully organizationally integrated.
- CEM is exploring the opportunity of having conferences in various states.

7. To encourage Christian higher education for young people and to carry out a ministry to students and faculty at Erskine and all ARP students and faculty attending and serving other colleges and universities in cooperation with the school, with student groups and with local congregations; and to provide and promote Christian vocational guidance. (*MAD 2006*)

- CEM intends to continue a good relationship with Rev. Paul Patrick, Chaplain at Erskine College, and seek to be a source of help to the ministry there.
- CEM intends to aid churches in promoting Christian Educational material for use in Sunday Schools.

8. To work with ARP Women's Ministries and presbyteries and, where desirable, to cooperate with other Christian denominations in carrying out all phases of the teaching ministry. (*MAD 2006*)

- CEM continues to have a healthy relationship with the Women's Ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- CEM seeks to continually work with each Presbytery Representative in carrying out its purpose. (See 5, Bullet 1 and 2)
- CEM seeks to continue to work with and build relationships with others denominations in the area of Christian Education.

9. To help local congregations to plan, promote, and execute the best possible teaching ministry by:

- a. Providing and promoting opportunities for leadership training;
 - b. Developing and promoting vacation church schools and a full program of summer Christian education activities for the congregations;
 - c. Guiding and promoting weekday Christian nurseries and kindergartens and other forms of weekday Christian education in local communities;
 - d. Assisting in the development of congregational libraries and making available relevant resources for loan from the Office of Christian Education. (*MAD 2006*)
 - CEM wants to promote Leadership training.
 - CEM will promote Sunday school whenever possible.
 - CEM will encourage weekday opportunities for Christian Education.
 - CEM will assist local congregations in the development of their own resources.
 - CEM's addition of a new Director of Resources/Training will result in more training and assistance to local churches in the fulfillment of the above.
 - CEM has begun evening dinners across the denomination to help train, inform, and encourage Sunday school teachers, Christian educators, and others involved in Christian education.
10. To coordinate and promote in cooperation with Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary and other related schools the enlistment of persons for the pastoral ministry and other Christian occupations. (*MAD 2006*)
- CEM has this duty under review and will report at the meeting of General Synod of 2008.
11. To serve as a clearing house for persons available as Directors of Christian Education and for other specialized ministries within the ARP denomination. (*MAD 2006*)
- CEM is prepared to aid churches looking for D.C.E.s and other individuals seeking employment in the area of Christian Education.
12. To secure annual reports from congregations on the teaching ministry and to make summary reports to the General Synod and to Presbytery committees. (*MAD 2006*)
- CEM systematically collates data from churches and presbyteries concerning material currently in use in each congregation and offers advice accordingly

13. To make an annual report to the General Synod. (*MAD 2006*)

Recommendations:

1. CEM recommends that all congregations explore diligently the ministry of Christian education for all ages.
2. CEM recommends that the 2008 budget be approved.
3. That all other actions as reported herein be affirmed.
4. CEM asks that the court rise to acknowledge the services of Dr. David Vickery and express its gratitude to him for 12 years of loyal service as Executive Director of Christian Education Ministries.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Brent Turner, Director
R. C. Lewis, Chairman

The Synod rose in appreciation for the service of David Vickery.

The Report of the **Board of Outreach North America** was presented. Ken Priddy was introduced by Alan Avera in order to speak to the Synod on church renewal as a part of the discussion of the report of the Board of Outreach North America. The **Moderator's Committee on Outreach North America** recommended:

1. That recommendations Number 1-6, 8, 9 be adopted.
2. That recommendation Number 7 not be adopted on procedural grounds not on the idea itself; we felt like we didn't have jurisdiction in this matter.

Recommendations 1-6, 8, 9 were adopted. Recommendation 7 was not adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

Introducing People in the United States and Canada to Jesus Christ

We read in Scripture that Jesus commissioned the disciples more than once. Each time He commissioned them to the same basic task, but each time He commissioned them with a slightly different emphasis. The Great Commission recorded in John's Gospel emphasizes the fact that our Lord sends us to represent Him in the same way that He was sent by the Father. These words were originally spoken to fearful disciples gathered in the Upper Room as they were trying to make sense of the cross and the resurrection. Jesus rallies His people by emphasizing the creative and empowering work of the Holy Spirit that enables fearful and confused disciples to become bold representatives of a risen Lord.

John's version of the Great Commission doesn't focus on terrain, but on task. We must not overlook the fact that as Christian leaders, we are each commissioned. And, that commission does come with the Holy Spirit to equip us for the task! Synod has charged Outreach North America with the responsibility for the denominational programs of evangelism, multi-cultural ministry, revitalization, and church development. We see this as a high calling to help people overcome their fears and inadequacies while recognizing that we are not left to this task by ourselves.

This report addresses a plan for the stewardship of the duties entrusted to us by the General Synod through its *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, as well as our stewardship of the resources provided. [The bulleted points below are the duties assigned to ONA, pp. 33-34 of the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*. Several of the duties are addressed collectively for clarity in reporting. The numbers in parentheses following each duty reflect the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* numbering.]

- **To guide and supervise programs of evangelism, multi-cultural ministry, revitalization, and church development on the denominational level. (1)**
- To recommend to the General Synod, the presbyteries, and the local congregations programs, emphases, and resources for revitalization. (3)
- **To assist the presbyteries in seeking new fields for church development and special ministries and in planning for financing and staffing those fields. (4)**
- **To aid the presbyteries and the local congregations in planning and implementing new concepts and forms of ministry. (5)**
- **To plan workshops, conferences, and other training events in church development, special ministries, revitalization, and evangelism. (6)**

These duties have been addressed as follows:

A. Evangelism: This year, in conjunction with Moderator Tom Patterson, we encouraged all churches in the denomination to begin the year with a month of evangelism emphasis. The idea was not to restrict outreach to one month, but rather to begin the year with a month of evangelism emphasis as a way to make evangelism a top priority all year long. We provided tools and suggestions to help churches in evangelism. An informal poll by the board's evangelism committee indicated that approximately 35% of our churches took part in this evangelism emphasis.

We also made a major effort to provide training in evangelism. In May, we sponsored two training conferences in how to use *Chris-*

tianity Explored as a tool for mobilizing your church in evangelism. We also publicized other training conferences. In addition, we have worked with Erskine Theological Seminary to develop a required evangelism course, *PM 107 – Evangelism*, as part of the curriculum. ONA personnel will be involved in teaching that course when it is offered for the first time this summer. We will continue working with Erskine and with Christian Education Ministries to explore ways to use this seminary course to develop a curriculum that local churches can use to train people in evangelism.

In addition, we have continued to post tools for evangelism on the ONA website: www.outreachnorthamerica.org, and we continue to provide funding for John Kimmons as Director of Evangelism and Care as he serves as a resource for our churches in evangelism.

Our goal remains to work with presbyteries to **change the heart of our denomination into a heart that is breaking for the lost**. This goal will be demonstrated by seeing a 100% increase in the number of professions of faith being reported by the end of 2010. There is a lot of work to do between now and then. In 2005, churches reported a total of 713 professions of faith synod-wide. This was down from 743 in 2004. To achieve our goal, we long to see at least 1426 professions being reported synod-wide in 2010.

B. Multi-cultural Ministry: ARPConnect is a joint ministry of Outreach North America and World Witness. ARPConnect seeks to help ARP churches build bridges for outreach to Muslims. One ministry of ARPConnect this year has been to teach a course, “Islam in The West – A Missiological Perspective,” at Erskine Theological Seminary during the January term. Joseph Alghrary and Ali Mitchell have also planned a vision trip to Dearborn, MI, with several ARP pastors and elders from June 13 to 19, 2007. Dearborn has a large Muslim population. The trip will coincide with Dearborn’s Arab-American Festival. One purpose of this trip is to give ARP leaders a vision for ministry to Muslims, and to explore the possibility of future trips to help prepare ARPs for outreach to Muslims. ARPConnect missionaries have continued to conduct Meetings for Better Understanding, and have continued to speak in churches to help equip them for outreach.

ONA has included pastors from various ethnic backgrounds in its training this year. We have provided training for African, African-American, Chinese, Hispanic, and Korean ministers in church planting and/or church renewal. We continue to cooperate with World Witness and Christian Education Ministries to explore ways to reach the increasingly multi-ethnic population of the United States and Canada.

Our goal remains to work with presbyteries to **create and communicate new models for reaching our increasingly multi-cultural population**. This goal will be demonstrated through having 25% of our churches actively reporting some kind of multi-cultural outreach by the end of 2010.

C. Revitalization: ONA has sought to raise the visibility of our need for ongoing renewal in the ARP Church. The Executive Director has had many opportunities to present to ARP churches the fact that the need for renewal should be expected in this fallen world, and that renewal is not something churches can do once-and-for-all. The need for renewal is ongoing, and that is true for all living organisms, including the Church.

We have provided training through sponsoring the *From Embers to a Flame* church renewal conference in Charlotte in November. Thirty-one ARP churches (from Florida to Maryland) participated in this conference. That means we had over 10% of all ARP congregations participating. Even more ARP congregations have been exposed to these principles through studying the *From Embers to a Flame* book, or through attending other conferences in other locations.

One of the core values of ONA is a commitment to balance our emphasis on church planting with church renewal. Since both are essential for the future health of our denomination, we have invested in a part-time resource staff member to serve our presbyteries and churches in the area of church renewal. Dr. Ken Priddy, President of United Front Ministries, is now working with ONA as Director of Church Renewal. Since he is being compensated by ONA, the only cost to ARP churches for his training and coaching services is the cost of travel and materials. Ken will also develop renewal strategies specifically for the ARP. He will further be a resource to help ARP churches in follow-up to the *From Embers to a Flame* conference.

ONA has developed a virtual Church Renewal Toolkit that is available through our website, www.outreachnorthamerica.org. This toolkit lists a variety of resources to help churches wherever they are in the renewal process. In light of the recommendation coming to Synod this year from the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns, we have removed the Natural Church Development survey from our toolkit, and we are exploring other tools for church health diagnoses.

Church renewal is not something we can produce ourselves. It is something that depends on the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, prayer is a major part of our strategy. See below under **Special Ministries** for our emphasis this year on prayer.

Our goal remains to work with presbyteries to **develop spiritual health within our churches**. This goal will be demonstrated by having over half of our churches (by the end of 2010) actively engaged in programs of evangelism with ongoing self-evaluation.

D. New Church Development: The great news is that we have been able to help presbyteries start seven new mission works with Synod funding since the last Synod meeting – New Geneva Community Church, **Paducah, KY** with Don Watkins; International Community Outreach (Swahili), **Atlanta, GA**, with Isaac Gitundu; Skybrook Fellowship, **Huntersville, NC** with David Corley; New Millennium Community Church, **Lithonia, GA** with Stephane Cobbett; Christ Community Church, **Apollo Beach, FL** with Charlie Lewis; Connections ARP Church, **Huntsville, AL** with Bob Illman; and Travelers ARP Church, **Travelers Rest, SC** with Bill Barron. This summer, shortly after Synod meets, funding will begin for Rivertown ARP Church, **Hillsborough, NC** with Stacey Cox. Five presbyteries (which is half of our presbyteries) have new works that have started this year – First, Florida, Mississippi Valley, Second, and Tennessee-Alabama.

The challenging news regarding this many new starts is that the ONA budget has been stretched to the limit. Below are listed new policies we have implemented in order to provide greater accountability, more ministry involvement, and hopefully expanded resources available for new church development. We are also asking that ARP churches consider including home missions as part of their overall missions budget and program.

The following mission congregations received funding from Synod during all or part of the period since the last Synod meeting.

First Presbytery

Centerpoint, Winston-Salem, NC	Rev. Bob Wilson
DaySpring, Cleveland, NC	Rev. Brian Phillips
Denver, Denver, NC	Rev. Morrie Lawing
Skybrook, Huntersville, NC	Rev. David Corley

Florida Presbytery

Sojourn, Mission Viejo, CA	Rev. Bob Brown
Tradewinds, St. Pete Beach, FL	Rev. Mike Avato
Christ Community, Apollo Beach, FL	Rev. Charlie Lewis

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

New Geneva, Paducah, KY	Rev. Don Watkins
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Northeast Presbytery

Communion, Irvine, CA	Rev. Kent Moorlach
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Second Presbytery

New Millennium, Lithonia, GA	Rev. Stephane Cobbert
International Community (Swahili)	
Atlanta, GA	Mr. Isaac Gitundu
Greenwood Hispanic, Greenwood, SC	Mr. Gama Pozos
Travelers, Travelers Rest, SC	Rev. Bill Barron

Tennessee-Alabama

Connections, Huntsville/Madison, AL	Rev. Bob Illman
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As a vital step in preparing new mission developers and in exploring new fields for new church development, ONA has helped presbyteries fund the following Church Planting Interns during all or part of the period since the last meeting of Synod: Joseph Moore, Paul Traub, Scott Siems, Charlie Lewis, Bob Hovey, Jeff Lewis, Fredy Ramos, and Tim Phillips. ONA has also helped with funding a student internship for Zach Wilhelm.

ONA provides training to our mission developers to help equip them for the challenging task of new church development. This year over 50 people were trained at our annual mission developer retreat at Bonclarken. The wives of our mission developers were blessed by a special program provided by ARP Women's Ministries. We ask Synod to join us in thanking Women's Ministries for this partnership with ONA in support of mission developer families. Next year, First Presbyterian Church in Columbia plans to host our mission developer retreat. This will give us a unique opportunity to expose our mission developers to one model of what a church can become. We require all mission developers receiving funds from ONA and encourage all presbytery church extension chairmen to attend the basic training provided by Global Church Advancement at their Church Planting Conference in Orlando. This year, 18 ARPs received this training.

In order to assist churches in getting involved in new church development, ONA has worked with the presbyteries in the Carolinas and Virginia to develop a new church network. The network is covered below under **Special Ministries**.

Our clear goal remains to work with presbyteries to **develop a grass roots movement for church planting**. This will be demonstrated by having over half of our churches actively involved in church planting by the end of 2010.

E. Special Ministries: Over the past year, ONA has been working with First, Second, Catawba, and Virginia presbyteries to develop a new church network for the Carolinas and Virginia. Part of John Kimmons' responsibility with ONA has been to serve as New

Church Network Director. The goal is ultimately to subdivide this initial network so that we can have a network in each presbytery, and also to extend networks to other geographical areas to help our other presbyteries. The mission of the Carolinas/Virginia network: *Because of God's love expressed through Jesus, the Carolinas/Virginia network exists to help presbyteries plant multiplying churches that will seek to transform a lost world by His love.* The vision: *Our vision is to help our presbyteries plant churches by networking together presbyteries, churches, pastors, and laypersons to assist each other in planting new churches. We accomplish the vision through **loving God & loving one another** by:*

- ***Equipping** compassionate leaders dedicated to church expansion and renewal*
- ***Encouraging** those leaders*
- ***Educating** pastors and congregations on the need for building churches*
- ***Enabling** church planting through raising and sharing resources*
- ***Expanding** networks and multiplying new churches.*

There are two main divisions in the work of this New Church Network: developing church planters, which will be done mainly at the regional network level; and developing churches, which will be done mostly at the city/sub-regional and presbytery level. Networking presbyteries, churches, and individuals together through a New Church Network can assist us not only in the area of new church development, but also in evangelism, existing church renewal, and raising resources.

Prayer has also been a special ministry focus for this year. Prayer is a crucial means of grace in which we all need to grow. It is vital to the future health of the ARP Church. ONA supported Moderator Tom Patterson in emphasizing prayer by providing resources. When he called the Synod to a month of prayer for renewal in the ARP Church, including a day of prayer and fasting on Good Friday, it was John Kimmons working with Ruth Younts who produced a prayer guide, *30 Days of Prayer for Church Renewal*. An informal poll by the evangelism and multi-cultural committee of the board indicated that 55% of ARP churches used this prayer guide, and 33% gave it strong positive reviews. Responding to requests, we will be reprinting this prayer guide without dates so that churches can use it as an ongoing resource.

ONA is also partnering with incoming Moderator, Charles Edgar in order to provide a new experience for our Pre-Synod Conference this year. This year's Pre-Synod Conference is titled, *Prayer: The School of Grace (Moving Beyond the "How-to" Mentality)*. Our format

does not include a main speaker for the conference, but rather we are coming together to pray.

Titus 2:11-14 presents grace as a teacher. The Shorter Catechism explains that God's grace works in our lives through prayer to make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His will in all things. Thus prayer is a school of grace. Sessions will include: Approaching God in Praise; Confession and Repentance; Kingdom Prayer (praying through the Lord's Prayer); Silence (listening to the Lord); and Prayer for Revival/Praising God for What He Has Done and Is Doing.

- **To present to the denomination the challenges and opportunities of national outreach. (7)**

ONA has worked with Synod's Minister and His Work Committee this year in response to last year's memorial from Second Presbytery to consider changes to the Form of Government that would specify procedures for receiving an organized congregation from outside the denomination. The proposed procedures would also provide a path for appropriate churches that may desire to affiliate with the ARP, but that need some extra time and help in coming into conformity with our Standards. We support the proposed Form of Government amendment being reported to Synod through Minister and His Work.

We remain committed to the National Vision that was approved by Synod in 1998, and that is published on our website, www.outreachnorthamerica.com. As we do this, one of our core values is: **Responsibility** – God calls us to be good stewards, planting churches where we can provide responsible oversight and support.

ONA, Christian Education Ministries, and First Presbytery are looking at the possibility of cooperating together in planting a church in the Appalachia region where Christian Education Ministries has sponsored mission trips for over 25 years. A church plant would give us a way to build on these mission trips and to have a continuing ARP ministry in that area. The Appalachia region is at the point where three of our presbyteries come together: Virginia, Tennessee-Alabama, and Mississippi Valley. Churches in First Presbytery are actually closer geographically to this region than any of the churches in these three other presbyteries. In addition, First Presbytery churches have a history of involvement in the Appalachia mission. First Presbytery is in a better position to provide responsible oversight and support for mission work in this area. Therefore, in cooperation with the affected presbyteries, ONA asks Synod to support a boundary change to include this area within the bounds of

First Presbytery.

- **To oversee the use of financial resources received from all sources for these purposes. (2)**

In keeping with our goals and strategic plan, ONA has made a change in the way we provide supplements to help fund our mission congregations. The heart of this change is to seek a greater breadth in funding of our new mission works. We desire to see a balance between the funding coming from local, presbytery, and synod sources. As befits our Presbyterian structure, we anticipate greater initiative from the local and presbytery levels. We will be requesting stronger justification in advance for requests to ONA. Here are some of the advantages we anticipate from this change:

Accountability – We are convinced that as we enlist greater presbytery and local support, we will produce better stewardship decisions. With funding comes accountability. In past dealings, while presbytery should have been the level of greatest accountability, some presbyteries may have forwarded funding requests to Outreach North America without thoroughly studying the justification and the potential for the new work. One presbytery church extension chairman stated, “If ONA is willing to give us money, we will request it.” Presbyteries sent funding requests to ONA with little or no justification and little data upon which ONA could make a good stewardship decision. With more of their own funds invested, presbyteries will make sure they do the homework. ONA will provide tools to help presbyteries, such as church planting proposal outlines, financial projection forms, etc.

Responsibility – We recognize that for us to thrive in the ARP we must enlist our own church planters, core groups, provisional sessions, and presbyteries to take the initiative in funding. It appears that in the past, church planters and core groups may have even treated ONA funding paradigms as an entitlement. They may have requested one of the paradigms and then regarded the amount of money as fixed. On occasion, complaints surfaced that ONA was not investing enough money for the church plant to succeed. We are now wishing to make it clear that mission developers are to work with their presbytery committee in order to develop a sound proposal. This is to include projections for the total amount of money needed to successfully plant the church. Then those parties are to plan and develop anticipated sources of income. This “ownership exercise” empowers church planters to understand that they have ability and the responsibility to impact the finances of the mission, including the power to teach and model good stewardship to the

developing core group.

Visibility – By bringing church plant funding closer to home, we desire to make transformed lives and salvations even more real to the people giving. People are more likely to give to something they can see. We want to emphasize that we are speaking of sacrificial over-and-above giving. Not giving that replaces what people give to their church, or what churches give to presbytery or to the denominational ministry fund. In that way, a broader base of funding for new church plants will increase the total resources available. ONA will not be giving less to support church planting in the presbyteries, but hopefully what we give will result in more responsibly funded church plants and more church plants.

Ministry – Scripture is clear — where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. If people invest financial resources in a particular church plant, they will be more likely to pray consistently for that mission. They will be more likely to support the church planter in other ways as well, such as encouragement, recommending contacts to the church planter, and visiting the mission from time to time. One of our goals is to work with presbyteries to develop a grassroots movement for church planting.

Clarity – We will even more strenuously encourage the church planter, core group, and presbytery to clarify the vision, goals, objectives and processes of church planting. We seldom hit a target that we cannot see! These benchmarks need to be clear in order to dialogue regarding funding requests. Clarity here helps improve the success rate.

Flexibility – We at ONA certainly want you to know that we understand that each mission situation and church plant and planter is different. God providentially opens doors in different ways. Church plants cannot effectively be funded by forcing them under certain “one-size-fits-all” funding paradigms.

Two crucial assumptions:

Rationale: Supplements from outside the mission are to make up for tithes and offerings of the people who have not yet been reached by the mission church. The supplements requested should bear some relationship to the ministry model of the church planter – specifically how large of a congregation he is intending to develop. As these people are reached, and are taught stewardship, then the need for outside supplements should decrease. All proposals should project steady progress toward becoming “self-supporting.”

Aim: We aim to see balance in initial support coming from (a) local and church planter raised resources, (b) presbytery resources,

and (c) ONA resources, but we are not imposing a strict and inflexible formula such as 1/3 – 1/3 – 1/3.

In implementing this modification in the way we provide supplements to help fund our mission congregations, ONA has adopted a Fair and Flexible Policy for Funding New Mission Congregations. That policy is attached at the end of this report.

- **To prepare and recommend to Synod each year a budget with which to do the work of this Board. (12)**

See budget attached to this report.

- **To appoint such administrators as are necessary for the work of the Board. (8)**

In January, ONA called Dr. Ken Priddy to work part-time as Director of Church Renewal. Ken has been received as an ARP minister in Virginia Presbytery. He is a graduate of Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, both the M.Div. and the D.Min. degrees, who has experience in both church planting and church renewal. As ONA Director of Church Renewal, he will provide leadership and ongoing development, direction, oversight, facilitation, and evaluation of ONA renewal strategy. We anticipate that Ken will be a valuable resource to presbyteries and their pastors and congregations.

Continuing as resource staff is John Kimmons, our Director of Evangelism and Care. Continuing as administrative staff are Jean Piscina (full-time) and Ruth Younts (one day per week).

- **To serve as liaison to the American Bible Society and to present the name or names of persons to serve as the denomination's representative to the American Bible Society. (9)**
- **To assist the American Bible Society in offering the opportunity of giving through the annual offering for the American Bible Society as approved by the General Synod. (10)**
- **To receive and review the annual report of the American Bible Society and to report items of special interest to the General Synod. (11)**

ONA receives information from the American Bible Society throughout the year. We have assigned the chairman of our evangelism and multi-cultural ministries committee to serve as the denomination's representative to the American Bible Society. This year that representative is Tony Locke. ONA provided information on the American Bible Society as part of the Thanksgiving special offering. There is an abundance of information on the American Bible Society website <http://www.bibles.com/>. We encourage pastors, elders, and other church leaders to explore that website.

- **To make an annual report to the General Synod. (13)**

Recommendations

1. That Synod encourage churches to include home missions as part of their total missions responsibility and program, and to look for ways to include Outreach North America and ARP mission congregations and mission developers in their missions conferences and missions budgets.
2. That Synod encourage presbytery leadership to become familiar with the Fair and Flexible Policy for Funding New Mission Congregations adopted by ONA and attached at the end of this report.
3. That Synod encourage presbyteries and their churches to take advantage of church renewal training offered through Ken Priddy, our new Director of Church Renewal.
4. That Synod approve the following change to the ONA Policy Book concerning the job description for the Executive Director of ONA:
 - 1) Add section II.B. "B. See Appendix for a detailed job description based on these duties." [Note: Section II concerns the Director of Outreach North America. Paragraph A lists duties]
 - 2) Add as an appendix to the Policy Book the job description for the Executive Director.
The job description is attached at the end of this report.
[Note: Printed in *Manual of Authorities and Duties*
5. That Synod allow ONA to continue working together with World Witness and Christian Education Ministries in exploring ways to reach out to the growing ethnic populations in the United States. This may include holding a series of meetings for better understanding with people working with ethnic populations in the United States.
6. That Synod thank ARP Women's Ministries for the support they have given to mission developer wives this year.
7. That Synod approve boundary changes for First Presbytery to include the following counties in the Appalachian region. Kentucky counties: Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Letcher, Perry, and Whitley. Tennessee counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Union. Virginia counties: Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise. **[Not Adopted] (Boundaries changed by other motion)**
8. That the proposed budget be approved.

9. That the report of the Board of Outreach North America be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Sattem, Chairman

FAIR AND FLEXIBLE POLICY FOR FUNDING NEW MISSION CONGREGATIONS

Church Planting Proposals should identify the projected sources of financial support and the funding anticipated from each source. The mission developer is responsible to work with the presbytery to identify sources of funding.

In general, there are two basic sources of financial Support:

Sources within the mission itself:

Tithes, offerings, and saving from core group.

Tithes and offerings of new people reached and assimilated.

Sources from outside the mission:

Funds raised by the mission developer.

Support from sponsoring churches.

Support from a new church network.

Supplement from presbytery.

Supplement from Synod through ONA.

The mission congregation is to evangelize the lost and to multiply mature disciples. The rationale for outside funding is to make-up for the tithes and offerings of mature disciples that the mission does not yet have.

The proportion of the total finances coming from sources outside the mission should decline as the mission reaches the lost, multiplies mature disciples, and teaches biblical stewardship. The mission should strive to become self-supporting as soon as possible.

Mission congregations are expected to have multiple sources of support. Presbyteries should demonstrate their own financial commitment to the proposed work before making a request for ONA to provide synod funding for the work.

It is difficult to provide a set formula for funding since the size and financial strength of our presbyteries differ, and the situations of our church plants differ. A flexible guideline for funding, which can be adjusted as needed, is as follows:

1/3 from sources within the mission and funds raised by the mission developer,

1/3 from presbytery, sponsoring churches, and new church network, and

1/3 from Synod funds through ONA.

We require mission congregations to budget from the beginning

to give a tithe (10%) of the financial support coming from within the mission itself to the denominational ministry fund, in order to connect with the larger mission of the ARP Church.

Financial support from ONA will generally not exceed a cumulative total of \$130,000 over a maximum of four years. Support will be provided in monthly installments, decreasing each year as the mission moves to become self-supporting. Support requests must come from presbytery, and be supported by a church plant proposal and a budget of projected income and expenses for the entire period of requested support.

Funding approved for two or more years is not automatically guaranteed for the whole time period. The mission developer must ask, and the provisional session and presbytery must recommend, continuation of funding. This will be done through a brief continuation request each year reporting on the impact of the funds given and the progress of the mission.

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

	2007 Revised	2008 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 695,117	\$ 716,000
Special Offering	16,500	16,500
Direct Support and Specials	58,524	75,746
Miscellaneous	708	708
ARP Women's Ministries – Local Churches	15,965	15,965
Interest on Operating Reserve	12,767	5,414
Interest for Operations – Invested Funds		
Hillcrest Fund	6,309	6,372
Mattie B. Ellis Fund	591	597
Ralph Grigsby Fund	1,812	1,830
St. Andrew Church Fund	7,456	7,531
Church Plan Cash Flow Loan Fund	12,577	12,577
Permanent Fund Income	<u>6,285</u>	<u>6,348</u>
Administration & Program Receipts Total	\$ <u>834,611</u>	\$ <u>865,588</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Program Support

Director of Outreach North America		
Salary & TDA	\$ 45,766	\$ 47,139
Housing	26,879	27,685
Social Security Allowance	5,557	5,724

Retirement	6,647	6,847
Insurance	<u>14,586</u>	<u>14,607</u>
Director Sub-total	\$ <u>99,435</u>	\$ <u>102,002</u>
Support Staff Sub-total	\$ <u>187,872</u>	\$ <u>193,589</u>
Staff Expenses Sub-total	\$ <u>31,106</u>	\$ <u>31,400</u>
Board and General Office Expenses		
Travel and Meeting Expenses	\$ 21,464	\$ 16,960
Promotion and Publicity	22,322	21,902
Professional Services	27,420	19,680
General Office		
Rent	8,505	8,760
Miscellaneous	<u>17,180</u>	<u>17,695</u>
General Office and Board Sub-total	\$ <u>96,891</u>	\$ <u>84,997</u>
Program Support Sub-Total	\$ <u>415,304</u>	\$ <u>411,988</u>
Program and Mission		
Recruiting, Assessing, Training, Placement		
Recruiting and Assessing	\$ 25,000	\$ 26,250
Internships	150,000	200,000
Training	52,277	37,468
Placement	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
RATP Sub-Total	\$ <u>236,277</u>	\$ <u>272,718</u>
Mission Supplements Sub-Total*	\$ <u>308,587</u>	\$ <u>226,417</u>
Evangelism and Renewal		
Undesignated	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Appalachia	10,000	30,000
Muslim Ministry (ARP Connect)	22,497	23,397
Erskine Mission Conference	750	750
Renewal	9,000	9,000
Evangelism and Renewal Sub-total	\$ <u>47,247</u>	\$ <u>68,147</u>
Providential Contingency	\$ <u>20,600</u>	\$ <u>21,218</u>
Program and Mission Sub-Total	\$ <u>612,711</u>	\$ <u>588,500</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>1,028,015</u>	\$ <u>1,000,488</u>
Change in Operating Fund Balance	\$ <193,404>	\$ <134,900>
Beginning of Year Balance	<u>425,550</u>	<u>32,146</u>
End of Year Operating Balance	\$ <u>232,146</u>	\$ <u>97,246</u>

*Mission Supplements reflect current year funding and scheduled funding for next calendar year. It does not reflect any new mission starts in 2008.

The Report of the **Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Dunlap** recommended adoption of Recommendations 1 and 2. The recommendations of the Board of Trustees were adopted.

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

The Dunlap Board of Trustees (Board) held two telephone conference calls since the last meeting of the General Synod – November 1, 2006 and March 21, 2007. Minutes of the meetings have been filed at the ARP Center.

The William H. Dunlap Orphanage (Dunlap) served the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church for seventy-three years as a home for orphaned and needy children. Inspired by her father, William H. Dunlap, and her aunt, Elizabeth Dunlap Spain, Annie Bell Dunlap McDaniel, in 1903, donated @ 250 acres for a home “for the maintenance, support, and education of orphans.” The home opened in 1905 with children coming from the Hickory Grove, SC orphanage opened in 1897 by Reverend J. P. Knox.

A charter was granted by the State of Tennessee in 1919 for the purpose “of erecting and maintaining any and all necessary buildings, providing shelter, food, rainment, literary, educational, moral and religious training for orphan and fatherless children... .” Dunlap was closed in 1978 and in 1987 the corporate purpose was enlarged “to provide care, support, maintenance, and education of orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children, and to support projects related to such children.”

The General Synod has charged the Board “to carry out the purpose of the corporation consistent with the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.” Since the closing of the home in 1978, the Board has been the arm of the Church seeking to provide for children who have been deprived of normal parental care.

How have we done? During the period 1987 – 2006 (following the action to enlarge the corporate purpose) the Dunlap Ministry has made grants of \$ 1,862,677 for @ thirty six different ministry entities (some of which received multiple grants.) Grants have been made for both capital and operating purposes, for scholarships, for development. The ministries tell us that we have made a difference!

The present, and ongoing, 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.

Board Resources and Methodology

Resources for ministry come from two primary sources:

1. Endowment earnings. When Dunlap closed some of the liquid assets were returned to the General Synod. The remaining assets and proceeds from the sale of the property were placed in two separate endowments. The value of the original land grant on which the campus was situated was placed in the “Will Ministry Fund” with the assets and earnings restricted exclusively to the care of orphaned children. The balance was placed in the “Orphanage Ministry Fund” for the broader purposes of the corporation. On an annual basis, 5% of the three-year average market value of these endowments is available for ministry and operations.
2. 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.

The Dunlap Board does not receive current funding from the General Synod but does receive administrative support through the Office of Administrative Services.

The process of change from operating a home to effecting ministry through others is ongoing. Guidelines have been developed

- to help a rotating Board stay focused on the primary purpose of the ministry;
- to provide assistance for ministries seeking financial support;
- to help establish ongoing relationships with homes that do what Dunlap was doing.
- to assist in evaluating opportunities for ministry outside the United States.

Dunlap’s ministry is promoted annually through correspondence to Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches. Each session is encouraged to explore opportunities for involvement in ministry to children in the community and to help the Board identify homes that provide children with comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment. 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 a specified date 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.

Additional information and forms for grant application are available on the General Synod website (<http://www.arsynod.org/dunlap.html>).

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

- Collins Home—Jane Williams
- Palmer Home—William B. Everett

These two homes provide opportunities for mission and ministry to individuals and churches. The 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. The General Synod has approved these two homes as “Cooperative Ministries.”

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). 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 two residential homes and a Family Center. The Family and Community Outreach Center provides a place to conduct coun-

selling 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. 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. **French Camp Academy**, One Fine Place, French Camp, MS 39745-9703, 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. This will be final year of scheduled support for French Camp Academy.

A partnership with World Witness’ “OPORA Training Project for Russian Evangelical Churches Working with Orphans and Children-At-Risk” began in 2005. Current year funding completes the three year scheduled support. This three-year training project helped in the development of a program to provide ongoing

- (1) Christian training in life skills and biblical truth for children in orphanages;
- (2) Christian mentors for orphans being released from orphanages; and
- (3) humanitarian aid to orphanages when possible.

The Board responded to a special appeal from World Witness for assistance in needed repairs and services at the **Mabel Lowery Pressley Christian Girls’ Hostel** in Sahiwal. A one-time grant was approved as funding over and above that which had been budgeted from World Witness funds.

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. Information on the scholarship program and information on the Dunlap Scholars may be found on the Dunlap website - <http://www.arpsynod.org/dunlap.html>.

In addition to the Erskine Dunlap Scholarship program, the Board has a scholarship program for Associate Reformed Presbyterian or-

phans who are unable to attend Erskine College. Interested parties should contact the Board at the ARP Center address.

Administrative Activities

The Board continues to receive administrative support from the staff of Administrative Services. The Board anticipates that administrative and staff support will be provided by Central Services. The Board has appointed the Executive Director of Central Services, Paul Bell, to serve as its administrative officer.

Budgets for 2007 and 2008. The budget for 2007 was revised to reflect the available funds for 2007. The projected budget for 2008 is based on using 5% of the three-year average market value of invested funds plus the income from trusts. The actual expenditures for 2008 will be approved at the 2007 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 2007 - 2008: November 7-8, 2007 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken*; March 19, 2008, 11:00 A.M. (EST), Telephone Conference Call; and November 12-14, 2008, 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken*. *The Chairman has the discretion to change the meetings to a Telephone Conference Call.

Officers for July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008:

Chairman: Darrell Peer

Vice-Chairman: David Vickery

Secretary: Ronald Pritts

The Treasurer of the General Synod serves as Treasurer for the Corporation.

The Board expresses grateful appreciation to two members completing their term of service, Terry Wallace and William B. Everett and to Ed Hogan for his many years of faithful service.

Recommendations

1. That the tentative Budget for 2008 be approved.
2. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be sustained.

Darrell Peer, Chairman

William H. Dunlap Fund

	Budget	
	2007 As Revised	2008 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
Earnings for Ministry (5% of 3-year Avg)	\$ 65,555	\$ 67,056
B. J. Wade Estate	43,308	43,308
Ola B. Hunter Trust	1,624	1,624
Kennedy Annuity (Corpus)	0	0
Denominational Ministry Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 110,487</u>	<u>\$ 111,988</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Administration		
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 2,237	\$ 2,500
Administrative Support	4,250	4,250
General Office	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Sub-Total for Administration	<u>\$ 6,987</u>	<u>\$ 7,250</u>
Ministry	\$ 104,738	
• Collins Home	\$ 30,000	
• Palmer Home	30,000	
• Presbyterian Home, Lynchburg, VA	1,500	
• French Camp Academy*	2,000	0
• Erskine Scholarships	20,000	0
• MLSP Christian Girls' Hostel	10,000	0
• OPORA Ministry to Orphans in Russia	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Ministry Sub-Total	<u>\$ 103,500</u>	<u>\$ 104,738</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 110,487</u>	<u>\$ 111,988</u>
Reserve for Ministry	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

*Restricted to Home/Full-Time Care

A motion was adopted:

That Synod call upon the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty and Staff of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary wholeheartedly to fulfill the instructions of the General Synod regarding character and mission of the College and Seminary and, in particular, that they carefully and without evasion adhere to the requirement that any newly appointed administrative or teaching employee of any board shall have given satisfactory evidence of their belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2006, pg. 9*)

Randall T. Ruble spoke to the Synod regarding Erskine College and Seminary.

The Report of the **Board of Trustees of Erskine College** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Erskine College** recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-5. In addition the committee:

1. Recommended at the hiring of its next president and all thereafter, that the Board of Trustees commit to the hiring of an evangelical reformed Christian for the President of Erskine College and Seminary and recommit itself to a total integration of a Christ-centered life, i.e., the Christian world view and life view in all of its educational process, affirming Christian commitment and excellence in learning.
2. Expressed thanks to God that in His gracious providence Dr. Randall Ruble has been appointed as President of Erskine College and Seminary and that our College and Seminary have godly, reformed and evangelical leadership.

The recommendations of the Board of Trustees were adopted.

The additional recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE

Fathers and Brethren:

Following his appointment as Interim President in August 2006, the Board of Trustees at its October meeting named Dr. Randall T. Ruble the 14th President of Erskine College and Seminary. On that occasion, Dr. Ruble stated, "I have for many years had a passion for both institutions and I am humbled and honored that the Lord has seen fit to entrust me with such an important position. It is my constant prayer that He will daily give me the wisdom and insight, as well as the strength that is needed to continue to move these two institutions in the direction that will best honor and glorify Him. For years, the College has turned out young people well prepared for their chosen professions. Our alumni database is filled with individuals who have made us proud and who attest to the fact that we take seriously our commitment to *Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning*. It is my hope that you will encourage the young people in your churches to at least visit Erskine. The Seminary has also had a long history of producing outstanding leaders in many denominations and continues to have a broad and effective ministry in higher education."

Cabinet Leadership: Dr. Randall T. Ruble, President; Dr. Donald V. Weatherman, Executive Vice President and Dean of the College;

The Rev. H. Neely Gaston, Executive Vice President of the Seminary; Mr. Gregory W. Haselden, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Dr. John T. West IV, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; and Mr. R. Monty Wooley, Vice President for Student Services.

Commencement and Baccalaureate Services, May 19-20, 2007:

Ms. Kathleen Parker, a noted newspaper columnist, delivered the College commencement address; The Rev. Dr. S. Dean Turbeville was the baccalaureate preacher; and The Rev. John S. Kimmons gave the Seminary commencement address. Honorary degrees were awarded to Mr. Joseph T. Black, Buena Vista, CO; Dr. John L. Carson, Flat Rock, NC; The Rev. John S. Kimmons, Greensboro, NC; and Mr. Joseph H. Moss, Austin, TX.

Board of Trustees Leadership, 2007-2008: Mr. Guy H. "Chip" Smith III, Chairman; Mr. David J. Cathcart, Vice Chairman; and The Rev. William L. "Bill" Barron, Sr., Secretary.

Academic Affairs

New faculty for 2006-07

Mr. Jim Riser, curriculum director and athletic training instructor

Dr. Brooks Kuykendall, assistant professor of music

Mr. Anthony Santella, assistant professor of business administration

Dr. Charles Emery, professor of business administration

Dr. Karen Austen, assistant professor of physical education

Dr. Stewart James-Lejarcegui, visiting assistant professor of modern languages

Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Stefanie Baker, associate professor of biology, was selected as Erskine College's recipient of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities' Excellence in Teaching Award.

Faculty Searches

Ten faculty searches are under way for next academic year.

Teacher Education Program

Erskine has received accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and is one of the few small colleges to achieve this distinction.

Enrollment Management

Performa, a consulting firm, is working with Erskine on developing new strategies for student recruitment and a new model for financial aid.

Financial Aid

Ms. Allison Sullivan, formerly assistant director of financial aid at Furman University, is the new director of financial aid.

Spiritual Development

Fellowship at the Barn on Sunday evenings, regular Bible study groups, and The Widow's Ministry are all solid programs which continue to serve student needs.

Athletics

A special committee is studying the future of Erskine athletics, including the feasibility of golf, volleyball, lacrosse and football. A new batting cage and new team lockers have enhanced the baseball program. Lighting for the baseball field continues to be a critical need.

Student Services

Training programs as well as a mid-year retreat for Resident Directors and Student Life Assistants were implemented. The annual orientation program for freshmen, the College Student Inventory, and individual student interviews were conducted. A leadership seminar planned for campus organizational leaders took place in the spring semester. New guidelines have been developed for student publications.

Development

The Gold Campaign exceeded its goal of \$36,800,000 with gifts totaling \$40,035,096; a victory celebration was held in April. The Annual Fund reached and exceeded its goals for the year. Lee W. Logan, Vice President for Development, retired December 31, 2006, after 33 years of dedicated service; a banquet was given honoring him for his many years of service.

Marketing and Public Relations

The Erskine Public Relations Office continues to produce brochures, viewbooks, invitations, and numerous other publications in support of admissions, alumni, fine arts, and development. This office designed publications for the inauguration of the new president and created an inauguration Web site. Two issues of the alumni magazine, *Inside Erskine*, were published and daily stories on Netnews covered campus activities. News and hometown releases were printed in South Carolina newspapers.

Institutional Relations

U.S. Land Investments, a Charlotte, NC, real estate development company, donated property on Lake Russell for an Erskine facility and gave \$100,000 to construct a facility. The facility is being designed by Davis & Floyd, Inc., Greenwood, SC, that includes a nature conservatory and recreational center.

The Drummond Conference Center

The State of South Carolina partially funded a chair in political science to support Erskine's commitment to promote statesmanship

through the Drummond Center. The chair will be filled by the fall of 2007. The winner of the Inez Tenenbaum Essay Contest was Eric Ellenbogen of Riverside Middle School in Greer, SC. His teacher was Mrs. Gail Denton. On April 24, 2007, Mrs. Darla Moore delivered the keynote address at the Drummond Award Banquet. The Honorable William Barnet III, of Spartanburg, SC, was the recipient of the 2007 Drummond Award. An endowed chair in political science was named in honor of Grady L. Patterson, former SC State Treasurer and Abbeville County native.

The Small Business Support Center

Under the leadership of two business department professors, this Center is now assisting more than 60 businesses in a five-county region of South Carolina.

Finance

As of December 31, 2006, College and Seminary Endowment funds were valued at approximately \$50 million. Endowment performance is constantly monitored by a Board Investment Committee. Assets under external management are with Citigroup/Smith Barney.

For 2007-08, College tuition, fees, room, and board will increase by 6.9%, raising the average total cost to \$29,006, and Seminary fees will increase to \$310 per hour for the Master's programs and \$325 per hour for the Doctor of Ministry program.

Facilities

On December 20, 2006, the institution closed on \$11.5 million in Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds which provides additional operating financial flexibility and approximately \$2.1 million for deferred maintenance projects. Major projects completed in fiscal year 2006-07:

- addition to the Erskine Facilities Management Building;
- renovation to the Chesnut Room and the adjacent meeting room in Belk Hall, planned and funded by Mr. and Mrs. J. David Chesnut;
- construction of The Taylor Conference and Hospitality Room (a new hospitality room and a new weight room/aerobics facility) in Galloway provided by Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Taylor;
- construction of batting cage and expansion of the baseball locker room facilities;
- construction of the music/math addition to Memorial Hall which began in November with projected completion in 12-14 months; and
- renovation of the Founders Room in Moffatt Dining Hall in partnership with Aramark Higher Education.

Philosophy of Christian Higher Education

A Board of Trustees Committee has met several times during the year to develop a Strategic Plan for Erskine and in that context studied the Statement of Christian Higher Education. Copies of that statement are being given to new Erskine employees to acquaint them with the General Synod's vision for its College and Seminary.

Requests/Recommendations

The Board of Trustees, with gratitude for past support, makes the following requests to 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 funds for the following:

Operating Budget: \$620,000 for 2008 to be used in our \$6.85 million scholarship budget (for fiscal year 2007-08) and to support the College Chaplain.

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Student Union: \$500 for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Student Union.

Special Request: \$50,000

The Erskine administration, with the support of the alumni board, has identified the need for an alumni house to provide guest rooms for visitors to the campus. The site selected for this project is the home of former Erskine Seminary Dean W.W. Boyce, located on the corner of Main and Washington Streets, across from Belk Hall. A one-time gift of \$50,000 is requested with the suggestion that the General Synod consider a naming opportunity for part of the facility. Such a significant and generous contribution would serve as a springboard for others to join in this much needed facility.

3. Concur with the change in the meeting of the Board of Trustees to the third Friday in October and February and the Friday following commencement in May and that the Bylaws and the Manual of Authorities and Duties be updated accordingly.
4. Designate special days when the work of Erskine College and Seminary may be presented to the congregations of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and receive in conjunction with other Synod agencies a special offering.
5. Encourage the promotion of Erskine College and Seminary through:
 - churches using their bulletins, newsletters, and other means to publicize events at Erskine College and Seminary;

- presbyteries and presbyterials inviting representatives from the College and Seminary to participate in youth conferences, retreats, and/or special events; and
- ministers and their staffs making information available to their high school students about the E. B. Kennedy Scholarship Program and other spiritual and educational opportunities, and encourage all who desire to be equipped for ministry to avail themselves of conferences, lectures, and other educational opportunities at the Seminary.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy H. "Chip" Smith III
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Randall T. Ruble
President

REPORT OF ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Our Mission

Erskine Theological Seminary is an educational institution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Seminary has been called by God and commissioned by its host to serve not only that denomination, but also the entire Church of Jesus Christ. The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church.

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 ARP churches for your financial support, your prayers, your students, and your kind words of encouragement. We are committed to continuing to serve the ARP Church.
- We enrolled 155 new students for the summer and fall 2006 semesters, and 69 new students for the winter and spring 2007 semesters. We enrolled 552 students for the entire 2006-07 academic year, and 88 of those were ARP students. More than 30 different denominations were represented. 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.
- Our May 2007 commencement promoted 71 graduates. The breakdown by degree was as follows: 41 Master of Divinity, 1 Master of Arts in Christian Education, 4 Master of Arts in Theological Studies, 6 Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, 4

Master of Arts in Counseling Ministry, 12 Doctor of Ministry, and 1 Diploma in Theology. The commencement speaker was John Stenhouse Kimmons, Jr., Director of Evangelism and Care for Outreach North America.

- Permanent teaching faculty members for the year included Bible professors Doug Culver (deceased January 29, 2007), Jay Hering, Loyd Melton, and George Schwab; Theology and Church History professors Richard Burnett, Don Fairbairn, R. J. Gore, Dale Johnson, and Mark Ross; and Ministry professors Robby Bell, Michael Bush, Jerdone Davis, Robert Glick, Steve Lowe, "Scoti" Old, Toney Parks, Gareth Scott, and Doug White. Part-time faculty members included Robert Alexander, Alan Avera, John Blumenstein, John Carson, Stephen Clyborne, John de Witt, Terry Eves, Jennifer Fairbairn, Paul Fowler, Kitty Holtzclaw, Bill Hyer, Merwyn Johnson, Randy Kowalski, Robert Powell, Keith Ray, Benjamin Shaw, Robert Todd, Greg Tournoux, and Michael Wolfe.
- The Board of Trustees approved the calling of the following two Old Testament professors on February 23, 2007: Dr. Terry L. Eves (Ph.D., The Dropsie College of Hebrew & Cognate Languages) and Dr. Max F. Rogland (Ph.D., Leiden University, the Netherlands).
- 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.
- The Institute for Reformed Worship continues under the leadership of Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old, Dean. Dr. Michael Bush is the Director of the Institute and is Assistant Professor of Worship and Homiletics.
- We were approved by ATS to begin a Th.M. program beginning fall semester 2006. Please contact the Admissions Office (800-770-6936) for more information.
- In appreciation for the support our churches have given us, we are offering one free audit course per semester for teaching and ruling elders and deacons for up to four people per church, pending available classroom space. Please contact the Admissions Office (800-770-6936) for more information.
- Erskine Theological Seminary bid for and was awarded a four-year Army contract to educate Army Chaplains in the D.Min. program that began in July 2004. The third class of chaplains

arrived on campus in July 2006 for three weeks of intensive classes and returned for an additional three weeks in January 2007.

- Erskine Seminary continues to teach D.Min. classes at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina. We also continue to operate extension sites in Augusta, Georgia and in Columbia, Greenville, and Charleston, South Carolina.
- Erskine continues to operate its Erskine Distance Education Network (EDEN), and Dr. Steve Lowe serves as Associate Dean of Christian Education. For more information on EDEN, please contact Dr. Lowe at 864.379.8748 or slowe@erskine.edu, or go online at www.eden.erskine.edu.
- The fourth annual Allison Open Golf Tournament was held on May 7, 2007 at Greenwood Country Club in Greenwood, S.C.
- Erskine Lecture Series speakers included Bishop Will Willimon, Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, for *Christianity & Culture*; Dr. Leonard Sweet, Founder and President of SpiritVenture Ministries, also for *Christianity & Culture*; Dr. Alan Avera, Executive Director of Outreach North America, for *Missions Emphasis Week*; Mr. David C. McCasland, author of numerous books on outstanding Christian leaders, for *Christianity and Public Morality*; Mr. Frank Van Dalen, Executive Director of World Witness, for *Spring Missions Emphasis Week*; Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff, Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology at Yale University, for *Christianity and Literature*; Dr. Glenn Daman, Director of Village Missions Center for Leadership Development, for *Ford Lectures on the Small Church*; Rev. Frank Reich, Pastor of Cornerstone ARP Church in Charlotte, for *Sermon on the Resurrection*; Dr. James F. Kay, Director of the Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, for the *Annual Spring Conference*; and Dr. Diana Garland, Dean of the School of Social Work at Baylor University, also for the *Annual Spring Conference*.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Neely Gaston, Executive Vice President
Erskine Theological Seminary

A motion carried:

That the General Synod reaffirm its commitment to the previously approved "Statement of Christian Higher Education" and encourage the committee tasked to produce a new statement, to the end that it will in no way weaken,

but in fact will strengthen, the Christian commitment and clarity of the statement;

That the General Synod remind the Erskine President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of their mandate to implement this philosophy and to maintain the Erskine identity in accordance with it, in ways that are reported to, and verifiable by, the General Synod; and

That the Synod pause to pray for the Lord's present and future blessing on Erskine College and Theological Seminary, its Board of Trustees, and its new president.

The morning session closed with prayer and the blessing by H. Max Bolin.

**Thursday, June 7, 2007
2:00 P.M.**

Charles Y. Todd led the afternoon worship service.

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 12, 2007, at 9:30 AM at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Following introductions Henry Bartsch gave a devotional message and led in prayer.

Committee members present were G.J. Gerard (Northeast Presbytery Representative), John Krieg (Florida Presbytery Representative), Andy Putnam (Catawba Presbytery Representative), Bill Harris (Virginia Presbytery Representative), Bill Marsh (Second Presbytery Representative), David Griffin (Mississippi Valley Presbytery Representative), Henry Bartsch (Canadian Presbytery Representative), Fred Hartin (Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery Representative), and Nancy Corbitt (Women's Ministries Representative). Earl Linderman (First Presbytery Representative) was excused. The representative of Pacific Presbytery was absent. Also present were Tom Patterson (Synod Moderator), Wilf Bellamy (Synod Coordinator), and Charles Edgar (Synod Moderator-elect).

The nomination process proceeded, working on a consensus basis. At the conclusion, a motion to approve the slate of nominees passed.

The following motion passed:

"That the Committee on Nominations furnish each prospective Erskine Board nominee with a copy of the 1977 Re-

port of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education, the Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education, and the Statement of Evangelical Christianity, as each is found in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*; that each prospective nominee sign and return to the Committee on Nominations a Form of Affirmation, which states "I have read, understand, and am in agreement with the Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education, the Statement of Philosophy on Christian Higher Education, and the Statement of Evangelical Christianity;" and that the mailing of the three documents and the affirmation form be done by the ARP Center upon receipt of the Recommendation for Service Form for each prospective Erskine Board member."

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, 2006, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected.

Benefits

- 2012 — Percy Moore (Wildhurst) (Replacing Ivor Rich)
- 2013 — Lane West (Christ Community) (Replacing Lrry Plyler),
Garry L. Wakefield (White Oak, GA)

Bonclarken

- 2010 — Frank M. Hunt (Lake Wales) (Replacing Brent Turner)
- 2013 — James S. Matthews (Tirzah), Lee W. Logan (Due West),
Welch M. Bostick, Jr. (Greenville)

Christian Education Ministries

- 2011 — W. Carlisle Mills (Pinecrest) (Replacing Greg Hamer)
- 2013 — Michael S. Westberry (Bartow)

Erskine

- 2010 — Parker Young (Pinecrest) (Replacing Wes McAllister)
- 2013 — Ms. L. Crosland Stuart (Non-ARP), John C. Dorr, Jr., Mr.
John Basie (White Oak, GA), James T. Corbitt, Mr. Jerry
Clemons (Fairlea)

Executive Board of Synod

- 2011 — Terry Wallace (F), Peter A. Waid (S)

Outreach North America

- 2013 — Thomas Duff James

Stewardship

- 2013 — Paul McInnish (Highlands)

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian

- 2013 — Oran Smith (Columbia First), Harold Robertson (Coddle Creek)

William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. (*Submitted by Presbytery to be Appointed by Synod)

2010 — _____ (P*)

2013 — James Barker, Mrs. Gary (Diane) Clowers (M)(Richland)

World Witness

2010 — John Henderson (Unity, SC) (Replacing Troy Pritt)

2013 — Gordon Bell (Atonement), James Maynor (Gastonia First)

Ecclesiastical Commission On Judiciary Affairs

2008 — Michael Lineberger (Teaching Elder, Replacing James T. Corbitt)

2009 — William Blakely (Teaching Elder, Replacing James Bell)

2011 — James A. Hunt, Monte Campbell (Bartow), James Kidd (Lincoln Memorial)

Inter-Church Relations

2013 — Steve Weber (Prosperity, TN)

Investment Committee

2012 — Mick Houck (Coddle Creek)

Lay Ministry

2009 — George Moser (Lakeside Fellowship) (Replacing T. J. Brown), David Strock (Providence, TN) (Replacing Cliff Dyehouse)

2011 — Gail Fowler (Fayetteville), Joan Thomas (Pinecrest), Reta Harris (Old Providence (WM)), Ron McKnight (Pinecrest)

Theological and Social Concerns

2008 — _____, Erskine Seminary Representative

2011 — Martha McKenzie (WM) (Bartow), Kearney Caldwell (Coddle Creek)

Worship

2011 — Eleanor Richardson (Pinecrest), Ruth Jones (WM-Ebenezer, SC), Robert J. Cara

Officers of Synod:

2010 — **Parliamentarian:** Andrew K. Putnam

Officers for July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008:

G.J. Gerard, Chairman

Earl Linderman, Vice-Chairman

David Griffin, Secretary

The Nominations packets for 2008 will be mailed in September 2007. The deadline for submission of nominees will be January 2, 2008. The Committee will meet February 11, 2008, 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 Presbyteries consider making Recommendations for Service during their Fall meetings.
6. That Sessions consider making Recommendations for Service during their November and December meetings.
7. That those making Recommendations for Service to the Committee (by mail or on-line) remember the need to use the proper form, and to provide helpful information concerning the qualifications for each person recommended.
8. That each prospective Erskine Board nominee be furnished with a copy of the 1977 Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education, the Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education, and the Statement of Evangelical Christianity, as each is found in the Manual of Authorities and Duties; that each prospective nominee sign and return to the Committee on Nominations a Form of Affirmation, which states "I have read, understand, and am in agreement with the Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education, the Statement of Philosophy on Christian Higher Education, and the Statement of Evangelical Christianity;" and that the mailing of the three documents and the affirmation form be done by the ARP Center upon receipt of the Recommendation for Service Form for each prospective Erskine Board member.
9. That the General Synod authorize \$5,000 for Committee expenses in 2008.
10. That nominees elected by General Synod to fill unexpired terms, begin service upon the action of Synod.

11. That confirmation of nominee's willingness to serve must be received by April 1 of each year, after which date the Committee on Nominations will consider replacement recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,
G. J. Gerard, Chairman

A motion carried:

That members elected to the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs for service beginning July 1, 2007, due to extenuating circumstances, take office immediately and, due to the absence of a chairman of the said Ecclesiastical Commission, that Monterey Campbell be appointed as Convenor.

The Report of the **Executive Board of Synod** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on the Executive Board** made the following recommendations:

1. That Recommendations 1-10 be adopted.
2. That Recommendation 11 not be adopted.
3. That Board Recommendation 12 be adopted.

In addition, your committee recommends that the Executive board meet to resolve the apparent discrepancy between report p. 5 (a, b, c) and the job description for the Executive Director of Central Services (report p. 11) and report back to this meeting of the General Synod **[Not Adopted]**

That the Synod express their appreciation to the Executive Board for thir work on behalf of the General Synod **[Adopted]**

That the attachment to the Executive Board report (acting Historian's Report) be adopted. **[Adopted]**

The recommendations of the Executive Board were adopted.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD

The Executive Board of Synod is the agency of the General Synod empowered to carry out the work of the General Synod in the interim period between meetings of the General Synod. It provides oversight for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, Central Services, the promotional work of the General Synod, and the Coordinator of the General Synod. The Board met on three 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.

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, and one ruling or teaching elder from each presbytery. Non-voting advisory membership includes the Coordinator, Historian, Parliamentarian, President of ARP Women's Ministries, and chairmen and chief administrative officers of the boards of the General Synod. The Executive Director of Central Services serves as the board's administrative officer. As required by the *Form of Government*, Chapter XIV. A.2.c., a position description of the chief administrative officer is submitted with this report for inclusion in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

Acts on Behalf of the General Synod

The Executive Board has the authority and duty to act on behalf of the General Synod in emergencies. These are situations that, 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. Before considering a particular action, the voting members of the Board must first vote to act on behalf of Synod. Since the last meeting of the General Synod, the Executive Board took the following action on behalf of the General Synod:

The 2006 General Synod "received as information" two reports of the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs. Report 1 (pages 430, 648 *2006 Minutes of Synod*) was the Commission's response to a motion in 2005 – "That the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs study and report back to the 2006 Synod on the issue of Presbytery's authority according to the *Form of Government* to categorize ministers without a call into Presbytery inactive membership..." (Page 96, *2005 Minutes of Synod*). The report included the following recommendation, reported as an "action": "The commission recommends that Florida Presbytery study further this matter of categories and procedures regarding minister membership in Presbytery with a view of presenting a memorial to the General Synod for consideration." The Executive Board, acting on behalf of the General Synod, accepted the Report of the Ecclesiastical Commission pertaining to categorizing ministers without a call into Presbytery inactive membership and forwarded the recommendation to Florida Presbytery for its consideration.

Report 2 (Pages 573, 656 *2006 Minutes of Synod*) was a report of the Commission's disposition of a "Complaint" by a member of First Presbytery. In addition to reporting its rulings, the report included the following: "Further concerns related to the content or procedural matters of these complaints are to be referred back to First Presbytery." Acting on behalf of the General Synod, the Executive Board

accepted the Report of the Ecclesiastical Commission pertaining to the Complaint against action of First Presbytery and forwarded the report to First Presbytery.

The Executive Board chose not to act on two matters relating to the Complaint against action of First Presbytery:

a. There was a “protest” regarding the handling of the Complaint at the meeting of the General Synod. There is no provision in the *Form of Government* for a “protest” on decisions of the General Synod, therefore there is no action to be taken.

b. There was an “appeal” regarding the action of First Presbytery to suspend from office two ruling elders. It was determined that this was not an emergency situation and therefore not a proper action to be considered by the Executive Board. The matter would need to come before the General Synod 2007.

Referrals and Communications

a. Evangelism Emphasis. The General Synod approved a recommendation of the Board of Outreach North America (Page 479, #8, *2006 Minutes of Synod*) “That the Moderator of Synod declare January 2007 as a month of evangelism emphasis within the ARP Church, that Synod agencies provide resources on evangelism for this emphasis, and that congregations make a concerted effort to reach out during this month.” The Executive Board asked Outreach North America to coordinate efforts to provide appropriate emphases and to provide information for the *2007 Plan Book*.

b. Fasting and Prayer. Recommendation 8 of the Report of the Board of Outreach North America included the recommendation “That the Moderator of Synod also declare at least one day of fasting and prayer for church renewal and revival within the ARP Church.” Noting that there is no “official” guidance in the Standards, the Executive Board asked the Committee on Worship, working with a representative of Outreach North America, to prepare appropriate guidance for observing the day or season of fasting for church renewal and revival.

c. Pakistan Centennial Anniversary Celebration. Rev. John Alexander Razwani, in his address, issued an invitation “to the moderator, secretary, pastors, elders, all board members and former missionaries of World Witness who have been serving in Pakistan in the past... to join us in this joyful occasion...” (Page 648, *2006 Minutes of Synod*.) The Committee on Inter-Church Relations, in its report, noted the celebration and advised “our synod (or its executives) to expect and respond to the invitation.” A recommendation of the Moderator’s Committee on World Witness was approved – “That the General

Synod send the Moderator, Vice-Moderator or Moderator-Elect to Pakistan for the centennial celebration in November 2006." The Moderator was asked to coordinate with the Committee on Inter-Church Relations and World Witness to arrange General Synod representation at the celebration of the Pakistan Centennial anniversary.

d. Fraternal Greeting: General Synod approved a formal "word of encouragement" to the ARP Synod of Pakistan (Page 540, #2, 2006 *Minutes of Synod*) and the Moderator asked Pastor John Alexander Razwani to convey the official "word of encouragement." The Moderator was asked to prepare a written copy of the "word of encouragement" to be presented to the Synod of Pakistan by the person representing the General Synod at the celebration.

e. Relationship with RPCNA (Page 456, #4, 2006 *Minutes of Synod*). A recommendation of the Committee on Inter-Church relations was adopted: "That through the action of the ICR Committee and other agencies of our Synod, we pursue a closer relationship of communication and interaction with the RPCNA." The Executive Board requested the Committee on Inter-Church Relations to provide guidelines and/or suggestions to "other agencies of our Synod" that could help in the implementation of the recommendation.

f. Service on Boards, Standing Committee, Commission, and Special Assignments. Two related concerns were presented to the Executive Board.

- a. A question was raised on the beginning date of service for those appointed to replace members that have resigned. The Committee on Nominations' report indicates that service begins July 1 in the year appointed and terminates on June 30 of the year indicated. The Committee on Nominations was asked to review this matter to determine if this applies to those that are appointed to fill unexpired terms and, if appropriate, provide clarification in its annual report.
- b. A member of a board of the General Synod submitted his resignation to the board and this was reported to the Committee on Nominations and to the Executive Board of Synod based on the assumption that the General Synod (or the Executive Board of Synod acting on behalf of the General Synod) would have to act on the resignation "since ... was actually elected by the Synod." On review, the Executive Board recommends the following changes in the authority and duties of the Committee on Nominations as set forth in the *Manual of Authorities and*

Duties:

Authority: The Committee on Nominations has the responsibility to review the qualifications and to nominate to the General Synod those persons best qualified to fill vacant membership positions serve on General Synod's boards, and standing committees, commission, and for special assignments.

Duty #3: 3. To determine positions to be filled (the Committee shall receive and act on resignations in determining positions to be filled), review the qualifications of those considered for service, and nominate to the Synod those persons best qualified to serve the Synod on its boards and committees.

g. Assistance to Churches That Cannot Afford to Send Representatives to Synod. This concern was presented to the Special Committee to Revise the Form of Government. Rather than try to address this in a revision to the *Form of Government*, the Special Committee asked that the Executive Board consider the concern. The following concern was expressed:

"It is difficult for some churches to pay the expenses of their delegates to the meeting of the General Synod. In the cases where churches cannot afford to provide for the expenses, is there a method to ask presbyteries to shoulder that responsibility AND, in the event the presbytery cannot, is there a possibility that the Synod can somehow provide these funds?"

This referral was received as information to be forwarded to the Presbytery Clerks.

h. Process for Endorsing Resources. Christian Education Ministries asked the Executive Board to define the process for materials to be described as ARP endorsed materials. The Executive Board asks for General Synod's direction for developing a procedure.

i. Request for Spanish Translation of the Standards. Catawba Presbytery submitted a request to the Executive Board to begin the process of preparing a translation of the Standards of the Church in Spanish. The 2005 General Synod adopted "Guidelines for Translations of Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church" (see *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, Executive Board of Synod.) Item # 5 in the Guidelines states that the "General Synod reserves

the right to authorize (or otherwise) a translation.” The Executive Board recommends that a translation not be authorized at this time for the following reasons:

- a. The *Book of Worship* is undergoing revision, to be over-tured to the presbyteries.
- b. A Special Committee to Revise the Form of Government is in the process of revising the *Form of Government*.
- c. A revision of the *Book of Discipline* will likely be undertaken following the revisions to the *Book of Worship* and *Form of Government*.

Committee Responsibilities

The Executive Board has four standing committees:

a. Committee on Administration: This committee oversees the work of Central 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. Central Services serves as the administrative offices for Benefits, ARP Foundation, Dunlap, Executive Board, and Stewardship. The staff is undergoing change with the retirements of Ed Hogan and Beth Willis. Paul Bell became the Executive Director of Central Services as of March 15, 2007. Two part-time staff members, Louise Raby and Donna Wentz, will be replaced by a full-time assistant. A Benefit Assistant is being hired. Leland Beaudrot and Alisa Prince (part-time) are other members of the Central Services' staff.

The committee has regular scheduled meetings 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, Chairman of the Board of Benefits, 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 Central Services, the Center Facility, and the Executive Board.

The ARP Center Facility is the administrative headquarters for the denomination and provides office space for Central Services, Christian Education Ministries, Outreach North America, and World Witness. It 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 facility was made possible by a grant from the Camp-Younts Foundation in 1978. The Executive Board has authorized the establishment of a special committee to evaluate the facility and to investigate options

for the administrative offices.

Central Services continues to be an active participant in helping churches and agencies develop websites and in linking those sites for a more effective presentation of the denomination. Church leaders and members are encouraged to visit the web at **www.arpsynod.org**.

The revised budgets for 2007 and proposed 2008 budgets for the Center Facility, Administrative Services, and the Executive Board are attached.

b. Committee to Plan Emphases: The Moderator-Elect serves as chairman. Current membership includes the Vice-President of ARP Women's Ministries and representatives from each presbytery in alternating years, chosen by the Moderator-Elect. The emphases for the period July 2007 - June 2008 as approved by the Executive Board are attached as information.

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 for the 2007 Meeting of the General Synod 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 pre-synod 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 serves as Coordinator and is commended for his ministry. He began his duties as Coordinator July 1, 2002. 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 recommends renewal of Mr. Bellamy's contract for the period July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008. The Committee included the following in its report to the Executive Board:

"The committee recognizes that this is both a time of challenge and of opportunity for the ARP Church. The Committee wishes to encourage all Boards and Agencies to continue to explore the Central Services concept with a view to maximiz-

ing efficiency and careful stewardship of the resources with which God has blessed us. The Committee also wishes to underscore to all Boards and Agencies the need for strategic planning attuned to the larger mission of the ARP Church."

Miscellaneous Items

a. Central Services. Implementation steps continue toward developing the long-term goals of Central Services. At its meeting in July 2006, the Executive Board authorized the Moderator to appoint a search committee for the Executive Director of Central Services and at a called meeting, January 29, 2007, Mr. Paul Bell, an elder in the Due West Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, was appointed. A transition period began March 15. He is a graduate of Erskine College and has a Masters Degree from Appalachian State University. He has served as Director of Admissions at Erskine College, worked as a speech-language pathologist in South Carolina and Kentucky, and for the past 12 years he has been the chief executive officer at the Due West Retirement Center. He has been active in the life of the church, serving as Vice-Moderator of the General Synod and member and chairman of the Board of Benefits. He brings a love for the Lord and an appreciation and understanding of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. He is well equipped to continue toward developing the long term goals of Central Services:

- a. To develop a technically competent Publications Department that can serve the needs of all other departments/agencies of General Synod. Such departments/agencies would reserve editorial control to themselves.
- b. To continue to develop the possibility of a Human Resources and Benefits department and to implement this as expeditiously as possible, with the first step being to hire a Benefit Assistant with background in human resources.
- c. To continue to work toward the possibility of a unified financial system, a unified database, and a unified web-operation.

b. Copyright of Translations of Standards. General Synod 2005 approved a recommendation of the Moderator's Committee on Executive Board that translations of the Standards of the ARP Church be copyrighted. The Principal Clerk was asked to review the process, cost, implementation, and impact. Following his report the Board approved the following recommendation to the General Synod: "That the matter of copyrighting the Standards not be pursued." The Report to the 2006 General Synod failed to include the recommendation. The Board recommends that Guideline #8 of the Guidelines for

Translations be amended as follows: "Authorized translations will be copyrighted and bear the imprimatur (official seal) of the ARP Church."

c. Official Records. Reference is made to Report of the Executive Board in the 2006 *Minutes of Synod*, pages 514 and 529. At its meeting in July 2006 the Board received a report from Synod Historian William R. Roberts confirming the decision of the UPUSA to close the Presbyterian Study Center at Montreat, NC, as an Archive. Montreat has served as the repository for the official records of the General Synod and its agencies. The decision by the General Assembly UPUSA made it necessary to contract with another Archive facility to archive our collection. The special committee appointed to provide oversight and direction to this process has chosen Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA and is in the process of negotiating a contract for services so that the records at Montreat can be transferred.

The General Synod, through the special committee appointed for this purpose, must come to a mutual understanding of what records will be transferred. General Synod's attorney has been asked to communicate with the Presbyterian Study Center that the Minutes of Synod and Presbytery Minutes, although submitted in bound or unsigned copies, were submitted as the official records of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and are to be transferred to the selected Archive facility.

The General Synod owes a debt of gratitude to William R. Roberts for his untiring efforts to resolve these issues. In God's providence Bill has encountered health problems that do not allow him to continue these activities at this time. He has offered to resign his position as Historian. The Executive Board has chosen not to accept his resignation at this time, but has appointed Mr. Bryan McKown as Acting Historian. Mr. McKown is a member of the Centennial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, an Archivist with the State of South Carolina, and a member of the special committee appointed by the Executive Board to oversee this process. We are grateful for his willingness to assume the role of Acting Historian.

As members of the court read this report, we encourage you to pray for Bill, for Mr. McKown, and for the process of resolving the issue of archiving the records of the General Synod.

d. Executive Board of Synod Meeting Dates: The following meeting dates have been set: October 25, 2007, March 20, 2008 and October 23, 2008. All meetings are scheduled for 10:30 AM (EST) at the ARP Center. The committee to oversee the Coordinator meets at 6:00

PM on the day preceding the Board meeting, and the Committee on Administration meets at 8:30 AM on the day of the meeting.

Experience has indicated that there may be occasions when holding a scheduled meeting is not good stewardship of time or money. The Moderator has discretion in canceling the Fall meetings and to give guidance for telephone conference calls.

e. Appreciation: The Board expresses appreciation to former moderator Neely Gaston for his association with the Executive Board during the past seven years and for his foresight in starting the process of evaluating the organizational structure of the General Synod. Appreciation is expressed, also, to Reverend Earl Linderman (First Presbytery) and Mr. Bill Patrick (Second Presbytery) for their service as Presbytery representatives. The Board acknowledges and expresses its appreciation to Moderator Tom Patterson and Vice-Moderator John Eddie Hill for their leadership and spiritual direction during the past year.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed budgets for Central Services, ARP Center Facility, and Executive Board of Synod be approved.
2. That the starting dates for the next two regular meeting dates for the General Synod be June 10, 2008 and June 9, 2009 and that the meetings be held at Bonclarken. (See Rules of Procedure, Item # 1, 2006 Minutes of Synod, page 807.)
3. That all changes in previously published dates for Synod-wide activities be coordinated with Central Services before implementation.
4. That Wilfred A. Bellamy be continued as Coordinator for the period July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
5. That the proposed changes in the Manual of Authorities and Duties pertaining to the Committee on Nominations be approved.
6. That the General Synod provide direction for responding to and/or implementing the request of Christian Education Ministries for defining a process for materials to be described as ARP endorsed materials.
7. That the General Synod defer consideration of translations of the Standards until such time as the revisions to its component parts have been concluded.
8. That the proposed change in “Guidelines for Translations of Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church” be approved.
9. That the Emphases for July 2007 – June 2008 be endorsed for

emphasis in the denomination.

10. That the reports on ARP Church Investment Holdings, Inc., and General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Inc. be received as information.
11. That the Position Description for the Executive Director of Central Services be received for printing in the Manual of Authorities and Duties.
12. That all other actions of the Executive Board and General Synod Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Inc. as reported herein be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Patterson, Moderator

C. Ronald Beard, Principal Clerk

CENTRAL SERVICES

BUDGET PROJECTIONS

	2007 Revised	2008 Proposed	2009 Projected (Information)
RECEIPTS			
Current Fund Receipts			
Den. Ministry Funds	\$ 200,350	\$ 220,148	\$ 248,330
Transfer of Invested Reserve	57,372	0	0
Operating Fund Interest	1,622	0	0
AS Expense Reimbursement	5,000	5,000	5,000
Misc. Sales & Services	<u>3,751</u>	<u>3,864</u>	<u>3,979</u>
Sub-Total	\$ 268,095	\$ 229,012	\$ 257,309
Agency Support			
Stewardship	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,550
Benefits (25% of			
Expenditure Budget)	91,481	88,741	91,571
W. H. Dunlap Fund	<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,250</u>
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 98,281</u>	<u>\$ 95,541</u>	<u>\$ 98,371</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 366,376</u>	<u>\$ 324,553</u>	<u>\$ 355,680</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
Director of Administrative Services			
Salary (To July 31, 2007)	\$ 41,552		
Retirement	3,532		
Insurance	6,911		
Employer Tax	<u>3,179</u>		
Director	<u>\$ 55,174</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Executive Director of Central Services			
Salary (March 15, 2007)	\$ 57,000	\$ 74,160	\$ 76,385

Retirement	4,873	6,339	6,528
Phone Cell Allowance	333	420	420
Insurance	10,975	14,648	14,664
Employer Tax	<u>4,386</u>	<u>5,705</u>	<u>5,876</u>
Director	\$ 77,567	\$ 101,272	\$ 103,873
Support Staff Sub-Total	<u>\$195,022</u>	<u>\$ 213,439</u>	<u>\$ 221,417</u>
Staff & Program	\$ 2,679	\$ 2,593	\$ 2,646
Equipment			
Copier Lease	\$ 16,699	\$ 16,699	\$ 16,699
Postage Meter/Scales	648	1,191	1,250
Equipment Maintenance	1,720	1,806	1,897
Equipment Purchase	2,500	2,500	2,500
Telephone Maintenance	<u>1,015</u>	<u>1,801</u>	<u>1,909</u>
Equipment	<u>\$ 22,582</u>	<u>\$ 23,997</u>	<u>\$ 24,255</u>
General Office			
General Office	<u>\$ 12,899</u>	<u>\$ 13,662</u>	<u>\$ 14,092</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$365,923</u>	<u>\$ 354,963</u>	<u>\$ 366,283</u>
Income Over (Under) Exp.	\$ 453	\$ (30,410)	\$ (10,603)
Beginning Unencumbered			
Reserve	<u>40,560</u>	<u>41,013</u>	<u>10,603</u>
Ending Unencumbered Res.	<u>\$ 41,013</u>	<u>\$ 10,603</u>	<u>\$ _____0</u>

**ARP CENTER FACILITY
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	2007 Revised	2008 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
General Synod Interest Allocation	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
Allocations & Interest, Misc.s	<u>\$ 16,250</u>	<u>\$ 16,250</u>
Rent—General Synod Agencies		
Christian Education Ministries	\$ 5,866	\$ 8,969
Outreach North America	8,505	8,505
Publications	5,467	5,468
World Witness	<u>17,979</u>	<u>17,979</u>
Rent—General Synod Agencies	<u>\$ 37,445</u>	<u>\$ 41,921</u>
Rent—Non-Synod Agencies		
Unit #202	5,463	5,463
Unit #204	<u>4,015</u>	<u>5,354</u>
Rent—Non-Synod Agencies	<u>\$ 9,478</u>	<u>\$ 10,817</u>
Total Rent		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 63,173</u>	<u>\$ 68,988</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Facility Management

General Office	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Expendable Supplies	500	500
Renovation/Contingency	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total Facility Management	<u>\$ 6,500</u>	<u>\$ 6,500</u>

Facility Maintenance

Garbage Pickup	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Ground Maintenance	5,100	5,100
Heating & Air Conditioning	2,000	2,000
Janitorial	14,500	14,500
Non-Contract Labor	150	150
Security Monitoring Fees	250	250
Pest Control	<u>310</u>	<u>310</u>
Total Facility Maintenance	<u>\$ 23,310</u>	<u>\$ 23,310</u>

Utilities

Electricity	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
Gas	16,394	16,394
Water & Sewer	<u>900</u>	<u>900</u>
Total Utilities	<u>\$ 33,294</u>	<u>\$ 33,294</u>

Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 63,104</u>	<u>\$ 63,104</u>
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 69	\$ 5,884
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>17,180</u>	<u>17,249</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u><u>\$ 17,249</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 23,133</u></u>

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD
BUDGET PROJECTIONS

RECEIPTS

2007	2008
Revised	Proposed

Current Fund Receipts

Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 122,408	\$ 127,121
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000
Synod Meeting Registration	<u>3,675</u>	<u>3,675</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 127,083</u>	<u>\$ 131,796</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

General Synod Officers

Moderator of Synod	\$ 3,867	\$ 3,867
Moderator-Elect of Synod	3,094	3,094
Principal Clerk	4,521	5,000
Treasurer of Synod	3,675	3,675
Vice Moderator	500	500
Vice-Moderator-Elect	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>

General Synod Officers	\$ 16,157	\$ 16,636
Board		
General Office Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,524
Executive Board Travel & Meeting	5,513	5,513
General Liability, Umbrella Insurance	7,075	6,942
Orientation to Work of General Synod	2,000	4,000
Leadership Orientation	1,200	1,200
Reserve for ARP Subscriptions	1,000	1,000
Emphasis Committee Travel & Exp.	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Board	\$ 19,788	\$ 21,679
Preservation of Historical Material		
Curator of ARP Materials Honorarium	\$ 500	\$ 500
Historian Honorarium	1,000	1,000
Reimbursed Expenses for Historian	1,000	1,000
Office Expenses	500	500
Historical Record Storage	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Preservation of Historical Material	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Coordinator		
Coordinator Fees	\$ 49,811	\$ 51,305
Coordinator Reimbursed Expenses	<u>6,180</u>	<u>6,180</u>
Coordinator	\$ 55,991	\$ 57,485
Minutes of Synod		
Preparation and Distribution	\$ 2,173	\$ 5,754
Printing	12,799	9,016
Minutes of Synod	<u>\$ 14,972</u>	<u>\$ 14,770</u>
Plan Book		
Printing	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Preparation & Distribution	<u>1,921</u>	<u>1,926</u>
Plan Book	\$ 3,121	\$ 3,126
	2007	2008
	Revised	Proposed
Meeting of the General Synod		
Program and Preparation	\$ 5,301	\$ 6,100
Honorariums	1,500	1,500
Staff Expenses	2,000	500
Pre-Synod Conference	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>
Meeting of the General Synod	<u>\$ 13,301</u>	<u>\$ 12,600</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 128,830	\$ 131,796
Excess Income Over (Under)		
Disbursements	<u>\$ (1,747)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

EMPHASES**July 2007 – June 2008****The Worship Experience**

Primary Theme Verse: *Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:
Sing forth the honor of His name. Make His praise glorious.*
(Psalm 66: 1,2)

The proposed emphases are:

July What is Worship? Sandra McCollum

August Tradition vs. Traditionalism Martha McKenzie

Col. 2:6-8, Mark 7:5-13, Heb. 10:1-10

September Worship in Sabbath Keeping Sue Roberson

Isaiah 56:1-8, 58:13-14

October Personal and Family Worship Kerry Ptacek

November Corporate Worship I. John Dorr

The call to worship and Benediction. This would include what we do in preparing our hearts for worship; choral calls, scripture, songs of praise. The call brings us to worship, and the benediction blesses the congregation.

December Corporate Worship II Kevin Muldoon

Confession of sin, forgiveness of sin and the portions of worship in response to our forgiveness such as scripture reading, anthems, offerings, and apostles creed.

January Corporate Worship III

The preaching of the word and the sacraments. Charles Bradley

February Worship God in Music Sandra McCollum

This would amplify some of the above, but would incorporate more detail, such as making certain that our purpose is to praise God rather than entertain. The importance of the use of Psalms, etc.

March Worshipping God in Baptism Kevin Muldoon

The nature of the Covenant, Col. 2:11-15, Rom. 4:11-12

April Worshipping God in the Lord's Supper Kerry Ptacek

Real presence, frequency and the various views, but above all experiencing Christ's death and resurrection. The history of the Lord's Supper. 1 Cor. 11:23-24

May Worshipping God in Weddings, Funerals John Dorr

and other activities apart from Divine Worship

June Worship in all of Life Sue Roberson

The application of "Glorifying God and loving him forever"

Allowing our whole being to praise Him in all of life.

It is felt that worship is primary element in glorifying God and enjoying Him forever.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT**ARP CHURCH INVESTMENT HOLDINGS, INC.**

The ARP Church Investment Holdings, Inc. was formed for the purpose of holding, developing, selling or otherwise disposing of or distributing various gifts and donations of real property in furtherance of the mission of the General Synod and its particular program agencies.

The only holdings at this time represent a mortgage on the land donated to the General Synod for the benefit of Outreach North America. Members of the Executive Committee of Outreach North America serve as officers for the corporation.

The ARP Church Investment Holdings, Inc. is a subordinate organization of the General Synod.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT**GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC**

“General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Inc.” is the legal entity for the General Synod. General Synod’s Moderator (Chairman), Moderator-Elect (Vice-Chairman), Principal Clerk (Secretary), Treasurer, and Chairman of the Board of Stewardship serve as the members of the corporation. The Administrative Officer and the Coordinator of the General Synod serve as advisory members.

GSARPC, Inc. met following the meeting of the Executive Board of Synod, March 22, 2007 and report the following actions:

a. Paul Bell, Executive Director of Central Services, was appointed as the administrative officer.

b. Authorized an update of corporate resolutions which might be necessary by the change in the administrative officer.

ACTING HISTORIAN’S REPORT

By action of the Executive Board on 22 March 2007, I was named Acting Historian of the General Synod due to the illness of Rev. William R. Roberts. Since that time my primary efforts have focused on securing the orderly transfer of the historical records of the ARP Church from the Presbyterian Historical Society’s facility in Montreat, NC to the John Dulow Campbell Library at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. Since March I have had several telephone conversations and e-mail communications with Margery N. Sly, Deputy Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA, and Linda K. Davis, Special Collections Librarian at Columbia Theological Seminary .

As a result of these communications I met with Sly and Davis at Montreat, NC on 29 May 2007. At these meetings we executed an agreement releasing the physical custody of 86 cubic ft of official ARP records from the Presbyterian Historical Society to Columbia Theological Seminary. In addition, we signed a preliminary deposit agreement with Columbia Theological Seminary which specifies the General Synod's ownership of these records, ensures that all General Synod and Presbytery minutes will be covered under the agreement, and stipulates that a formal deposit agreement, including a comprehensive inventory, will be executed no later than 31 December 2007 (see attached agreement with preliminary inventory). Be advised that "official records" comprise the records of congregations, Presbyteries, boards, and the General Synod. Also included are local church histories compiled by Women's Ministries as well as artifacts. All records have now been moved from Montreat to Decatur.

Apparently no official written custodial agreement has ever existed between the ARP Church and any other Presbyterian denomination or agency. We now have clear legal custody of our records and by year's end will have a precise listing which can be updated annually. This so-called "intellectual control" of our records will be invaluable in the future when we transfer our records to our own proposed facility at Erskine College. I firmly believe that Columbia Theological Seminary is an excellent interim location, as it is billing itself as the center for the study of the "southern stream" of Presbyterian history. Moreover, the library's location in the Atlanta metropolitan area will ensure that our records are easily accessible to both church members and a wider audience.

In addition to the above-mentioned activity, I have also served on the Catawba Presbytery's Commission on the Old Brick Church (Ebenezer), Fairfield County, SC. We are currently planning a worship service for 21 October 2007 and are addressing issues of maintenance and long-range planning.

Recommendations

1. That we continue to encourage Erskine College and Seminary about the possibility of providing permanent archival space for historical materials of the ARP Church.
2. That we execute a formal deposit agreement, to include a

comprehensive records inventory, with Columbia Theological Seminary to be completed by 31 December 2007. This agreement will be signed by the Stated Clerk of the General Synod and by the Synod Historian.

3. That the General Synod make an annual contribution of \$2500 to the library of Columbia Theological Seminary (as we did for Montreat) for the maintenance and servicing of our records.

Respectfully,
Bryan McKown

A motion carried:

That serious consideration be given by the Executive Board of Synod to moving the dates of future General Synods so that in the years 2010 and following the General Synod might begin on the third Tuesday in June or later.

A motion carried:

In accordance with the *Form of Government*, Chapter XIV. B.2 and the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, "The Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, Duty 2" that the General Synod direct the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs to consider and seek solutions concerning problems of disorder within Pacific Presbytery and any other matters arising from its investigation, and to make its report to the next meeting of the General Synod.

The Editor of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Delores McDonald addressed the Synod with regard to subscriptions to the magazine. A motion carried that her remarks be printed in the Minutes and in a subsequent issue of the magazine.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Editor's Address to the 203rd Meeting of General Synod

I come before you today because I am concerned for the future of the ARP Magazine. Yes, subscriptions are down. You may take that lightly—I do not. You may even laugh when you hear that only half of the ministers in our denomination subscribe.

To tell you the truth, the beginning of 2007 was a very frightening time for the ARP Magazine—and its new editor. Subscription num-

bers were at an all-time low and it seemed we were in a downward spiral with no end in sight.

Just when it seemed that the decline would never stop, subscriptions began to slowly climb upward. I believe marketing and advertising strategies have helped reverse the decline, but we still have a long way to go. At this time, we are still hovering around 4,000. That's 2,000 subscriptions less than we had eight years ago.

What caused the decline? Well, I can tell you that it was something that did not happen overnight, or in the past year. There has been a steady decline in subscriptions for the past eight years. In checking past reports, I found that each year since 1999, there was a decline in subscriptions of 200-300 each year. The magazine has been able to survive, but subscription numbers kept falling.

The numbers had reached the point where we were having problems balancing our budget. We have now cut expenditures as much as possible. Now it's time for our denomination's ministers and leaders to step up to the plate and make sure every member of their congregation has the opportunity to receive the ARP Magazine.

I also feel that by implementing more promotional projects, we can help get our subscription income back in line. That's my hope—my goal. Promoting the magazine is something that has never been done before. But think about this: the magazine's readership today is no longer made up of long family lines of ARPs.

We have new families joining the ARP church that have come from other denominations or no denomination—whose family background is not ARP. These families and individuals, in many cases, have never heard of the ARP Magazine.

Please help us make sure our new members learn about our Reformed theology and their new ARP family across the nation and in Canada. How can you do this? It can be done through the denomination's only magazine. Also, consider those who have not subscribed in a while. Give them another opportunity to have another look at the new, colorful format and topics readers requested in a 2006 survey.

God led me to this job, and I am so excited about the challenge before me. I hope you will join me in re-introducing the ARP Magazine to our congregations. Did you know that the 4,000 subscribers to date only represents one-fourth of our denomination?

We need to turn these numbers around. We need to make our magazine more visible and encourage our members to read it. With your help, the ARP Magazine will have a bright future. I envision the magazine as a tie that binds—a common thread that runs through our denomination, telling ARPs about their church family—about the church and what it stands for.

I invite you to be a part of the effort to revive the ARP Magazine, for the sake of keeping God's word and God's work in the ARP

Church before His people.

The Report of the **Board of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian** was presented and adopted. **The Moderator's Committee on The Associate Reformed Presbyterian** recommended the adoption of Recommendations 1-7 of the Boards report.

In addition, the committee recommended that

1. The Synod encourage churches to consider providing subscriptions for all their active family units.
2. That all churches encourage their members to subscribe to the free on line ARP news update.

The recommendations of the Board of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian were adopted. The additional recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

The Board of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian gives thanks to God for His faithful blessings and to the General Synod for its prayerful support. The Board is pleased to report to the General Synod that the year 2006-2007 has been a positive one in many ways. We employed Mrs. Delores McDonald as editor shortly after the meeting of Synod. With the generous assistance of former editor Sabrina Cooper, a smooth transition was accomplished. Mrs. McDonald's talents as a writer and editor have been evident in the issues of the magazine she has produced. We commend her for her excellent work.

We are pleased with the quality of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*. In the magazine, we try to maintain a balance of feature articles, practical articles on Christian living, news from Synod, presbyteries, churches, ARP Women's Ministries, and agency updates. The survey taken in 2006 seems to confirm that this balance is what the church desires. We have tried to implement ideas from the survey to further improve the magazine's value to the church.

The **ARP News Update**, our weekly internet and telephone link, is going great and we have received positive feedback. Current ARP information and late, breaking news are now reaching more than 600 subscribers.

We are also exploring the possibility of making a subscription to the magazine available online in a PDF format.

After careful consideration, the staff plans to continue assisting the ARP Women's Ministries by serving as the distribution agent for the women's study books and operating the book store at Family

Bible Conference.

With the delay in the implementation of the Central Services concept, the majority of the administrative work remains in the office of *The ARP*.

A subscription rate increase of \$2.50 was necessary, beginning with the fall 2006 subscription campaign, to maintain a balanced budget in the future.

The greatest concern of the board and staff is the low number of subscriptions. We feel we are producing a magazine that continues to improve in quality, both in content and appearance. It is our understanding that we are producing a magazine that fulfills the wishes of General Synod. But yet a majority of our members do not subscribe to the magazine. In fact, only about one-fourth of our ARP households subscribe. And what is even more discouraging, only a little more than half (56 percent) of our ministers currently subscribe. *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* cannot fulfill the purposes defined by Synod if it is not in the hands of the members of the denomination. We need the help of every pastor and session in order to reach as many people as possible.

In recent months, it does appear that we have reversed the decline in subscriptions – as indicated by a slight increase in the number of subscribers – due to diligent efforts of the staff. We now ask for your help in getting the magazine to the families of the ARP church.

In the coming year, the editor plans to continue publishing articles that appeal to the entire family. Already, we have had positive feedback from feature articles and The Balancing Act articles. The latter will continue as an ongoing series dealing with balancing church life with a busy lifestyle. This especially appeals to young families with children.

The editor will also implement new marketing strategies; start an annual workshop for magazine agents at the Family Bible Conference; investigate how to offer more online services, such as paying for subscriptions online; and speak to various church groups.

The board meeting dates for 2007 – 2008 are September 21, 2007, and March 14, 2008.

Recommendations:

The Board of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian recommends:

1. That Synod designate the first Sunday of November (November 4, 2007) as **ARP Magazine Sunday**, and that in the weeks to follow special emphasis be given in churches to obtaining subscriptions to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* for the year 2008.

2. That all churches consider the benefits of participating in the Church Club Plan for subscriptions to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.
3. That each Session appoint an agent to promote and handle subscriptions to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, if it has not already done so.
4. That the General Synod strongly encourage churches and pastors to promote *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* to their members.
5. That the General Synod strongly urge every minister to subscribe to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.
6. That the proposed 2008 budget be approved.
7. That the report of the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
H. Max Bolin, Chairman
Delores McDonald, Editor

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc.

	2007 Budget	2008 Budget
REVENUES		
Denominational Ministries Alloc.	\$ 101,489	\$ 104,941
WSU Contributions	3,000	3,000
ARP Subscription Income	66,368	68,359
ARP Advertisement Income	14,323	15,000
WSU Study Book Sales Income	20,000	20,600
Interest Allocation	<u>1,713</u>	<u>1,765</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 206,893</u>	<u>\$ 213,665</u>
EXPENSES		
Payroll & Staff Benefits		
Editor		
Salary	\$ 54,994	\$ 56,644
Retirement	4,674	4,815
Insurance	6,137	6,321
Employer Tax	<u>4,207</u>	<u>4,333</u>
Total	\$ 70,012	\$ 72,113
Support Staff	\$ 42,755	\$ 44,038
Workman's Compensation	584	601
Staff & Board Expenses		
Editor Expenses	\$ 2,907	\$ 2,994

Staff Expenses	499	514
Board Meeting & Travel Exp	3,000	2,500
Dues & Membership Fees	180	186
Publicity & Promotion		
Publicity & Promotion	\$ 500	\$ 515
ARP News Update 800 Charges	42	44
"The ARP" Web Page	21	21
Communications		
Internet Services	\$ 432	\$ 445
Long Distance	350	361
Miscellaneous		
Rent	\$ 5,468	\$ 5,632
Office Supplies & Misc.	2,595	2,671
Contingency	1,245	500
Production & Expenses		
Preparation & Printing	\$ 45,291	\$ 46,650
Labels and Postage	10,849	11,175
Materials and Supplies	809	833
Photography Expenses	100	103
Design Services	3,525	4,800
Other Expenses		
WSU Study Books	<u>16,475</u>	<u>16,969</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 207,639</u>	<u>\$ 213,665</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>\$ (746)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 746</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>

The **Report of the Board of Stewardship** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Stewardship** recommended the adoption of recommendations 1 through 6.

In addition, the committee recommended that the Board of Stewardship be commended for their hard work and efforts during the past year and that the analysis of the trends and giving of the Denominational Ministry Fund be made available by posting on the Associate Reformed Presbyterian website.

Editorial note: Index 7, Page 9 - "Covenant Discipleship" should read "Christian Education Ministries."

Recommendations Number 1-6 of the Board of Stewardship were adopted, as well as the additional recommendation by the Moderator's Committee.

REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Introduction

“God, the sovereign creator, has given man the responsibility to act as His agent in the exercise of dominion over the creation for His own glory, through the faithful application of lawful means. Man is obliged by the gifts, talents, favors, privileges and graces received under divine providence, to submit himself entirely to the holy and righteousness demands of the moral law and the gospel and to fully consecrate himself to active obedience to them as a steward of God. This obedience is a most particularly just and binding obligation upon the beneficiaries of the eternal covenant in Christ and is acceptably discharged by faith alone arising out of a sense of gratitude to Christ for salvation. The end thereof is service to the Lord, the comfort and increase of the body of Christ, and the enjoyment of God.” (Introductory paragraph of “Concise Statement on Biblical Stewardship,” adopted by 1997 General Synod.)

The challenge and opportunity of the Board of Stewardship (“Board”) are to help Associate Reformed Presbyterians - corporately and individually, practice biblical stewardship. In its guidance to the Board, the General Synod has granted particular “authorities” and “duties” and this report reflects the Board’s activities as it seeks to carry out its assigned and defined mission.

Authority and Duties

The 2004 General Synod, in response to recommendations of General Synod’s Special Committee on Organization, combined the mission and ministry of the of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc. (“Foundation”) and the then existing Board of Stewardship to form the current Board. The Foundation continues to exist as the legal entity for holding the assets contributed to the General Synod, including Gift Annuities, Charitable Trusts, and endowment-type funds and the members of the Board of Stewardship serve as the directors of the Foundation. General Synod’s Investment Committee serves the Board as investment advisors.

The Board has been granted the authority to work cooperatively with the congregations and agencies of the General Synod to develop and administer programs and ministries to secure financial resources to meet the operating needs of the General Synod present to the General Synod a recommended allocation of those resources, and receive, maintain, and administer funds given to the General Synod and/or the Foundation and to expend income for the further-

ance of the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Specific duties assigned to the Board represent a compilation of duties previously assigned to the former Board of Stewardship and the Foundation. The Board will be reviewing these duties to reflect more clearly the expectations of the General Synod.

The duties, as currently reflected in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, reflect five areas of responsibility:

1. Promotion

Duty 1. To promote the general ministries and programs of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The Board sees this as a very general duty with the expectation that the Board will, in its communications and actions, be an advocate for ministries and programs that have the approval of the General Synod. In carrying out its other duties, the Board is expected to act in an impartial manner.

2. Fiduciary Responsibilities

- a. **Duty 7.** To receive and maintain a fund or funds of real and personal property and to use, make donations of, and apply the whole or any part of the income therefrom and the principal exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, scientific and educational purposes and for no other purpose.
- b. **Duty 9 (Second Part).** To hold for investment or reinvestment and to sell, donate, lend or otherwise dispose of money, real estate, personal property, stocks, bonds, or other securities or any other kind of property.
- c. **Duty 10.** Refrain from engaging either directly or indirectly, in any activity that would (1) prevent it from obtaining exemption from federal income taxation as a corporation described in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code or (2) cause it to lose such exempt status.
- d. **Duty 11.** Invest endowment type funds and other long-term investments of the General Synod and of those agencies of Synod which commit funds to the Foundation in accordance with guidelines approved by the General Synod.

Fiduciary responsibility is shared. (Note: The references to "Director of Administrative Services" should be understood as "Executive Director of Central Services" as of July 1, 2007.) Central Services, operating under the oversight of the Executive Board of Synod, is the agency that provides accounting for all agencies of the General Synod, with the exception of Bonclarken, Erskine, and World Witness. Procedures for approval

and expenditure of funds have been established and requests for expenditures must have the approval of the agency Director. Either the Treasurer or the Director of Administrative Services approves checks before payments are made.

Restricted and designated fund descriptions are maintained and the Director of Administrative Services is charged with the responsibility of insuring that funds are made available for expenditure in accordance with the governing documentation.

The Board has the responsibility of setting the investment allocations for endowment-type funds belonging to the General Synod and funds that have been given to the Foundation. In the absence of specific directives by the donor, the Board establishes the distribution guidelines for these funds.

General Synod's Investment Committee monitors the investment programs, and has been given the authority by the Board to make decisions on investment managers.

- There is an annual independent audit covering the funds of the General Synod and funds administered on behalf of the agencies of the General Synod. The Board selects the auditor and receives and reviews the audit. The audit is submitted to the General Synod with the official report, is given to the agencies of the General Synod, and is made available for review on General Synod's website: www.arpsynod.org.

By action of General Synod 2005, the Finance Committee of the Board serves as the Audit Committee for the General Synod. General Synod 2006 approved an amendment to the Boards Policy Book, authorizing the Finance Committee

- (1) To receive and review audit reports for all entities audited.
- (2) To select the audit firm to recommend for use by all agencies.

As reported last year, the Board sees no need at this time for a change in the relationships established by Bonclarken, Erskine, and World Witness. The General Synod audit and the ARP Retirement Plan audit were put out to bid to the firms used by the other agencies, and determination was made that there were no compelling reasons to change.

Each agency is expected to submit a copy of its audit to the General Synod with the agency's official report to Synod. These audits, along with any management letter and other pertinent information, should be submitted to the Board's

Finance Committee for review.

3. Gathering of Financial Resources

Duty 4. To develop and implement programs for securing the funds required to meet the operating needs of the General Synod. The Board has generally relied on providing congregations with information on the Denominational Ministry Fund. The only general solicitation for operating funds is through the special offerings at Easter and Thanksgiving.

In its report to the General Synod last year the Board expressed its intent to make some specific recommendations pertaining to the Denominational Ministry Fund (DMF). The Treasurer of Synod, working with the Director of Administrative Services, presented the Board with an analysis of DMF giving from its inception in the late 1960's. His findings and analysis convinced the Board that it would be premature to bring specific recommendations to this meeting. A presentation on DMF giving will be presented at the time the Board presents its recommended allocation of General Synod's unrestricted funds.

Duty 9 (First Part). To solicit and accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest, purchase or otherwise (financial resources.) There has not been any active solicitation or promotion since the consolidation of the ministries of the Board of Stewardship and the Foundation. The Board has noted the resources being used by some agencies of the General Synod for fund raising and development.

4. Allocation of Resources

Duty 5. To prepare for presentation at the annual meeting of the General Synod a recommended allocation of Synod's unrestricted income.

Duty 6. To prepare and maintain denominational budget preparation guidelines.

On an annual basis, Boards and Committees of the General Synod are asked to submit their budgets for the following year, indicating the amount needed from General Synod's unrestricted income. The Board traditionally meets with representatives of Bonclarken, Christian Education Ministries, Erskine, Outreach North America, The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc., and World Witness to review their requests.

The Board has maintained relatively consistent allocations year-to-year between the agencies of with minor adjustments as necessary to address individual needs. The Board adds its encouragement for the establishment of a strategic plan for the

General Synod.

In the meantime, the Board has asked that the orientation program for Board Chairmen, coordinated by the Principal Clerk and Coordinator, include a time for the Board to provide information and receive feedback on the matter of allocation of resources.

While not listed as a **duty**, the Board receives permission from the General Synod to review the approved allocations and to make changes if anticipated funds, based on the DMF pledges from churches, fail to meet the approved allocations. Additionally, the Board has been granted permission to make recommendations for additional allocations if the funding exceeds expectations. The Board's report on additional allocations for 2007 and its recommended allocations for 2008 are reported below.

5. Developing Stewards

Duty 2. To develop and/or identify, and keep current, resources that can be used for the teaching of biblical stewardship in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Duty 3. Assist in developing financial stewardship models for presbyteries, congregations, and agencies of the General Synod.

This duty has received historically the least attention. The Board is committed to addressing these responsibilities and will continue to consider solutions such as a Stewardship Counselor. This position was advertised following the 2006 General Synod, resumes were received, and interviews were conducted. A reformed Search Committee will reevaluate the position description and continue the search. The Board is grateful that the General Synod has acknowledged the need and has committed resources to help develop a membership that is committed to Biblical stewardship.

Audit

The independent firm of Ron Millard, CPA P.A. is conducting the December 31, 2006, 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.

The 2006 audited financial statements for the General Synod will reflect an increase of approximately \$9,283 in General Synod's operating fund balance as compared to a decrease of approximately \$155,968 for the year ending December 31, 2005 and an increase of \$181,971 in the prior year. The fund balance at 12/31/2006 was ap-

proximately \$176,890. This represents approximately 6.01% of the approved and recommended allocations of \$2,941,379 for 2007. Synod, by its previous action, has directed an operating reserve of not less than 6.5% of the anticipated funds for allocation. 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)). It is hoped that some of the funds anticipated in 2007 will increase the operating reserve to the acceptable level by the end of 2007.

Allocation of General Synod's Unrestricted Funds

Funding For 2007: 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. That was last necessary for Calendar Year 2003.

The Board received several request for additional funding for the current year and took into consideration those funds that had been set aside in 2005 in escrow for particular purposes. The Board will recommend additional allocations based on the following requests.

- Bonclarken—A request for a gift (\$25,000 - \$50,000) for the new Adult Housing facility. General Synod 2006 authorized \$25,000 to be set aside toward Chapel renovations. \$5,000 was expenses for architectural drawings. Bonclarken has informed the Board that Chapel renovations have been put on hold, with the new Adult Housing taking priority. The Board recommends that the remaining \$20,000 plus an additional \$5,000 be granted to Bonclarken for the new Adult Housing, to be released on the start of construction.
- Christian Education Ministries presented three requests:
 - That the balance of funds set aside for curriculum development (\$22,457.85 of the original \$ 25,000) be made available as needed to continue with the development of reformed writing and curriculum. Three areas of need were identified: (1) An ARP Sunday School series for young people, following the international series, is being planned. (2) A 13-week curriculum for Senior Highs. (3) Revision of the El-

der/Diacon training manual. The Board recommends that these funds be held in escrow to be used as needed for the purposes stated.

- That \$30,000 be granted to cover anticipated, additional funding requirements as Christian Education Ministries carries out the duties assigned. The Board recommends that the \$20,000 set aside for transition and an additional \$10,000 be held in escrow to be used as need during the next two – three calendar years.
- That \$5,000 be approved for purchasing video equipment and an additional \$4,000 to offset personnel costs to provide visual resources to congregations. The Board recommends that the funds be held in escrow to be used for the purposes stated.
- Erskine — A request for \$50,000 toward the renovation of the W. W. Boyce home, Due West, “to create an alumni house/guest house to serve as a focal point for alumni gatherings and to provide much needed additional guest housing.” Erskine has indicated that the renovation will not proceed without full funding commitments. The Board recommends that \$50,000 to held in escrow to complete the necessary funding for the renovation.
- The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc. – a request for \$6,000 to carry promotions through to Spring 2008. Subscriptions bottomed out last year, some 2,000 below the number of subscriptions eight years ago. Special promotional efforts for current year subscriptions are beginning to show results – this was funded by an individual gift of time and money. General Synod has previously acted to exclude The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc. from the consideration for additional funding, but the Board sees the need to allow the Editor to aggressively promote subscriptions to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*. We recommend that \$6,000 be held in escrow to carry out promotions through Spring 2008 as needed.

Recommended Allocations For 2008

The Board’s recommended allocations are presented separately as “Recommended Allocations of Synod’s Unrestricted Income.” The projected income for 2008 reflects the anticipated commitments for 2007. The Board has made its projections, based on the following at the time of the Board meeting:

- 197 churches have made commitments for 2007, 7 churches

are giving but have not submitted a pledge, and 4 churches submitted a pledge of Zero, but have made contributions.

- 16 churches have reported that they will not give.
- 46 churches have not reported or are not giving. Of those 45 churches not reporting, 14 gave a total of \$20,265 in 2006.

We encourage presbyteries to review their procedures for monitoring and encouraging the reporting of statistical data by the churches in its presbytery.

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 2008 and the 2007 year-end report.

The Board of Stewardship reminds the members of the Court that the Board of Stewardship does not act on the budgets of General Synod agencies. Budgets are to be reviewed in Moderator's Committees or when the Court considers reports.

General Synod 2005 approved the following (*2005 Minutes of Synod*, p. 170, item 7):

"That all agencies of Synod submit line item budgets to the Board of Stewardship as a part of the budget making process, and that all agencies, excluding Erskine College, submit proposed line item budgets for the ensuing fiscal year as a part of their official report to Synod. Further, that, except for Erskine College [World Witness was granted an exception by 2006 General Synod], the salary (to include housing allowance) of the chief administrative officer be shown as a separate item. (Salaries for other personnel may be shown in total.)"

Not all agencies complied with this directive in submitting information to the Board of Stewardship. A greater effort will be made to convey this action of the General Synod for the allocation process next year.

Boards and Committees requesting allocations from General Synod's unrestricted funds for 2009 are expected to follow procedures approved by the General Synod.

Denominational Ministry Fund

All churches are encouraged to give for denominational ministry through the 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

gifts fund the allocations approved by the General Synod. 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.

The Board expresses gratitude to the churches that have reported their intentions for commitments through the Denominational Ministry Fund.

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 monies received through the Treasurer of Synod. Funds sent directly to Bonclarken, Erskine, or World Witness are not reflected.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Easter Offering					
Stewardship/Found.	\$ 12,673	\$10,758	\$12,599	\$ 9,570	\$ 10,167
Bonclarken	19,456	16,377	15,705	12,578	13,574
Christian Education					
Ministries	13,462	11,977	11,120	8,680	9,553
Erskine College	17,091	15,900	15,194	12,132	13,120
World Witness	<u>28,417</u>	<u>23,181</u>	<u>24,597</u>	<u>19,905</u>	<u>23,062</u>
Sub-Total	\$ <u>91,099</u>	\$ <u>78,193</u>	\$ <u>79,215</u>	\$ <u>62,865</u>	\$ <u>69,476</u>
Thanksgiving Offering					
Erskine Seminary	\$ 10,670	\$12,128	\$11,355	\$ 8,166	\$ 10,569
American Bible Soc.	7,571	7,609	8,143	5,329	7,947
Outreach North					
America	16,012	16,440	15,828	10,686	14,603
Christmas Benevolent					
Fund	<u>41,029</u>	<u>40,935</u>	<u>43,593</u>	<u>29,687</u>	<u>58,172</u>
Sub-Total	\$ <u>75,282</u>	\$ <u>77,112</u>	\$ <u>78,919</u>	\$ <u>53,868</u>	\$ <u>91,291</u>
Total Offering	\$ 164,436	\$ 166,381	\$ 155,305	\$ 116,733	\$ 160,767

The special offerings are 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.

Administrative Information

Board Actions

- Authorized the Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc. to carry forward unused funds at 12/31/2006.
- Appointed a Committee to present a plan for reimbursement of expenses for travel on behalf of the General Synod.
- Approved transferring oversight of General Synod's budgeted contingency to the Executive Board of Synod.
- Appointed Paul Bell, Executive Director of Central Services, to serve as the Board's Administrative Officer, effective July 1, 2007, and authorized the Chairman, Secretary and/or Treasurer to execute necessary documents to effect the change.
- Expressed its appreciation to Ed Hogan for his faithful 37 years of service in our denomination.
- Requested Central Services to conduct research on giving in our denomination that would indicate the average giving of different age groups, reporting back to the Board at its Spring 2008 meeting.
- Asked the Administrative Officer to examine the details of publication costs across the General Synod agencies, excluding Erskine College.
- Approved a change in the membership of the Board, to be recommended to the General Synod, that the Administrator of ARP Women's Ministries be added as an Advisory Member, replacing the Treasurer of ARP Women's Ministries who serves currently as an Ex-officio member.

Meeting Dates for 2007 - 2008: September 20 - 21, 2007, April 24 - 25, 2008, September 2008. The chairman was granted permission to change the meeting dates at his discretion.

Officers

The following have been elected to serve for the period July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007:

Chairman: Martin L. Taylor

Vice Chairman: Robert B. Elliott

Secretary: David Walkup

Mr. Guy H. (Chip) Smith, III, serves as Treasurer, and Mr. Paul Bell will begin serving as the Board's Administrative Officer effective July 1, 2007.

Retiring Members

The Board expresses its appreciation to retiring members Monte Campbell and Tim Miller.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That all agencies of the General Synod with separate accounting activities submit audits (or accounting reviews if appropriate) with the official reports to the General Synod and that these audits or accounting statements be referred to the Board of Stewardship for review. Further, that the Board of Stewardship be given a copy of any management letter presented with the audit.
2. That the Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings be continued for 2008
3. That the budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved.
4. That the following additional allocations be approved as presented in the report:
 - a. Bonclarken - \$ 25,000
 - b. Christian Education Ministries
 - (1) Curriculum Development - \$ 22,457.85
 - (2) Transition - \$ 30,000
 - (3) Special Project - \$ 9,000
 - c. Erskine - \$ 50,000
 - d. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc. - \$ 6,000
5. That the change in membership of the Board be approved.
6. That all other actions, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully,

Martin L. Taylor, Chairman

Ed Hogan, Administrative Officer

Budget
Board of Stewardship

	2007	2008
RECEIPTS	Budget	Proposed
Synod Supplement	\$ 53,468	\$ 50,166
Special Offering	10,000	10,000
Interest on Reserves	4,106	2,103
Transfers for Ministry	<u>36,925</u>	<u>36,925</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 104,499</u>	<u>\$ 99,194</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board and Travel Expenses	\$ 12,393	\$ 13,013
Administrative Support	3,750	3,750
General Synod Audit	6,248	6,560
Program and Resources	2,500	5,700
Ministry Contribution to DM Fund	36,925	36,925
General Office Expenses	1,000	1,617

Stewardship Counselor		
Compensation & Benefits	21,494	88,123
Expenses	3,000	12,000
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 87,310</u>	<u>\$ 167,688</u>
Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	\$ 17,189	\$ <68,494>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>117,300</u>	<u>134,489</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 134,489</u>	<u>\$ 65,995</u>

REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
Statistical Data, Denominational Ministry Fund

The data for 2006 have been adjusted to reflect actual giving and includes late payments received in 2007. The numbers for 2007, as compared to previous year giving, is based on pledged amounts:

Category	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Churches Meeting Goal						
Gave 20% or More	14	20	19	17	16	17
Increased by 1						
Percentage Point	59	31	33	29	35	44
Churches Giving but Not Meeting Goal						
Increased Percentage						
Level	42	58	55	43	48	66
Remained at Same						
Percentage Level	5	6	0	3	2	2
Decreased Giving but						
at 10% or Above	2		12	25	19	20
Percentage Level						
Decreased	72	72	64	73	69	46
Giving but Percentage						
Not Determined	3	1	14	10	15	7
Churches Not Giving		67		73	66	67
Reported Zero Pledge						41
No Report or Gifts						
to Date						<u>28</u>
Total Churches	<u>262</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>271</u>

Churches Meeting the 20% Goal for 2006, based on contributions as percentage of 2004 General Fund Receipts:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Abbeville-Mt. Carmel	Second	Ebenezer	Virginia
Elk Shoals	First	Lake Placid	Florida
Lauderdale	Virginia	Louisville	Second

Lower Long Cane	Second	New Sterling	First
Pinecrest	First	Pisgah	First
Prosperity, TN	Tenn-Ala	Providence*	Second
Redeemer	Virginia	Sherwood Forest	Catawba
White Oak	Catawba	White Oak	Second

*Includes distribution from Betts Endowment Fund

Churches that did not reach the 20% Goal but did reach the goal of increasing their 2006 percentage level of giving by at least one (1) percentage point over the percentage level given in 2005:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
All Saints	First	Back Creek	First
Bethany	Catawba	Brighton	Mississippi Val.
CenterPoint	First	Christ Fellow.	First
Church of the Atone.	Northeast	Cornerstone Com.	Florida
Covenant (J)	First	Emmanuel Hisp.	First
Faith (Merritt Island)	Florida	Faith (Wildwood)	Florida
Fayetteville	Tennessee-Ala.	Good Shepherd	Catawba
Graceview	Mississippi Val.	Greenwood	Second
Hillside	First	Huntersvill	First
Lancaster First	Catawba	Madison	Tennessee-Ala.
Midlane Park	Mississippi Val.	Morning Star	Florida
New Lebanon	Virginia	Peachtree Corners	Second
Providence	Catawba	Redeemer	Second
Rogers Memorial	Catawba	Rowan	Catawba
Salem	Mississippi Va.	Scots Kirk	Catawba
Stony Point	First	Timber Ridge	Virginia
Troy	Second	Walking With God	Pacific
Wildhurst	Virginia		

Churches that did not reach the preceding goals, but giving in 2006 reflected a percentage increase over their percentage level of giving in 2005:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Ambassador	First	August First	Second
Avon Park	Florida	Boyce Memorial	First
Brookside	First	Carolina Covenant	Catawba
Centennial	Catawba	Chapel by the Sea	Florida
Chester	Catawba	Christ	Florida
Christ	Second	Columbia First	Catawba
Covenant Fell.	First	Covington	Mississippi Val.

Ebenezer	First	Edgemont	Virginia
Edgemoor	Catawba	Elsberry	Mississippi Val.
Faith	Second	Frostproof	Florida
Grace	Florida	Havana	Mississippi Val.
Iva	Second	Lakeside Fellowship	First
Lemira	Catawba	Lincoln Memorial	Tennessee-Alab.
Linden	First	Mayesville	Catawba
Mount Zion	Mississippi Val.	Muscle Shoals	Tenn-Ala.
Newberry	Second	New Hope	Catawba
Oak Ridge	Catawba	Ora	Second
Pleasant Hill	Catawba	Pressly Memorial	First
Progressive	First	Richland	Mississippi Val.
Sebring First	Florida	Shepherd Road	Florida
Smyrna	Catawba	Statesville First	First
The Peace Maker	Pacific	Thompson	Second
Tucker First	Second	Union	Catawba
Unity	Second	Young Memorial	Second

The following churches did not increase their percentage level of giving, but did meet the goal of giving at least 10%, based on contributions as a percentage of their 2004 General Fund Receipts:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Bartow	Florida	Bethel	Catawba
Coddle Creek	First	Cornerstone	First
Due West	Second	Ebenezer	Catawba
Effingham	Catawba	Gastonia First	First
Greenville	Second	Hope Mission	Catawba
Lake Wales	Florida	Living Waters	Catawba
Oconee	Second	Old Providence	Virginia
Pressly Memorial	Second	Pressly Memorial	Tennessee-Ala.
Rock Hill First	Catawba	Sharon	Catawba
Unity	Catawba		

Based on pledges and/or giving for 2007, the following churches will meet the 20% goal for 2007:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Bartow	Florida	Ebenezer	Virginia
Elk Shoals	First	Lake Placid	Florida
Lake Wales	Florida	Lauderdale	Virginia
Louisville	Second	Pisgah	First

Pressly Memorial	Tennessee-Ala.	Prosperity, TN	Tenn-Ala
Providence	Catawba	Providence*	Second
Redeemer	Virginia	Sherwood Forest	Catawba
Unity	Catawba	White Oak	Catawba
White Oak	Second		

*Includes distribution from Betts Endowment Fund

The Report of the **Board of Benefits** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Benefits** recommended the adoption of all recommendations.

In addition, the committee recommends that the Resolution to Synod to give the Board of Benefits the authority to remove and/or appoint a successor trustee be adopted.

The committee also expressed its appreciation to Ed Hogan for his invaluable service as Director of Administrative Services.

Board recommendations 1-5 and the additional recommendation of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF BOARD OF BENEFITS

"We give thanks always to God for His gracious providence, and we give thanks to God for the love he makes known to us through the goodwill and charity of thousands of Associate Reformed Presbyterians. The gift from the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering is much appreciated." *Retired Minister and Wife*

"Once again I feel as if God has opened the windows of heaven and showered me with loving blessings!! The thoughtful and generous check just received is so appreciated and I thank my gracious heavenly Father and those caring ones who made it possible for this gift." *Widow of Minister*

"It seems every year this special gift comes just in time to add a little something extra to our lives. We can't say enough 'thank you's'." *Retired Minister and Wife*

"Every time I receive a check and times between, I offer a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God who has always provided for my needs." *Widow of Minister*

The Board of Benefits ("Board") serves as the conduit for **your ministry**, and we express our profound gratitude for the privilege of

service. We thank you, especially, for the privilege of receiving, 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 the 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, reflecting our particular efforts to fulfill the duties assigned by the General Synod as reflected in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

Benefit Programs

Duty 1 – To guide and supervise benefit programs in the denomination

Duty 4 – To present to the denomination the challenge and opportunities of maintaining a program of security

The Board is committed to providing opportunities for meaningful security to the individual families we serve in the areas of benevolence, insurance, and retirement. The skills and expertise of Board members are critically 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.

Benevolence

Christmas Benevolent Ministry:

Gifts received through the Thanksgiving Offering, the J. C. Lott Endowment, special gifts for benevolence, and interest on the Benevolent Fund Endowment are received during the year to be distributed during the period December 1 through November of the following year. No funds are received through General Synod's allocations. 100% of the 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. Two widows continue to receive an average of approximately \$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, is the Spouse when the participant

died.

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 \$50,455.45 was available for distribution during the December 2006 - November 2007 period, as compared to \$50,455 approved in the preceding period. \$8,545.92 was allocated for the Widow Benefit Fund distributions. At the time the 2005 - 2006 distributions were approved

	<u>Last Report</u>	<u>This Report</u>
Eligible Family Units	106	106
Need Based Applications	5	5
Widow Benefit Fund Participants	3	3
Need Based Grants	2	2
Other Grants	90	92

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 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 costs and benefits.

Coverage and Eligibility

The group insurance program provides the following coverage opportunities:

<u>Employee Category</u>	<u>Medical</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Life</u>	<u>AD+D</u>	<u>LTD</u>
ARP Minister Serving					
Under Call	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-Ordained Employees					
of Churches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employees of General					
Synod Agencies*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employees of Due West					
Retirement Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retired Employees	Yes**	Yes**			
ARP Seminary Students	Yes***	Yes***			

* Missionary Employees of World Witness stationed outside the United States have a separate medical and dental benefit program. Erskine Employees have a separate Long Term Disability Program. The Board is currently exploring with Erskine the possibility of including both programs under one carrier.

** Retired employees (and dependents if the employee had dependent coverage at the time of retirement) may continue dental insurance for a maximum of 18 months or to the date they reach the Medicare eligibility age, whichever occurs first. Medical coverage for retired employees 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 55 and the years of continuous service and age are equal to or greater than 65; and
- the retiree is not eligible for other coverage as an employee.

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.

If the retiree does not meet the eligibility above, coverage may be continued for a maximum of 18 months.

*** ARP Seminary Students will have a second eligibility period at the time they qualify as an employee.

Non-ordained employees of local churches, employees of General Synod Agencies, and employees of Erskine College must be scheduled to work at least 30 hours per week to be eligible. 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 eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the life (and dependent life if the employee has dependents), accidental death, and long term disability. Medical and dental insurance coverage is conditional on the employee enrolling within the first 30 days of eligibility. Employees that fail to enroll for **medical** insurance within the grace period **are not** permitted to enroll at a later date unless the following conditions are met:

The employee

had other creditable coverage at the time he or she became eligible for our coverage and waived medical coverage on the basis of having other creditable coverage, **and**

- loses other coverage for reasons other than failure to pay premiums or for cause, **and**
- requests enrollment within 31 days of the loss of other coverage; **OR**

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.

Eligible Dependents that were not enrolled when first eligible may be enrolled at a later date as outlined above **OR** if the employee has enrolled in the program and

- dependent coverage was waived on the basis of coverage under another group plan, **and**

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.

Employees that fail to enroll for **dental** insurance within the 30-day grace period may enroll under the conditions outlined for medi-

cal coverage. Additionally, there will be an open enrollment period for dental insurance each December for coverage to become effective January 1 the following year. Coverage for employees and/or dependents enrolling during this open enrollment period is limited to the preventive care during the first year of coverage.

IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT EMPLOYING AGENCIES, CHURCHES AND PRESBYTERIES BE AWARE OF THE ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS. ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES MUST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL. THE BOARD NEEDS TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN A NEW, FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE IS HIRED.

Benefit Consultant

The Board retains 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 a specified limit and for aggregate claims if they exceed 125 % of the expected claims). At the end of contract periods, Gallagher goes to the market place for quotes on fully insured plans (Employee Life and AD&D, Dependent Life, and Long Term Disability.) On instruction from the Board, Gallagher seeks proposals from Third Party Administrators (TPA's) for comparison to the current TPA. In addition, Gallagher advises the Board on plan design changes that have potential for impacting future plan costs and on changes in federal and state guidelines

Medical Program

We continue to experience good claim experience with trends running well below the national average. After four consecutive years in which medical costs exceeded premiums collected (1999 – 2002), premiums have exceeded costs for the past four plan years (August 1 – July 31). This has allowed medical and dental premiums to remain stable since October 2003, permitted a premium holiday for medical and dental in December 2006 **AND** has allowed the reserve to increase. Having a significant claim reserve is a new experience for the Board and it is in the process of establishing guidelines for determining the appropriate target for the reserve.

Caution is still appropriate as medical costs continue to increase. Current projections for trend: Medical (10 – 12%), Drugs (13 – 14%), and Dental (6%). These increases in services will be reflected in costs

as medical services are used. The increase in our reserves, reflecting good claim experience, has permitted the Plan to absorb these increases for the past three years. At the present time, we do not see the necessity of any increase prior to January 1, 2008 and, if claim experience continues to be favorable, premiums should remain stable for 2008.

Usage has and will continue to drive the premium cost. As hospitals and physicians charge more, as the cost of drugs increase, and as utilization increases, costs will continue to rise. While most of these factors are outside the control of individual participants, there are ways in which participants can help control costs:

- monitor claims to make sure that the charges submitted are justified and accurate
- be active participants in determining health care by asking for explanation of recommended tests (make sure the physician is not ordering tests just for his protection)
- use the mail order for maintenance drug prescriptions and ask for generics vs brand names.

General Synod's website has information and links on consumerism. Go to: <http://www.larpsynod.org/healthcareconsumerism.html>

A Health Risk Management Program (HealthStat) was implemented at Erskine College in January 2004, open, initially, to employees at Erskine College/Seminary and employees at the Due West Retirement Center. The primary objective of the service is to detect disease symptoms early before they evolve into significant acute care illnesses. A nurse practitioner is available at specified times.

The Board continues to consider avenues to encourage greater participation in HealthStat. The program is open for all participants and dependents, and our benefit consultants are studying the feasibility of offering the program in other areas for health screening, possibly in conjunction with Presbytery meetings. The Plan will pay the initial cost of @\$20 for the health evaluation for the employee and spouse (there is no screening for dependent children.) The screening will now include PSA screening for males over age 40. There is no cost for subsequent visits to the nurse practitioner for routine office visits. Erskine, on behalf of the Plan, has developed an on-line appointment program. While directly benefiting only a portion of the covered participants, the potential impact on claims will be beneficial to the entire group.

The medical insurance is renewed in August each year and it has been the practice of the Board to delay implementation of increases

as long as possible. The **projected** costs for the year 2008 will be submitted to the churches as soon as possible after the August 1, 2007 renewal date.

The Board continues to evaluate coverage provisions and may be in a position to announce at the meeting of the General Synod some additional benefits following the completion of the renewal process.

Additional information on the group insurance program can be accessed through our website: www.arpsynod.org/benefits.html

Medical Plan Viability

Employee participation in the medical plan has decreased since our last report. During the past few years the average number of participating employees dropped from a high of 425 for plan year 2000 – 2001 to 370 at the time of this report.

The losses represent, generally, a loss of younger and healthier participants who are declining coverage on the basis of having creditable coverage as a dependent on their spouse's policy. The loss of younger participants increases the expected per employee claim cost for those remaining. If the plan loses eligible employees in their earlier years, the overall cost to the churches and agencies in the General Synod would be greater than would be the cost if group integrity can be maintained. Additionally, we could come to the point that cost for the older, less healthy employees will make it impossible to maintain a group program.

Dental Program

The dental plan is a self-insured plan and Kanawha serves as the Third Party Administrator for claim payment. Dental claims are not included in the aggregate stop-loss insurance coverage. No change in dental coverage or premiums are expected for the coming year.

Life, Accidental Death and Long Term Disability

These programs are fully insured and as of January 1, 2006, the plans covers all eligible employees. In the past participation has been limited to those persons enrolling in the Medical Plan. MetLife is the carrier for these ancillary benefits. The Board increased the life insurance on the spouse to \$5,000. Dependent children are covered for \$200 from 15 days to 6 months and \$2,500 to age 19 (25 if a full-time student). Some eligible employees have not yet completed the documentation we need and eligible employees and employers are asked to complete the enrollment.

Supplemental Programs

The Board has reviewed proposals for supplemental life. Supplemental group programs, with the employee paying premiums, have minimum participation requirements. The Board will be conducting an e-mail survey to gauge interest.

HIPAA Privacy

As a self-insured Plan, the primary focus for our Plan pertains to the protection of Personal Health Information (PHI). The Plan Document has been amended to reflect privacy issues, all Health Plan participants have been given a Privacy Notice and Plan Document, training has been conducted for “health plan workers” at the ARP Center, and security policies and procedures have been developed. Business Associate Agreements have been implemented outlining acceptable usage of PHI by the TPA and consultants. Individual PHI may be used without the participant’s consent for Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations (TPO). The use of PHI for any other purpose must have the written authorization of the participant. Paul Bell, Executive Director of Central Services, will replace Ed Hogan, Director of Administrative Services and Board Secretary, as the Privacy Officer and all questions related to PHI should be addressed to him.

Retirement

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is a qualified, non-contributory, defined benefit plan. The Plan covers 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, career missionaries appointed by World Witness, and salaried employees of the Synod or Synod Agency serving in a supervisory capacity.

Included in this report is a listing of ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the church that have not yet enrolled in the Retirement Plan. Except for those ministers in Pacific Presbytery, presbytery minutes reflect that a “call” was presented. Under the provisions of the Plan, all salaried ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church under the terms of a call approved by their presbytery are covered. These ministers are Participants in the Plan during the first year of ministry, even if the church fails to make contributions or the minister does not enroll. Eligible employees are required to complete an enrollment form for formal entry to the Plan. If an eligible employee fails to enroll within the first year of service, participation is suspended with the following implications:

- The employee ceases to accrue credit for Service and Earnings and
- in the event of death, the Spouse would not receive the lump-sum death benefit nor the survivor income benefit (a monthly benefit equal to 20% of monthly Earnings to a maximum benefit of \$800 per month) payable to age 65, with an additional 10% of

monthly Earnings while there is a dependent child or children, with a maximum monthly benefit of \$1,200.

Employees of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are not included in the Plan as they have a separate retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2004, employees serving in the pastoral ministry outside the United States are no longer eligible to enroll in the Plan. Those previously enrolled who have not been terminated from the Plan accrue credit for Service for vesting purposes. Calls to ministers serving in the pastoral ministry outside the United States must provide for contributions to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan approved by the presbytery extending the Call.

Churches and presbyteries are reminded that the *Form of Government* (Chapter X, E, 11) requires a Call to have provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan. The *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.12, requires the Plan to place a Participant on a Leave of Absence status if the terms of a Call (with respect to contributions for the ARP Retirement Plan) are not being met. If a church or agency fails to make contributions for a period of one (1) year, notice will be given to the Participant, to the Clerk of Session, to the Clerk of Presbytery, and to the Chairman of the Presbytery Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work. The failure to meet the terms of the Call within a period of one year from the date of notice will result in the placing of the Participant in a Leave of Absence status until the terms of the Call have been met. In a Leave of Absence status, the Participant does not accrue credit for Service or Earnings, is not covered for the Death Benefit, and is not covered for the Survivor Income Benefit.

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. 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 Form 1099-R provided to retired ministers lists the benefit payments 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.

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

Actuarial Valuation

Hunt, DuPree, Rhine & Associates, Inc., a Wachovia Company, is the Plan actuary. The Plan is required to have an actuarial review every three years to determine the minimum contribution level required to maintain the Plan on an actuarially sound basis and to determine if it is possible to provide a change in the benefits. The tri-annual review was conducted for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2006 and is next scheduled for January 1, 2009.

The ARP Retirement Plan Fund was 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.

Fiduciary Responsibilities

Duty 2 – To oversee the collection and investments of financial resources contributed and designated by individuals, churches, and the General Synod for these purposes.

Central Services, ARP Center, administers the accounting functions for the Board. Gifts for benevolent purposes, premiums for group insurance, and retirement plan contributions are received, recorded, and dispensed.

Insurance Programs

- Premiums for fully insured programs (life, accidental death, long term disability) are remitted to the insurance carrier.
- Premiums for Medical and Dental include fees to be paid to the Third Party Administrators (TPA's), fees for insurance claims that exceed individual and total group claims (stop-loss insurance), and the balance for claim payments as they are incurred (held or invested in the "Claim Fluctuation Reserve.") The following represents the medical/dental expense breakdown for the past four calendar years:

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Paid Medical Claims	\$ 2,768,162	\$ 2,640,707	\$ 2,185,020	\$ 2,822,978
As % of Premiums				
Collected	74.34%	71.19%	61.35%	78.10%
TPA, Reinsurance ¹	\$ 341,415	\$ 308,241	\$ 276,431	\$ 313,616
As % of Premiums Collected	9.16%	8.31%	7.76%	8.68%
Access Fees to Preferred Providers	\$ 17,218	\$ 36,871	\$ 64,326	\$ 65,148
As % of Premiums				
Collected	.46%	.99%	1.81%	1.80%
HealthStat	\$ -	\$ 32,891	\$ 40,018	\$ 38,368
As % of Premiums				
Collected	0.00%	.89%	1.12%	1.06%
Administrative Costs ²	\$ 45,667	\$ 36,495	\$ 35,303	\$ 45,311
As % of Premiums				
Collected	1.23%	.98%	.99%	1.25%
Change in Reserve	\$ 551,380	\$ 654,386	\$ 960,397	\$ 305,651
As % of Premiums Collected	14.81%	17.64%	26.97%	8.46%
Total Medical/Dental Premiums	\$ 3,723,842	\$ 3,709,591	\$ 3,561,495	\$ 3,614,777

¹Payments to Third Party Administrators and insurance for individual medical claims that exceed \$100,000 and aggregate claims that exceed 125% of expected claims

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

Retirement Plan

- Contributions for the retirement plan, except for designated administrative costs, are sent to the ARP Retirement Plan Trust. Once funds have been added to the Trust they can be used only for benefits paid to a Plan Participant or the Spouse of the Participant.
- SunTrust Bank, Atlanta, serves as Trustee and custodian of the Plan assets. In the past, the Board has engaged Deutsche Banc Alex.Brown to serve as an investment consultant to provide performance measurement and monitoring and to assist the Retirement Committee in developing and maintaining investment guidelines, with compensation handled through directed trades. Currently the Board is using General Synod's Investment Committee to oversee the investments of the Retirement Plan Trust. The Chairman of the Retirement Committee has been designated as the Board's Advisory Member to the Investment Committee.
- At December 31, 2006, invested net assets available for benefits, on a market basis, totaled \$40,921,190 as compared to \$36,675,365 at December 31, 2005 and \$35,311,269 at December 31, 2004. 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/Barra Growth, 18% of the S&P 500/Barra 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 5-year and 10-year periods are based on 60% S&P 500 and 40% Lehman Brothers.

	<u>1 Yr</u>	<u>3 Yrs*</u>	<u>5 yrs*</u>	<u>7 Yrs*</u>
Total Portfolio	12.74%	9.39%	5.85%	5.78%
Benchmark	11.52%	8.30%	6.71%	3.88%

*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. 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 is subject to annual adjustment by the IRS. For 2006:

Contributions from Churches	\$	855,346.21
Contributions from General Synod Agencies		176,477.85
Ola B. Hunter Trust		<u>1,569.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$	<u>1,033,393.06</u>
Actuarial Expenses	\$	6,000.00
Administrative Support & Miscellaneous		45,310.92
Attorney Expenses		.00
Audit Expenses		<u>1,800.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$	<u>53,110.92</u>
Transfer to Retirement Plan Trust	\$	980,282.14

Audit

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.

Employee/Church Assistance

Duty 3 – To assist individuals and families in preparing for retirement

Regrettably little is done to help prepare individuals and families for retirement. This particular duty will be reviewed by the Board to determine what efforts can and should be made. Central Services can provide estimates of future benefits based on the Retirement Plan Participant's Earnings and Service to a particular time and based on the assumptions for future Earnings. The Board has attempted to raise some flags:

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.

A minister planning to file for exemption must inform "the ordain-

ing...body of the church...that he is opposed" prior to the time the exemption application is filed. In the ARP Church, ministers planning to opt out must notify the ordaining presbytery. 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 principles test." Accordingly, denominational benefit programs are structured to anticipate the benefits provided by the Social Security system. If a minister does opt out of Social Security he needs to have a plan to replace lost benefits so as not to create extreme hardship for his family.

Post Retirement Medical Coverage

General Synod's medical and dental coverage terminates at retirement for those having reached Medicare eligibility age. For those retiring before reaching Medicare eligibility age, coverage may be continued under certain conditions. Ministers that have opted out of Social Security and did not qualify for benefits prior to opting out, must pay a premium to participate in Medicare. Plans for post retirement coverage should be made well before retirement.

Duty 8 – To assist ministers and churches in the areas of compensation and tax planning/reporting by providing

- on an annual basis a tax guide and
- on a periodic basis, a request form for Social Security estimates of earnings and benefits

This duty was assigned at a time before information was available on the internet. Most ministers now have access to the internet. The Board is posting links in the "Employee Benefit" section of General Synod web-site. The links are not endorsed and caution should be exercised.

To secure information on Social Security Benefits (estimate of earnings and benefits)

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>

For information on ministerial taxation

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p517.pdf>

http://www.taxalmanac.org/index.php/Minister/_Clergy_Taxation

The Board does provide annually information for budgeting, to include a benefit worksheet, a link for CPI information, and a compensation survey. The Board is also working closely with General Synod's Committee on Minister and His Work, with the members of

the Committee serving as advisors to the Board.

Administrative

Duty 5 – To prepare and recommend to Synod each year a budget for the work of the Board

The Board's Operating Budget for 2008 is attached to this report and reflects the allocation recommended by the Board of Stewardship. The allocation is requested to cover Board and meeting expenses and general office expenses of the Board. The Board does not carry forward unused funds that have been allocated from the Denominational Ministry Fund. Administrative support for the ministries of the Board is provided by Central Services, and for several years the Board has provided funding equal to @ 25% of the Budget of Central Services (formerly Administrative Services) as approved by the Executive Board of Synod. The Board of Benefits has approved funding 50% of its commitment from resources for the insurance programs and 50% from the contributions received for the Retirement program. The balance of the budget is an estimate of funds received and either disbursed or added to fund balances for future use.

Duty 6 – To make an Annual Report

Duty 7 – To appoint such administrators as are necessary for the work of the Board

The Board does not have employees, relying on the staff of Central Services. Paul Bell, Executive Director of Central Services, has been appointed to serve as the Board's Administrative Officer. The Board notes, with great anticipation, the hiring of a Benefit Assistant in Central Services. It is anticipated that this individual will greatly enhance the ministry of the Board.

Miscellaneous

Officers for 2007 - 2008

Chairman: Guy H. Smith

Vice-Chairman: C. Earl Linderman

Secretary: John M. Hill

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

Meeting Dates

November 1-2, 2007, Bonclarken

April 17 – 18, 2008, Bonclarken

November 6 – 7, 2008, Bonclarken

Recognition and Appreciation

The Board has expressed its appreciation to retiring member Clark Mizell and Robert Stone for their faithful service. We express appre-

ciation, also, to Ed Hogan for his 37 years of service as a part of the ministry of the Board.

Recommendations

1. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering be continued and that it be taken in the Thanksgiving Season and that all churches provide an opportunity for members to make contributions for this ministry.
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 retired employees and widows of former employees and seek to assist the Board of Benefits in its ministry to these faithful servants.
3. That presbytery direct all congregations (except for congregations that have been excluded by action of the Board of Benefits) to enroll and pay premiums for all employees eligible to participate in the life, dependent life (if applicable), accidental death, and long term disability plans.
4. That the proposed budget for 2008 be approved.
5. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted
Board of Benefits
Guy H. Smith, Jr., Chairman

Changes in Retirement Plan Participation

The following changes for the period January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006, are reported for historical purposes. Some changes not previously reported are included:

- a. Active Participant and/or widow of deceased Participant retired: Elizabeth T. Brice (1/1/06), Michael L. Garvey (7/1/06), C. S. Rimmer (4/1/06).
- b. Terminated Participant retired: Joe R. Blevins (8/1/06), Wyatt H. Folds, Jr. (3/1/06), Robert M. Wallace, Jr. (12/1/06).
- c. Active Participant lost by death:
- d. Retired Participant and/or Widow of deceased Participant lost by death: Curtis W. Medlin (12/20/2006), Mrs. John E. (Jeanne W.) Pressly (3/2/2006), Mrs. W. L. (Elizabeth) Pressly (5/17/06), John R. Thompson (10/5/2006), Robert A. Whitesides (5/28/06).
- e. Inactive Participant lost by death: None
- f. New Participants: Michael J. Basie (10/29/06), Heung Ik Cha (6/1/2005), Song Choi (2006), Michael Tanner Cline (11/5/2006), Brian L. Howard (6/25/06), John S. Jackson (10/16/2005), Chang

- Young Kim (2/1/2003), Jong Won Kim (11/7/2004), Delores F. McDonald (8/1/06), James W. McManus (10/29/06), James F. Mitchell (6/11/06), Kent M. Moorlach (7/1/06), Mark S. Pearson (7/10/05), Fredy P. Ramos (8/6/06), Frank M. Reich (4/23/06), Samuel F. Roper (1/8/06).
- g. Participants with prior credit for Service and Earnings accumulating Credited Service as an employee of Erskine (E), as a Military Chaplain (C), or as a Participant serving in the Pastoral Ministry outside the United States (P): R. K. Barnes (P); R. W. Bell (E); G. G. Cotton (C); H. N. Gaston (E); L. E. Hamrick, Jr. (C); J. M. Hendrick (C); James P. Hering (E); M. A. Kelly (C); M. R. Kiefman (C); Mark E. Ross (E); J. R. Shearouse (P); J. T. West (E); R. D. White (E); M. E. Yarman (C).
 - h. Participant reinstated to active participation or had prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings restored as continuous: L. Paul Burns (8/15/06), Jeffrey B. Lewis (6/1/06), Paul G. Patrick (12/31/06), Richard D. Sherrill (5/29/06).
 - i. Participants not accumulating Credited Service and employment shall be deemed to terminate if the Participant retires, is removed or transferred from Roll of Presbytery, or fails to accumulate an additional Year of Service by the end of the calendar year indicated: A. E. Basham (2020), J. W. Berry (2014); T. A. Bloemsma (2007); T. E. Braithwaite*; Pamela M. Brunson*; J. L. Carson*; C. D. Clendinen (2013); T. R. Dibble (2010); J. H. Gaston (2008); J. G. Goforth (2007); Stephen W. Hardy (2019); M. A. Hunnemann (2013); J. M. Lashley (2008); K. I. Lotze*; G. W. McBane*; R. A. Mill (2007); William E. Nash (2010); T. J. Phillips (2010); Ronald L. Pritts*; Anthony Quinn (2007); J. J. Seeger*; Walter D. Shepard*; P. V. Williams (2011); R. M. Williams (2017); J. W. Winfree (2007).
- *Termination for failure to accumulate an additional Year of Service not applicable. Benefits will be determined by Plan Text at time of Retirement.
- Service and Earnings may be recognized as continuous with five years of continuous Service prior to retirement.
- j. Participants who terminated employment during the year or have previously terminated employment and have qualified for a vested benefit (Retirement Date): R. P. Agnew (8/2023); Suzanne Brawley Allers (4/2031); Keith S. Andrews (1/2014); R. E. Ashmore (1/2008); B. W. Babson (7/1/2030); J. A. Basie (8/2013); B. J. Bauman (8/2033); S. C. Berthiaume (1/2032); D. M. Boggs (4/2008); D. E. Brisben (1/2019); S. H. Cain (10/2012); T. M. Camp-

- bell (8/2022); C. T. Carlburg, Jr. (6/2031); M. D. Chesser 3/2009); W. A. Church (12/2019); D. L. Clubb (8/2029); M. D. Connor (2/2013); L. C. Cutherell (3/2023); L. H. Davis (8/2035); T. N. DeHart (9/2020); Karen M. DeHaven (12/2028); P. M. Doriani (7/2016); R. I. Dornbush (8/2020); C. W. Echols (6/2014); Tim A. Erskine (2/1/2008); J. H. Farrar (5/2019); P. J. Forwood (6/2013); T. D. Gorden (7/2022); M. P. Griffith (12/2027); R. J. Hamilton (2/2011); D. B. Harding (5/2013); R. E. Hock (8/2035); L. E. Hudgens (10/2010); R. F. Ingram (6/2016); E. S. Irby (2/2007); K. E. Jacobs (5/2019); T. L. Jones (6/2014); W. E. Kirkpatrick (6/2012); K. F. Koehler (10/2017); A. S. Kornreich (6/2031); R. P. LaGuardia (8/1/2027); K. J. Locke (2/2035); Jackie F. Lowery (12/2011); Nancy C. Lowey (1/2012); S. D. Manley (7/2025); D. W. Matthews (8/2010); R. F. McAndrew (5/2024); O. N. McCarter (1/2012); W. G. McClain (4/2015); B. McLendon (2/2014); K. J. McMullen (5/2017); Matthew A. Merrill (9/2036); R. S. Miles, Jr. (10/2011); Bernard G. Miller (5/2025); K. F. Muldoon (1/2030); Lynn Harms Naaman-Din (6/2037); T. M. Oates (10/2019); B. D. Phipps (9/2032); J. S. Price (2/2018); S. C. Reynolds (12/2023); D. R. Robinson (8/2020); B. F. Sanders (6/2023); D. M. Schwabauer (1/2018); Melanie D. Seeger (3/2018); T. K. Sheppard (1/2023); W. T. Sherer, III (7/2012); E. M. Sink (8/2019); D. P. Smith (6/2027); L. C. Stoker (10/2017); C. A. Stuck (1/2022); G. J. Syms (9/2018); J. E. Taylor (11/2025); A. L. Toth (12/2008); W. H. Tyson (11/2013); M. S. Ulmer (2/2019); Emily J. vanDalen (3/2022); D. L. Wakeland (10/2019); Brian N. Walker (7/2040); W. T. Warren, Jr. (11/2016); R. Washington (10/2015); R. A. White (11/2014); J. C. Whytock (6/2027); A. C. Williams (1/2032); J. M. Williams (5/2024); P. C. Wing (12/2028) J. R. Wright (8/2007); R. J. Yelverton (10/2008).
- k. Participants with prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings which will be recognized as continuous on completing five (5) years of continuous service (Eligible for Reinstatement): John S. Jackson (2010).
 - l. Former Participants removed from participation in the Plan without qualifying to retain a vested benefit: David L. Arthur; Ryung Chun; Louis F. Quievryn.
 - m. Participants receiving a retirement or survivor income benefit under the Plan at year's end: R. W. Ackerman**, J. E. Adams; C. S. Alexander**; Mrs. Bertha I. Allan-Smith*; L. M. Allison; Mrs. J. H. (Phyllis) Ball, III****; J. S. Banks; J. C. Barker; C. R. Beard; J. F. Beard; R. E. Beckham; J. M. Bell, Sr.; W. F. Blakely**; Mrs. E. L.(Betty) Bland*; J. R. Blevins**; R. A. Bodey**; Mrs. J.

H. (Margaret) Boyce*; W. J. Boyd**; R. D. Bradham**; Mrs. C. D. (Mary Kate) Brearley-Glasser*; Elizabeth T. Brice; Mrs. A. C. (Jeanie) Bridges*; R. M. Canfield; Mrs. J. A. (Grace) Cannon***; S. K. Chung; J. Coad, Jr.; C. L. Concha; J. T. Corbitt; Mrs. P. G. (Imogene) Covone*; Mrs. F. H. (Edith) Crisco*; G. W. Curry**; D. E. Dagenhart; Mrs. L. L. (Betty) Dattler***; B. E. DeWitt**; J. R. de Witt; R. W. Dickson**; Milad F. Doss**; J. M. Doudoukjian; C. F. Edgar; D. W. Elliott; Mrs. R. B. (Suzanne) Elliott*; D. R. Ellis; L. A. Erwin**, W. N. Falls; J. R. Fee; Mrs. A. A. (Frieda) Fischer*; W. P. Fleming; W. H. Folds, Jr.**; W. H. Forsyth; C. B. Foster; Michael L. Garvey; Carl Geisik; G. F. Gerard**; Mrs. W. P. (Mary) Grier*; W. D. Hall; W. M. Harris, Jr.; J. F. Heinsohn ; Mrs. J. B. (Mary) Hendrick*; Mrs. R. E. (Judith) Herrmann*; J. E. Hill; Mrs. G. F. (Bertha) Johnson*; D. R. Johnston; E. Benton Johnston; D. O. Jones; Mrs. J. E. (Sarah) Kennedy, II; L. P. Kennerly; Hae Soung Kim; R. A. King; G. C. Knecht****; W. Y. Koh****; 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; Mrs. R. S. (Harriet) Miles***; C. L. Mitchell; W. F. Mitchell****; K. F. Morris; Mrs. T. G. (Martha) Morris*; B. E. Murdock; Mrs. F. J. (Betty) Musselman***; Mrs. J. A. (Ruth) Nguyen*; Mrs. B. R. (Lenore) Nowak***; Mrs. G. R. (Mabel) Oates*; T. L. Owens**; D. L. Pearson; Mrs. H. E. (Sara) Pressly*; Sarah H. Pressly; Mrs. P. E. (Donna) Price*; Troy L. Pritt; H. B. Probes, Jr.; C. A. Reed; L. L. Richardson**; C. Stephen Rimmer; Mrs. A. L. (Margie) Roberts*; Robert J. Robinson; David Rodriguez-Enriquez**; Mrs. A. A. (Katherine) Rogers*; Mrs. O. J. Rundus***; H. T. Schutte; Jan Senneker;; R. P. Shaw; R. E. Sherer; H. L. Smith**, G. H. Smith, Jr.; J. C. Smith; W. E. Stanchfield; Mrs. J. P. (Mary) Steele*; J. T. Stephenson**; J. W. Stodghill**, Mrs. J. R. (Shirley)Thompson***; J. A. Turner**; J. Roger Wade**; Robert M. Wallace, Jr.**; Mrs. W. M. (Mary) Wardlaw*; Mrs. H. C. (Addie Jane) White*; J. R. White**; Mrs. R. A. (Harriett) 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.

- ****As widow of deceased Participant receiving Survivor Income Benefit.
- n. The following persons may be eligible for Retirement Plan participation at year’s end, but enrollment procedures had not been completed. Eligible Employees are covered by the Plan during the first year, but if they have not or fail to enroll within the first year, they are or will not be covered until the enrollment is completed. They do not accrue credit for Service and Earnings and are not covered for the Death Benefit nor for the Survivor Income Benefit: **Catawba:** None. **First:** Ho Youn Hwang** (Wheatseed Korean), J. Donald Jordan** (Christ Church), Hyo Gon Kim** (Hychon Korean), Eung Chu Lee** (Hanwuri Korean), John Spence** (Messiah Church Fellowship). **Florida:** None. **Mississippi Valley:** David Storment** (Faith). **Northeast:** Anthony Cowley** (Fairmount), Joseph J. Kim** (Kwang-Myung). **Pacific:** James Woochul Baek (Fullness of Joy), Chong Hun Byun** (Korean Bethel), Enoch Cho** (Denver Church of the Lord), Hoo Yon Cho** (Blessing Mission), Kue Whan Joung** (Jesus’ Hands), Chang Young Kim** (The Peace Maker), Jong Won Kim** (Walking With God), Stephen Kim (Rock of Faith), Bon Suk Koo** (Young Saeng), Paul K. Oh** (Inland), Joseph I. Paek** (ARPC Korean), **Second:** None. **Tennessee-Alabama:** None. **Virginia:** David Vance (Redeemer). **General Synod Agency:** None.
- **Did Not Enroll Within First Year of Eligibility
- 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 \$1,000: None.

**Board of Benefits
Proposed Budget**

**2007
Proposed**

RECEIPTS

Budget

Unrestricted for Operations

General Synod Allocation	\$	6,795
Undesignated Receipts		<u>0</u>
Unrestricted Sub-Total	\$	<u>6,795</u>

Designated Estimates for Benevolence

Christmas Benevolent Fund Special Offering	\$	58,172
Christmas Benevolent Fund Interest		2,365
Lake Wales Christmas Benevolent Fund		899
J. C. Lott Trust		<u>7,433</u>

Benevolent Sub-Total	\$ <u>68,869</u>
Group Insurance Resources	
Group Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,614,777
Group Insurance Miscellaneous (Net)	<u>72,178</u>
Group Insurance Sub-Total	\$ <u>3,686,955</u>
Retirement Plan Resources	
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Retirement	\$ 1,569
ARP Retirement Plan	<u>1,031,824</u>
Retirement Plan Sub-Total	\$ <u>1,033,393</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u><u>4,796,012</u></u>
DISBURSEMENTS	
Board and General	
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 3,040
Office and Miscellaneous	<u>3,755</u>
Board and General Sub-Total	\$ <u>6,795</u>
Benevolence	
Benevolence Sub-Total	\$ <u>68,869</u>
Group Insurance	
Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserve	\$ 3,642,584
Group Insurance Administrative Support	<u>44,371</u>
Group Insurance Sub-Total	\$ <u>3,686,955</u>
ARP Retirement Plan	
Audit	\$ 1,800
Actuarial Fees	1,000
Administrative Support	44,371
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,000
Transfer to Trustee	<u>985,222</u>
ARP Retirement Plan Sub-Total	\$ <u>1,033,393</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ <u><u>4,796,012</u></u>
Disbursements Over (Under) Receipts	\$ <u><u>0</u></u>

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church has established a Board of Benefits to oversee and manage the various employee benefit plans and programs of the General Synod and

WHEREAS, the General Synod maintains the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Trust established by agreement between the General Synod and Trust Company of Georgia (now known as SunTrust Bank), and

WHEREAS, the General Synod may at any time remove the Trustee and appoint a successor trustee or trustees by instrument in writing delivered to the Trustee and to such successor trustee, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits and the Board of Benefits have sought the counsel of General Synod's Investment Committee, and

WHEREAS, General Synod's Investment Committee is reviewing investment manager relationships and anticipates reviewing the trustee relationship, and

WHEREAS, it may be prudent to effect a change in the Trustee relationship prior to the next meeting of the General Synod,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Synod hereby authorizes and empowers the Board of Benefits to act at the Board's discretion to remove the Trustee and appoint a successor Trustee should such action be deemed prudent prior to the next meeting of the General Synod.

Authorized by Executive Committee
Board of Benefits
June 4, 2007

The Report of the **Board of Bonclarken** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Bonclarken** recommended that all recommendations be adopted.

In addition, the committee recommended that the General Synod commend the Board of Bonclarken for their diligent work this past year.

Recommendations 1-3 of the Board and the additional recommendation of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Paul tells us in Romans 1:20 - "for the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

Does the beauty of Bonclarken allow us to better understand the invisible qualities of our Lord? All of us associated with this beautiful place we call Bonclarken certainly think so.

Mission: Bonclarken is honored to serve as the Conference Center of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The Bonclarken Board of Trustees and staff continue to work together to strive to fulfill our mission of "in service to Jesus Christ, to provide and promote a

Christian environment for inspiration and renewal." We carry out this mission by providing and promoting opportunities for worship, education, fellowship, and recreation.

New President: One of the more important events at Bonclarken since the 2006 General Synod was the selection of Joseph H. (Chip) Sherer as our new President. Chip replaced Jim Brice, who retired on December 31, 2006 after 18 years of service. Chip served on staff at Erskine for 13 years, five in undergraduate admissions and eight as Athletic Director. He followed that service with two years as Chief Financial Officer with McAllister and Sons in Mt. Carmel, South Carolina. Chip is off to a great start. The Board and the Synod will be very pleased with his leadership.

Housing: Plans for our new Adult Housing Facility continue to take shape. This facility will be located at the intersection of Pine and Kirkmoor, just south of the Chapel, and will include 32 guest rooms and a large meeting room.

This facility will provide much needed additional Founders Hall type housing. Today's guests desire private baths and more up to date rooms than we provide in the Hotel, Memorial, and Ministers. This new facility will enable us to better serve more and larger adult groups.

As we write this report in mid-April, we have been blessed with nearly \$2.1 million pledged toward the \$3 million plus anticipated cost of constructing this new facility, and we are in the process of obtaining zoning and other approvals from the Village of Flat Rock. We so appreciate the many friends who have made a financial commitment to this very important project.

Other Facility Improvements: The work on the sewer system was completed by the City of Hendersonville in late March. Mighty Oak Drive was the final stretch of road to be repaved. Having Bonclarken out of the water and sewer business and with resurfaced roads is a blessing!

Our children's playground behind Mary Alice Cottage is ready for use. A new sand volleyball court is being built at the rear of the Youth Activity Building. A new sound system has been installed in the Chapel. Other minor facility improvements will be made during Work Week 2007, being held April 30 – May 4.

Finances: Although 2006 brought a downturn in the number of guests, which required significant cost cutting measures, we were blessed to finish 2006 with our fifth consecutive year in the black (albeit barely). We thank our ARP churches and organizations for their visits to our grounds, for their financial support, and for their participation in the many events which took place during 2006.

2006-07 Board Officers: Bill Patrick, Chairman; Reid Tribble, Vice Chairman; Billie Brady, Secretary; Robert Adams, Treasurer; Jim Ashburn, Chair of the Administration Committee; Bill Stanley, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee; and Betty Hunt, Chair of the Promotion and Services Committee.

On behalf of the entire Board and staff of Bonclarken, I want to express our appreciation for the support and encouragement General Synod gives to our conference center. Bonclarken has and will continue to seek to serve Jesus Christ as the Conference Center of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Recommendations

We make the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That the General Synod continue to support Bonclarken in the allocation of Synod funds and in the annual Easter offering.
2. That the General Synod continue to encourage all presbyteries, boards, and churches to choose Bonclarken for their retreats and conferences.
3. That the meetings of General Synod for 2008 and 2009 be held at Bonclarken beginning on June 10, 2008 and June 9, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
William B. Patrick, Jr., Chairman
Board of Trustees
Bonclarken Conference Center

2007 Budget 2008 Proposed			
Operating Revenue:			
Rooms	\$ 580,000	\$ 665,000	First Citizens estimates new annual housing revenue at \$226,665. Increase is half year and 75%
Food Service	\$ 500,000	\$ 571,900	Food sales estimated at 86% of room revenue
Activity Fees	\$ 200,000	\$ 226,100	Activity Fee estimated at 34% of room revenue
Programs	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
Camps	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	
Property Owners	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	
Miscellaneous	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	
Total Op. Revenue	\$ 1,475,000	\$1,658,000	
Non-Op. Revenue:			
General Synod	\$ 146,000	\$ 151,840	4% increase over 2007 request
WSU	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Mountain Club	\$ 138,000	\$ 138,000	
Churches/Easter Off.	\$ 16,000	\$ 14,000	Average Easter Off last three years = \$14,048
Total Non-Op. Rev.	\$ 310,000	\$ 313,840	
Total Revenue	\$ 1,785,000	\$1,971,840	
Cost of Sales:			
Food Service	\$ 185,000	\$ 211,603	Food costs estimated at 37% of food sales
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Total Cost of Sales	\$ 195,000	\$ 221,603	
Payroll & Benefits:			
Administration	\$ 258,000	\$ 268,320	Payroll includes 4% raise across board
Maintenance	\$ 132,000	\$ 160,780	Includes 1 additional staff member
Food Service	\$ 147,000	\$ 170,949	Includes 1 additional staff member
Housekeeping	\$ 106,000	\$ 126,107	Includes 2 additional staff members
Programs	\$ 71,000	\$ 73,840	
Promotion/Marketing	\$ 30,000	\$ 31,200	

Other	\$	25,000	\$	25,000	
Taxes & Benefits	\$	231,000	\$	256,859	
Total Pysl/Benefits	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,113,054	
Other Expenses:					
Administration	\$	85,000	\$	87,550	All other expenses include 3% in crease across board
Maintenance	\$	40,000	\$	43,900	First Federal estimates annual increase of \$5,400
Food Service	\$	25,000	\$	25,750	
Housekeeping	\$	60,000	\$	70,867	First Federal estimates annual increase of \$18,133 in housekeeping costs
Programs	\$	50,000	\$	51,500	
Marketing	\$	100,000	\$	75,000	
Property Insurance	\$	70,000	\$	76,100	First Federal estimates annual increase of \$8,000
Utilities	\$	155,000	\$	166,450	First Federal estimates annual increase of \$13,600 in utility costs
Debt Payment	\$	-	\$	35,000	Six month payment on \$1M/7%/20 years
Other Expenses	\$	5,000	\$	5,066	
Total Other Expenses	\$	590,000	\$	637,183	
Total Op. Expenses	\$	1,785,000	\$	1,971,840	

A motion carried that the Minutes be adopted without reading, and that the final roll call be waived.

The motion to adjourn prevailed.

The Synod sang the song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133.

Synod adjourned with the Benediction pronounced by Moderator Edgar.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles F. Edgar, Jr., Moderator
Michael Evans, Vice-Moderator
C. R. Beard, Principal Clerk
Leland R. Beaudrot, Bill Clerk
J. D. Cook, Assistant Clerk
A. K. Putnam, Parliamentarian

